

Richard A. Franco

Founder & President, Richard's Group, Ltd.

Director, Islet Sciences, Metropolitan Health Networks, Inc.

Richard A. Franco is the Founder and President of the Richard's Group, Ltd., a healthcare advisory firm and Cofounder of LipoScience, Inc. Mr. Franco has over 35 years of executive and leadership experience in the healthcare industry. Through December 2012, Mr. Franco served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of DARA BioSciences, Inc.(Symbol:DARA). He served as the Chairman of LipoScience, Inc., an in-vitro diagnostics company from May 1997 to October 2002, as well as Chief Executive Officer and President from November 1997 to September 2001. Prior to LipoScience, he was President, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Trimeris Inc. (Symbol:TRMS), an anti-viral biopharmaceutical company. Prior to joining Trimeris, Mr. Franco held several senior executive positions and served on the Executive Committee of Glaxo, Inc., from 1983 to 1994, including Vice President and General Manager of Glaxo Dermatology, Vice President and General Manager of the Cerenex Division, Vice President of Commercial Development and Vice President of Marketing. Prior to joining Glaxo, Mr. Franco worked in various positions of expanding responsibility over a 16-year period with Eli Lilly and Company. Presently Mr. Franco serves as a director of Islet Sciences (Symbol:ISLT), Metropolitan Health Networks, Inc.(Symbol:MDF), recently acquired by Humana, and the Research Triangle Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD),

Mr. Franco was appointed to the founding board of EntrMed, Inc (Symbol:ENMD) while at Glaxo and served through 1994. In 2000 he joined the Salix Pharmaceuticals (Symbol:SLXP) board of directors and served through 2012. In addition, he served on the boards of TriPath Imaging, Inc. (Symbol:TPTH), now a wholly owned subsidiary of Becton, Dickinson and Company, NeoMatrix, Inc., a private company, Tranzyme Pharma (Symbol:TZYM), Amarillo Biosciences (Symbol:AMAR), and the Wake County United Way. He served three years as a Distinguished Judge of the Carolinas' for Entrepreneur of the Year (Sponsored by Ernst & Young, Kauffman Foundation and NASDAQ). He received his Pharmacy Degree from St. John's University College of Pharmacy and was board certified in New York State. Mr. Franco has completed executive programs including finance, management, marketing, and international trade at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University Fuqua School of Business, the School of Business at the University of Michigan, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a long standing member of the International Licensing Executive Society (LES).

National Association of Corporate Directors Research Triangle Chapter

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