



**Wednesday, September 14, 2022**  
**12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**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. He welcomed and invited new board members Trushar Agrawal, Sr. Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma; Deborah Ricker, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College; and Ellington West, CEO and Co-founder, Sonavi Labs, as well as Patrick Wynne, new Senior Director of the Office of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship for the Department of Commerce, to introduce themselves.

### *Board Members in Attendance*

1. Jay Perman, MD – Chancellor University System Maryland [Chair]
2. Trushar Agrawal – Senior Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma
3. Mike Gill – Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce (Ex Officio)
4. Edward Margerrison, PhD – Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5. Mark Mortenson, JD – Chief Scientific Officer, Clene Nanomedicine
6. Sanjay Rai, PhD – Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, Montgomery College
7. Deborah Ricker, PhD – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College
8. KaShauna Rohlehr – Associate Director for Alliance, Program and Project Management, GlaxoSmithKline
9. Martin Rosendale – CEO, Maryland Technology Council
10. Arti Santhanam, PhD – TEDCO (Ex Officio)
11. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, Launchport [Vice Chair]
12. Ellington West – CEO and Co-founder, Sonavi Labs
13. 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 – Director, Life Sciences
2. Heather Gramm – Assistant Secretary, Business & Industry Sector Development
3. Lisa Swoboda – Senior Director Military & Federal Affairs
4. Stefanie Trop, PhD – Senior Manager, Business Development, Life Sciences
5. Patrick Wynn – Senior Director, Strategic Industries & Entrepreneurship

### *General Public Attendees*

1. Denise Genuit – Longeviti Neuro Solutions
2. Thomas Lewis – Montgomery County
3. Karina Mandell – Baltimore Development Corporation
4. Michelle Masucci, PhD – University System of Maryland
5. Lindsay Ryan – University System of Maryland
6. Colin Tarbert – Baltimore Development Corporation

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 March 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Perman asked for feedback on the minutes of the March 11, 2022 LSAB meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Mr. Mortenson and seconded by Ms. Wyskiel. The meeting minutes were approved.

### **Secretary Remarks**

Secretary Gill gave remarks on recent Commerce initiatives. A new Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund announced this year will give \$50M in grant funding to rural regions to stimulate economic development. Heather Gramm elaborated that applications including projects related to infrastructure, spec building, and workforce development are under review. An enhanced Global Gateway Soft Landing program opened on September 1 to provide increased benefits to foreign companies to pilot their U.S. business in Maryland. Commerce's exhibit and delegation to BIO 2022 in San Diego was a success, bringing 15 companies and boosting exposure to life sciences in Maryland. The Secretary is highly anticipating the upcoming groundbreaking at 4MLK, which will offer lab and office space in UM BioPark and address the need for lab space in Baltimore. He thanked the Chairman and the Board for doing important work to help life sciences in Maryland reach its potential.

### **Hood College Biomedical Research and Training Center Update**

Dr. Ricker introduced the recently announced Hood College Biomedical Research and Training Center. The center is a key initiative in Hood's strategic plan. Highly dependent on partnerships with organizations like Kite, Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Maryland Tech Council, and the local community, the new center will offer programming to prepare students for advanced research and industry. Initial training scope will follow from experiences with Kite's cell therapy training, starting with special topics courses. Long-term goals are to have programming for flexible degree, certificate, and non-degree programs and work closely with additional industry partners to support job placement. Dr. Ricker emphasized that Hood's strong education programs and high quality faculty will be the foundation that will enable Hood to connect with K-12 students and students and faculty from other universities.

### **Regional MedTech Hubs and Public-Private Partnerships**

#### NIH Blueprint Neuro Hub

Mr. Storey shared that NIH Blueprint Neuro hubs were awarded to Neurotech Harbor (Hopkins/Howard) and CINTA (Boston's CIMIT consortium). The NIH solicitation was built on the

RADx model for the neuroscience space, which supports national and underrepresented innovators and disease conditions, with technology that is less than three years from clinical trials. A project solicitation will be released at the end of September, funding about \$500k per project. Local impact may include R&D opportunities and some funded projects. More information about eligibility and awards will be available in the future.

