



**FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MARYLAND LIFE SCIENCES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**As Required by Economic Development Article**  
**Section 3-205**

**Respectfully submitted to the General Assembly of Maryland by**

Kevin Anderson

Maryland Department of Commerce

401 East Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

December 2024



## **Introduction**

The Life Sciences Advisory Board (LSAB) was established by Chapter 304, Acts of 2007, for the purpose of maintaining Maryland's preeminence in the life sciences industry. The function of the board is to provide strategic guidance on activities that focus on:

- Promoting life sciences research, development, commercialization and manufacturing in Maryland;
- Fostering collaboration and coordination among life science organizations in Maryland, including federal laboratories and research institutions of higher education;
- Coordinating state and federal resources to attract private sector investment and job creation in the life sciences; and
- Addressing critical needs of the life sciences industry, including access to venture capital as well as a diverse and talented workforce.

## **Fiscal Year 2024 Board Composition**

The current LSAB was appointed on July 1, 2021 to serve a two-year term, and was re-appointed in July 2023. The board consists of the following members:

**Chair:** Jay A. Perman, MD – *Chancellor, University System of Maryland*

**Vice Chair:** Robert Storey – *Managing Director, The MVR Company; Managing Director, The LaunchPort™*

### ***Appointed Members:***

1. Trushar Agrawal – *Sr. Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma*
2. Richard A. Bendis – *President and CEO, BioHealth Innovation, Inc.*
3. Jesse Christopher – *CEO, Longevity Neuro Solutions*
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, U.S. Food and Drug Administration*
6. Mark Mortenson, JD – *Chief Scientific Officer, Clene Nanomedicine*
7. Deborah D. Ricker, PhD – *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College*
8. KaShauna Rohlehr – *Associate Director for Alliance, Program and Project Management, GlaxoSmithKline\**
9. Michael Weingarten – *Director, SBIR Development Center, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health*
10. Ellington West – *CEO and Co-founder, Sonavi Labs, Inc.*
11. Christy Wyskiel – *Senior Advisor to the President and Head of Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures, Johns Hopkins University*

### ***Standing Members:***

1. Kevin A. Anderson – *Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce*
2. Arti Santhanam, PhD – *Executive Director, MII, TEDCO\**
3. Ruchika Nijhara, PhD – *Executive Director, MSCRF\**

\* *These members rotated on or off during the fiscal year*

## **Fiscal Year 2024 Board Activities**

LSAB's activities focused on the following priorities:

- 1) raising awareness of Maryland's life sciences assets and resources;
- 2) increasing access to capital for early-stage life sciences companies; and
- 3) improving connectivity among local workforce and the growing life sciences industry.

The three meetings held throughout Fiscal Year 2024 provided opportunities for exchange of information relevant to the life sciences community as well as updates on board initiatives. The group discussed opportunities to engage with ARPA-H; support of the EDA Tech Hubs proposal led by Greater Baltimore Committee; the new biotech venture capital fund BlackBird Laboratories; FDA CDRH's Home as a Health Care Hub initiative; and the Office of Life Sciences' programs to support companies attending conferences; creating networking opportunities around medical technology; and the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy Annual Conference. The board evaluated progress and needs in the life sciences ecosystem in Maryland against the BioHealth Acceleration Initiative recommendations set forth by the board in 2017. These discussions generated ideas on Maryland's unique strengths to further develop going forward, leveraging the State's assets in federal agencies, healthcare data, advanced and quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and medical technology (see meeting minutes in Appendix I).

## Appendix I - LSAB Meeting Minutes

**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**

### **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. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, LaunchPort [Vice Chair]
3. Trushar Agrawal – Senior Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma
4. Richard A. Bendis – President and CEO, BioHealth Innovation, Inc.
5. Jesse Christopher – CEO and Co-founder, Longevity
6. Rebecca Fisher, PhD – Deputy Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
7. Edward Margerrison, PhD – Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
8. Deborah D. Ricker, PhD – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College
9. KaShauna Rohlehr – Director, Strategy and Business Transformation, GlaxoSmithKline
10. Arti Santhanam, PhD – TEDCO (Ex Officio)
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 agencies' 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 board members 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.

\*\*\*

**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**

### **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. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, LaunchPort [Vice Chair]
3. Trushar Agrawal – Senior Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma
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 (CDRH), U.S. Food and Drug Administration
7. Mark Mortenson, Chief Science Officer, Clene Nanomedicine
8. Deborah D. Ricker, PhD – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College
9. KaShauna Rohlehr – Director, Strategy and Business Transformation, GlaxoSmithKline
10. Arti Santhanam, PhD – TEDCO (Ex Officio)
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 the 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. Topics of interest include digital health, clinical trials, and synthetic data.

### **Introduction to Blackbird Laboratories**

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 investors 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 and 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.

\*\*\*

**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**

### **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. Bob Storey – Principal, The MVR Company, Managing Director, LaunchPort [Vice Chair]
3. Trushar Agrawal – Senior Director, Head of Manufacturing, Kite Pharma
4. Richard A. Bendis – President and CEO, BioHealth Innovation, Inc.
5. Jesse Christopher – CEO and Co-founder, Longevity
6. Rebecca Fisher, PhD – Deputy Director, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command
7. Edward Margerrison, PhD – Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
8. Deborah D. Ricker, PhD – Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Hood College
9. Ruchika Nijhara, PhD – Executive Director, Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund
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's 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*: The Department of Commerce and University of Maryland Baltimore co-sponsored the reception at the UMB BioPark to welcome out-of-state attendees 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. 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.