2019-20 Ivy Foundation
Biomedical Innovation Fund
Review Board

Review Board

Gerry Brunk, Managing Director, Lumira Capital
Gerry focuses on investments in a range of therapeutic areas in the biotechnology and medical device sectors and manages Lumira Capital's Boston office, which he established when he joined the firm in 2002. Prior to joining Lumira Capital Gerry was an entrepreneur in the life sciences sector, founding and serving in a variety of management and board capacities at several venture capital-funded companies. Earlier in his career he was an engagement manager in the healthcare practice of The Boston Consulting Group and was a member of the investment banking group of Credit Suisse First Boston.
Gerry holds an MBA from Stanford University Graduate School of Business and a BA from the University of Virginia, where he studied biology and economics.

Kuldeep Neote, Vice President External Innovation at the Eli Lilly and Company, Boston.
Kuldeep focuses primarily on the areas of Oncology and Immunology at JNJ. Kuldeep is a trained molecular biologist with an extensive background in drug discovery; Kuldeep has been focused on the areas of Immunology, Inflammation and Oncology and has a passion for implementing cutting edge scientific discoveries into practical drug discovery programs.
Prior to returning to Lilly, Kuldeep was the Senior Director of New Ventures at the Boston Innovation Center for Johnson and Johnson along with serving as JNJ's Interim Head at JLABS@Canada. Earlier at Lilly he was the Principal Scientist and advancing to become the Director of Research at Eli Lilly. He has also worked at Pfizer where he was responsible for initiating the chemokine drug discovery program. Kuldeep is well published and holds several patents.
He received his PhD at the University of Toronto and did his postdoctoral work at Genentech from 1991 to 1994 focused on chemokine biology and he cloned the first CC chemokine receptor.

David L. Brautigan, Professor of Microbiology, Immunology & Cancer Biology and Director of the Center for Cell Signaling
David research specialty is the biochemistry of cell signaling by protein phosphorylation, involving protein phosphatase and kinase enzymes. Dr. Brautigan has published more than 200 scientific articles and served as principal investigator and co-investigator on research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and private foundations. He has evaluated federal research grant applications on a variety of NIH panels, and for 2010-2012 was elected chairman of the Molecular and Integrative Signal Transduction (MIST) study section. He serves as the co-leader of the Cancer Cell Signaling program and member of the executive committee at the UVA Cancer Center and was recently appointed as External Advisor of a Marie-Curie European Training Network, a consortium of academic groups and companies seeking to commercialize pharmacological regulators of protein phosphatases as cancer therapeutics. He has more than a dozen licensed research reagents in commercial distribution and has consulted for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies for over 25 years.
David Brautigan received his B.A. degree at Kalamazoo College, a M.S. in chemistry and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington, Seattle with Nobel laureate Edmond H. Fischer. Before moving to Virginia in 1994 David was Professor of Medical Science at Brown University and served as Director of the Ph.D. program in Molecular, Cell Biology and Biochemistry.

Kyparissia Sirinakis, Managing Partner, Epidarex Capital
Ms. Sirinakis has more than twenty years of experience in creating and growing companies. She has a proven track record as an early-stage investor and senior executive in various technology and life science companies. Prior to co-founding Epidarex Capital, Ms. Sirinakis was part of the senior management team of MASA Life Science Ventures (MLSV), where she co-led MLSV's strategy and managed several MLSV portfolio investments through successful exits. Ms. Sirinakis was the Founder and Managing Director of WomenAngels.net LLC ("WAN"), a successful early-stage venture fund focused on the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region. Launched in 2000, WAN successfully invested in highly disruptive technology platforms developed by strong management teams targeting large and unmet market needs across a variety of industry sectors. Ms. Sirinakis has extensive experience working in the university environment as the Director of a technology accelerator and Adjunct Professor at George Mason University. She was the CFO of Oncologix, a venture-backed, early-stage biotechnology company subsequently sold to Antigenics, Inc. Ms. Sirinakis has held numerous directorships of start-up companies throughout her career. She is a graduate of Boston College's School of Management Honors Program and a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Maryland.

