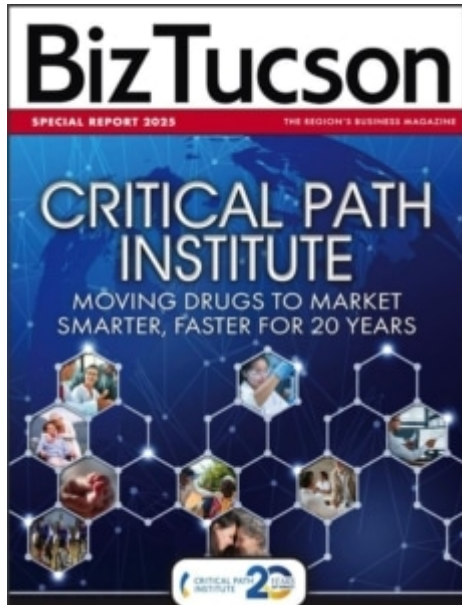


Celebrating 20 Years of Impact: C-Path Featured in Special BizTucson Anniversary Issue



This year, Critical Path Institute® (C-Path) proudly marks 20 years of advancing regulatory science and reshaping how new treatments are developed and delivered to individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s, type 1 diabetes, rare and pediatric conditions, and more. To commemorate this milestone, *BizTucson* has published a special report titled “*Critical Path Institute: Moving Drugs to Market, Smarter, Faster for 20 Years*,” highlighting the organization’s global impact since its founding in 2005.

The in-depth issue includes a milestone timeline of C-Path’s achievements, powerful insights from founder Dr. Raymond Woosley, Board Chair Wainwright Fishburn, and Tammy McLeod of the Flinn Foundation, and highlights the organization’s progress in key areas such as neurology and rare disease.

A feature on CEO Klaus Romero and President & COO Kristen Swingle offers a behind-the-scenes look at the leadership duo steering C-Path into its next decade of innovation and growth. Additionally, the issue celebrates Swingle’s recent recognition as one of *BizTucson*’s 2025 *Women Leading the Region*—a well-deserved honor for her leadership and commitment to C-Path’s mission.

[Read the full special issue here.](#)

[Read Kristen Swingle’s “Women Leading the Region” feature here.](#)

We are proud to celebrate this 20-year milestone with our partners, collaborators, and community—and look forward to continuing our mission to improve global health for decades to come.

Desert Duo

Critical Path Institute's Dynamic Leadership Team

By Tara Kirkpatrick

Critical Path Institute, a groundbreaking nonprofit driving better and faster drug development across the world, is led by a respected pair who are the ultimate tag team for science and structure.

Dr. Klaus Romero, CEO, and Kristen Swingle, president and COO, are truly the glue behind a global public-private partnership that, from its humble Tucson headquarters, has helped accelerate progress in new drugs and treatments for patients for 20 years.

"We have tremendous talent here and a wonderful structure," said Romero, who served as C-Path's Chief Scientific Officer before being named CEO in 2024. He has been with the organization for 18 of its 20 years.

"Anytime anything important happens, whether it's day-to-day operations or something that develops for us anywhere on the planet, we stay connected as close to real-time as possible," he said.

This C-Path leadership team achieves results—for patients, for industry, for regulatory agencies and for stakeholders worldwide.

"Klaus and Kristen are a truly exceptional team," said C-Path founder Dr. Raymond Woosley. "They bring a rare blend of deep regulatory and scientific expertise with the interpersonal skills to lead large, complex teams across different stakeholder groups. They don't just manage; they inspire."

Whereas Romero sets the vision and passion for C-Path, Swingle perfects the process, driving the daily infrastructure for C-Path researchers and staff. They

are the perfect "partners in crime," as they like to say.

"We need a CEO who's driving ideas and has the strategic mindset," said Swingle. "Klaus is phenomenal at that. When he's traveling to D.C., I'm dealing with matters here and making sure we've got that continuity. It's also bouncing ideas off each other. I'm focused on the operational standpoint, making sure everyone has everything they need."

Said Romero, "She sets a realistic expectation. I can get really excited about something around cutting-edge science or clinical development, but I need somebody to give me a reality check of what is realistically achievable."

A prominent physician and clinical scientist from Colombia, Romero was presenting at a scientific meeting in 2007 when he had the chance to hear Woosley speak. Impressed with the nonprofit's work in just its first two years, they immediately hit it off, so much so, that Woosley asked Romero to come work with C-Path.

"By December 2007, Olga Lucia and I were moving to Tucson and that was it," recalled Romero. "I am indebted to Ray, for what he taught me, what he gave me personally and professionally. I will never be able to repay him." Romero would go on to serve as executive director of both clinical pharmacology and the quantitative medicine program at C-Path before advancing to CSO and CEO.

Romero is also a talented guitarist, often referring to himself as a "happy musician."

continued on page 76 >>>

from left —

Dr. Klaus Romero
CEO

Kristen Swingle
President & COO

74

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