

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Natalie Hellmann
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 Return: Saturday, August 26, 2023  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Boston, MA Return City: New York, NY
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Toured several health, financial services, energy, and general technology sites in Boston.

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Traveler: Natalie Hellmann Date: 9/6/2023

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Earl L. "Buddy" Carter Date: 9/6/2023

Signature of Supervising Member: Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Travel Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: RL Kill Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Natalie Hellmann

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
Center Forward

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Boston, MA

4. a. Date of Departure: 8/23/23 Date of Return: 8/26/23

b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_

5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:

6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

*NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.*

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.  
**Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

As a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Earl L. "Buddy" Carter of GA-01 who is a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, I am regularly involved in policy related to technology. This Innovation Conference will provide useful insight into industry advancements and will give me the opportunity to ask questions that will help me do my job.

9. **Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member Earl L. "Buddy" Carter Date 07/12/2023



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. **This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).**

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date.** Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Natalie Hellmann

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Natalie Hellmann

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter

Office Address: 2432 RHOB

Telephone Number: 202-225-5831

Email Address of Contact Person: natalie.hellmann@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103  
or via e-mail: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).



Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
*Ranking Member*

David P. Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

August 17, 2023

Ms. Natalie Hellmann  
Office of the Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Hellmann:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Boston, Massachusetts, scheduled for August 23 to 26, 2023, sponsored by Center Forward.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest  
Chairman

Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:emw



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Center Forward

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**

b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**

c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):

Please see attached supplemental form.

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of departure: Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023 Date of return: Saturday, August 26th, 2023

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.

b. Destination(s): Boston, MA

c. City of return: Washington, D.C.

8. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**

b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**

c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following:**

a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**

b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**

c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**

d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:  
Please see attached supplemental form.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.  
If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):  
\$70
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:  
Please see attached supplemental form.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: InterContinental Hotel Boston City: Boston, MA Cost Per Night: \$255  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Ample meeting space and central location to commercial districts in Boston
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

### 18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$550.00	\$765.00	\$240.00
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$0.00	Air and ground transportation included above. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For each Accompanying Family Member		

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

### 19. Check only one:

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

### 20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Riley Kilburg Date: July 6, 2023

Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

Email: riley@center-forward.org Telephone: 5635426821

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

**For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:**

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

[ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov) | 202-225-7103  
More information and forms available at [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)



Center Forward Innovation Conference  
Boston, MA

August 23 - August 26, 2023



# Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Agenda</b> .....	3
<b>II.</b>	<b>Conference Overview</b> .....	15
<b>III.</b>	<b>Biographies</b> .....	16
	A. Conference Participant Biographies	
	B. Center Forward Biographies	
	C. Site Visit Speaker Biographies	
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Hotel and Local Travel Information</b> .....	38
	A. The InterContinental Boston	
	B. Local Attractions	



Center Forward Innovation Conference  
Boston, Massachusetts — August 23 - August 26, 2023  
Conference Agenda

---

Center Forward Contact Information

Cori Kramer | (202) 550-0888 | cori@center-forward.org  
Eddie Huck | (317) 979-1185 | eddie@center-forward.org  
Daniel Garza | (770) 827-0242 | daniel@center-forward.org  
Ryan McAlpin | (585) 857-1921 | ryan@center-forward.org

---

<b>Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023</b>
-------------------------------------

- 3:03 pm** Congressional staff depart Washington Reagan National Airport  
American Airlines Flight 2145 | 1 h 48 min flight time
- 4:51 pm** Arrive at Boston Logan International Airport (AA 2145)
- After deboarding, collect any checked bags, exit the terminal and proceed to ground transportation. A Center Forward staff member will greet you and help organize transportation to the hotel.*
- 5:20 pm** Depart Boston Logan International Airport en route to  
InterContinental Hotel Boston via car. (15 minute travel time)
- InterContinental Hotel Boston | 510 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02210
- 5:35 pm** Check-in at the the InterContinental Hotel Boston
- 6:45 pm** Depart InterContinental Hotel Boston via walking to dinner. (12 min travel time)

**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Welcome Dinner

Mastro's Steakhouse | 25 Fan Pier Boulevard, Boston MA 02210

*\*\*Business casual attire - For gentlemen, slacks, khakis, or dark jeans, polo, button-down shirt, jacket optional. For ladies, flat or high heeled shoes, an elegant top or blouse, dress pants or skirt, or dress*

**Thursday, August 24th, 2023**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Breakfast available in the Club Lounge on 12th floor from 7:00 am until 10:00 am

*\*\*Business casual attire - For gentlemen, slacks, khakis, or dark jeans, polo, button-down shirt, jacket optional. For ladies, flat or high heeled shoes, an elegant top or blouse, dress pants or skirt, or dress*

**9:00 am - 9:30 am**      Opening Welcome Remarks from Cori Kramer and Riley Kilburg

InterContinental Hotel Boston | Ballroom 200

- Cori Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward
- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward

*Cori Kramer and Riley Kilburg will lead an overview of the agenda for conference participants and provide an introduction to the pressing issues we will be discussing over the next three days. Topics will include biotechnology and pharmaceutical innovations, healthcare workforce issues, emerging technology in the energy industry, venture capital and business incubators, and new tools in the finance and banking sectors.*

**9:30 am - 9:45 am**      Depart InterContinental Hotel Boston via shuttle en route to Pfizer R&D Labs and Center for Therapeutic Innovation Headquarters. (15 minute travel time)

**9:45 am - 10:45 am**      Tour of Pfizer Research Labs

Pfizer R&D Laboratory and Center for Therapeutic Innovation Global Headquarters | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 1 Portland St, Cambridge, MA 02139

*Pfizer boasts a 280,000+ square foot R&D hub home to over 1,000 employees focused on developing medical breakthroughs in treatments for inflammation and immune disorders, rare diseases, and internal medicine. The site's laboratory facilities are leased from MIT, continuing Pfizer's tradition of working with the university and other leading academic institutions to advance science, research, and education. The Cambridge labs are also the global headquarters for Pfizer's Center For Therapeutic Innovation (CTI), an entrepreneurial network of collaborations with leading academic medical centers.*

*After a safety briefing, guests will tour two of Pfizer's labs working on innovative medical technology. The first stop will provide a presentation on the development journey of Paxlovid, Pfizer's oral treatment for COVID-19, and the role that machine learning and artificial intelligence played in predicting potency and designing the molecule.*

*Next, participants will tour the PfIRe Lab, an industry leading, physician monitored clinical site where Pfizer runs human studies to develop clinical digital endpoints for use in home settings including sensors and wearables. Through continuous, remote & passive data collection, these technologies have the potential to increase patient access and achieve faster trials with lower costs.*

**Attendees will be given PPE and split into two groups.**

**10:45 am - 11:30 am** Panel Remarks – Supply Chain and Security for Medical Technology

*Pfizer executives will provide brief remarks and take questions from attendees. The discussion will focus on topics related to supply chain resiliency, lessons learned out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the growing threat of counterfeit drugs and efforts to stop their production and distribution.*

Panelists include:

- Bill Falstich, Vice President of Primary Care Supply Chain Lead, Pfizer
- Angel M. Melendez, Senior Director of Americas Security and Investigations, Pfizer

**11:30 am - 11:35 am** Depart Pfizer R&D Laboratory via walking en route to MassBioHub. (5 minute travel time)

**11:35 am - 11:45 am** Arrive at MassBioHub

MassBioHub | 700 Technology Square, L5, Cambridge, MA 02139

**11:45 am - 12:30 pm** Fireside Chat - Research and Development 101

*David Meeker, a Member of the Board of Directors at MassBio, will provide a brief presentation and lead a discussion on the research and development process and the importance of intellectual property protections for pharmaceutical researchers and manufacturers. This presentation will provide an overview of how early stage companies secure funding, the development of new drugs, and why IP protections*



*and market exclusivity are important to recuperate investments and sustain business. The discussion will also touch on patents, how they work, the process of adjudicating infringements, and why they are key to the innovation process.*

Speakers include:

- David Meeker, Member, Board of Directors, MassBio
- Cori Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward  
(Moderator)

**12:30 pm - 1:00 pm** Lunch Break

**1:00 pm - 1:45 pm** Panel Discussion – Biotechnology: Rare Diseases and Incentives for Research & Development

*A diverse representation of stakeholders in the biotechnology sector will provide an update into rare disease treatment production. Panelists, with largely business and policy backgrounds, will share their company's experiences in how the federal government has hindered or enhanced innovation. This discussion will provide attendees insight on how recent legislation has impacted the research and development process. Topics discussed are likely to include the rare disease exemption, small molecule penalty, oncology, screening, diversity in medical trials, accelerated approval, small business exemption, and more.*

