Pennsylvania
Pediatric
Medical
Device
Consortium

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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Shahram Hejazi, PhD

Chair, Oversight Committee

As Chair of the Oversight Committee of the Philadelphia Pediatric Medical Device Consortium, Dr. Hejazi oversees the group of pediatric device and health technology business luminaries who evaluate the commercial potential of the projects eligible to receive PPDC seed funding. The Oversight Committee collectively decides the awardees.

Dr. Hejazi is a life science investor and entrepreneur with general management experience in both early-stage ventures and large global companies. Over a career spanning more than 25 years, he has founded and/or directed the growth of more than two dozen startup companies, and as a Venture Partner with BioAdvance, he is on the board of seven companies and he is responsible for leading investments in medical devices, diagnostics, and digital health.

He is also the founder and CEO of Optimeos Life Sciences, Inc., a venture-funded biotech company, and the 2014 James Wei Visiting Professor of Entrepreneurship at Princeton University where he is currently a faculty member. Previously, Shahram was the president of Kodak's life science division, where he had global responsibility for R&D, manufacturing, operations, sales, marketing, and service. Before Kodak, he was the founding CEO of Zargis Medical Corporation (a Siemens' spinoff), where he led the company in raising capital to completion of clinical trials, FDA clearance, and product launch. Prior to that, Dr. Hejazi was the Global Head of the Strategic Business Development at Siemens Medical, responsible for identifying growth/investment opportunities. Earlier in his career, Dr. Hejazi held R&D management positions within Kodak and IBM. His past board responsibilities include FDA industry advisory panel member for Molecular and Clinical Genetic Devices, Fox Chase Cancer Center Fund, and Alpha Innotech Corp. Dr. Hejazi earned a doctorate in electrical engineering at SUNY at Buffalo and an executive business education at Stanford University.

Susan Alpert, MD, PhD

Member, Oversight Committee

Susan Alpert, PhD, MD, is currently the principle of SFA Regulatory LLC, a one person firm focused on the strategies needed to place medical devices into the global market. Dr. Alpert joined Medtronic in July 2003 as vice president of regulatory affairs and compliance. She was senior vice president, Global Regulatory Affairs at her retirement in May 2011 and was responsible for all Medtronic global regulatory policy efforts.

Prior to joining Medtronic, Dr. Alpert served C.R. Bard, Inc., as vice president of regulatory sciences. She also previously worked at the FDA where she held a variety of positions in the centers dealing with drugs, devices, and radiological health, and foods, including six years as the director of the Office of Device Evaluation. She is a microbiologist and pediatrician with a specialty in infectious diseases and has practical experience in laboratory research and clinical trials.

John Barr

Member, Oversight Committee

John R. Barr has spent his career in medical devices. From October 2014 to August 2017, Mr. Barr served as CEO at Surgical Specialties Inc., a privately held medical device firm specializing in wound closure and surgical knives. Prior to that he served as executive vice president and president of global surgical at Bausch and Lomb Holdings Incorporated until the acquisition of Bausch and Lomb by Valeant Pharmaceuticals in August 2013. In that role, he was responsible for the global medical device business including sales and development of disposables, equipment and instruments used in various forms of eye surgery.

Prior to Bausch and Lomb, Barr was the chief executive officer of AGA Medical Holdings. AGA Medical was a pioneer and leader in the development, sale and manufacture of disposable devices used in minimally invasive repair of structural heart defects and other vascular defects. Mr. Barr led an IPO for the company in 2009 and the business was sold to St. Jude Medical in 2010. He served as CEO of V.I. Technologies and led an IPO of the company in 2008. The mission of V.I. Technologies was to commercialize pathogen inactivation technology for transfusion blood products.

Prior to V.I. Technologies he served as president of North American operations at Haemonetics Corp., where he had responsibility for Haemonetics' blood bank, commercial plasma, and blood bank services businesses.

Anthony Green, PhD

Member, Oversight Committee

Anthony Green, PhD, is vice president, Technology Commercialization Group for Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern PA and Ben Franklin Director of The Nanotechnology Institute™ (NTI) and Energy Commercialization Institute. He is also a visiting research professor, School of Biomedical Engineering, Drexel University. At BFTP/SEP, Dr. Green is focused on Ben Franklin's larger and region-wide technology partnerships and major initiatives, including the NTI and the Energy Commercialization Institute. He is also focused on new and evolving life sciences initiatives, university/industry partnerships in advanced textiles and water, advanced manufacturing and the development and implementation new commercialization models. He is a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of the Sciences Misher College of Arts and Sciences and the PA Life Science Leadership Advisory Council and serves on the Oversight/Advisory Committees for the Coulter-Drexel Translational Research Partnership, the Science Center's QED Program and the Philadelphia Pediatric Medical Device Consortium.

Dr. Green has more than 30 years experience in the biotechnology industry focusing on diagnostics and gene transfer technologies. His track record includes research, development and commercialization of cutting-edge technologies primarily through small, emerging companies, including Centocor, BD and Puresyn. Dr. Green earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Immunology, with honors, from Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island and his PhD from Temple University School of Medicine, in microbiology and immunology.

Jeffrey Joseph, DO

Member, Oversight Committee

Jeffrey Joseph, DO, has more than 3 decades of experience in medicine and healthcare, as well as more than 20 years of experience in entrepreneurship. Currently, he is a professor of Anesthesiology and vice chairman and director of research in the Department of Anesthesiology at Thomas Jefferson University's Sidney Kimmel Medical College. He also serves as the director of the Jefferson Artificial Pancreas Center.

