Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy Research Roundtable

Council Members

Danielle W. Merfeld

Co-Chair

As Global Chief Technology Officer, Danielle Merfeld leads Qcells' research and development for advanced solar products. She is focused on accelerating the company's efforts to enhance technology capability as it embarks on building the United States' first fully integrated solar supply chain.

Prior to this role, Danielle led technical efforts in GE Renewable Energy to develop differentiated products and services across the broadest renewable energy portfolio in the industry, including onshore wind, offshore wind, solar PV, batteries, hydro and grid solutions. She has been a consistent champion for sustainability and diversity and is a regular lecturer on Energy Transition topics.

Danielle was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2021. She received her BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University. Danielle is on the Board of Trustees at the University of Notre Dame and an Ambassador to the Clean Energy, Education and Empowerment (C3E) initiative representing the United States. She also leads the National Academy of Engineering's Energy Working Group, serves on the NAE President's Business Advisory Committee, and is on the National Science Foundation's Engineering Advisory Council.

Darryll J. Pines

Co-Chair

Darryll J. Pines serves as the 34th president of the University of Maryland and the Glenn L. Martin Professor of Aerospace Engineering. Pines' research focuses on structural dynamics, including structural health monitoring and prognosis, smart sensors, and adaptive, morphing and biologically inspired structures as well as the guidance, navigation and control of aerospace vehicles. He holds seven co-authored patents with his students and collaborators.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, he is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Institute of Physics; chairs the Engineering Advisory Committee for NSF's Engineering Directorate; sits on the Board of Trustees for Underwriters Laboratory not-for-profit arm; and serves as a member of the MIT Corporation, the board of trustees for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Pines also serves on the Big 10 Conference's Council of President and Chancellors, and as an at-large member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Board of Directors.

Pines received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Megan Anderson

Member

Dr. Megan Anderson is Executive Vice President of Capabilities at In-Q-Tel (IQT). In this role, she oversees IQT's technology practices, program management team, and project engineering teams as they deliver technical solutions for the Intelligence Community.
Anderson previously led IQT's Enterprise Technology Practice and managed the Field Technology Practice, spanning areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, electronics, communications, materials, and space.

Before joining IQT, she was a senior scientist at Fluidigm, developing products for next-generation sequencing applications. She earned bachelor's degrees in Applied Mathematics and General Biology from the University of California, San Diego, and a PhD in biochemistry and molecular biophysics from the California Institute of Technology.

Thomas C. Clancy, III

Member

Charles Clancy is Senior Vice President, General Manager of MITRE Labs, and Chief Technology Officer at The MITRE Corporation. He leads a community of thousands of scientists, technologists, and engineers who deliver technical capabilities across MITRE's federally funded R&D centers and independent research portfolio. Before joining MITRE, Clancy served as the Bradley Distinguished Professor of Cybersecurity at Virginia Tech and executive director of the Hume Center for National Security and Technology. He began his career at the National Security Agency, focusing on wireless communications. An IEEE Fellow, he has authored hundreds of publications and patents and has co-founded multiple venture-backed companies at the intersection of telecommunications and national security.

Clancy holds a BS in Computer Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a doctorate in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Walter G. Copan

Member

Walter G. Copan is Vice President for Research & Technology Transfer at Colorado School of Mines, where he advances the university's research enterprise, industry partnerships, and pathways to commercialization.

Copan has led innovation organizations across government, academia, and industry, including service as Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and as the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. His career has emphasized technology translation, standards, and policy approaches that strengthen U.S. competitiveness. Copan holds a PhD in physical chemistry and a BS/BA dual degree in chemistry and music, all from Case Western Reserve University.

France A. Córdova

Member

Dr. France A. Córdova is President of the Science Philanthropy Alliance and an internationally recognized astrophysicist. Her leadership spans universities, national laboratories, and federal science agencies, with a focus on strengthening discovery, innovation, and STEM education.

Córdova previously served as Director of the National Science Foundation and as President of Purdue University. She has also held senior academic leadership roles in the University of California system and served as NASA's Chief Scientist. Her work has emphasized cross-sector partnerships and long-horizon research investments that enable scientific breakthroughs. She earned a BA from Stanford University and a PhD in physics from the California Institute of Technology.

Ishita Das

Member

Ishita Das, PhD, PMP is a director in the Science Philanthropy Accelerator for Research and Collaboration (SPARC) at Milken Institute Strategic Philanthropy, where she leads the science ecosystem program area. Dr. Das brings more than 15 years of expertise in biomedical research, science policy, stakeholder engagement, workforce diversity, and strategic planning to guide philanthropic investments that advance health research priorities. At the Milken Institute, she advises philanthropists, foundations, and nonprofit organizations on strategies to deploy philanthropic capital for systems-level change, including in areas such as AI in health, cross-disciplinary fields, the biomedical workforce, and health equity. Prior to joining the Milken Institute, Dr. Das was at a management consulting firm where she led cross-functional teams to implement science and health initiatives for federal agencies, nonprofits, and public-private partnerships, including the National Institutes of Health, the Office for Human Research Protections, the National Human Genome Research Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Dr. Das earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her doctorate in cellular and molecular biology from the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor.

Thomas T. Eighmy

Member

Taylor Eighmy, PhD, serves as President of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UT San Antonio) and is the holder of the Carlos Alvarez Distinguished Presidential Chair. He is nationally recognized for advancing top research universities through strategic government-university-industry collaborations, public-private partnerships and community engagement.

Prior to his appointment by the UT System Board of Regents to serve as the inaugural president of UT San Antonio, he served eight years as the president of UTSA. Before then, Eighmy served as the chief research officer at three top public flagship universities: the University of New Hampshire, Texas Tech University, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Eighmy received his Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of New Hampshire in 1986 and his M.S. in Civil Engineering in 1983. He earned his B.S. in Biology from Tufts University in 1980.

Patricia K. Falcone

Member

Patricia K. Falcone is Deputy Director for Science & Technology at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). She provides leadership for the laboratory’s science, engineering, and technology programs and supports the integration of discovery research with mission-focused innovation.

Falcone’s career includes senior roles spanning program development, strategic planning, and multidisciplinary R&D in national-security and energy-relevant domains. She is known for building teams that deliver high-impact science and for strengthening partnerships across national laboratories, universities, and industry. Falcone earned a BSE in aerospace and mechanical sciences at Princeton University, and MS and PhD degrees in mechanical engineering from Stanford University.

Susan S. Hubbard

Member

Dr. Susan Hubbard is the Deputy Laboratory Director at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Executive Vice President of UT-Battelle, LLC. In these roles, she helps shape and guide one of the nation's largest science and energy research portfolios, advancing discovery science and its translation into solutions that strengthen U.S. energy security, economic competitiveness, and national security. Prior to joining ORNL, she held leadership positions at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and previously served as a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and as a geophysicist in industry. An elected member of the National Academy of Engineering, Dr. Hubbard is internationally recognized for pioneering contributions to hydrogeophysics. Her research integrates geophysical imaging and data fusion approaches to reveal the structure and function of complex natural systems, advancing understanding of water, energy, and environmental resources. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Geophysical Union, and the Geological Society of America, and has received numerous professional honors for both scientific achievement and leadership. Dr. Hubbard earned a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MS in Geophysics from Virginia Tech.

Kei Koizumi

Member

Kei Koizumi is a science-policy researcher and social scientist based in Washington, DC. He is widely known for bridging research, federal policy, and public impact—helping organizations and government leaders translate evidence into action.

Koizumi served in the Biden Administration (2021–2025) in senior roles at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), including Special Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Director for Science, Society, and Policy, and he led the National Science and Technology Council (2022–2024). Earlier, he held roles at OSTP during the Obama Administration and at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

He earned an MA in International Science and technology policy from George Washington University and a BA from Boston University, and he is a Fellow of the AAAS.

Timothy C. Lieuwen

Member

Timothy C. Lieuwen is interim president at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he oversees the institute's research enterprise and advances strategic initiatives spanning fundamental discovery, technology development, and translation.