Speakers include:

- Stephen Bandini, Head of Oncology Strategy and Operations, Novartis
- Crystal Kuntz, Senior Vice President of Policy, BIO
- Del Lebel, Head of US Government Affairs and Policy, Alexion
- Jennifer Roan, Vice President of US Neurology, PTC Therapeutics
- Libby Greer, Advisory Board Member, Center Forward  
(Moderator)

**1:45 pm - 2:15 pm** Guests and speakers mingle at MassBioHub.

**2:15 pm - 3:00 pm** Depart MassBioHub via shuttle en route to MetroWest Medical Center Framingham. (45 minute travel time)

*Cori Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward, will brief conference attendees on issues facing community hospital networks, focusing on their struggle to find and retain adequate resources and workforce to deliver care to their patients.*

**3:00 pm - 3:15 pm** Arrive at MetroWest Framingham and remarks from Executive Leadership.

MetroWest Medical Center Framingham | 115 Lincoln Street,  
Framingham, MA 01702

*Carolyn Jackson, CEO of St. Vincent Hospital and the Central Massachusetts market, will welcome conference attendees and give a brief overview of the community hospital network, their challenges at MetroWest, and what the group will see on the upcoming tour.*

**3:15 pm - 4:00 pm** Tour of MetroWest Framingham

*Hospital staff will lead the groups through a tour of the facility, including the behavioral health center, pediatric care center, and emergency room and trauma center. Through the tour, hospital staff and attendees will discuss the real-life impact of healthcare workforce challenges for patients.*

**Conference attendees will be given PPE and be split into four groups.**

Tour leaders and speakers include:

- Linda Belleville, Operations Project Manager, MetroWest Framingham
- Melinda Darrigo, Interim Chief Operating Officer, MetroWest Framingham
- Adelaida Gibson, Director and Community Liaison, MetroWest Framingham
- Naomi Seymour, Chief Nursing Officer, MetroWest Framingham
- Dr. Michelle Sinopoli, Chief Medical Officer, MetroWest Framingham

**4:00 pm - 4:30 pm** Remarks and Discussion – Health Care Workforce, Local Networks, and Lessons from COVID-19

*Hospital staff and administrators will give brief remarks and answer questions. The discussion will focus on issues in the healthcare workforce, labor shortages, and funding and support for small and local networks. The group will also discuss lessons health care providers learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and how practices and issues in the workforce have changed.*

Speakers include:

- Carolyn Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, MetroWest Medical Center Framingham
- Joe Ricca, Principal, Dewey Square Group
- Melissa Wong, Government Relations Manager, Tenet Healthcare

**4:30 pm - 5:15 pm** Depart MetroWest Medical Center Framingham via shuttle en route to the InterContinental Hotel Boston. (45 minute travel time)

*Water and snacks will be provided on the ride back. Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward, will debrief attendees on the prior discussions and issues related to healthcare workforce and local provider networks.*

**5:15 pm - 6:55 pm** Break

**6:55 pm - 7:00 pm** Depart the InterContinental Hotel walking en route to dinner. (12 minute travel time)

**7:00pm - 9:00 pm** Dinner – World-Class Universities Building a Culture of Innovation and Progress in Boston and Cambridge

Lola 42 | 22 Liberty Drive, Boston, MA 02210

*Administrators from local universities in the Boston area and industry association representatives will join conference attendees for a discussion about the academic research ecosystem. Speakers will highlight the culture of innovation built through university research and workforce development and the implications of current federal policy debates. Topics of discussion will include technology transfer compliance, intellectual property rights, and funding for federal research agencies and university research centers.*

Panelists include:

- Kate Hudson, American Association of Universities

**Friday, August 25th, 2023**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast available in Club Lounge on the 12th floor from 7:00 am - 10:00 am

*\*\*Business casual attire - Long pants and closed toed, hard-soled shoes are REQUIRED for site visits later in the day.*

**8:20 am - 8:30 am** Depart InterContinental Hotel Boston walking en route to Fidelity Center for Applied Technology. (10 minute travel time)

**8:30 am - 9:10 am** Tour and Demonstrations at Fidelity Center for Applied Technology (FCAT)

Fidelity Center for Applied Technology (FCAT) | 245 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02128

Speakers include:

- Carolyn Orfanella, Vice President of Business Strategy, FCAT

**9:10 am - 10:00 am** Panel Discussion — FinTech Innovation and Applied Technologies

Fidelity Center for Applied Technology (FCAT) | 245 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02128

*Technology is rapidly changing and involved in almost every aspect of our lives, and financial services and banking are no exception. FCAT is working to create solutions for the increasing digitization of finance using AI, blockchain tokenization, and quantum computing.*

*FCAT's lead on thematic crypto research will join the group to discuss some of the foundational concepts of blockchain tokens, general use cases for the emerging technology, and implications to the finance industry and regulatory regime.*

Panelists include:

- Vanessa Kargenian, Director of Research, FCAT

**10:00 am - 10:05 am** Depart FCAT via shuttle to AutoDesk. (5 minute travel time)

**10:10 am - 11:45 am** Tour and Demonstrations of AutoDesk Technology Center.

Autodesk | 23 Drydock Avenue, Boston, MA 02210

**Attendees will be split into two groups.**

*Autodesk, Inc. is a global leader in design and build software for the architecture, engineering, construction, manufacturing, and media & entertainment industries. Autodesk products enable people to design and make anything, from everyday products, to towering skyscrapers and critical infrastructure, to digital media like games and movies. The Autodesk Boston Technology Center has a workshop with large-format fabrication equipment to demonstrate innovative approaches to design and construction and an incubator space where startups and other residents can work on new ideas and have access to Autodesk equipment, training, and expertise.*

*Andrew Friendly, Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Autodesk, will provide a tour of the facility and a presentation on how digital design technology is transforming building & construction, manufacturing, and media & entertainment. This will include a discussion of how this technology is being used in the design and construction of public infrastructure like roads, bridges, and airports, and how AI and machine learning are enhancing the capabilities of design software.*

**11:45 pm - 12:00 pm** Depart AutoDesk via shuttle en route to The Engine. (15 minute travel time)

**12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** Facility tour and meet and greet with portfolio companies at The Engine.

The Engine | 750 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

*The Engine, built by MIT, is a venture firm that invests in early-stage companies solving the world's biggest problems through the convergence of breakthrough science, engineering, and leadership. Ben Downing, Vice President of Public Affairs at The Engine, will lead conference attendees on a tour of the headquarters and introduce founders and leaders from several startup companies in The Engine's portfolio.*

**Attendees will be split into two groups.**



Speakers include:

- Arron Acosta, Chief Executive Officer, Rise Robotics
- Ben Downing, Vice President of Public Affairs, The Engine
- Cameron Halliday, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mantel
- Dr. Mariana Matus, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Biobot

**12:45 pm - 1:45 pm**

Lunch and Panel Discussion – From R&D to Manufacturing: The Tech Ecosystem in Greater Boston, Present & Future

*Together, The Engine and FORGE Impact provide funding, consulting, and resources as a full suite of business incubation services. The Engine connects seed-stage companies with venture capital, and FORGE Impact connects companies with widget manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors to build their physical products and bring them to market.*

*Leaders from The Engine and FORGE will lead a discussion on what has made the Greater Boston tech ecosystem successful over the last 15 years, where has the ecosystem benefitted from public support, what weaknesses remain in the region and how their companies are working to address those gaps. As the federal government makes a new round of investments in regional economic development and undertakes a new era of industrial policy, this discussion will help participants consider the merits, challenges and opportunities of different approaches.*

Panelists include:

- Ben Downing, Vice President of Public Affairs, The Engine
- Conrad Holloman, Director of Government Programs, The Engine
- Emily Knight, President, The Engine
- Laura Teicher, Executive Director, FORGE Impact

**1:45 pm - 2:00 pm**

Break

**2:00 pm - 2:55 pm**

Depart The Engine via shuttle en route to Commonwealth Fusion Systems. (55 minute travel time)

*Tyler Ellis, Advisor at Commonwealth Fusion Systems, will brief guests on the history and current state of nuclear energy and provide an overview of recent breakthroughs in fusion technology.*

**3:00 pm - 3:45 pm**

Tour of Commonwealth Fusion Systems facilities.

