2021-2022 LaunchPad for Diabetes Fund
Review Board

Gene Barrett, MD, PhD, UVA's Department of Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolism

Dr. Barrett's laboratory focuses on studies of insulin action and how insulin's action is altered by insulin resistance, obesity, and diabetes mellitus. He is also studying how these processes are affected by the action
of other growth factors (growth hormone and IGF-I). A major hypothesis which we are exploring is that a significant fraction of the insulin resistance which is encountered in skeletal muscle in states like obesity, diabetes, and hypertension is attributable to impaired action of insulin on the microvasculature in addition to any effect on the muscle cell per se. He is published in the diabetes areas of insulin, hormonal effects. Barrett received his MD and PhD at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY in Biophysics and Medicine and did his Internal Medicine Residency at the Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, NY and an Endocrinology Fellowship at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Richard Chylla, Executive Director, UVA Licensing & Ventures Group

Rich comes to the University of Virginia from the Innovation Center at Michigan State University where he served as Executive Director of MSU Technologies since 2012. He also served on the board of directors for the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) and held the AUTM chair position in 2019. He has more than 25 years of experience in university technology transfer, research leadership, and business development.
Rich has extensive experience in licensing and technology commercialization in both academic and industry settings. He has amassed career accomplishments with top-tier organizations including the University of Michigan and BASF Corporation. He also has broad international experience having worked in various technical roles with Johnson Polymer in Singapore, Japan, and the Netherlands.
At Michigan State, Rich was instrumental in launching two translational funds totaling $7M since 2014 in partnership with economic development agencies. These supported more than 160 projects to advance university technologies generating licenses with industry, new startups, and jobs. He doubled the number of licenses and options since 2013, grew the total licensing revenue, and strengthened relations between the university and the local entrepreneurial community. MSU Technologies grew the number of university startups launched each year and attracted more than $100M in follow-on capital.

Anca Dobrian, PhD, FAHA, Associate Professor, Physiological Sciences, Eastern Virginia Medical School

Dr. Dobrian's lab studies mechanisms leading to cardiovascular complications of obesity. In particular the research is focused on how inflammation and lipotoxicity in adipose tissue leads to insulin resistance and type2 diabetes. She is also interested in renal mechanisms that contribute to hypertension in obesity.
She teaches a variety of medical and graduate students in areas of: Integrated metabolism and Nutrition - Lipid Biochemistry, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Function and Dysfunction, Concepts in Research Design and Essentials in Physiology. She received her PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology, from the Institute of Biology and Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu", Bucharest, Romania, 1997 and her M.S., Biochemistry, from the Polytechnic Institute, Faculty of Chemistry, Bucharest, Romania, 1988.

William McPheat, Mentor, Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program (ICAP), a program of George Mason University and the Virginia SBDC; Adjunct Faculty Eastern Virginia Medical School

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 an adjunct faculty at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where he lectures on the economics and process of drug discovery to PhD and Master students. He is also a member of the VCU Commercialization Advisory Board and advises the Virginia Innovation Partnership (formerly named CIT). McPheat received his PhD from the University of Glasgow in microbiology and received his MBA from the College of William and Mary.

Hina Mehta
Director, University Programs, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation

Hina Mehta joined VIPC in 2022 as Director of University Programs for the Commercialization Division. In this role, she participates in the development and execution of the Commonwealth Commercialization Fund (CCF) grant programs and serves as the lead for promoting and managing the CCF's university-focused programs. Hina has extensive experience in research commercialization and was, during her tenure as Director of the Office of Technology Transfer at George Mason University, successful at engaging with and supporting commercialization-minded research faculty. At Mason, she also mentored faculty-led teams participating in customer discovery programs such as NSF I-Corps and ICAP.
Prior to Mason, Hina worked in biomedical research, in strategic consulting, and co-founded a startup. Hina is passionate about community service, serves on several innovation and entrepreneurship committees, and volunteers for nonprofit community organizations.
She holds a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, and an MBA from the University of Maryland.