In addition to his faculty appointments, he is the founder of both RTM Vital Signs, LLC, a company to develop a long-term implantable vital sign sensor system to help people manage their chronic cardiovascular and pulmonary disease, and Capillary Biomedical, Inc., a company founded to develop a long-term implantable to help people manage their type I diabetes.

Prior to starting these companies, he was the founder of Animas Corporation, Inc., which had a successful initial public offering in 2004 and was acquired by J&J in 2005. He holds 10 U.S. Patents and has authored more than 35 peer reviewed publications.

Jeremy Kimmel, PhD

Member, Oversight Committee

Jeremy Kimmel is a medical device executive with more than 15 years of experience in developing innovative medical products to improve human health. Kimmel brings significant expertise in product development, manufacturing, technology commercialization, and clinical research to the PPDC Oversight Committee. He holds degrees in biomedical engineering from Cornell University (BS), New York University (S.) and University of Pittsburgh (PhD).

Kimmel currently serves as the senior vice president of engineering and clinical science at ALung Technologies Inc., a Pittsburgh-based medical device company developing innovative extracorporeal respiratory support technologies. He also holds an adjunct faculty appointment at the University of Pittsburgh where he provides consulting services to both Pitt and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for accelerating commercial translation of pediatric technologies.

Robert Kroslowitz

Member, Oversight Committee

Robert Kroslowitz currently serves as the president and CEO of Berlin Heart Inc. and is responsible for expanding the company's business interests in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and is currently focused on evaluating new business opportunities for potential funding and/or acquisition. Previously, Kroslowitz served as senior vice president of clinical affairs for the company and was responsible for successfully bringing the first ever viable long term circulatory support option for the pediatric population through the regulatory approval process in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Prior to joining Berlin Heart, Kroslowitz held leadership and consulting roles in other medical device companies including NovoSci, Maquet, Jostra, Terumo, and Sorin. He is passionate about fostering the development of medical devices specifically for the pediatric population and often speaks and serves on panels related to this topic. He has commercialized several pediatric specific devices, including the EXCOR Pediatric Ventricular Assist Device System, the only viable long term circulatory support system available worldwide that was developed specifically for the pediatric population. He also led the effort to commercialize the Jostra HL-20 Heart Lung Machine for use during pediatric open heart surgery, Jostra's Quadrox oxygenation system for short term pulmonary support, the Jostra HL-30 temperature control system, the RotaFlow Continuous Flow Centrifugal Blood Pump for short term use in ECMO and left, right or biventricular circulatory support in the pediatric population.

In addition to the products identified above, Kroslowitz was involved in the design and development of a novel pediatric cardioplegia system, a pediatric arterial line filtration system, a neonatal oxygenation system, and a neonatal perfusion system that allowed for the elimination of blood in cardiopulmonary bypass system for infants.

In addition to contributing to the research, development, and commercialization of pediatric medical devices, Kroslowitz managed the pediatric cardiac surgery research lab at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York where he oversaw the initial pre-clinical work for some of the products listed above. He has also participated on panels related to pediatric device development and commercialization with representatives from the medical community and the governmental regulatory bodies, speaks frequently on topics related to pediatric device development, approval and commercialization, and has served as an advisor to several early stage medical device companies.

Matthew R. Maltese, PhD

Member, Oversight Committee

Matthew Maltese. PhD, is co-founder of X-Biomedical, Inc. He is also an adjunct assistant professor in the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, and the former director of biomechanics research in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He has more than 20 years of experience in bioengineering as it pertains to medicine and injury, most recently focusing on pediatric bioengineering of medical devices in the critical care setting and in the care of patients with traumatic injury.

He has advised or co-advised bioengineering, biomedical engineering, and mechanical engineering senior design teams from Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania. The two most recent senior design projects were focused on pediatric medical device developments, including a numerical algorithm to estimate pediatric temporal aortic pressure from thoracic deformation waveforms during CPR, and a refined pediatric bag-mask ventilation system with optimized flow-inflating technology.

Katherine Reuther, PhD, MBA

Member, Oversight Committee

Katherine (Katie) Reuther, PhD, MBA is the Executive Director for the Center for Health, Devices and Technology (Penn Health-Tech) and a practice associate professor in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Reuther has extensive experience in developing and translating early-stage medical technologies and discoveries and providing formal educational training for aspiring medical entrepreneurs. Previously, she served as a Senior Lecturer in Design, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University, with additional appointments as the director of the Columbia Biomedical Engineering Technology Accelerator Program (BiomedX) and the director of Master's Studies.

She was awarded the 2021 Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching from Columbia University.

Dr. Reuther supports entrepreneurship programs at the National Institute of Health through her work with Biocomx, including the Concept to Clinic: Commercializing Innovation (C3i) Program and the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative, and the I-Corps at NIH program. She is also a co-founder of Syntegrity Biomedical, an orthopedic medical device startup. Dr. Reuther received a BS in Biomedical Engineering from The College of New Jersey, a PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania, and an Executive MBA from Columbia Business School.

Jason T. Smith, PhD

Member, Oversight Committee

Jason Smith, PhD, has been the director of Life Sciences at IP Group since 2014. He works in a variety of investments to shepherd early stage technology to market. He has extensive experience developing and commercializing healthcare technology in large private and small startup environments. Previously, Smith served as the director of clinical affairs and director of marketing and product management at the photonic therapy startup, LiteCure. Prior to that, he spent four years with W.L. Gore as a Product Specialist in the Medical Division where he developed and managed products for bariatric and colorectal surgery and biliary stenting.