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Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Anu Bowman

Program Manager, DARPA Transition &
Commercialization Support Program (TCSP)

Ms. Bowman has thirty-three years of experience in organizational management, technology transition and commercialization, research and development of advanced technologies and systems, R&D program management, and broad based R&D concept development and business development.

Ms. Bowman has been the Program Manager for the DARPA Transition & Commercialization Support Program (TCSP) since 2011. The TCSP currently supports over 180 DARPA SBIR/STTR Phase II projects covering diverse topics providing small business technology transition and commercialization strategy and execution mentoring.

Prior to the DARPA TCSP, her experience includes systems strategic planning and concept development and field testing for radiological and nuclear detection systems, hyper-spectral and multi-spectral systems, and engineering and project management for advance electro-optics programs, remote sensing system analysis and testing, design and construction of near-to mid-IR solid state laser systems as well as systems engineering and data analysis support for Navy tactical airborne electro-optics projects. Assignments have included management of the Transformational and Applied Research Directorate of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at the Department of Homeland Security; managing the entire R&D portfolio for DNDO, a 24 member, Fed and Contractor staff and over \$110M in programs as well as leading the international R&D outreach for DNDO. She also worked as a Senior Technology Fellow for a non-profit applying her extensive experience with Federal R&D to focus on management of research, development and technology transition.

Ms. Bowman is also currently applying her extensive experience with technology development, transition and management as an independent consultant.



Federal Lab Consortium (FLC)

David M. Pronchick
Assistant Department Head of the Contracting Services
Department at MIT Lincoln Laboratory

David M. Pronchick is the Assistant Department Head of the Contracting Services Department at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. Presently he supervises an office of 20 professionals with a wide range of responsibilities, including administration of the \$20B prime contract with the USAF, other agreements (CRADAs, SBIR/STTRs, etc), ethics, compliance, export control, and subcontract oversight.

Previously he was a partner in a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business that worked on international and government contracts issues overseas. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of the Boston Bar Association.

His primary expertise is in the area of Government contracts. He has a Master of Laws (Taxation) from Boston University School of Law, a Master of Laws (Government Contracts) from George Washington University Law School, and a Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, CA.

Dave served in the Air Force for over 20 years, attaining the rank of Colonel. He served in numerous positions of responsibility, as the Armed Forces Tax Counsel, as well as the Staff Judge Advocate of the Electronic Systems Center. He retired from Hanscom Air Force Base in February 2003.

His volunteer activities include serving as a Director of Hanscom Federal Credit Union, the Deputy Coordinator for the NE Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium as well as a Board member of the Town of Lexington's Economic Development Advisory Committee.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Mark Davidson

NASA SBIR/STTR Program JPL Center Technology Transfer Lead (CTTL)

Mark Davidson is a member of the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory office of the Small Business Innovation and Technology Partnerships Office and NASA's Western Water Applications program office. He is the JPL Center Technology Transfer Lead for the NASA SBIR Program and a key contributor for the Water Applications program office in the coordination of projects with western states water managers.

Mark has held positions as the Corporate Director of Business Strategy at Northrop Grumman Corporation where he was responsible for evolving the company's portfolio strategy associated with all defense electronics including space, air, ground and maritime domains and naval systems including navigation, ship, weapons and engineering control. In this function he also participated in M&A, Joint Venture, divestitures and spin-off activities, and as a Corporate Treasurer and Head of Investor Relations at major aerospace parts distribution company.

He is a former Presidential appointee having served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs and is a retired Navy Captain. Mark holds an MBA from the U.S.C. Marshall School of Business, a Diploma from the U.S. Navy War College, and a BA in Physical Geography from U.C.L.A.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Lynn Garrison

SBIR/STTR Technology Transfer Lead – Marshall Space Flight Center

Lynn Garrison serves as one of the Marshall Space Flight Center Technology Transition Leads for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, which help the agency meet federal research and development needs and increase private-sector commercialization of innovations derived from federal R&D. Ms. Garrison also serves as Marshall's Small Business Technical Advisor in support of the MSFC Small Business Office. She was previously the resource manager for the Propulsion Laboratory and the Materials and Processes Laboratory. She was recently awarded the 2016 NASA Agency-Level Small Business Advocates Award as the Small Business Technical Advisory/Coordinator of the Year.



