M | PHARMACY

**Distinguished Topliss Award Lecture**

Hosted by the
Department of Medicinal Chemistry

# From Michigan graduate to biotech and back again; the story of Morphic Therapeutic, lessons in drug discovery and how to build a successful biotech



Blaise Lippa, Ph.D.

*Presented by Blaise Lippa, Ph.D.*

November 5, 2026 | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Award Reception Follows, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

The founding, growth and evolution of Morphic Therapeutic, an academically originated biotech, focused on the science of integrins will be presented. Beginning with a structural insight on the molecular motion of integrins affecting signaling, an advanced drug discovery platform was created focused on structural biology, computational and medicinal chemistry. Using this platform, the discovery of clinical candidates for αvβ6 and α4β7 will be described. Along the way, details of business strategy decisions will be discussed, including financings, pharma collaborations and eventually the acquisition of the company by Eli Lilly in 2024.