Commonwealth Fusion Systems | 117 Hospital Road, Devens, MA 01434

*After a safety briefing and safety equipment, conference attendees will tour Commonwealth Fusion Systems' facilities and laboratories, showcasing the latest innovations in nuclear fusion and projects to develop new forms of alternative energy production.*

**ALL cell phones and electronics MUST be left in the secure storage outside of the CFS factory floor and laboratories. Attendees will be split into two groups and given PPE.**

**3:45 pm - 4:45 pm**

Panel Discussion – The Future of Fusion Technology and Renewable Energy

*Researchers and Executives from CFS will discuss recent breakthroughs in fusion technology, and what future developments could bring to the energy sector and other industries.*

Panelists include:

- Alex Creely, Head of Tokamak Operations, Commonwealth Fusion Systems
- Darby Dunn, Vice President of Operations, Commonwealth Fusion Systems
- Bob Mumgaard, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Fusion Systems

**4:45 pm - 5:40 pm**

Depart Commonwealth Fusion Systems via shuttle en route to dinner. (55 minute travel time)

**5:45 pm - 7:45 pm**

Closing Dinner

Del Frisco's Steakhouse | 250 Northern Avenue, Boston MA 02210

**Saturday, August 26th, 2023**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Breakfast available in Club Lounge on the 12th floor from 7:00am - 11:00am

**8:30 am - 8:40 am**      Conference attendees check out and depart the InterContinental Hotel Boston en route to Boston Logan International Airport. (10 minute travel time)

*Center Forward staff will be in the hotel lobby for the duration of the morning, and can organize transportation to the airport for conference attendees.*

**10:15 am - 11:58 am**      Conference attendees depart Boston Logan International Airport American Airlines Flight 2169 | 1 h 48 min flight time

**11:58 am**                      Arrive at Washington Reagan National Airport

## **II. Conference Overview**

### **A. Who We Are - Center Forward**

Center Forward has its roots with pragmatic Members of Congress, who have always played a critical role in maintaining fiscal responsibility, supporting pro-growth business policies, and leading meaningful reform.

Founded by former members of Congress and staff of moderate Members of Congress who experienced firsthand how the legislative process became marred by the excessive polarization existing in politics, the organization serves as a venue in which good ideas may be elevated, studied, discussed and developed. Center Forward exists to elevate and give voice to the center of the American electorate.

### **B. The Innovation Conference**

This year marks Center Forward's second Innovation Conference. In 2019, Center Forward led a delegation of senior legislative congressional staff to the San Francisco Bay area to visit organizations innovating at the forefront of their fields. After getting to see this type of innovation up close at the same time as meeting staffers on the other side of the aisle, two pieces of bipartisan legislation were introduced in the House. These bills, a direct result of the Innovation Conference, exemplify how Congress can work together to foster innovation and growth once partisan labels are put aside.

After a few years off during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Innovation Conference is back on in Boston this summer with a great opportunity to explore breakthroughs in the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, financial services, and energy. Home to two of the most prominent research universities in the world, the Boston area encourages businesses, inventors, policymakers, and everyday citizens to continue to push boundaries.

Innovation stands as the cornerstone of progress and advancement in our rapidly evolving world. It is the force that propels societies forward, fostering creativity, economic growth, and improved quality of life. Through innovation, we discover novel solutions to complex challenges, creating new technologies, processes, and products that revolutionize industries and reshape our daily experiences. This constant pursuit leads to increased efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness, enabling us to tackle pressing global issues and encouraging collaboration across diverse fields to ignite a cycle of continuous learning and improvement. As we embrace innovation, we not only enhance our capabilities but also inspire others to imagine, create, and contribute to a brighter future for all.

### III. Biographies

#### A. Conference Participant Biographies - Congressional Staff



**CAMERYN BLACKMORE**

*Health Policy Advisor, Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL)*

Cameryn Blackmore serves as the Health Policy Advisor for Congresswoman Terri Sewell (AL-07). As a former public administrator for the state of Louisiana, her professional experiences guide her inquiry into providing creative and equitable policy solutions to both bureaucratic and political institutions to increase responsiveness to marginalized groups in the United States.

During the 117th Congress, she completed the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellowship working as a Legislative Aide for Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland and researcher for the Foundation.

Dr. Blackmore completed her Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science from the University of Alabama. Prior to her doctoral studies, she obtained her Master of Public Administration from Southern University in Baton Rouge. She also received her Bachelors in Political Science from Southeastern Louisiana University. She resides in the D.C. area with her Maltese King Louie.



**SKYLAR BORCHARDT**

*Legislative Director, Congresswoman Angie Craig (D-MN)*

Skylar Borchardt is the Legislative Director for Rep. Angie Craig. As Legislative Director, he oversees the full legislative portfolio for a Member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee and Agriculture Committee. He has been with Rep. Craig for two years.

Prior to working in Congress he worked for Venn Strategies, a bipartisan lobbying firm, for four years. He is a graduate of Drake University and a Minnesota native.



**JULIANA DAUCHESS**

*Senior Legislative Assistant, Congressman Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)*

Juliana is a Senior Legislative Assistant for Congressman Lloyd Smucker and has worked for his office for three years. After completing her undergraduate degree at the Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, Juliana returned home to Washington DC and started her professional career in the U.S. House of Representatives. Juliana's portfolio consists of health, defense, foreign affairs, education, and labor issues. In her free time, Juliana enjoys traveling, hiking, and visiting museums downtown.



**TROY DOUGALL**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Congressman John Curtis (R-UT)*

Troy Dougall is a Senior Policy Advisor with Representative John Curtis (UT-3). A Utah native, he graduated from the University of Utah in 2017 with degrees in political science and Middle East Studies and has worked for the Congressman ever since, starting work on the 2017 Special Election campaign before moving to Washington DC to work in the Congressman’s office in 2018.

Troy manages the Communications and Technology Subcommittee for the Congressman in his position on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. In the 116th Congress, he managed the Congressman’s position on Foreign Affairs Committee and the China Task Force. He also handles issues such as consumer protection, health, defense, trade, taxes, financial services, transportation, homeland security, judiciary, and education.



**GABRIELLE FAZEKAS**

*Legislative Assistant, Congressman Scott Franklin (R-FL)*

Gabrielle Fazekas is from Lakeland, FL, and is a proud University of Florida Gator alumna. As a Legislative Assistant, she supports Rep. C. Scott Franklin (FL-18) with his assignments to the House Science, Space, and Technology and House Appropriations Committee. Her legislative portfolio covers Commerce, Justice, Science, Workforce, Health, Education, Legislative Branch, and Foreign Affairs issues.

When she isn’t playing tennis or learning to golf, Gabby is coaching her congressional softball team and exploring Washington, D.C.



**ERIN GOOLEY**

*Legislative Assistant, Congressman Brendan Boyle (D-PA)*

Erin Gooley serves as a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Brendan Boyle (PA-02). She covers the Health, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, Judiciary, Oversight, and Women's Issues policy areas for the Office. She began working for Congressman Boyle in January 2023 after years working in the private sector.

Erin graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with her B.S. in International Business. She is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in International Affairs at George Washington University. Her academic focus is International Security Studies with a regional focus on East Asia. She is fluent in Spanish and speaks conversational Bahasa Indonesia.



**CHRIS HALL**

*Legislative Director, Congressman Tom Kean, Jr. (R-NJ)*

Chris Hall is the Legislative Director for Representative Tom Kean, Jr. (NJ-07). His portfolio includes the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Healthcare, Education, Technology, Telecommunications, Agriculture, Energy, Judiciary, Workforce, and Appropriations.

Prior to his current position he served as Senior Counsel for Representative Rob Whitman (VA-01) since 2019. Chris is a graduate of Elon University School of Law and Hampden-Sydney College and Virginia Licensed Attorney.



**NATALIE HELLMANN**

*Legislative Assistant, Congressman Earl “Buddy” Carter (R-GA)*

Natalie Hellmann has worked in the House of Representatives for nearly four years handling a variety of policy areas. In her current role with Congressman Buddy Carter of Georgia, she specializes in communications and technology issues within the jurisdiction of the Energy & Commerce Committee. She also advises the Member on matters of financial services, foreign affairs, homeland security, intelligence, judiciary, oversight, and veterans’ affairs.

