



Monday, January 29, 2024
11:30 PM - 1:15 PM
World Trade Center Baltimore
17th floor, Room 1746
401 East Pratt St, Baltimore, MD, 21202

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Robert Storey 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. Jesse Christopher – CEO and Co-founder, Longevity
4. Rebecca Fisher, PhD – Deputy Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
5. Edward Margerrison, PhD – Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), U.S. Food and Drug Administration
6. Mark Mortenson, Chief Science Officer, Clene Nanomedicine
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. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD – Sr. Director, Office of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship
2. Matthew Cimino, PhD – Manager, Business Development and Innovation, Life Sciences
3. Stefanie Trop, PhD – Senior Manager, Business Development, Life Sciences
4. Jerel Registre – Chief of Staff
5. Melanie Koorey – Senior Business Development Representative
6. Daniel Leaderman – Senior Communications Manager

General Public Attendees

1. Aleks Baranczak, PhD – Blackbird Labs
2. Eddie Cherok, PhD – Blackbird Labs
3. Pothik Chatterjee – Greater Baltimore Committee
4. Mahesh Joshi, PhD – Hood College
5. Troy LeMaile-Stovall – TEDCO

6. Helen Montag – Johns Hopkins University
7. Mary Morris – University of Maryland, Baltimore
8. Mark Anthony Thomas – Greater Baltimore Committee
9. Irving Weinberg, MD – Weinberg Medical Physics Inc

Mr. Storey 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 October 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Storey asked for feedback on the minutes of the October 23, 2023 LSAB meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Dr. Edward Margerrison and seconded by Mr. Mark Mortenson. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Greater Baltimore Committee and Baltimore Tech Hub Update

Mr. Pothik Chatterjee from the Greater Baltimore Committee presented an update and overview of Baltimore's Tech Hub designation by President Biden's Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Tech Hubs program, part of Federal CHIPS & Science Act, is a \$10 billion initiative to designate new Tech Hub regions. As part of Phase I of the program, EDA has designated the Baltimore region as one of 31 new Tech Hubs out of 400 applicants across the US. The focus of the Baltimore region's tech hub is artificial intelligence and biotechnology. In Phase II of the program, EDA is to make 5-10 awards of \$40-70M per Tech Hub. Benefits of the Tech Hub program include greater access to other federal innovation programs, more regional support for entrepreneurship and innovation, and prioritization for North, South, and Central American Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) initiatives. The Tech Hub coalition includes numerous regional partners in higher education, government, industry, economic development, as well as labor and workforce training. The key focus areas for Baltimore are artificial intelligence and machine learning, high performance computing, quantum information science and technology, robotics and manufacturing, disaster prevention, communications technology, biotechnology, cybersecurity, energy and industrial efficiency technologies, and materials science. The Tech Hub projects are expected to create 38,000 direct and 90,000 supplier and induced jobs across various skill levels and sectors over 10 years. Maryland leadership and GBC are committed to ensuring Baltimore thrives through the next decade. Baltimore's new Tech Hub designation is a crucial part of growing the state's tech economy. Board members asked about timing for deploying the funds, how LSAB can be involved, and what topics are of most interest to the fund. The funds are expected to be spent from 2024-2029. Opportunities for LSAB and the community to participate include helping to engage partners from outside the state and advocating for more resources towards biotech investment. Particular topics of interest include digital health, clinical trials, and synthetic data.

Introduction to Blackbird Labs

Blackbird Laboratories is a venture capital fund launched in 2023 with a \$100M founding gift from the Stephen and Renee Bisciotti Foundation to enhance the biotech ecosystem in Baltimore and greater Maryland, keeping growing companies in Maryland. Dr. Eddie Cherok, Chief Business Officer of Blackbird Labs, presented an overview of the mission and vision of the fund. The fund's mission is to help universities and investigators commercialize their academic research to build innovative companies and bring world-changing technologies to life. The fund's vision is to catalyze

a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Baltimore by building innovative biotechnology companies, by focusing on high-risk, pre-seed investment. This work is being conducted through collaborations with universities on pioneering assets and technologies, supporting start-ups commercializing these technologies by making selected investments with other national partners, and scaling for impact to support broader ecosystem development.

FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) Program Updates

Dr. Margerrison shared that CDRH is conducting a broad review to address commercialization and manufacturing guidelines for new products. The agency recognizes that additional guidance and collaboration would be supportive of streamlining the application and approval processes. Furthermore, Dr. Margerrison indicated that improving access and modalities of home health care would be a continued focus of the CDRH program.

LSAB Strategy Discussion

Mr. Storey announced that Commerce staff is reviewing progress made towards the goals set out in the Board's 2017 strategic plan and will reach out to the Board in the near future to contribute to the review.

Public Comments

Dr. Weinberg made comments regarding the competitiveness of Maryland's ecosystem for startups and high growth companies. He shared concerns that Maryland startups are routinely pulled to other states, including California and Massachusetts.

Mr. LeMaile-Stovall offered information regarding proposed funding to support the expansion of TEDCO's SBIR Proposal Lab grant writing program (\$0.5M), as well as matching funds for SBIR awardees (\$1.3M) in the Governor's proposed Budget.

Dr. Fisher shared that DoD pre-announcements for funding solicitations will be released soon.

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 1:01 p.m.