Hedge Fund Alert
By with. Intelligence

Cap-Intro Day Is for Woman-Led Firms

100 Women in Finance's in-person capital-introduction event returns to New York in December after a one-year hiatus, with **Avala Global's Divya Nettimi** scheduled to wrap up the gathering with an armchair conversation.

The one-day confab on Dec. 11 brings together institutional allocators and female fund managers as part of the organization's Global FundWomen Week, which caps off a week of virtual programming. The group aims to increase the visibility and viability of woman-led funds and improve the representation of women in finance, with a goal that 30% of senior investment and executive roles be held by women by 2040.

For its December event, 100 Women has selected from some 300 applicants a roster of 60 managers spanning hedge, long-only, private credit, private equity and venture capital funds for the in-person event, where they will participate in one-on-one cap-intro meetings with allocators – organizers expect around 120 in attendance – as well as in roundtable discussions.

Nettimi, Avala's founder and chief investment officer, debuted in 2022 with more than $1 billion of commitments, at that time the largest launch of a woman-led firm. She's set to speak with moderator **Nancy Donohue**, the co-founder and chief investment strategist at **Summit Rock Advisors,** which advises on or invests some $25 billion on behalf of family offices and charitable institutions.

This year's event will have somewhat of a greater emphasis on hedge fund managers to align with the current market outlook and renewed interest in alternatives, and hedge funds in particular. **BlackRock** wrote in an Oct. 29 report that heightened inflation, trade deficits and labor market concerns should drive allocations to hedge funds as allocators "look to alternative sources of return and diversification." Hedge funds saw $37.3 billion of inflows in the first half of the year, amounting to the healthiest six-month period in a decade, the asset manager said.

About a third of managers at the event represent equity long/short and other hedge strategies. Another 11 seats will be occupied by long-only managers, 10 by private-credit managers and 16 by private equity and venture firms.

Of the 60 managers, about two-thirds run less than $500 million of assets, 10 manage between $500 million and $1 billion, four fall between $1 billion and $2 billion and two managers oversee more than $2 billion of assets.

The organization last held a cap-intro conference in December 2023. Last year, it celebrated **FundWomen's** 10th anniversary with a smaller, half-day event at the **New York Stock Exchange.**

Data from the 2023 event indicate that 90% of female fund managers in attendance expected the connections they made with allocators and consultants to be ongoing, and that since 2020, 17% of conference-goers have reported that they are actively engaged in due diligence with the allocators and consultants they were introduced to at a Global FundWomen Week event.

Daniella Kranjac, founding general partner of **Avant Bio,** a life sciences- and health-tech-focused growth equity manager, met at a previous cap-intro event a family office that would become an anchor investor.

"There are a ton of events that focus on building connections and skills development for next-generation managers. Several are women-focused, some are emerging manager-focused. Global FundWomen Week is absolutely one of the most impactful," she said. "I've seen firsthand that this is a very, very powerful platform. It's not just about representation of women in the space. It's about achieving results. It actually translates into funding commitments for women-led firms."

The FundWomen event is guided by a 16-member allocator advisory board that includes **Sophia Tsai,** managing director for investments at **Trinity Church Wall Street; Lan Cai,** chief investment officer at **The Pension Boards – United Church of Christ; Shoaib Khan,** CIO at the **New Jersey Division of Investment;** and **Erik Serrano Berntsen,** founder and chief executive of **Stable.** ■