Matthew Miessau, Epidarex Capital, Associate

Matthew joined Epidarex as an Analyst. While at Epidarex Capital, Matthew has been actively involved in deal sourcing including expanding Epidarex Capital's reach and relationships with key universities in emerging hubs in the US. He also focused on conducting due diligence on prospective investments on both sides of the Atlantic and portfolio management. Matthew also supports the firm's fundraising efforts and LP reporting. Matthew is a Board Observer for AdoRx Therapeutics and Epidarex Exeed.
Prior to joining Epidarex, Matthew was the Program Manager for the Georgetown University Center for Drug Discovery where he was responsible for managing the daily financial and research operations for the Center as well as developing the Center's annual budget and grant proposals.
Matthew is currently an instructor at the NIH Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES), teaching Biomedical Business Development for Scientists. In his role as an instructor he leverages his experience at Epidarex to provide real world insights to NIH researchers interested in learning about the commercialization of life science innovations.

Matthew holds an M.S. in Biotechnology and a B.S. in Biochemistry from Georgetown University.Founded in 2012, Epidarex Capital is a venture capital firm based in Bethesda, Maryland. The firm prefers to invest in the life science and healthcare technology sectors.

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.

Ad Hoc:

Bob Creeden, Director, UVA Seed Fund & New Ventures, Licensing & Ventures Group

Bob serves as the Managing Director of the UVA LVG Seed Fund & New Venture to manage the $20M UVA LVG Seed Fund I & II. Creeden has deployed $4.1M across nine portfolio companies with two exits and has leveraged more than $14.1M from syndicate partners. He has launched several initiatives to identify opportunities for the creation of high-quality ventures based on UVA research assets including an Entrepreneurs in Residence program. The program successfully launched its first company, Slate Bio, in January 2021. Creeden recently completed the fifth year of the UVA LVG Seed Fund's accompanying course at UVA's Darden School of Business, Due Diligence in Seed Fund Investing. The course invites rising second-year students to learn industry-proven practices as they assist with company evaluations. With support from the Batten Institute at Darden, Creeden also offers a summer internship.
Prior to joining UVA LVG, Creeden served as the founding executive director of the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network in the North Carolina Research Triangle. His efforts helped strengthen the area's business environment, resulting in early-stage and seed investment of more than $60M. Creeden holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, and an M.B.A. from Suffolk University in Boston.

Kuldeep Neote, NIH Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR), Small Business Education and Entrepreneurial
Development (SEED), past Eli Lilly and Johnson and Johnson

Kuldeep, earned his PhD in Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto. He has over 25 years in the life science industry, including as a researcher at Genentech, Pfizer, and Eli Lilly and Company, and as a business development executive at Johnson & Johnson and Eli Lilly and Company. He is currently an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at FACIT/OICR in Toronto and at The National Institutes of Health in Maryland. He is the Chair, Scientific Advisory Board for GeneTether Therapeutics.

During his time at Pfizer where he was responsible for initiating the chemokine drug discovery program. Kuldeep is well published and holds several patents.
During his postdoctoral work at Genentech from 1991 to 1994 focused on chemokine biology and he cloned the first CC chemokine receptor.

Sean Moore, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Nutrition, & Hepatology, University of Virginia, Co-Director of the TransUniversity Microbiome Initiative

Dr. Sean Moore, M.D. is a physician-scientist with training in pediatrics, gastroenterology, global health, and cell biology. He joined the Department of Pediatrics at UVa in 2016 as Director of Research for the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, & Nutrition and in 2020 became the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Nutrition, & Hepatology. The Moore Laboratory works at the dynamic intersection of childhood nutrition, gut health, and enteric microbes. He also serves as the Co-Director of the TransUniversity Microbiome Initiative and as the director of UVA's iTHRIV Pilot Studies Program.

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