William McPheat, Adjunct Faculty Eastern Virginia Medical School in the Biomedical Sciences Program, former Project Leader AstraZeneca

Willie brings over 25 year of drug discovery, development as principal scientist and project leader from his career at AstraZeneca. He has co-authored dozens of publications in areas such as inflammation, cardiovascular and infectious diseases. His expertise areas include: infection, inflammation, pulmonary hypertension and cardiovascular (atherosclerosis, diabetes) biology. Dr. McPheat has established and led collaborations with external academic groups and companies located in USA, France, Canada, Germany and China.

Current he serves as the head of business development for Loxara Biopharmaceuticals and as adjunct faculty at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where he lectures on the economics and process of drug discovery to PhD and Masters students. McPheat received his PhD from the University of Glasgow in microbiology and received his MBA from the College of William and Mary.

Michael Straightiff, Executive Director, UVA. Licensing & Ventures Group

As the Director of the Licensing & Ventures Group, he has worked to reinvigorate and grow the business development pipeline by implementing a new business model, financial model, and revenue distribution formula; by integrating the Licensing & Ventures Group into the existing translational research programs at the University, and by increasing engagement of faculty, staff and students. This new approach to advancing University technologies has yielded partnerships with Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi, Pfizer, Apple, MeadWestvaco, New Enterprise Associates, and has provided ideal conditions for the launch of many new start-up companies.

Straightiff holds a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration (Finance) from Case Western Reserve University and a Master of Public Policy (Science and Technology Policy) from George Mason University.

Robert Meyer, Principal, Drug and Biological Products at Greenleaf Health Inc.

Dr. Robert Meyer, M.D., is currently a Principal in Drug and Biological Products at Greenleaf Health Inc. Formerly he served as the Director of the Virginia Center for Translational and Regulatory Sciences (VCTRS) and associate professor of Public Health Sciences. Through VCTRS, he is developed a regulatory science educational track, as well as provide regulatory and translational knowledge resources to University and external entities who seek to translate basic science discoveries to the bedside. Prior to UVA, Dr. Meyer was Vice President, Global Regulatory Strategy, Policy and Safety at Merck Research Laboratories (MRL), where he was responsible for all regulatory strategy and operations, global regulatory policy and intelligence, as well as global product safety and pharmacovigilance. Externally, Dr. Meyer chaired the Regulatory Affairs Coordinating Committee for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) from 2012-13, and served as a key PhRMA negotiator on PDUFA V. Previously, Dr. Meyer worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA – 1994-2007). In his last 5 years at the FDA, Dr. Meyer was as the Director for the Office of Drug Evaluation II (ODEII) within Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), with responsibilities for pulmonary and allergy, metabolic and endocrine, and analgesics, anesthetics and rheumatologic drug products. Dr. Meyer was involved in several CDER initiatives, amongst them chairing the development of the Pre-Market Risk Assessment guidance. While at FDA and again at UVA, Dr. Meyer is as a technical expert to the Medical Aerosols Technical Options Committee to the Montreal Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, work for which he was recognized by both United Nations Environmental Programme and the US EPA. Prior to joining FDA, Dr. Meyer was an academic pulmonologist and critical care specialist at the Oregon Health and Sciences University, where he helped create the medical service for the Lung/Heart-Lung Transplantation team. He received his medical degree from the University of Connecticut in internal medicine and completed a fellowship at the Univ. of Vermont in Pulmonology.

Nikki Hasting, Executive Director of CvilleBioHub

Dr. Hastings leads the effort to grow and sustain the biotech industry in greater Charlottesville as the first Executive Director of the Cville BioHub. The Cville BioHub is comprised of over 50 companies working to improve human health through development of medical devices, software, diagnostics tools, and drug development.

She has over 10 years of experience in translating and growing concepts emerging from academia into sustainable companies and has performed executive leadership roles in operations and strategy with HemoShear Therapeutics, Contraline, and Cerillo.

Dr. Hastings holds her Ph.D. from UVA in biomedical engineering and has a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from North Carolina State University.