

# KSEA

## SENIOR FORUM SERIES



Welcome to our KSEA Senior Forum Series! Our goal is to provide KSEA seniors with a safe and supportive space to come together, learn from each other, and share experiences. We will be hosting monthly forums focusing on topics relevant to seniors, including finances, sharing, health & wellness, technology, education, social activities, self-care, and others. Our forums are open to the public, and we invite KSEA seniors of all ages and backgrounds to join us.

Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (virtual)  
8:00 - 10:00 PM ET  
[Zoom Link](#)



## Joy in the Freedom of Choice

This presentation narrates the journey of a first-generation immigrant woman, beginning with an introduction to In-Vitro Diagnostics (IVD) and the Medical Device Industry, where I spent over 35 years. Many are unaware of IVD's crucial role in early and accurate disease diagnosis, guiding physicians toward more effective treatments and better patient outcomes. With an aging population, healthcare costs have skyrocketed, especially in the US. I will share examples highlighting the significant value of diagnostic tests, emphasizing their potential in preventive care for healthier lives. Rapid advancements in technology are making healthcare more personalized, exemplified by the widespread adoption of in-home COVID-19 testing during the pandemic. My aim is to raise awareness about the importance of IVD and encourage proactive self-care.

Part Two details my personal journey before and after retirement. As a first-generation immigrant, I faced numerous challenges that shaped my character and leadership in a competitive industry. Retiring 1.5 years earlier than planned was a leap of faith at the peak of my career. It turned out to be a joyfully liberating experience, granting me the freedom to choose how to spend my time—prioritizing moments with grandkids, cooking, leisure travel, arts, music, and dance. This newfound freedom enriched my life, fostering positivity and gratitude. There's a new chapter ahead, promising even more purpose and excitement. What have I learned? Life offers so much beyond science. Let's live it to the fullest!

**Speaker**



Esther Yang

**Moderator**



Sung-Kwon Kang

Dr. Esther Yang earned her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, her Ph.D. in Bio-Physical Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

With over thirty-five years of experience in the diagnostics industry, Dr. Yang has led teams in the US, Germany, Japan, and China. At Abbott Park, she developed an immunoassay menu for cardiac, cancer, diabetes, and infectious diseases. In Dallas, she launched two diagnostic systems with Toshiba and over 100 assay applications, growing Abbott's Clinical Chemistry business from \$50 million to over \$500 million annually. She also established a new R&D Center in Shanghai in 2014.

Dr. Yang has held various leadership roles, including Sr. Director of Global Diagnostics Research at Abbott Diagnostics, where she managed research teams across multiple continents, and R&D Director at Beckman-Sanofi and DuPont. Her work led to the development and commercialization of significant diagnostic technologies and products.

Since retiring in 2016, Dr. Yang has been active in community service and mentoring. She has served on the board of several organizations, including the Korean Women's International Network and the Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association. Dr. Yang's career is marked by significant advancements and innovation in diagnostics, reflecting her commitment to improving healthcare through cutting-edge technology.

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