A mechanical engineer by training, Lieuwen is known for research and leadership in areas related to energy systems and advanced propulsion. His career has included extensive experience building interdisciplinary research programs and partnering with government agencies and industry to move ideas from lab to impact. He received an MS and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Michele Masucci

Member

Michele Masucci serves as vice chancellor for research and economic development for the University System of Maryland, where she works to align system-wide research and economic development activities and support the translation of research into practice through commercialization, innovation initiatives, and university–industry partnerships. She also holds an appointment as professor of geography and environmental systems at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and is an affiliated professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Her research examines how information and communication technologies shape community outcomes related to education, health, and environmental quality in the United States and internationally, including work supported by federal, state, local, and foundation funding and conducted in collaboration with nonprofit partners. Earlier in her career, she served as vice president for research at Temple University, director of the Information Technology and Society Research Group, and professor and chair of the department of geography and urban studies. She also served as co-chair of the Federal Demonstration Partnership and as president of the Federal Demonstration Partnership Foundation. She is a member of the boards of directors of Oak Ridge Associated Universities and the University City Science Center. Masucci earned a bachelor's degree in geography and regional planning from Salisbury University and a master's degree and doctorate in geography from Clark University. She currently serves on the National Academies Strategic Council for Research Excellence, Integrity, and Trust.

Louis J. Muglia

Member

Louis J. Muglia, MD, PhD, is President and CEO of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a private foundation dedicated to advancing biomedical science by supporting outstanding scientists and innovative research programs.

A physician-scientist and academic leader, Muglia has held senior roles in academic medicine and has contributed to research and training in areas that connect genetics, development, and human health. His leadership emphasizes scientific excellence, researcher development, and strengthening the broader biomedical ecosystem. Dr. Muglia earned his Doctor of Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the University of Chicago. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in biophysics from the University of Michigan.

Prineha Narang

Member

Dr. Prineha Narang is a Professor in Physical Sciences at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she holds the Howard Reiss Chair. Her work focuses on computational materials science and the discovery of new physical phenomena and devices relevant to next-generation information technologies.

Prior to joining UCLA, Narang was an assistant professor at Harvard University and held research appointments at MIT. She earned an MS and PhD in applied physics from the California Institute of Technology.

Joshua Parker

Member

Josh Parker is Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of Ancora. He leads the firm’s board and serves on its investment committee, guiding strategy, policies, and day-to-day operations.

A national leader in the anchor-institution and innovation sectors, Parker brings investment and development experience across adaptive reuse, urban redevelopment, life sciences, venture initiatives, and mixed-use projects. Over more than two decades as an entrepreneur, his work has supported large-scale innovation districts and community revitalization efforts. Josh studied Business and Finance at the North Carolina Central University.

Timothy M. Persons

Member

Timothy M. Persons, PhD, is founder and CEO of Beowulf Tech and a leader in digital assurance and transparency. His work focuses on developing assurance approaches for artificial intelligence and machine learning, data and algorithms, cybersecurity, and other digital transformations—helping organizations build and maintain trust with stakeholders. Previously, Persons served as chief fcientist at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), leading science, technology, and digital efforts that support congressional oversight. He also held roles at the National Security Agency and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and has testified before Congress on a range of S&T issues. He holds a PhD in biomedical engineering and an MS in Computer Science from Wake Forest University, as well as an MS in Nuclear Physics from Emory University.

Massimo Ruzzene

Member

Massimo Ruzzene is Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and Dean of the Institutes at the University of Colorado Boulder. He is an internationally recognized scholar in structural dynamics, wave propagation, and metamaterials, with more than 250 publications to his credit. His leadership fosters interdisciplinary collaboration across engineering, science, and the humanities, connecting university research with industry and government partners. Ruzzene is committed to building research ecosystems that drive innovation and address society’s grand challenges through integrated, collaborative discovery. He received a PhD in mechanical engineering from Politecnico di Torino.

John Smee

Member

John Smee is Senior Vice President of Engineering and Global Head of Wireless Research at Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. He leads long-range wireless research and contributes to the development of technologies and standards that shape 5G and future generations of wireless connectivity.

