

# Assessment of the SBIR and STTR Programs at DOE

Meeting of the Committee (September 26-27, 2024)

## Biographies of Guest Speakers

*In order of appearance*

### September 26 DOE Portfolio Manager Panel:

#### **BRIAN HALSTEAD**

Brian Halstead currently leads the SBIR/STTR program for the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) at the Department of Energy. Prior to this role, he served as the Senior Program Analyst at the US Geological Survey, where he played a key role in overseeing the operation of their extensive facilities portfolio, which encompasses over 400 locations. His responsibilities included leading the development of a comprehensive five-year strategic facilities master plan and driving the implementation of process improvement initiatives to enhance operational efficiency.

#### **SEAN JAMES**

Sean James is the Budget Director for the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM). Prior to joining FECM earlier this year, James was the budget lead for the Office of the Undersecretary for Infrastructure where he coordinated efforts for standing up the budget for the new offices created following passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act. Born in South Africa and raised in Ireland, James moved to the United States in 2000, where he studied Business Management at George Mason University and the University of the District of Columbia.

#### **ADAM KINNEY**

R. Adam Kinney is a Senior Technical Advisor in the Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES) within the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science. In this capacity, Kinney provides expert advice, analysis, guidance, and recommendations on science, technology, and policy to the leadership of the Basic Energy Sciences program and the Office of Science. Among other responsibilities, Kinney provides leadership on the development of the annual budget and strategic planning for the program, represents BES on interagency and cross-Departmental committees, and serves as the Portfolio Manager for the BES Small Business Innovation Research/Small-business Technology Transfer Research (SBIR/STTR) Program.

Kinney has held a wide range of roles during his nearly 10-year tenure in the Office of Science. In one position, he was responsible for leading development of the Office of Science's contribution to the 2015 Quadrennial Technology Review, a Department of Energy report exploring opportunities for energy technology research and development.

Kinney received his Ph.D. in physical inorganic chemistry from Northwestern University, and a BA in chemistry from Bowdoin College.

### **TODD ANDERSON**

Todd Anderson serves as the Director of the Biological Systems Science Division within DOE's Office of Biological and Environmental Research (BER) in the Office of Science. The division manages basic science programs addressing the fundamental biology of plants and microbes of relevance to DOE's bioenergy and environmental missions. The current portfolio includes the Genomic Science Program, the DOE Bioenergy Research Centers, the DOE Joint Genome Institute, the DOE Systems Biology Knowledgebase, the National Microbiome Data Collaborative and, capabilities at the DOE Synchrotron Light and Neutron sources for Structural Biology. Dr. Anderson has been with DOE-BER for the past twenty years managing a variety of basic science programs within the Office and has served as a division director for the past twelve years.

### **DAVID RABSON**

David Rabson is a program manager in Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) within the Department of Energy's Office of Science with a portfolio including SciDAC partnerships, Energy Earthshots, software stewardship, scientific-data reduction, small business (SBIR) awards, and graduate fellowships. His background lies in computational and theoretical condensed-matter physics, and he joined ASCR in 2023 after 25 years teaching at the University of South Florida, where he chaired the physics department from 2015 to 2019. He has previous science-management experience from two visiting tours at the National Science Foundation.

### **September 26 National Labs Panel (I):**

#### **MONICA MARTINEZ\***

*\*Monica Martinez was unable to attend.*

Monica Martinez is a manager within the Integrated Partnerships Organization (IPO) at Sandia National Laboratories. The IPO oversees technology transfer and intellectual property management at Sandia and provides strategic guidance for researchers wishing to form partnerships with organizations outside the Labs. Martinez and her team work closely with researchers to develop and mature research programs and projects, including fostering partnerships with industry, academia, government, and other laboratories. She has 14 years of experience working directly with mission and technical teams to realize program

development, strategy, partnering, and technology objectives for the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, and other government agencies. Martinez holds a BA in Finance and an MBA in Policy & Planning, both from the University of New Mexico.

### **ROBIN CONGER**

Robin Conger is a Market Research Analyst at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), where she has worked for almost 38 years. She earned her BBA from Pacific Lutheran University and later completed an MBA from the University of Washington in 1991. Conger's roles at PNNL have included Market Research Scientist (1987-1994), Project Manager (1994-2004), and Economic Development Program Manager (2004-2007). She has held her current position since 2016, where she leverages decades of experience to support PNNL's strategic initiatives.

### **ANNE MILLER**

Anne Miller assumed the role of Technology Transfer Director at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado in 2018, after serving as the office's assistant director. The NREL Technology Transfer Office manages the technology commercialization and partnership agreement functions for the laboratory. During her tenure at NREL, Miller has implemented the Agreements for Commercializing Technology program, managed the software portfolio, and negotiated Cooperative Research and Development Agreements and Strategic Partnership Project agreements. Prior to joining NREL, she worked for an engineering firm in Broomfield, Colorado. She has a BA from Colgate University and a Master of Business Administration from Wake Forest University.

### **September 26 National Labs Panel (II):**

### **GAIL CHEN**

Gail Chen manages the Partnerships and Proposals program in the Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO) at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL), enabling the overall business and proposal development process resulting in funding and collaborative agreements with partners. She has served as a panelist for DOE events hosted by the SBIR/STTR Programs Office and Office of Energy Justice and Equity to support small businesses in working with the labs and matching lab capabilities with small business partnering needs.

Prior to joining SPO, Chen was an innovation and transformation leader at AIG, working on the launch of their innovation centers and developing their innovation portfolio and network to meet client needs across industry sectors through partnerships with start-ups, VCs, accelerators, and universities. Chen has spent over a decade in global biotech leadership positions at Roche and Genentech with expertise spanning across multiple disciplines including strategy, planning, operations, product manufacturing, and technology. She established her own consulting firm advising nonprofits on process improvements.

Gail holds a BS in industrial engineering from Stanford University and an MBA from the Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley.

## **TODD PRAY**

Todd Pray was named Berkeley Lab's Chief Strategic Partnerships Officer (CSPO) and head of the Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO) in March 2019. Prior to this, Pray's career had been dedicated to developing technologies that improve human health and environmental sustainability across a broad spectrum of pharmaceutical, food science, and renewable fuel and chemical product R&D programs. As CSPO, he is committed to expanding his vision and focus to encompass all areas of scientific research represented at the Lab.

Pray served as Program Head for the Lab's Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts Process Development Unit (ABPDU) from 2014-2019, where he successfully oversaw the development and execution of R&D projects. Over his five-year tenure, Pray led ABPDU in forming collaborations with over 45 industrial, National Lab and academic partners, and assisted in the development of production processes that resulted in three commercial product launches.

Pray's background prior to Berkeley Lab includes extensive industry experience working at leading biotechnology companies such as Rigel, Exelixis, Amyris and Impossible Foods. He holds a B.S. in biological chemistry from the University of Chicago, an MBA from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in biophysics from the University of California at San Francisco