Natalie grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, and received a B.A. in Business Management from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. In her free time, Natalie has traveled to over thirty foreign countries and is an avid scuba diver.



**LEIGHTON HUCH**

*Policy Director, New Democrat Coalition*

Leighton Huch is the Policy Director for the New Democrat Coalition, where she oversees the implementation of the Coalition’s legislative priorities. Prior to joining the New Dems, Leighton worked for former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL) starting in 2017. Most recently, she was the Congresswoman’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, managing the Congresswoman’s overall legislative strategy. Leighton handled several policy issues throughout her time in the office, including defense, energy, environment, foreign affairs, transportation, and infrastructure.

Before working on the Hill, Leighton worked for two years in the private sector at Signal Group. Leighton is a graduate of the University of Chicago and was born and raised in Iowa.





**ZACH ISAKOWITZ**

*Legislative Director, Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX)*

Zach Isakowitz currently serves as the Legislative Director for Congressman Michael T. McCaul of Texas. In his role, he oversees the legislative staff, day-to-day legislative operations, and multiple issue areas for the office including technology, cybersecurity, and appropriations. He joined the office in March 2021 as the Coalitions Director.

Prior to Capitol Hill, Zach served as the Director of Public Affairs for the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Zach lives with his wife, dog, and cat in Oak Hill, VA.



**SEAN LERNER**

*Legislative Director, Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (R-IN)*

Sean Lerner serves as Legislative Director for Rep. Victoria Spartz of Indiana's 5th Congressional District. He is originally from Charlotte, NC and graduated from Georgetown University in 2020. In his capacity in Rep. Spartz's office, he covers healthcare policy, House Judiciary Committee, and foreign affairs.

He previously served in the offices of Rep. Rob Woodall (ret.) of Georgia and Rep. Nicole Malliotakis of New York.



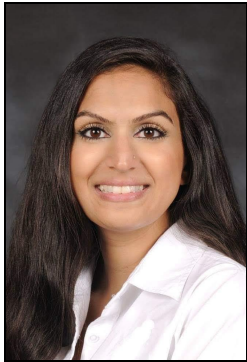
**MEGAN McCORQUODALE**

*Legislative Assistant, Congressman Joe Neguse (D-CO)*

Megan McCorquodale currently serves as a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Neguse, covering Judiciary and Commerce issues. Prior to this role, Megan served as a Judiciary Aide for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

She is a graduate of George Washington University and a New Mexican native.





**DEEPA PATEL**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Congressman David Trone (D-MD)*

Deepa Patel serves as a Senior Policy Advisor for Congressman David Trone (MD-06), focusing on his House Appropriations subcommittee work for Homeland Security and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Prior to her work on Capitol Hill, Deepa worked in local and state public health advocacy in California and spent nearly 10 years in humanitarian aid and international development in Haiti, the Middle East, East Africa, and South Asia.



**DONALD POLLARD**

*Legislative Director, Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (D-VA)*

Donald Pollard serves as legislative director for Representative Jennifer L. McClellan (VA-04). As legislative director, he handles economic and fiscal policy and commerce and judicial-related issues. Prior to this, Donald held several positions in the Office of U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, most recently serving as policy advisor. In his role as a policy advisor, Donald worked on commerce, appropriations, and judicial issues.

Donald is a native of Richmond, Virginia and received his bachelor's degree from University of Richmond and a master's degree in public administration from American University.



**GEORGE PULIZZI**

*Director of Policy and Coalitions, Congresswoman Nancy Mace (R-SC)*

George Pulizzi is the Director of Policy and Coalitions for Rep. Nancy Mace (SC-01). In his role, George helps to craft Rep. Mace's policy agenda and facilitate engagement with a diverse set of local and national stakeholders to amplify and support legislation introduced by the Congresswoman. Prior to working in Congress, George worked in the oil and gas industry as a Policy, Government and Public Affairs Specialist for Chevron.



**RAY QUIÑONES**

*Legislative Assistant, Congressman Darren Soto (D-FL)*

Ray Quiñones currently serves as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Darren Soto (FL-09), a position he has held since September of 2021. Prior to this position, Ray served in Rep. Soto’s office as a Legislative Aide and Staff Assistant. Ray also managed Rep. Soto’s congressional campaign in 2020.

Ray graduated from the University of South Florida with a degree in Political Science.



**AMBER RAY**

*Deputy Legislative Director, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DL)*

Amber Ray is the deputy legislative director for Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester who serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. As a pharmacist working at the intersection of public health and health policy, Amber understands that we must improve the conditions in which people live, work, and play to make healthcare interventions most effective.

She has worked on legislation to promote healthy child development, reduce healthcare costs for low-income seniors, and help communities across the country create the infrastructure for health care and social service providers to communicate, coordinate, and track outcomes for their patients. Her policy interests include health equity, maternal health, pediatric mental health, and healthcare workforce issues.



**JESSE VON STEIN**

*Legislative Director, Congressman Jim Baird (R-IN)*

Jesse von Stein currently serves as Legislative Director to Congressman Jim Baird of the 4th District of Indiana. He was previously a long-time staffer and Legislative Director to late Congressman Don Young of Alaska, former Dean of the House.

Jesse holds a Master’s Degree from the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management and a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



**NICK WOOLDRIDGE**

*Legislative Assistant, Congressman Blake Moore (R-UT)*

Nick Wooldridge serves as a legislative assistant for Rep. Blake Moore (UT-01), where he works on issues related to health care, Social Security, financial services, and small business. He was previously a research associate at Tiber Creek Group and served on the legislative staff of Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY-02).

Nick received a bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University and is originally from Frankfort, KY.



**EMMA ZAFRAN**

*Senior Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA)*

Emma Zafran is a Senior Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan and advises the Congresswoman in issues pertaining to health care, judiciary and gun violence prevention, appropriations and budget, education, and policies impacting women and families. She also oversees the Military Personnel portfolio for her boss who sits on the House Armed Services Committee, is the lead staffer for the Women in STEM Caucus, and the first- ever House Bipartisan Working Group on Paid Family Leave. Previously, Emma was in the office of Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz for 3 years and began her Congressional career in the office of her hometown Congressman Ted Deutch.

Before coming to the Hill, Emma received her M.SC from the London School of Economics in Gender and Public Policy and her Undergraduate Degree in International Relations and Security Studies from Tufts University. She has experience working at various human rights and international development NGOS, particularly those that focus on women's economic empowerment and security.

## B. Center Forward Staff Biographies



### **ELIZABETH “LIBBY” GREER**

*Advisory Board Member, Center Forward*

Libby Greer is a Partner at Forbes Tate Partners – and she was also a Partner with Forbes Tate Partners’ predecessor firm, Cauthen, Forbes & Williams.

Before joining CFW and FTP, Ms. Greer served for nearly eight years as Chief of Staff to Congressman Allen Boyd (D-FL). As Congressman Boyd’s top advisor, Libby directed the legislative and political operations for Boyd, overseeing teams in both Florida and Washington, DC. Additionally, Ms. Greer directed the work of a group of nearly 50 fiscally conservative Democrats in implementing

Congressman Boyd’s work as Co-Chairman for Administration of the Blue Dog Coalition in the 110th Congress.

Prior to joining Boyd’s staff, Ms. Greer worked as a finance consultant for numerous members of Congress, Senators, and Gubernatorial candidates. She served on a number of campaigns as well as the Alabama Democratic Party in field and finance roles.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Ms. Greer earned a Bachelor’s degree in English from Birmingham-Southern College, where she graduated with a Distinction in Leadership Studies in 1998.



### **DANIEL GARZA**

*Health Care Program Manager, Center Forward*

Daniel Garza is the Health Care Program Manager for Center Forward. In this position, Daniel leads Center Forward’s health care track by organizing programming and providing educational resources to congressional offices. Daniel’s work product is exclusive to Center Forward healthcare stakeholders.

Prior to this role, Daniel worked for the Council for Responsible Nutrition as their Government Relations and Legal Associate. As part of his Washington D.C. experience, Daniel has interned for the Embassy of Mexico, the Ohio State Office of Federal Affairs, and Invariant Government Relations.

Daniel is a native of Ohio, but spent time living in Atlanta, Georgia as well. He graduated from the Ohio State University with dual degrees in Political Science and International Studies and a minor in Spanish. Additionally, Daniel is a graduate of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs’ Washington Academic Internship Program.