Smee has extensive experience spanning advanced wireless systems, global standardization, and the translation of research into large-scale commercial platforms. His work has supported the evolution of mobile broadband and emerging applications that depend on high-performance, reliable wireless networks.

John was chosen to participate in the National Academy of Engineering Frontiers of Engineering program and received his PhD in electrical engineering from Princeton University and also holds an MA from Princeton and an MSc and BSc from Queen's University.

Deborah Stokes

Member

Deborah Stokes is Director of External Research and Academic Alliances at Dell Technologies. She helps build and manage academic collaborations that advance strategic technology priorities and accelerate the transition of research into practical solutions.

Her work focuses on engaging universities and research organizations, strengthening open innovation pathways, and fostering partnerships that support emerging areas in computing and data-driven technologies. Deborah has a BS in Business Administration, and completed her Executive MBA at the University of Texas at Dallas, with a focus on “Managing for Change.”

Jinliu Grace Wang

Member

Dr. Jinliu “Grace” Wang is the 17th president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). A materials scientist and higher-education leader, she is known for advancing research excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation that benefits society.

Wang has held senior academic leadership positions and faculty appointments in materials science and engineering. Her leadership emphasizes student opportunity, inclusive excellence, and building partnerships across academia, industry, and government to expand research translation and impact. Wang earned a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University.

Monica M. Bertagnolli

Ex Officio Member

Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD, is the President of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and Vice Chair of the National Research Council. She previously served as the 17th Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the 16th Director of the National Cancer Institute. A surgical oncologist and physician-scientist, Bertagnolli's research has advanced understanding of the role of genetics and inflammation in gastrointestinal cancers and soft-tissue sarcomas. She served as Chief of Surgical Oncology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and is the Richard E. Wilson Professor of Surgery Emerita at Harvard Medical School. A past president and chair of the board of directors for the American Society of Clinical Oncology, she has also served on the boards of the American Cancer Society and the Prevent Cancer Foundation. Throughout her career, Bertagnolli has championed collaborative efforts to build a learning health system by transforming the data infrastructure for clinical research, including by spearheading the mCODE initiative, which enabled standardized oncology data exchange, and DataCOUNTS, an NIH program managing data to drive a learning health system. Bertagnolli was elected as a member of the NAM in 2021 and is the first woman to serve as its president. She graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree and attended medical school at the University of Utah.

Erwin Gianchandani

Ex Officio Member

Erwin Gianchandani is the assistant director for the NSF's newly established directorate of Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). He previously served as the senior advisor for Translation, Innovation and Partnerships, helping to develop plans for TIP, and as the deputy assistant director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), twice serving as acting assistant director. Before joining NSF in 2012, Gianchandani was the inaugural director of the Computing Community Consortium, where he led the identification and pursuit of high-impact research directions such as health information technology and sustainable computing. Gianchandani holds a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of Virginia. In 2021, Gianchandani received the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, awarded to members of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service for sustained extraordinary accomplishment.

Maureen R. Gwinn

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Maureen Gwinn serves as Acting Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development and as EPA Chief Scientist. She provides executive leadership for the agency's research portfolio and helps ensure that EPA science supports evidence-based decisions that protect human health and the environment.

Gwinn has extensive experience across environmental health and public health research. She earned a BS from Bates College, an MS in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Firas I. Ibrahim

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Firas Ibrahim, PhD, PE, serves as Director of the Office of Research, Development, and Technology at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), and also serves as the Department's Chief Scientific Integrity Officer and Deputy Chief Science Officer.

In these roles, Ibrahim helps set strategic direction and priorities for federal transportation research and technology investments and coordinates oversight to ensure that RD&T activities across the Department are effective, high-quality, and aligned with national needs. Dr. Ibrahim holds Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Pennsylvania.

Nicole C. Kleinstreuer

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer is Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She supports cross-NIH coordination and strategic planning, with a focus on enabling high-impact, ethically grounded biomedical research.

Kleinstreuer is recognized for leadership in developing and applying new approach methodologies (NAMs), computational models, and data-driven tools that improve the prediction of human health outcomes and reduce reliance on animal testing in research and safety evaluation. She received her BS in Bioengineering and Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Canterbury.

