

U.S. - Egypt Science and Technology Joint Fund

Committee

Ray Behbehani

Ex Officio Member

Ray Behbehani is a Senior Advisor on Middle East & North African Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy where he has also worked in Congressional Affairs. A long time MENA expert, Behbehani has extensive experience in the region as a lobbyist, a journalist, and business executive, including a 10 year stint with Sprint and Qualcomm. His MENA work has brought him often over the years to Egypt for meetings with government and private sector officials to discuss telecom, wireless, and energy issues, including the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF).

Behbehani holds a B.S. degree in international economics and Arab Studies from Georgetown University, including a junior year abroad at the American University in Cairo (AUC). He also has an MBA in finance and marketing from Northwestern University.

Joyelle Dominique

Ex Officio Member

Ms. Joyelle Kalei Dominique is the Director of the Office of Global Research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Under her direction, OGR coordinates and supports collaborative, international biomedical research programs in over 120 countries that focus on immunology and infectious diseases of global health importance. She leads the strategic and operational management of OGR and advises the NIAID leadership on program relationships and opportunities for collaboration and expansion. Ms. Dominique has more than 20 years of experience in managing health programs with global impact, both at NIAID and in academia. Ms. Dominique is an expert on NIH international biomedical research data analysis and reporting. She has served on many trans-HHS working groups focused on the support and implementation of global health and research programs. Prior to joining NIAID, Ms. Dominique worked at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology, directing an international laboratory capacity building program which supported more than 200 laboratories located eight countries. Ms. Dominique received her M.B.A. and M.S. in Management from the University of Maryland University College. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry from the Catholic University of America.

Sean Jones

Ex Officio Member

A member of the Senior Foreign Service, Sean was most recently USAID's Mission Director in Ethiopia, overseeing the U.S. government's largest assistance program in Africa. Previously, he served as the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Food Security and the acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa. He also served as the first Coordinator for Prosper Africa, a Presidential trade and investment initiative; led the joint USAID-State Department foreign assistance reform effort under Secretary of State Tillerson; and served as Deputy Coordinator of Power Africa, the U.S. government's largest public private partnership. His other overseas positions have included USAID Mission Director in Mexico and senior positions in Yemen, Iraq, Colombia, and Jordan. He began his government career as a Presidential Management Fellow. Before joining USAID, Sean was a strategy consultant for the Owens Corning Corporation in Shanghai, China; a business operations specialist for Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, and Lockheed Martin; and an international trade analyst for USTR and for the State of New Jersey.

Sean is married with two children. He speaks Spanish. He holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Michigan's Gerald Ford School and a Bachelor of International Relations degree from Ursinus College.

Steven M. Kappes

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Kappes became the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Associate Administrator for the Office of National Programs in August 2016. The Office of National Program sets the research direction and develops budgets for the entire ARS research portfolio which includes plants, animals, natural resources, human nutrition, insects and microbial pathogens. The Office of National Programs also includes the international research program. Prior to the Associate Administrator appointment, Dr. Kappes served as the ARS Deputy Administrator for Animal Production and Protection (APP) in the Office of National Programs. The APP program includes animal production, animal health, entomology, aquaculture and animal well-being research in cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, trout, catfish, and salmon. The APP staff also includes the ARS Biosafety Officer and the ARS Animal Care Officer.

Currently, Dr. Kappes is leading the ARS Big Data Initiative. He had also served as a senior advisor for Animal Protection and Production in the USDA, Office of the Chief Scientist. He has worked with USDA agencies on issues related to animal health and production, herbicide resistance, and biosafety and biocontainment in high and maximum biocontainment laboratories.

Previously he co-chaired a U.S. Government Interagency Biosafety Taskforce and was a co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Foreign Animal Disease Threats. Dr. Kappes was a member of the USDA, One Health Joint Working Group and worked with USDA agencies and Food and Drug Administration to address issues on antimicrobial resistance.

Kendra Sharp

Ex Officio Member

Sarah Staton

Ex Officio Member

Sarah Staton leads international science and technology cooperation efforts spanning fusion, inclusive science, quantum information science, and innovation commercialization. Previously, Sarah led the flagship Global Innovation through Science and Technology Initiative where she helped to build vibrant science, technology, and innovation entrepreneurial ecosystems in high impact economies around the world powered by public-private partnerships with groups such as Amazon, Microsoft, and the Kauffman Foundation. Sarah is focused on empowering science and technology innovators globally, especially women and underrepresented groups. She transitioned into the federal service through the American Association for the Advancement of Science Policy Fellowship. Previously, Sarah was a National Research Council Post-doctoral Fellow at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, where her work on disease detection utilizing combined optical-electrokinetic chromatography received the Edison Patent Award.

She earned her Ph.D. in bioanalytical chemistry from Arizona State University and has spearheaded multiple international research efforts, including developing tools to assess Amazonian environmental health during her Fulbright and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships in Ecuador.

James Jewell

Ex Officio Member

Leslie Reed

Ex Officio Member