**EDDIE HUCK**

*Policy Program Coordinator, Center Forward*

Eddie Huck is the Policy Program Coordinator for Innovation, Trade, and Workforce issues at Center Forward. In this role, Eddie leads Center Forward’s policy-focused programming and events, and educational resources distributed to Hill offices. He also leads Center Forward’s annual Innovation Conference.

Prior to this role, Eddie was a Finance Assistant at Fulkerson, Kennedy & Company, fundraising for Senate Democrats. He got his start in D.C. interning for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), and also interned at Invariant.

Eddie is a native of Indianapolis, IN, and now lives in Arlington, VA. He graduated from Miami University in Ohio in 2019 with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Philosophy. Outside of work, he is a swim coach for the Arlington Aquatic Club.



**RYAN McALPIN**

*Outreach and Engagement Manager, Center Forward*

Ryan McAlpin is the Outreach and Engagement Manager for Center Forward. He joined the team in March 2023.

Prior to joining Center Forward, Ryan was at the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) for three years on their operations team. Ryan has also interned for then-Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul (D-NY), Rep. Joe Morelle (D-NY), former-Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Sen. Majority Leader Schumer

(D-NY) in his D.C. leadership office and New York constituent offices.

Ryan is an Eagle Scout and a Rochester, NY native. He graduated from the University at Albany - State University of New York, where he studied Political Science/Government, history and business. He has been in the Washington, D.C. area since September 2019.



**CORI SMITH KRAMER**

*Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward*

Cori Kramer is a centrist leader with over two decades of getting things done for all Americans. As Chief Executive Officer of Center Forward, she leads our mission to provide centrist allies the information and support they need to craft common sense policy solutions to the challenges facing the country today.

As Chief of Staff to prominent Congressional pragmatics Mike Ross of Arkansas and Brad Ellsworth of Indiana, Cori helped move some of the most consequential

policy solutions of this century, addressing the nation's taxation, health care, banking, trade, and manufacturing priorities to build a stronger and more resilient nation.

An experienced political strategist, she has always worked on the competitive front lines, where votes are won not by party affiliation but by direct voter contact and persuasive messaging backed by unifying ideas. She managed the successful re-election campaign of Congressman Mike Ross against significant partisan headwinds, and also managed the re-election campaign of Congressman Charlie Stenholm and the U.S. Senate campaign of Congressman Brad Ellsworth.

Cori received her Bachelor of Arts from Rhodes College in 1999. She currently resides in Virginia with her husband, Ted, and sons, Jack and Ben.



### C. Site Visit Speaker Biographies

#### Pfizer R&D Labs



#### **BILL FALSTICH**

*Vice President, Primary Care Category Global Supply Chain, Pfizer*

Bill Falstich is Vice President of Pfizer's Primary Care Category Global Supply Chain. His team of 35 colleagues manages supply for some of the world's largest vaccines, a broad Internal Medicines portfolio, and Pfizer's Paxlovid antiviral. The Primary Care portfolio continues to grow in size; thanks to Pfizer's healthy pipeline of new products there are many launches underway as well as planned.

Bill's team drives continuous improvement across Pfizer's Primary Care supply in support of Pfizer's purpose – delivering breakthroughs that change patients' lives. This includes aspects of supply chain management such as product strategy and orchestration, product launch management, supply network design and supply issue resolution.

Bill began his career with Pfizer in 2001, and since that time has held a number of positions within supply chain management, intercompany operations, logistics and distribution, procurement and business technology. He is a graduate of Penn State University with a BS in Supply Chain and Information Management and earned his MBA from Virginia Commonwealth University. He resides near Collegeville, Pennsylvania with his wife and two sons.



#### **ANGEL M. MELENDEZ**

*Senior Director, Americas Security Investigations, Pfizer*

Angel M. Melendez is currently employed as the Senior Director for Investigations in the Americas region at Pfizer. Prior to joining Pfizer, he had a successful career of over 20 years with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), where he eventually retired as the Special Agent in Charge for the New York Office. In his current position, Mr. Melendez is responsible for overseeing investigations related to product integrity, patient access, fraud, and security investigations. He has played a crucial role in enhancing intellectual property rights enforcement by facilitating information sharing between Pfizer and the U.S. government. Additionally, he oversees crisis preparedness and management functions.

During his tenure as the Special Agent in Charge for the HSI New York office, Mr. Melendez supervised the operations of the largest HSI operation in the United States. This operation consisted of over 600 investigators stationed in various locations including New

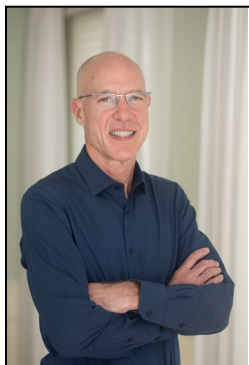


York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport. His primary focus was on leading investigations related to transnational criminal activity. Prior to this role, he also served as the Special Agent in Charge for the HSI San Juan, Puerto Rico Office.

Mr. Melendez has been recognized as a pioneer for HSI's community outreach efforts. He established the first HSI Citizens Academy and Law Enforcement Explorer Program, demonstrating his commitment to engaging with the community. In 2017, he played a crucial role in coordinating and overseeing DHS law enforcement operations during the response and recovery efforts following Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. He was also one of the first responders to the Port Authority bombing in New York City.

Originally from New York, Mr. Melendez holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Puerto Rico. He has also completed the Senior Managers in Government Executive Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is a retired member of the U.S. Government Senior Executive Service and a Gulf War Veteran who served in the U.S. Army.

## MassBio



### **DAVID MEEKER**

*Chief Executive Officer, President, and Chairman, Rhythm Pharmaceuticals  
(Board of Directors, MassBio)*

Dr. Meeker is the Chairman, President & CEO of Rhythm Pharmaceutical, a biotechnology company focused on developing innovative therapies for rare genetic disorders of obesity. Dr. Meeker was formerly the President and CEO of Genzyme, a Sanofi company, a position he assumed when Genzyme merged with Sanofi in 2011. He was also a member of the Sanofi executive committee. He was most recently CEO of KSQ Therapeutics, an early-stage functional genomics company. David is also the Chairman of the Board for Pharvaris.

In his career with Genzyme, Dr. Meeker held key positions of increasing responsibility beginning in the R&D organization and subsequently in operating roles, culminating in the position of Chief Operating Officer at the time of the merger. In his most recent role within Sanofi, he headed Sanofi-Genzyme, the specialty care unit with responsibility for Rare Diseases, MS, Oncology and Immunology franchises.

Prior to joining Genzyme, Dr. Meeker was the Director of the Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic and an assistant professor of medicine at Ohio State University. He completed his internal medicine training at Harvard's Beth Israel Hospital and his pulmonary/critical care training at Boston University. He completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 2000.

Dr. Meeker is the Chairman of the Board of Trevi Therapeutics and a member of the board at Myokardia. He also serves on the boards of the Biomedical Science Careers Program, the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation, and the Dimock Center, a Boston-based community health center.



**STEPHEN BANDINI**

*Global Head of Strategy, Novartis*

Stephen Bandini is the Global Head of Strategy for Novartis at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR). NIBR serves as the innovation engine for Novartis. At NIBR, researchers collaborate across scientific and organizational boundaries with a focus on building powerful new technologies that have the potential to produce therapeutic breakthroughs. NIBR research centers on a few core areas, including oncology, immunology, aging and regenerative medicine, and exploratory disease research for rare medicines.

In his role at NIBR, Stephen oversees operations and research, mostly for developing oncology therapeutics. The oncology team at NIBR is working on a robust portfolio of cancer treatments, including chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR-T) cell therapies, which train T-cells from the patient's body to attach tumors, targeted radiogland (RLT) therapies, which attach radioactive isotopes to proteins that target cancer cells and spare healthy tissue, and a number of novel small molecules.

Stephen joined Novartis at NIBR in 2018. Prior to that, he worked for the Boston Consulting Group as a Project Leader for three years. Stephen earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Virginia in 2010 and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University in 2015.



**DEL LEBEL**

*Head of U.S. Government Affairs and Policy, Alexion*

Del Lebel is the Head of US Government Affairs and Policy at Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease. In this position, he leads Alexion's government relations activities and provides strategic oversight to execute

Alexion's legislative and regulatory policies and objectives involving federal and state government affairs. Del is a member of Alexion's United States Leadership Team and works with Alexion's Executive Team to drive the strategic priorities for the organization.

