Celebration of Graduate Education
“Creating Your Future”
Dr. Kenneth Chahine

Thursday, June 11
4:00 p.m.
BSRB Kahn Auditorium

Dr. Chahine is the Executive VP of Ancestry.com, the world's largest online resource for family history. He is also the General Manager of AncestryDNA where he leads the development and commercialization of population genetics and its consumer-facing product (ancestrydna.com).

Ken is also a Professor of Law at the University of Utah where he teaches a first-of-its-kind course that combines classroom instruction with practical clinical application. Students experience the legal and business aspects involved in launching a technology-based venture through placement in external clinics.

Ken has held various positions in the biotechnology industry, including President and Chief Executive Officer of Avigen, a biopharmaceutical company in the San Francisco Bay area, developing drugs for chronic disorders. During his tenure, the company initiated and managed human clinical trials for various disorders, including hemophilia, Parkinson’s, neuropathic pain, and opiate dependency. Ken also worked on development of various diagnostic products, including early detection of pre-term birth and preeclampsia.

During his career, Ken has successful raised over $200M in capital, has completed numerous deals with large pharmaceutical companies totaling several hundred million dollars, and received over 70 U.S. and International patents.

Ken has authored dozens of publications in scientific and legal journals and is regularly invited to speak on business, legal, and privacy issues facing the biotechnology industry.

Ken received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Michigan and his law degree from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah.