



Monday, May 20, 2024
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. Jay 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. Ruchika Nijhara, PhD – Executive Director, Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund
9. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, LaunchPort [Vice Chair]
10. Michael Weingarten – Director, SBIR Development Center, NCI, NIH
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. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD – Sr. Director, Office of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship
2. Stefanie Trop, PhD – Director, Life Sciences
3. Matthew Cimino, PhD – Manager, Business Development and Innovation, Life Sciences
4. Benjamin McGlaughlin - Program Manager, Manufacturing

General Public Attendees

1. Justin Brooks, MD, PhD - Institute for Health Computing
2. Martha Jurczak - Institute for Health Computing
3. Shevon Kaintuck - Baltimore Development Corporation
4. Bradley Maron, MD - Institute for Health Computing
5. Michele Masucci, PhD - University System of Maryland
6. Carter McClure - Greater Baltimore Committee

7. Michelle Tarver, MD, PhD - Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

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

Review and Acceptance of January 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Perman asked for feedback on the minutes of the January 29, 2024 LSAB meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Bob Storey and seconded by Dr. Edward Margerrison. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Updates from the Department of Commerce, Office of Life Sciences

Dr. Perman announced that Dr. Stefanie Trop was recently appointed as the new Director of the Office of Life Sciences. Dr. Trop presented a brief overview of selected activities conducted so far in 2024 by the Life Sciences team, including:

1. *Maryland MedTech Meetups, quarterly*: Series of in-person networking events for Maryland medtech executives, hosted by different partners around the state.
2. *Maryland MedTech Summit, April 11, 2024*: a one day conference co-organized by the Department of Commerce and the University of Maryland Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices, and co-sponsored by several additional organizations.
3. *Maryland Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Tech Showcase, April 25, 2024*: Symposium and networking event featuring startups and university labs supported by the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.
4. *Maryland Welcome Reception for 2024 American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy Conference, May 7, 2024*: Department of Commerce and University of Maryland Baltimore co-sponsored reception at the UMB BioPark to welcome out-of-state attendees of the conference as well as convene Maryland's gene and cell therapy community.
5. *Plans for upcoming participation in BIO Conference in San Diego, June 5-8, 2024* (exhibiting, hosting a networking reception, sponsoring 15 companies) and *The MedTech Conference in Toronto, October 15-17, 2024* (attending, sponsoring 18 companies with 3 presentation slots).

Overview of the University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing

Dr. Bradley Maron provided updates from the Institute for Health Computing (IHC), a partnership between University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) and University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS). IHC is located in North Bethesda and initial funding has been provided by Montgomery County and University of Maryland's MPowering the State initiative (MD SB 376). It was modeled on a similar undertaking by the Broad Institute. The mission of the IHC is two-fold; to use data science to: 1) become a health computing supercluster, provide incubator programs and attract industry partners to grow and leverage the

digital health ecosystem throughout Maryland; and 2) build a learning health system, which improves the health, quality of life, and longevity for all Maryland citizens. To achieve its mission, the IHC aligned with the expertise of its three partner institutions: the computational innovation from UMCP, clinical expertise from UMB, and healthcare infrastructure from UMMS. The IHC is using the unique health data from Maryland's diverse population collected and curated from over two million patients across the state. Dr. Maron presented a case study on an application of these data, modeling the impact of June 2023 wildfire smoke on heart-lung clinical encounters on smoke days, focusing on the role of disparities in these outcomes and creating strategies for resource deployment in future environmental events. In addition to the goal of improving healthcare for Marylanders, IHC aims to provide significant business and economic value to Maryland through attracting venture capital, job creation as well as talent attraction and retention. IHC is developing programs for entrepreneurship training, technology commercialization, and corporate partnerships. Several MOUs with other organizations are executed and in progress.

The board discussed opportunities for the Institute for Health Computing to support Maryland's leading role in advancing healthcare innovation, attracting funding and collaboration, workforce development, as well as contribute to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the immediate vicinity of the Institute and greater Maryland.

Home as a Health Care Hub Initiative: A Step Towards Advancing Health Equity

Dr. Michelle Tarver presented the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) initiative called Home as a Health Care Hub Initiative: A Step Towards Advancing Health Equity. Advancing health care equity is a 2022-2025 strategic priority for CDRH. Assessing the current healthcare landscape and needs to advance health equity, FDA is launching the Home as a Health Care Hub initiative. The initiative aims to improve healthcare equity through focusing on healthcare delivery in the home, an important healthcare setting that is often neglected during device development. The initiative is envisioned to support greater health equity by: 1) empowering individuals to make informed decisions regarding their healthcare; 2) reducing the barriers and increasing opportunities for participation by diverse populations in evidence generation; 3) facilitating the availability of and access to medical technologies for all populations; and 4) supporting healthcare innovation technologies that address health disparities.

The initiative will be launched with a virtual reality home prototype. The prototype will facilitate innovation of integrated, consumer-friendly, medical-grade technology to deliver and expand access to first-class care at home for people living with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes in low-income communities and across demographic groups. It will be the product of collaboration with architectural design, patient groups, healthcare providers, as well as the medical device and consumer tech industry. Objectives of the project are to develop a prototype virtual reality experience of affordable home environments that: 1) promotes healthy living; 2) supports disease diagnosis; monitoring, and management; 3) contributes to clinical evidence; and 4) protects the privacy and dignity of patients while integrating emerging home-health technologies into low-income, affordable housing neighborhoods. The target users of the prototype will be medical product developers and policy makers. CDRH plans to issue additional guidance in the coming months, with potential opportunities through the Innovation, Design, Entrepreneurship and Action (IDEA) Lab.

The Board discussed the CDRH initiative as a potential means to further support engagement of the Maryland medtech sector with the FDA, including device creation, data collection, and data analysis, among others.

LSAB Strategic Plan Review

Dr. Perman began a discussion focused on a review of the LSAB's 2017 Recommendations for Accelerating the Growth of the BioHealth Industry in Maryland strategic plan. He reminded the Board that the existing strategic plan has four main areas of focus, including to: 1) leverage and grow the Maryland asset base and accelerate commercialization; 2) increase connectivity among and awareness of Maryland's Biohealth assets and resources; 3) increase availability and access to capital for early through advanced stage biohealth companies; and 4) grow the talent pool of experienced Biohealth entrepreneurs, business leaders, graduates, and scientists with commercially relevant experience.

Summarizing achievements and areas of opportunity provided by the board members since the last meeting, discussion followed to identify where progress has been made. Several accomplishments were highlighted during the discussion, including: 1) creation and delineation of the BioHealth Capital Region brand, as well as achieving its #3 ranking among national biopharma clusters in the U.S. in 2023; 2) planning and construction of the 250,000 sf 4MLK Connect Labs in the University of Maryland BioPark; 3) inception of the Baltimore-based \$100 million investment fund, Blackbird Labs; and 4) establishment of the BioHub Maryland biomanufacturing workforce training program. However, the Board recognized much work remained to fully accomplish its goals, such as: 1) attraction of greater levels of investment capital; 2) attraction of large biopharma and medical device manufacturers; and 3) creation of a medical device testing and demonstration hub.

Further discussion followed on what areas members of the Board thought that the state should focus efforts on, in which Maryland could be a clear leader. AI and health computing were suggested focus areas.

Dr. Perman proposed to review the findings from the discussion with Secretary Anderson and seek feedback on future activities.

Public Comments

None.

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. Trop. Dr. Perman adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.