National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Mary Clague

SBIR Program Director/NAIS Administrator

Mary Clague is the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Manager at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). She has worked in NIST's Technology Partnerships Office since 2001 and has been with the SBIR Program for the past 14 years. Prior to working at NIST, she held corporate information positions with Lockheed Martin, COMSAT Corp., and CALCULON. Ms. Clague graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in Technology Management.



National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Robert Vinson

Program Manager, SBIR

Mr. Vinson serves as a Program Manager for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) SBIR/STTR Program in the Office of Extramural Programs, Office of Extramural Research (OER). In this role he is responsible for providing resources to Federal staffers and access to critical information for the small business community seeking early-stage Federal funding. His duties include serving as the Contracting Officer's Representative for the NIH Niche Assessment Program and the Commercialization Accelerator Program. These programs provide technical assistance, market analysis, and commercialization guidance for NIH SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II awardees. Rob is also the OER Task Manager for the NIH Performance Outcomes Data System.

Before joining the SBIR/STTR Program Office, he was a Senior Grants Policy Analyst at the National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute (NHLBI). In that role, he managed initiatives and special projects on a variety of grants and administrative policy issues. Rob had been with NHLBI since 1993 where his career began as a Grants Management Specialist and rose to the positions of Team Leader, Grants Management Officer, and Branch Chief. Prior to joining NIH Rob was a commercial loan officer, with an emphasis on small business development and community revitalization.



National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute (NIH - NCI)

Dr. Jonathan Franca-Koh

Program Director at the National Cancer Institute's SBIR
Development Center

Dr. Jonathan Franca-Koh is a Program Director at the National Cancer Institute's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Development Center. Jonathan manages SBIR & STTR grants and contracts with a focus on cancer therapeutics and novel tools for research and drug discovery. He provides oversight throughout the award period and mentors small business applicants and awardees in developing their technology goals and commercialization strategy. Additionally, he plays an active role in several Center initiatives, including recent investor forums, workshops, and targeted funding opportunities. Prior to joining the SBIR Development Center, Jonathan was a Program Director at the NCI Division of Cancer Biology and Center for Strategic Scientific Initiatives, overseeing the Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers (PS-OC) program, a network of interdisciplinary centers that brought together physical scientists and cancer biologists. Jonathan received his PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of London's Institute of Cancer Research in 2003, and completed post-doctoral research at Johns Hopkins University and the J. Craig Venter Institute. In 2014 he completed his MBA from Johns Hopkins University, focusing on finance and health care innovation.



National Science Foundation (NSF)

Kerstin Mukerji
Staff Associate

Kerstin Mukerji is a Staff Associate in the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) at the National Science Foundation (NSF), Directorate for Engineering (ENG). Prior to joining IIP, Ms. Mukerji served as a Program Manager in the ENG Office of Emerging Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities (EFMA) and Acting Operations Specialist for the ENG Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems Division (ECCS) Division. In FY 2016, she received the NSF Director's Award for Excellence.

Before coming to NSF in 2011, Ms. Mukerji served as a faculty member of Northeastern University's Engineering Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Program, and later as the Assistant Director of the Women in Engineering and NSF-funded Connections Programs at Northeastern. While at Northeastern, she led university/industry outreach activities as well as taught introductory engineering courses for the College of Engineering.

She holds graduate degrees in both Biological Engineering from Cornell University and Instructional Design and Evaluation from Syracuse University. Her research has focused on both biological treatment and remediation of agricultural and industrial waste, as well as STEM educational design and assessment at the middle school, high school and undergraduate level. Her research has been funded by NSF and NASA.