#### FDA Partnerships

Dr. Margerrison shared updates on FDA partnerships. A consortium was established between FDA and University of Maryland and University of Michigan through the NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC). The NSF will provide matching funds in this pilot program, which are expected to grow over five to ten years. The first project will focus on augmented and virtual reality and medical devices. In a second strategic partnership with the Veterans Affairs in Seattle, CDRH effectively will have a satellite campus to provide regulatory advice and establish an incubator. This could serve as a pilot for a new way that FDA provides increased consultancy services. In response to interest from the Board on how companies can best approach the FDA with questions, Dr. Margerrison said that companies can direct questions to him but CDRH is challenged by bandwidth and preconceived views of the FDA as intimidating. The agency is trying to break that barrier. Since medtech innovation comes from startups, startups should be their target customer.

#### AdvaMed

Dr. Desiderio updated on Commerce's efforts to continue engaging with AdvaMed and The MedTech Conference in October in Boston. Commerce is supporting a delegation of 20 companies and sponsoring a networking reception for CEOs and investors. The office is also working on reviving an appearance of the MedTech Innovators (MTI) road tour in Baltimore in 2023. Dr. Desiderio envisions a week of wraparound events surrounding the main pitch events. Partners, judges, and hosts will be needed. Board members mentioned their partnerships with AdvaMed; FDA has been trying to work with the AdvaMed Accel group and TEDCO has sponsored companies through AdvaMed Accel.

#### **Update on ARPA-H Attraction Activities**

A discussion on coordinated efforts to attract new federal agency ARPA-H to Maryland was led by Lisa Swoboda, Senior Director of the Office of Military, Federal Affairs at Maryland Department of Commerce, supported by Tom Lewis, Development Ombudsman for Montgomery County and Colin Tarbert, President and CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation. The bill to establish ARPA-H introduced to the U.S. Senate currently has language restricting the location to outside of the National Capital region. However, Maryland and Virginia senators are working to remove this exclusion. In the case that the region becomes an eligible location, Commerce's role is to coordinate stakeholders across the state to deliver a uniform message on the advantages of ARPA-H locating in Maryland, regardless of location within the state. Ms. Swoboda has been working closely with the Maryland congressional delegation and sent a letter to the Secretary of HHS to that end following discussions with many partners throughout the state including counties, cities, universities, economic development agencies, and nonprofits. Key messages include that the capital region has already demonstrated capabilities thought to be important for ARPA-H by carrying out large parts of Operation Warp Speed. Maryland already has connections to the new agency with Dr. Adam Russell, Chief Scientist of University of Maryland's Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security, and the lease of a small office space in Rockville.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Tarbert voiced their support for Maryland speaking with a single voice and shared that Montgomery County and Baltimore City represent two of the best choices for ARPA-H to meet its mission. Montgomery County's recent initiatives to incentivize life sciences development in the White Flint (recently renamed North Bethesda) metro station and the Shady Grove science cluster are unique assets, offering connectedness, size, workforce, higher education, life sciences capacity and proximity to other federal agencies supporting life sciences. Baltimore City in particular addresses equity considerations being a minority-majority city with a leading HBCU, Morgan State University, and has attractive space available in the BioPark and Port Covington areas. Overall, the presence of ARPA-H would not have a strong regional impact on economic development, as it is not expected to execute intramural programs that would fund extensive work and staff on-site. However, many cities and states are lobbying for the agency. Board members speculated that the agency could offer many program manager positions and potentially lead to creation of spinout companies locally.

### **Public Comments**

Dr. Perman asked if any members of the public have comments.

Ms. Mandell asked if broadband initiatives are included in the Hood College Biomedical Research and Training Center plans. Dr. Ricker responded that they are not explicitly stated in the strategic plan. However, Hood staff learned during the COVID pandemic the importance of broadband access and a need to expand it at students' homes. They improvised to provide hotspots and laptops to students in need during the pandemic and will continue to do so with future programs.

Mr. Storey introduced the expiration of the SBIR/STTR programs on September 30, 2022, which poses a risk to current and future funding. Each agency operating programs is handling the issue differently. The day before, NIH announced that the program would be extended through the end of 2022 as part of an existing budget extension, and will revisit program funding in 2023. Senator Cardin's office supports reauthorization and Dr. Santhanam said the Senator was optimistic about the negotiations in discussions with him yesterday.

### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Perman thanked everyone for attending and participating in the discussion. He summarized important takeaways from the discussion, including regional workforce developments with the Hood College Biomedical Research and Training Center plans, the building of excitement and support for MedTech and other public-private partnerships, and efforts to attract ARPA-H to Maryland. He thanked LSAB board members and other attendees for their discussions. Any specific follow-up discussions will be held offline and at the next meeting in early 2023. Board members should let Dr. Desiderio know if they wish to submit agenda items for the next meeting. Dr. Perman adjourned the meeting at 1:47 PM.