

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC POLICY, RESEARCH AND
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

MARYLAND LIFE SCIENCES
ADVISORY BOARD

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Table of Contents

Introduction..... 3

Board Composition..... 3

Duties of the Board..... 4

Summary of Activities 4

 Inaugural Meeting of the LSAB 4

 Second Meeting of the LSAB 5

Introduction

On May 8, 2007, the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law the creation of the Maryland Life Sciences Advisory Board (LSAB). Among the duties tasked to the LSAB, the Board will develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Maryland's life sciences community.

Comprised of 15 members, the Board includes the Secretary of Business and Economic Development (DBED), a representative from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), three representatives from federal agencies with life science missions, five representatives from biotechnology businesses in Maryland, four representatives from institutions of higher education, and a member of the general public.

Board Composition

The composition of the Board for 2007 – 2008 is as follows

Chair: Mr. Thomas Watkins, *CEO, Human Genome Sciences, Inc.*

Standing: Mr. David Edgerley *Secretary, DBED*
Ms. Renée Winsky *Executive Director, TEDCO*

Appointed: Dr. Norma Allewell *Dean, Chemical and Life Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park*
Dr. Norka Ruiz Bravo *Deputy Director, Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health*
Ms. Francesca Cook *Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, Pharmathene, Inc.*
Dr. Stephen Desiderio *Director, Institute for Cell Engineering, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine*
Mr. Lawrence Diamond *Mid-Atlantic Senior Vice President, Alexandria Real Estate Equities*
Mr. David Iannucci *Director, Department of Economic Development, Baltimore County*
Mr. Philippe Jacon *President, BD Diagnostic Systems*
Col. George Korch *Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases*
Dr. Nina Lamba *President, CCL Biomedical, Inc.*
Dr. Hercules Pinkney *Vice President & Provost, Montgomery College-Germantown*
Dr. David Ramsey *President, University of Maryland, Baltimore*
Dr. Janet Woodcock *Deputy Commissioner & Chief Medical Officer, Food and Drug Administration*

Except for the Secretary, the term of an Advisory Board member is 2 years. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Duties of the Board

The Board is tasked with assisting the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development with the following:

- Develop a comprehensive state strategic plan for life sciences
- Promote life sciences research, development, commercialization, and manufacturing in the state
- Promote collaboration and coordination among life sciences organizations in the state
- Promote collaboration and coordination among research institutions of higher education in the state
- Develop a strategy to coordinate state and federal resources to attract private sector investment and job creation in the life sciences
- Develop a strategy to support federal life sciences facilities in the state, including support for education, transportation, housing, and capital investment
- Make recommendations to address critical needs in the life sciences, including access to venture capital and capital construction funding.

In performing its duties, the Board is to give due consideration to the business, scientific, medical, and ethical aspects of the life sciences industry.

Summary of Activities

On September 7, 2007, Governor Martin O'Malley announced the appointed members of the LSAB at a public ceremony held at the Governor's office in Annapolis.

Inaugural Meeting of the LSAB

Chairman Tom Watkins convened the inaugural public meeting of the LSAB on October 17, 2007 at Human Genome Sciences, 14200 Shady Grove Road, Rockville, Maryland. Thirteen of fifteen members were in attendance.

The Chairman emphasized the unique opportunity before the Board and the importance of the timing of its mission. Secretary David Edgerley of DBED reviewed the history behind the creation of the LSAB, the intent behind the composition of the Board stipulated by the General Assembly, and the duties of the Board as outlined in its legislation.

The LSAB was presented an overview of Maryland's bioscience environment including its demographics, financing history from venture capital and state investments, state & federal government programs relevant to the industry, and prior strategic planning efforts. In addition, the Board members were provided a comprehensive set of reference materials including: (1) past Maryland strategic plans, (2) other states' strategic plans, and (3) initiatives and policy practices relevant to the biosciences industry. All these documents will be available to the public through the LSAB website currently under development at DBED and expected to be active in December 2007.

The Chairman, in review of the duties of the Board, concluded with approval of the Board that the creation of a State Strategic Plan for Bioscience was the first and foremost task before the Board. It is the intent of the Board to deliver an approved strategic plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 15, 2008 (date of the next the annual report)

The Chairman proposed working groups be formed around adopted areas of focus relevant to the creation of a State strategic plan for biosciences. A variety of topics were discussed including global competition among life sciences regions, the need to ensure a skilled and talented workforce, the generation of new commercial opportunities by strengthening technology transfer and supporting entrepreneurial efforts/programs, the needs of Maryland's mid- and later-stage biocompanies, capital formation, and Maryland's business environment.

The Board approved seven areas of focus and determined that six required working groups (four chaired by members of the Board), to move forward to engage interested members of Maryland's bioscience community to provide inputs. The working groups are:

- Capital Formation
- Business Environment
- Workforce Development & Education Programs
- Future Ready "Pipeline" Programs
- Academic Institutions and Translational Research
- Leveraging Maryland's Unique Federal Resources
- Marketing and Promotion of Maryland Globally
- Advancing Leadership – Creating Vision*

Working group chairs were tasked to enlist their members and meet before the next meeting of the Board to ratify their intended topics for consideration moving forward.

** this area of focus will be handled by the Board at large.*

Second Meeting of the LSAB

Chairman Tom Watkins convened the second public meeting of the LSAB on December 11, 2007 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, 220 Arch Street, Baltimore, Maryland. Thirteen of fifteen members were in attendance.

The Board members received updates from each working group chairperson on their progress regarding membership, the discussion and findings of their first meetings, and their intended directions going forward on developing topics for consideration for the State Strategic Plan for Bioscience. The Board gave favorable agreement with comment on the intended directions of the working groups.

Only one working group, Business Environment, was not able to meet before this Board meeting. All working groups will convene 1-2 meetings before the next intended Board meeting in March 2008. In addition, the Board intends to conduct at least two public forums for solicitation of comment on areas of focus before the Board.