Before returning to academia for her second graduate degree, she spent time in industry as a practicing engineer for Weston Solutions managing abatement and remediation activities for the New England United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Division. She received an award from USACE for outstanding safety performance, dedication, and service.



National Science Foundation (NSF)

Graciela (Gracie) Narcho
Deputy Division Director (DDD) for the Division of Industrial
Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)

Graciela (Gracie) Narcho is the Deputy Division Director (DDD) for the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) as well as the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Small Business Research and Development at the National Science Foundation (NSF). In her role as DDD, she manages the Division that includes the NSF SBIR/STTR, I-Corps, Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC), and Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) programs. She has over 25 years of experience in science and engineering administration and management.

Prior to working in IIP, Gracie worked in the NSF Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) for ten years where she served in multiple senior positions including CISE Deputy Assistant Director, Deputy Division Director for the Division of Computer and Network Systems, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grants at the Department of Health and Human Services. She was also the program manager for several large CISE grants and agreements, including the Global Environments for Networking Innovation (GENI), the National Center for Women in IT (NCWIT), and the Computing Community Consortium (CCC). Prior to joining CISE, Gracie was a Grants Officer in the NSF Division of Grants and Agreements, where she provided business oversight of NSF's Federally Funded Research and Development Centers and large facility projects. Gracie holds a MPA in Government Contracting from George Washington University and a B.A. in Economics from Tufts University.



Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)

Donna Hillegass Attick
Program Manager

Ms. Attick became the Program Manager of NAVAIR's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transition (STTR) program in 2011. The SBIR program was established by congress in 1982 to stimulate technological innovation via the small business. Ms. Attick is responsible for the management and implementation of DoD, Navy, and Command policy aimed at stimulating innovation by small businesses, technical development and the successful transition of SBIR S&T products of federally funded research into the Naval Aviation Enterprise. Over 300 companies participate in the NAVAIR SBIR program through multiple solicitations each year. The NAVAIR SBIR/STTR program has grown significantly in the past few years with more 1200 contracting actions and over \$500M in Phase I, II and III contracts executed annually across all the NAVAIR locations. Additionally, Ms. Attick serves as the Technical Manager for the Navy SBIR/STTR Contracting Center of Excellence. The result is the successful technology transitions to the war fighter each year.

Ms. Attick began her career in Navy career in 1984 at the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent River, Maryland. During her tenure, she has held multiple positions that involved innovation and leading change with technology including Information Management Department, Director and Deputy Director for Plans and Programs; PMA 231 Program Manager with the Radar E2 Modernization Program, PMA 203 Sigma/ERP Principal Program Manager; NAVAIR Deputy CIO for Business Intelligence and Applications Integration; NAVAIR, AIR 7.0B—Assistant Commander for Corporate Operations, Operations Officer and Total Force Readiness Strategic Planner/IT Architect and NAVAIR Navy ERP Business Office (NBO) Director/Program Manager. She has earned a Master's degree in Management and Business from the Florida Institute of Technology and Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Virginia.

Her Awards include Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award, 2004, 2008, Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award, 2006, Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Award recipient, 2004. The NAVAIR Commander's Award for Business Operations 2005. The Naval Air Systems Command Small Business Advocacy Individual Award 2014 and DoD Vanguard – Small Business Innovation Research Award 2016.



Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)

Jonathan Leggett

SBIR/STTR Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Leggett is responsible for planning and executing the outreach activities for the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) SBIR/STTR Program Office to educate and encourage small businesses to participate in the program. Mr. Leggett has been working with various Department of Defense Programs since May 2000. He worked two years in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Space Policy as the Office Administrative Manager. Mr. Leggett previously worked on NAVSEA's Force Advanced Warfare Technologies (FACT) Program and the Navy's Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program as a Test Planner. Mr. Leggett graduated from Marymount University in the spring of 2003 where he obtained his Master's in Business Technologies. He has a Bachelor degree in Business Writing from Christopher Newport University.