Throughout his twenty-four-year career in the life sciences industry, he has gained extensive experience and held leadership roles that span government affairs, healthcare policy, reimbursement, and strategic alliance development with industry-leading global biopharma corporations.

Del is involved with numerous coalitions that bring together rare disease experts, advocates, and industry leaders to identify and advocate for solutions to alleviate access burdens for the rare disease community. He is on the Board of Directors for the Rare Disease Company Coalition.



**CRYSTAL KUNTZ**

*Senior Vice President for Healthcare Policy and Research, BIO*

Crystal Kuntz is Senior Vice President for Healthcare Policy and Research at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) where she directs the association’s health policy efforts related to Medicare, Medicaid, and economic trends and policies impacting BIO member companies, including the impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Prior to BIO, Crystal was the Vice President for Policy and Regulatory Affairs at America’s Health Insurance Plans where she focused on policy and regulatory issues related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act as well as prescription drug policy.

Previously, Crystal served as Sr. Director for Policy at Coventry with a focus on Medicare as well the implementation of health care reforms. In addition, she served in senior policy roles at two pharmaceutical companies – Astellas Pharma US and Novartis. Before moving to the private sector, Crystal led legislative and policy efforts related to the Medicare Advantage program and Medicare Part D within the Office of Legislation at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). She was part of the CMS team that worked on the passage of the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit in 2003 and its early implementation. She received her undergraduate degree in government and international affairs from Augustana College and has a master’s degree in public administration from Syracuse University.



**JENNIFER ROAN**

*Vice President and General Manager of U.S. Neurology, PTC Therapeutics*

Jennifer Roan is Vice President and General Manager of the US Neurology Division at PTC Therapeutics. With over three decades of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry, Jennifer is a recognized expert and accomplished leader in biopharmaceutical sales. Starting her career as a Territory Manager at Genzyme Genetics, Jennifer quickly found her passion for bringing treatments to those in the HIV community. For over 15 years, Jennifer took positions with Boehringer Ingelheim, Agouron, and Gilead Sciences where she was able to connect physicians with cutting-edge HIV treatments.

Jennifer later held various sales leadership positions at Acorda Therapeutics and Biogen before joining PTC Therapeutics in 2015. Starting as a Regional Business Director, Jennifer quickly assumed many leadership roles within the organization simultaneously, serving in roles such as Market Development Director and Business Director of Gene Therapy before becoming PTC’s VP and General Manager of US Neurology in 2022.

Jennifer has a B.S. in Biology from Westfield State University and lives in the greater Boston area.

MetroWest Medical Center - Framingham



**CAROLYN JACKSON**

*Chief Executive Officer, Saint Vincent Hospital, Worcester and Massachusetts Market*

Carolyn Jackson is Chief Executive Officer of Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester and the Central Massachusetts Market. She has been in this role since 2019. In her role, Carolyn ensures that Saint Vincent remains focused on keeping care local by being the low cost, high quality, easy to access healthcare choice in Central Massachusetts. Saint Vincent Hospital has received numerous quality accolades under Carolyn’s leadership including being named one of Healthgrades 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention, putting Saint Vincent in the top 5% of coronary intervention hospitals nationwide.

Carolyn received a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree in business administration from Harvard Business School. She has been a senior healthcare executive for over 20 years and has won numerous awards during that time. Most recently she was recognized as a member of the “Power 50” by the Worcester Business Journal in 2021 and 2022.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Worcester Chamber of Commerce, the Worcester Regional Research Bureau, the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Hospital Association, and the Advisory Board for the Dr. Lillian R. Goodman Department of Nursing at Worcester State University.



**JOE RICCA**

*Principal, Dewey Square Group*

One of the original principals in the Dewey Square Group’s Boston practice, Joe Ricca specializes in state and local government relations and the development and execution of grassroots strategies. With more than 17 years’ experience as a state and local official, Joe has earned a nationwide reputation as a top-flight administrator with proven political skills. He presently oversees Dewey Square Group’s Massachusetts lobbying practice.

From 1977 to 1994, Joe held a number of positions in the Massachusetts Secretary of State’s office, including chief of staff from 1987 to 1994. During the Dukakis for President Campaign in 1988, Joe held several senior staff positions in Iowa, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Joe served as a Senior Staff adviser in Iowa and Wisconsin for Vice President Al Gore’s presidential bid in 2000 and as a Senior Staff adviser in Iowa and Michigan for Senator John Kerry’s presidential campaign in 2004.

Prior to joining the Dewey Square Group in 1995, Joe specialized in municipal government siting issues for private sector clients at his firm, Ricca & Associates. He served on the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen from 1977 to 1987, including three years as chairman, was a member of the Quinsigamond Community College Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1994 and was a member of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee from 1984 to 1994.

Joe holds a bachelor's degree in state and local government from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's degree in business administration from Anna Maria College.



**MELISSA WONG**

*Government Relations Manager, Tenet Healthcare*

Melissa Wong is the Government Relations Manager for Tenet Healthcare, based out of Dallas, TX. She has been with Tenet since march of 2020, joining as a Government Relations Coordinator. Prior to Tenet, Melissa worked as an Advancement Officer, planning and executing fundraising events for Bisho Lynch High School in Dallas for nearly two years.

Melissa earned a Bachelor's degree in International and Global Studies From Southern Methodist University in 2018. While at SMU, she was the Managing Editor for the SMU Campus Weekly. Melissa is also a Member of the Junior League of Dallas and a Young Professionals Council Board Member for Dallas CASA, a volunteer association of court appointed special advocates.

Fidelity Center For Applied Technology (FCAT)



**VANESSA KARGENIAN**

*Director of Research, FCAT*

Vanessa Kargenian leads thematic crypto research for the Fidelity Center of Applied Technology. She collaborates closely with our blockchain incubator and is fascinated by how blockchains, CBDCs, and tokenized assets are reshaping business operations and global financial public policy frameworks.

Prior to joining Fidelity, Vanessa served at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for nearly seven years as an IT/Cybersecurity Risk Examiner and FinTech Policy Advisor. She began her career at Apple working as a Financial Analyst.

Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.



## Autodesk



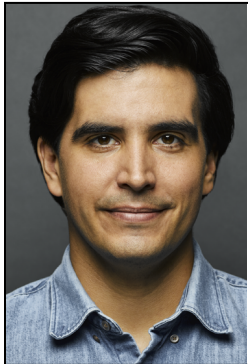
### **ANDREW FRIENDLY**

*Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Autodesk*

Andrew Friendly is the Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Autodesk, where he leads a global team advancing policies to support Autodesk's business. Before entering the world of technology, Friendly spent five years at the White House in a variety of positions, including personal aide to President Bill Clinton and senior advisor to the special envoy for the Americas.

Andrew holds an MBA from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and a B.A. from Middlebury College.

## The Engine



### **ARRON ACOSTA**

*Chief Executive Officer, Rise Robotics*

Arron Acosta is the CEO and cofounder of Rise Robotics, which makes robotic parts inspired by biological systems with an aim to lowering the cost of parts for larger, more complex robots. In 2015, Arron was named as one of Forbes' Top 30 under 30 for Manufacturing alongside Rise Robotics' other cofounder, Jake Sessions. Before creating Rise Robotics, Arron worked for Ekotrope as a Business Development Manager.

Arron graduated from MIT with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



### **BEN DOWNING**

*Vice President of Public Affairs, The Engine*

Ben Downing is the Vice President of Public Affairs at The Engine. Before joining The Engine, Ben was Vice President for New Market Development at Nexamp, a veteran-founded, Boston-based clean energy company. There he led the firm's strategic development efforts across growing geographies and the firm's entry into the energy storage market.

Prior to this, Ben represented the state's largest Senate district while serving as State Senator for 52 communities in Western Massachusetts. Ben has also taught as an Adjunct Professor at Tufts University, leading an undergraduate internship program in government legislative and administrative offices, and at Mass College of Liberal Arts, teaching an upper-level seminar on public policy in practice.

Ben received a B.A. in political science from Providence College and an M.A. from Tufts University.



