



**Monday, October 23, 2023**  
**12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**  
**World Trade Center Baltimore**  
**17th floor, Room 1746**  
**401 East Pratt St, Baltimore, MD, 21202**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Perman gave opening remarks and reviewed the ground rules of the meeting. He called the meeting to order and carried out a roll call to confirm attendance.

### *Board Members in Attendance*

1. Jay Perman, MD – Chancellor University System Maryland [Chair]
2. Trushar Agrawal – Senior Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma
3. Richard A. Bendis – President and CEO, BioHealth Innovation, Inc.
4. Jesse Christopher – CEO and Co-founder, Longevity
5. Rebecca Fisher, PhD – Deputy Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
6. Edward Margerrison, PhD – Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
7. Deborah D. Ricker, PhD – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College
8. KaShauna Rohlehr – Director, Strategy and Business Transformation, GlaxoSmithKline
9. Arti Santhanam, PhD – TEDCO (Ex Officio)
10. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, LaunchPort [Vice Chair]
11. Ellington West – CEO and Co-founder, Sonavi Labs, Inc.
12. Christy Wyskiel – Senior Advisor to the President and Executive Director Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures, Johns Hopkins University

### *Department of Commerce Attendees*

1. Kevin Anderson – Secretary
2. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD – Director, Life Sciences
3. Matthew Cimino, PhD – Manager, Business Development and Innovation
4. Amy Duray – Program Manager, Federal Business Relations
5. David Minges – Manufacturing 4.0 Grants Program Manager
6. Stefanie Trop, PhD – Senior Manager, Business Development, Life Sciences
7. Signe Pringle – Deputy Secretary
8. Jerel Registre – Chief of Staff

### *General Public Attendees*

1. Melissa Antman – ARPA-H
2. Abhishake Chhibber – SciVente
3. Thomas Lewis – Montgomery County

4. Michele Masucci – University System of Maryland
5. Helen Montag – Johns Hopkins University
6. Kelly Schulz – Maryland Tech Council

Dr. Perman reminded everyone about the Board charge to maintain Maryland's preeminence in the life sciences industry and reviewed the meeting's agenda.

### **Review and Acceptance of June 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Perman asked for feedback on the minutes of the June 22, 2023 LSAB meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Mr. Bob Storey and seconded by Mr. Richard A. Bendis and Ms. Christy Wyskiel. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Secretary of Commerce Remarks**

Secretary Anderson extended his gratitude for the ongoing leadership provided by the Maryland Life Sciences Advisory Board. He discussed the importance of Department of Commerce initiatives, including the Build our Future Grant, Global Gateway Program, and the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit Program. As a member of the Maryland Economic Council, the Secretary indicated that Maryland's leadership in AI, Quantum, Cyber, Life Sciences, and Biotech will be a continued area of focus for economic growth. Secretary Anderson emphasized the goal of leveraging Maryland's resources to become engines of growth.

### **ARPA-H: The Mission**

Melissa Antman, PhD, presented an overview of the mission and operations for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health or ARPA-H. Dr. Antman is the Deputy Director of the Project Accelerator Transition Innovation Office or PATIO at ARPA-H. The primary mission of ARPA-H is to accelerate better health outcomes for everyone. The agency is an independent component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services like the NIH but is not part of the NIH as an Institute or Center. The ARPA-H Director reports directly to the HHS Secretary. The Agency does not operate labs and is disease-agnostic. ARPA-H has an initial appropriation of \$2.5B which will be awarded predominantly through contracts to its research programs. ARPA-H can directly reimburse other federal agencies. The Agency's model for program formation starts with a program manager that identifies a challenge or complex problem that is not easily solvable with traditional approaches. Programs to address these complex problems are launched with groups of researchers called performers. Through the agency's initiative called ARPANET-H, programs will engage geographically using a hub and spoke model. This will allow the Agency to "meet people where they are," as well as distribute investments across numerous research hubs. The Agency can be engaged by submitting projects in response to their Broad Agency Announcement, become a spoke in ARPANET-H, and through their Vitals Newsletter.

### **Discussion: Opportunities for Engagement with ARPA-H**

Following the presentation by Dr. Antman, Dr. Perman led a discussion about the opportunity for future engagements with ARPA-H. He requested that the members of the board reflect on the advisory board's mission and how it relates to engagement with ARPA-H. He requested Board members give some consideration to how the Maryland region would participate in the Agency's hub

and spoke model. Mr. Storey and Mr. Christopher emphasized a need for leadership from the Maryland region and highlighted the potential for a Maryland neuro hub, among others.

### **LSAB Strategy Discussion**

Dr. Perman shared remarks on the current strategic plan that was originally adopted in 2017. He reminded the board that formulating the existing strategic plan was an arduous task. He suggested that the board revisit the 2017 plan and review the past strategies, improve upon the existing strategy, and continue building momentum with current progress. Dr. Perman offered the Board to serve as a resource to Secretary Anderson and Governor Moore and welcomed their input into the Board's activities. Ms. Kelly Schulz encouraged the board to seek input from a broad pool of stakeholders and constituents. The board acknowledged Maryland's progress of achieving a ranking of a top three biopharma cluster in the U.S. by 2023.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. David Minges shared his thoughts on how the board might want to proceed with finding solutions with strategic planning, as well as engaging with ARPA-H. He suggested that the future ARPA-H engagement initiatives stem from facets of the revised strategic plan as well members of the public.

### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Perman thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. Members wishing to submit items for the next meeting's agenda should contact Dr. Desiderio. Dr. Perman adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.