Harriet Kung

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Harriet Kung is Deputy Director for Science Programs in the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science. She provides leadership across a broad portfolio of fundamental research programs and helps guide strategic investments in scientific user facilities and discovery science.

Kung is a physicist with experience spanning national laboratories and federal research management. She earned an AB in physics from Cornell University and a PhD in physics from Cornell University.

Tsu-Jae Liu

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Tsu-Jae King Liu is President of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). A distinguished engineer and academic leader, she previously served as Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and has been a faculty member in electrical engineering and computer sciences at Berkeley since 1996.

Liu is renowned for contributions to microelectronics, including co-development of the FinFET transistor design used in leading-edge semiconductor chips. She has authored hundreds of publications and holds numerous U.S. patents. She earned BS, MS, and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

Christina A. Lomasney

Ex Officio Member

Christina Lomasney is director of commercialization at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a role she has held since 2021, where she focuses on industrial partnerships to expand the impact of laboratory science and technology. Prior to joining PNNL, she founded and led technology companies bringing advanced materials and environmental remediation innovations to market. She was founder, president, and chief executive officer of Modumetal, Inc., a company developing nanostructured materials, and earlier founded Isotron Corp., which developed technologies for large-scale decontamination and environmental restoration.

Her professional background is in technology innovation and commercialization, with expertise in materials science and electrochemistry and experience advancing technologies from research to application. She has worked with industry and government partners to deploy materials and environmental technologies in domestic and international settings.

Lomasney was named one of Fortune’s World’s Most Promising Women Entrepreneurs in 2015. She currently serves by gubernatorial appointment on the board of the Joint Center for Deployment and Research in Earth Abundant Materials and holds additional advisory and mentoring roles with industry and academic organizations.

She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physics from the University of Washington. She previously served as a member of the planning committee for GUIRR at 40: Reimagining the Triple Helix of Innovation, Investments, and Partnerships.

Neil H. Shubin

Ex Officio Member

Neil H. Shubin is an evolutionary biologist and the president of the National Academy of Sciences. A renowned scientist, educator, author, and science communicator, Shubin most recently served as the Robert R. Bensley Distinguished Service Professor of Organismal Biology and Anatomy and vice dean for academic advancement at the University of Chicago, where he led a dynamic multidisciplinary research laboratory that has integrated breakthroughs in paleontology with an understanding of the molecular biology of development. He has also held faculty and senior leadership posts at the University of Pennsylvania, the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and the Field Museum in Chicago. Shubin has led fossil-hunting expeditions around the world. In 2004, his multidisciplinary team found a fossil representing an intermediate body plan between fish and amphibians, which they named Tiktaalik. In 2008, Shubin published his critically acclaimed book Your Inner Fish, a national bestseller that received the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science and was recognized by the National Academy of Sciences as the best science book of the year. Shubin has received numerous distinctions and honors, including the Roy Chapman Andrews Society Distinguished Explorer Award in 2019 and the 2024 Viktor Hamburger Outstanding Educator Prize. Shubin earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Columbia College of Columbia University in 1982 and a Ph.D. in organismic and evolutionary biology from Harvard University in 1987. He did his postdoctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley.

Sterling Thomas

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Sterling Thomas is Chief Scientist at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He leads GAO's science and technology capabilities that support rigorous, evidence-based oversight for the U.S. Congress.

Thomas brings experience across academia, government, and the private sector, with a career focused on applying scientific and technical expertise to complex public-sector challenges. Sterling earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Integrated Life Sciences from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master's in business administration from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science from Old Dominion University.

Steve Thur

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Steve Thur serves as Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and performs the duties of NOAA Chief Scientist. He oversees research at NOAA's laboratories and programs that advance understanding of weather, climate, oceans, and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Thur previously served as Director of NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and held other leadership roles in NOAA focused on applying science to manage and conserve marine resources. He earned a PhD in marine policy from the University of Delaware and bachelor's degrees in Biology and Economics from St. Mary's College of Maryland.