## **CAMERON HALLIDAY**

*Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mantel*

Cameron Halliday is co-founder and CEO of Mantel, a carbon capture start-up based in Boston. At Mantel, he is building on his PhD work to develop a radically new approach to carbon capture. Leveraging the unique properties of molten borate salts Mantel's solution captures CO<sub>2</sub> at the high temperatures found inside boilers, kilns, and furnaces, and by doing so, aims to reduce the cost of carbon capture by half throughout the industrial sector, unlocking carbon capture's role in reaching global net-zero.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Cameron holds multiple degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT): Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science in Chemical Engineering (MSc), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering (PhD). Additionally, he earned a Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering with Management (MEng) from Loughborough University in England.

As a PhD student Cameron discovered and developed the molten borate chemistry with Professor's Alan Hatton and Takuya Harada. Completing his PhD work in under 3 years Cameron published 11 peer-reviewed articles, initiated 6 patents, and received the William C. Rousseau Award for Leadership & Ethics in Chemical Engineering.

Cameron subsequently joined the MBA program at MIT Sloan, where he built the skills to commercialize the scientific discovery and launch Mantel with co-founders Sean Robertson and Danielle Colson. After winning multiple prizes at the Rice Business Plan Competition (RPBC), the team recently raised \$2M in their seed round led by The Engine, and was featured in Bloomberg's article *US Client Bill's Subsidy Bonanza Gives New Allure to Carbon Capture* (published August 23, 2022).

Despite spending much of his career in academia, Cameron has taken every opportunity to apply his skills to solve challenges in industry. Building a global perspective, Cameron worked with ABB in Baku, Azerbaijan, Emirates Global Aluminum (EGA) in Dubai, UAE, Shell in Houston, Texas, and BCG in Boston, Massachusetts. Throughout, Cameron has combined his passion for science with a determination to use technology to tackle the toughest challenges facing the energy industry today.





**CONRAD HOLLOMON**

*Director of Government Programs, The Engine*

Conrad Hollomon is the Director of Government Programs at The Engine. A former military officer, Conrad previously worked at Unity Technologies on their Artificial Intelligence team as a Senior Technical Product Manager, working to help bring advances in computer vision and reinforcement learning to market.

Conrad received an M.B.A. with a focus on social impact and organizational behavior from Boston University, and a B.M. in Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music.



**EMILY KNIGHT**

*Chief Operating Officer, The Engine*

Emily Knight is the Chief Operating Officer at The Engine. Before joining the Engine, Emily spent three years overseeing general operations, strategy, and product management at Workbar coworking spaces. She has spent the last few years working with startups and connecting them to resources in the innovation ecosystem.

Emily holds a B.S. from the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.



**DR. MARIANA MATUS**

*Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Biobot*

Dr. Mariana Matus is CEO and Cofounder of Biobot Analytics, the first company in the world to bring wastewater epidemiology to market. Biobot uses cutting-edge technology to transform sewers into public health observatories, effectively using wastewater data to evaluate and improve the health of communities.

Mariana received her PhD from the department of Biological Engineering at MIT in Computational Biology, where she specialized in the emerging field of wastewater epidemiology. In addition to her doctoral studies, Mariana co-founded the MIT Underworlds Smart Sewers Project, leading the vision and funding for an interdisciplinary research project with collaborators from MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning. This work led to the creation of Biobot Analytics, and set the scientific foundation for Biobot's wastewater intelligence platform—now serving the CDC and communities across all 50 US states. Mariana plans to expand Biobot's venture backed platform into communities all over the globe.

Dr. Matus has been recognized for her leadership and entrepreneurial excellence through several awards. In 2020, she was named to the C&EN Trailblazing Women in Chemistry. She made Newsweek's list of America's 50 Greatest Disruptors in 2021, and their list of America's 50 Enterprising Idealists in 2022.

Boston Globe named Dr. Matus #8 on their inaugural 50 Tech Power Players list for 2022, and TIME100 NEXT recognized her as a 2022 industry innovator. Most recently, she was named a 2023 Henry Crown Fellow within the Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute.



**LAURA TEICHER**

*Executive Director, FORGE Impact*

Laura leads FORGE to ensure delivery on mission to help startups with physical products from prototype to commercialization and impact at scale. She is responsible for the health and sustainability of the organization, overseeing all operational, financial, and program management, and setting forward-looking strategy to accelerate impact.

Prior to joining FORGE, Laura served as Executive Director of the Boston chapter of the largest global not-for-profit network dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship, TiE. Previously, Laura managed business operations at a scaling financial firm, designing the systems to support the growth and evolution of the firm and the team. At the same time, Laura served as President of the Boston Professional Chapter of Net Impact, a worldwide network that connects and empowers young professionals seeking to use business as a force for positive environmental and social impact. Laura remains on the Advisory Council there, underscoring her commitment to driving impactful, transformational change.

Laura’s analytical and creative approach to identifying and tackling organizational opportunities stems from a unique background that includes work experience in innovation, operations, and policy, and degrees in business, studio art, and English. With a focus on building cross-cultural teams and creating shared value, Laura earned her M.B.A. from Boston University in 2012, completing portions of her studies in China and Brazil. Prior to completing her graduate degree, Laura worked for the Massachusetts Senate for three years. In her free time Laura enjoys reading, traveling, and hiking with her dog Finn.

Commonwealth Fusion Systems



**ALEX CREELY**

*Head of Tokamak Operations, Commonwealth Fusion Systems*

Alex Creely is a scientist and engineer on a quest for clean energy. He is currently the Head of Tokamak Operations at Commonwealth Fusion Systems, a Massachusetts-based company working toward clean fusion energy. Alex has been at CFS since 2019 after starting as lucky number 13 at the company.

Alex has worked on fusion projects around the world and is optimistic about a future in which the world runs on clean energy. He enjoys teaching others about fusion and working with partners in other industries to accelerate the development of fusion energy.



**DARBY DUNN**

*Vice President of Operations, Commonwealth Fusion Systems*

Darby Dunn is the Head of Operations at Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS), a clean energy startup based in Boston, where she is responsible for the company's day-to-day operations including manufacturing, construction and facilities, safety, and quality.

Before joining the CFS team in early 2019, Darby spent a decade at SpaceX developing and manufacturing the Dragon spacecraft to deliver cargo and astronauts to the International Space Station. She was heavily involved with the manufacturing of the Dragon 1 spacecraft and played an integral role in SpaceX's achievement of being the first private company to launch a spacecraft in orbit and also dock with the International Space Station. She managed the manufacturing engineering team responsible for substantially reducing overall spacecraft build hours and cost while overseeing Dragon's annual budget and construction of a high-tech production facility for the Crew Dragon vehicle. Darby also co-founded both the Women's Network and LGBTQ employee interest groups at SpaceX and she is actively involved in STEM outreach events, including sitting on the Board of Directors for Out For Undergrad, a non-profit that helps LGBTQ students reach their full potential.

Darby was also named to Business Insider's list of the Most Powerful Female Engineers of 2017. Darby received her B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**TYLER ELLIS**

*Investor and Advisor, Commonwealth Fusion Systems*

Tyler Ellis, Ph.D., M.B.A., is an investor, policy advisor and expert on energy and climate technology. He is the founder of Black Hills Partners, an investment and advisory firm focused on companies making immense global impact in the way we create and consume energy.

He is an investor and full-time advisor to Commonwealth Fusion Systems where he has worked with the CEO since before inception of the company on business development, strategy and government affairs. Tyler advises several groups at the International Atomic Energy Agency, sits on the scientific advisory board for Tekcapital and is a Visiting Scientist at the MIT Plasma Science and Fusion Center. He also outlined the framework adopted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Fusion Industry Association for how to regulate and permit fusion power plants which appropriately protect public health and safety while simultaneously being ~100x cheaper and ~15x faster than the policy designed for fission energy. Additionally, Tyler conceived several innovative public-private partnership programs for the U.S. Department of Energy and served on the DOE Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee for Long Range Planning.

Tyler began his career co-founding TerraPower, a Bill Gates-backed nuclear energy company where he raised >\$500M, grew the team by 12x and managed over 120 FTEs to deliver a first-of-a-kind Traveling Wave Reactor ahead of schedule and under budget. He holds a Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. in Nuclear Science and Engineering from MIT and a MBA from Harvard Business School.



**BOB MUMGAARD**

*Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Fusion Systems*

Bob Mumgaard is Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of CFS and is responsible for the strategic vision and direction of the company, paving the way for a future of clean unlimited fusion energy. Since co-founding CFS in 2018 with a mission to commercialize fusion energy, Mumgaard has grown the company to more than 200 employees and raised more than \$2 billion from some of the world's leading investors.