U.S. Air Force (USAF)

Michael Bilinski

Air Force SBIR/STTR Portfolio Manager

Michael Bilinski currently serves as the SBIR/STTR Commercialization Readiness Program (CRP) Portfolio Manager for the Air Force SBIR/STTR Program. He currently resides and supports the Air Force Research Lab in Rome NY. Michael also supports the Air Force Office of Scientific Research at multiple locations. He has active duty and industry experience. Michael started his career as an All-Source Intelligence Analyst in the U.S. Army. As an analyst Michael supported the All-Source Analysis System Program (ASAS) and the Trojan Spirit Program both in Korea with the 532nd MI Battalion and with the 103MI Intelligence Battalion 3rd Infantry Division. His industry experience includes working as a Senior Systems analyst and Geo-Spatial analyst 16 years for BAE systems at the Air Force Research Lab in Rome N.Y. He has worked for the SBIR/CRP program since October of 2016. Michael has a Bachelor's Degree in History from St. Bonaventure University and a Masters in History from Central Michigan University. Michael was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal among other service awards.



U.S. Air Force (USAF)

Dave Pope

Program Outreach AFRL/SB - Peerless Technologies Corp.

Dave Pope currently serves as the Program Outreach Specialist for the Air Force SBIR/STTR Program. His background consists of technical writing, audio/visual engineering, as well as communications and marketing as a contractor for the Air Force. He has held positions including technical writing and database manager for the BigSafari contract on the Predator and C130 variants. He has also worked recording graduate level classes for students at the Air Force Institute of Technology in their distance learning program. Supplemental and other course material recorded has been used at the campuses of University of Dayton and Virginia Tech. In his current position, Mr. Pope helps prospective SBIR companies get in contact with Air Force directorates, attends SBA and SBIR events for matchmaking sessions, gathers metrics, and works as a key grip for SBIR success story and seeding the future videos.

He has a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from Wright State University. Prior to his current assignment, Dave Pope was an audio/visual engineer at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Bilinski



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Elden Hawkes
Program Specialist

Elden is a Program Specialist and coordinates and implements the procedures for the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) related to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. This includes planning, developing, and providing logistical expertise for competitive SBIR grants and applications and special projects related to the advancement of the SBIR program.

Prior to joining NIFA, he served as the Policy and Development Coordinator for the American Fisheries Society. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Science and Marine Science and an M.S. in Food and Agriculture with a concentration in Natural Resource Management both from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



U.S. Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Research Service
(USDA – ARS)

Cathleen Cohn
Technology Transfer Liaison

Cathy Cohn serves as the USDA-ARS Technology Transfer Liaison in the Office of Technology Transfer. Cathy's duties involve outreach activities and overseeing the Agricultural Research Partnerships (ARP) Network, a public private partnership model which expands the impact and reach of ARS technology transfer efforts.

Prior to this position, she served as the Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) and Licensing Officer for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). She also served as the NIST Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Manager and Marketing and Outreach Coordinator.



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Christopher O'Gwin
Outreach and Assistance Program Manager

The mission of the DOE SBIR/STTR Programs Office is to manage the administration and evaluation of about 2,000 Phase I and Phase II grant applications each year. The annual budget of the DOE SBIR/STTR programs is \$205M and enables the DOE to award approximately 400 Phase I and II grants every year.

Chris is principally responsible for managing the DOE SBIR/STTR Outreach and Assistance program. In this capacity, he facilitates a nationwide effort to develop and increase its underrepresented small business research and development base in search of SBIR/STTR grant opportunities.

Chris has worked for the DOE since November 1987, holding positions of leadership in both administrative and technical organizations. He received a BS in Business Education from Longwood University and an MS in Government from the Johns Hopkins University.