CFS has built a reputation as a private commercial fusion company with a scientifically validated path to commercialization and Mumgaard is a sought after thought leader on innovation in clean energy technologies, frequently speaking at prominent energy events, engaging with government on energy policy, and has played a key role in the founding and growth of the Fusion Industry Association.

Mumgaard performed his PhD work at MIT on the Alcator C-Mod tokamak. During this time, he contributed to the design of several small superconducting tokamaks for a variety of physics missions using high temperature superconductors. Mumgaard holds a PhD in Applied Plasma Physics, a MS in Nuclear Engineering from MIT, and a BS in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Physics from the University of Nebraska.

#### IV. Hotel and Local Travel Information

##### A. The InterContinental Hotel Boston

- **Address:** 510 Atlantic Ave, Boston, MA 02210
- **Phone:** (617) 747-1000
- **Email:** [icbostonassistantmanagers@ihg.com](mailto:icbostonassistantmanagers@ihg.com)
  - Concierge: [icbostonconciierge@ihg.com](mailto:icbostonconciierge@ihg.com)

The pool, spa, and fitness center are located on the 2nd floor. The indoor pool is open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm daily, and the fitness center is open 24 hours.

##### The InterContinental Club Lounge

- All conference guests will have access to the InterContinental Club Lounge on the 12th floor for the duration of their stay. Room key access is required for entry.
- Breakfast will be served in the Club Lounge from 7:00 am to 10:00 am on weekdays, and 7:30 am to 11:00 am on the weekend.
- Breakfast includes a hot and cold food bar, along with coffee, juices, and pastries.
- Small snacks, coffee, and soft drinks will be available from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm daily.
- Canapes, salads, wine, cocktails, and coffee will be available from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm daily.
- The club lounge closes at 9:00 pm daily.
- Dress code is business casual. Flip-flops, swimwear, and outerwear are not permitted.

##### B. Local Attractions in Boston

- Restaurants:

Restaurant	Type of Food	Price (\$\$\$)
<a href="#">Smith &amp; Wollensky</a>	American Steakhouse (617) 778-2200	\$\$\$
<a href="#">Pastoral</a>	Artisanal (617) 345-0005	\$\$
<a href="#">Barking Crab</a>	Seafood (617) 426-2722	\$\$
<a href="#">Shojo</a>	Asian (617) 482-8887	\$\$

<a href="#">Atlantic Fish Company</a>	Seafood (617) 267-4000	\$\$\$
<a href="#">Mistral</a>	French (617) 867-9300	\$\$\$
<a href="#">Limoncello</a>	Italian (617) 523-4480	\$\$\$
<a href="#">Mare</a>	Seafood and Oysters, Italian (617) 723-6273	\$\$\$

- Neighborhoods:
  - *Faneuil Hall Marketplace*
  - *North End - Boston's Little Italy*
  - *Beacon Hill - the Boston Common, federal-style and Victorian architecture*
  - *Lansdowne Street - Fenway Park*
  - *Seaport District - the recently redeveloped South Boston Waterfront, sleek restaurants and bars, scenic harborwalk*
  
- Museums and Attractions:
  - *Museum of Fine Arts* - Opening Hours Mon, Wed, Sat, Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thu, Fri, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
  - *Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum* - Opening Hours Mon, Wed, Fri 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thu 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat, Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m
  - *Institute of Contemporary Art* - Opening Hours Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thu, Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
  - *John F. Kennedy Museum & Library* - Opening Hours Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - *Harvard Art Museum* - Opening Hours Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  
- Ground Transportation:
  - Guests will be provided with a shuttle service for the daytime programming for the duration of the conference
  - In most central areas of the city, taxis and ride share services are plentiful
    - In older neighborhoods with narrow streets, including Beacon Hill, the North End, and Charlestown, cars can sometimes have issues reaching their pickup destination or run into heavy traffic. In those areas, it is advisable to walk a few blocks to a more convenient pickup location.

- Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) - [A Visitor's Guide to the T](#) (public transportation)



**Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental**

First	Last	Title	Affiliation	Reason
Rachel	Black	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Tony Gonzales	As a Legislative Director for a member of the Appropriations Committee, Ms. Black can speak to the federal programs supporting scientific research and business growth.
Cameryn	Blackmore	Health Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Terri Sewell	As a Health Policy Advisor for a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Blackmore can share her perspectives on funding for health care research and provider networks.
Skylar	Borchardt	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Angie Craig	As Legislative Director for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Borchardt can provide insight into relevant policy issues in the energy and technology sectors
Troy	Dougall	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative John Curtis	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for the Chair of the Conservative Climate Caucus and member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Dougall can provide insights into Congress's priorities and actions in the energy industry.
Mike	Dunn	Legislative Director	Office of Representative John Larson	As Legislative Director for a Member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Dunn can share perspectives on incentives to research and development incentives.
Erin	Gooley	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Brendan Boyle	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Ways and Means the Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, Ms. Gooley can offer perspectives on federal funding for scientific research projects and business growth.
Natalie	Hellmann	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Buddy Carter	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Hellmann can provide insight into relevant policy issues in the health care and energy sectors.

Zach	Isakowitz	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Michael McCaul	As the Legislative Director for the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and one of the lead authors of the CHIPS and Science Act, Mr. Isakowitz can add insight to the federal government's approach to the global semiconductor supply chain and its effect on the technology industry.
Sean	Lerner	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Victoria Spartz	As Legislative Director for a member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Lerner can add insights to discussions of administrative law and antitrust policy to support business growth and development.
Megan	McCorquodale	Judiciary Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Joe Neguse	As a Legislative Assistant for Judiciary issues to a member of that Committee, Ms. McCorquodale can speak to the federal policies protecting competitive markets and fostering new business growth.
Katie	Paulson	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Deborah Ross	As a Legislative Director to a Member on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Ms. Paulson can offer her perspective on AI regulation and the future of this type of technology.
Donald	Pollard	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Jennifer McClellan	As a Legislative Director to a Member on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Mr. Pollard can offer his perspective on the potential uses of fusion and other innovative energy technology.
George	Pulizzi	Policy and Coalitions Director	Office of Representative Nancy Mace	As Policy and Coalitions Director for the Chair of the Oversight Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Mr. Pulizzi can speak to Congress's perspectives on AI and other emerging technologies.
Amber	Ray	Health Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester	As a Health Policy Advisor for a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. Ray can provide valuable insight to federal policy supporting biomedical research and development.
Jesse	von Stein	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Jim Baird	As a Legislative Director for a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, Mr. von Stein can add insight to discussions of tax incentives for investment in research and development and small businesses.

Faith	Wilcox	Senior Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Mary Gay Scanlon	As a Senior Legislative Assistant for a member of the Judiciary Committee, Ms. Wilcox can add insights to discussions of administrative law and antitrust policy to support business growth and development.
Josh	Woodward	Deputy Chief of Staff	Office of Representative Kat Cammack	As a Deputy Chief of Staff for a member on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Woodward can speak to Congress's perspective on regulating emerging technology and media.
Nick	Wooldridge	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Blake Moore	As a Legislative Assistant for a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Wooldridge can offer perspectives on funding to health care providers and networks.

12. Sponsor's interest in the subject matter and role in organizing the trip:  
Center Forward's Innovation Conference is being convened to bring together a bipartisan group of senior legislative staffers from the House of Representatives to discuss innovation and development in America's critical industries and how the federal government can foster business growth and further scientific progress. Center Forward's organizational mission is to provide centrists the information they need to craft common-sense solutions and provide support in turning those ideas into results. Center Forward brings together Members of Congress, their staffs, not-for profits, academic experts, trade associations, corporations, and unions to find common ground.

Center Forward is the sole organizer of the trip. Center Forward is planning the conference and is responsible for the organization and execution of the event logistics as well as the programming content. Discussion topics will include, healthcare and advancements biotechnology, alternative energy solutions, using technology for public infrastructure, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and the current landscape in the financial industry to support small business growth and development. Conference attendees will be senior legislative staffers from House member offices, and will speak with researchers, startup founders, and business leaders in the Boston area.

15.b.2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:  
Boston was selected as the location for the location of this conference to give attendees an on-the-ground experience in one of America's largest innovation hub cities. Outfitted with numerous world-class universities, Boston and Cambridge have birthed countless groundbreaking companies in the technology, healthcare, and finance industries. The rich culture of startups fueled by ideas coming out of the local schools and research institutions will give attendees insight into factors driving innovation and growth across sectors.