U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Darren Shaffer
Contract Specialist

Darren Shaffer is a contract specialist and serves as an acquisition planner/liaison for the Innovative Research Program Office. Shaffer resumed this role in 2016 after a five-year break, during which he served as a contract officer with a \$10 million warrant and a Level III Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (FAC-C), the Volpe Center's government purchase card (GPC) coordinator, and a small business specialist (SBS). Between 2008 and 2011, Shaffer doubled the obligations of the SBIR Program without any increase to staff time. Prior to 2008, Shaffer served as a contract specialist within the Volpe Center's Acquisition Division. Throughout his career, Shaffer has routinely demonstrated a willingness to push the envelope of convention and while remaining within the service ceiling of regulation. Shaffer also awarded DOT's first interagency SBIR Phase III award.



U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Elizabeth Dougherty
Atlantic Outreach Liaison

As the Atlantic Outreach Liaison for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Elizabeth Dougherty carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the USPTO's East Coast stakeholder engagement. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Dougherty ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders.

A 27-year veteran of the USPTO, Ms. Dougherty previously served as the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. In this role, she worked closely across the Agency's leadership to implement the policies and priorities for the USPTO. She began her career at the USPTO as a patent examiner after graduating from The Catholic University of America with a bachelor's degree in physics. While a patent examiner, Ms. Dougherty went on to obtain her J.D. from The Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America and served as a Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of Patent Legal Administration for a significant part of her career. Over the years, she has also served in the USPTO's Office of Petitions, the Office of Innovation Development, and the Office of Government Affairs.

Ms. Dougherty has dedicated much of her career to the USPTO's outreach and education programs focusing on small businesses, startups and entrepreneurs. In this effort she has developed, implemented, and supervised programs that support the independent inventor community, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and the intellectual property interests of colleges and universities. Similarly Ms. Dougherty has spearheaded a number of special projects with federal, state and local governments, and private organizations to promote and support invention and innovation in the United States.

Ms. Dougherty is a member of the Virginia Bar, the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court, the Pauline Newman American Inn of Court, the American Bar Association, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Patent and Trademark Office Society, the Supervisory Patent Examiners and Classifiers Organization, Women in Science and Engineering, Federally Employed Women, and the Network of Executive Women.



U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Brittany Sickler

Senior Innovation Policy Advisor, SBIR/STTR

Brittany Sickler serves as outreach, training, and partnership strategist for the SBA's Office of Investment and Innovation. Her primary duties support the advancement of the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/ STTR) programs, which enable small businesses to explore their technological potential and profit from its commercialization. She oversees initiatives to increase understanding of SBIR/STTR opportunities with SBA offices and partner networks across the country, as well as manages the agency's Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program. Brittany spent almost four years in SBA's North Dakota District Office as an Economic Development Specialist, building and strengthening connections throughout the state, particularly with regional startup networks and rural communities. She also served as Special Advisor in SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development, advancing strategic initiatives and coordinating SBA's first Virtual Conference.

Prior to SBA, Brittany served in Guatemala as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Volunteer Leader in the Sustainable Community Tourism program, a combination of economic development and environmental conservation. She was a Masters International Fellow, completing a Master's in International Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University. She also holds degrees in Business Administration and Spanish from Indiana Wesleyan University. Her career in economic development started in Southern Florida with microlender ACCION USA, providing small business loans to individuals who could not access traditional credit.



U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Star Wilbraham

Senior Advisor, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Star Wilbraham is on detail to SBA's Office of Innovation assisting with several projects/programs including the SBIR Road Tour. In her regular role, she is the Senior Advisor for SBA's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs serving as a liaison to elected and appointed officials of state, county, local, and tribal governments, the organizations that represent them, as well as to other federal agencies. While at SBA, Star has also worked with the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development and the Office of Disaster Assistance's Program Policy and Evaluation team.

In addition to her SBA experience, Star has worked extensively with community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other organizations supporting underserved and underrepresented communities across the country. She worked for several years with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's CDFI Fund and as an independent consultant. Star has a Master of Science in Policy and Program Management from Carnegie Mellon University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from James Madison University. She also completed the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs (Los Angeles). She currently lives and works in the Washington, D.C. area.