

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

USM Board of Regents
Committee on Economic Development & Technology Commercialization
November 30, 2023
Zoom

AGENDA FOR OPEN SESSION**1:00 p.m.****Call to Order****Isiah Legget**

1. [Renewing Committee Charge](#)
2. [Research and Economic Development Roundup -- Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development Michele Masucci](#)
 - Carnegie Classification Changes
 - EDA Tech Hub Designation
 - National Academy of Inventors Rankings
3. [Update on University of Maryland-Institute for Health Computing – Co-Director Sujal Bista PhD, Co-Director Bradley Maron PhD, and Vice President for Research Gregory Ball](#)
4. [Momentum Fund Update – Mike Ravenscroft](#)
 - Venture Fellows Update
5. [Launch Fund Update – Executive Director of Economic Development Lindsay Ryan](#)

Renewing Committee Charge



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

Board of Regents
Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization
November 30, 2023

Charge:

The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization shall provide strategic leadership for the USM's research, economic development, technology commercialization, innovation, and entrepreneurial initiatives, programs, and policies.

Role and Responsibilities:

The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization shall consider and report or recommend to the Board of Regents on matters concerning economic development and technology commercialization, innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives, and research, including translational research and technology transfer.

Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization are appointed annually by the Chairperson of the Board. The Committee shall meet as needed, but no fewer than four times during the fiscal year.

Created in July 2011 in recognition of the increasing importance of translational research, entrepreneurship and innovation, and the supply of skilled workers in STEM fields for the State of Maryland, the Committee, working with the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, may expect to receive information for review in order to consider, and/or act on any of the following matters:

- A. Aligning resources with market demand
- B. Leveraging USM resources through collaborations
- C. Enhancing partnerships with industry, state, and federal entities
- D. Strengthening the USM Research and Innovation ecosystem, including engaging with research funding and commercialization partners, enhancing research administration and compliance infrastructure, and fostering excellence in scholarship, research, creative, and innovation
- E. Strengthening the USM entrepreneurial ecosystem, including engaging the investment community and enhance access to capital for USM affiliated startups and innovators

2. Research and Economic Development Roundup -- Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development Michele Masucci

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Board of Regents Committee on Economic Development
and Technology Commercialization

Update

November 30, 2023



Agenda

1. Renewing Committee Charge
 2. Research and Economic Development Roundup
 - Carnegie Classification Changes
 - EDA Tech Hub Designation
 - National Academy of Inventors Rankings
 3. Update on Maryland Institute for Health Computing
 4. Momentum Fund Update – Venture Fellows Update
 5. Launch Fund Update
- Q and A

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization Charge update:

- Recommendation to continue use of current charge, updated in December 2022
- The December 2022 update reflected development of new Office of Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, with new charge:

“The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization shall provide strategic leadership for the USM's research, economic development, technology commercialization, innovation, and entrepreneurial initiatives, programs, and policies.”

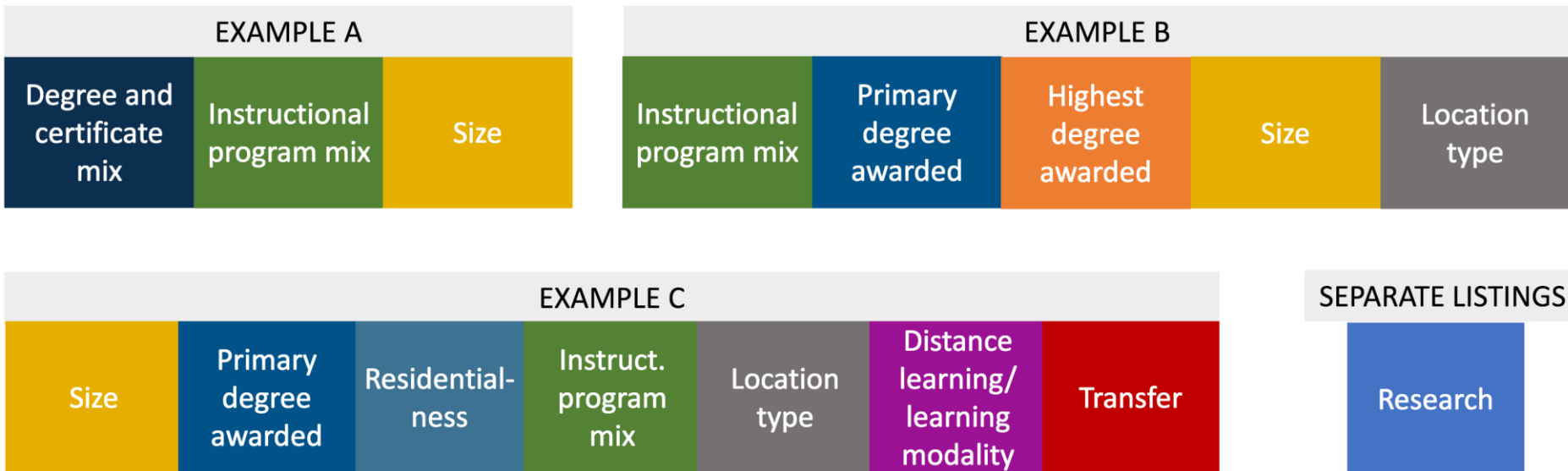
- The charge expanded focus to include research and related initiatives, programs, and policies and has led to refinement of charge for other committees that previously included research oversight

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education Changes

- American Council on Education (ACE) has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the classification system
- Introduced a revision to the rankings in November 2023 that will go into effect in 2025
- These include two basic changes and one proposed change:
 - Shift of Basic Classification to multidimensional characterization
 - Changes to research designation methodology – including new research designation and more transparent criteria for research characterization
 - Proposed new Social and Economic Mobility Characterization to advance equitable, learner centric outcomes – More here:

<https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/22-0711-Carnegie-Fact-Sheet-update.pdf>

Potential application of multi-dimensional basic classification in 2025



Potentially use different characteristics based on primary degree awarded

Source: <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Carnegie-Classifications-Updates-Slide-Deck.pdf>

New Research Classification Categories

Research 1: Very High Research Spending and Doctorate Production

- Spent at least **\$50 million** in total R&D in a year, as reported to the NSF HERD Survey

AND

- Awarded at least **70 research/scholarship doctorates** in a year, as reported to IPEDS

Research 2: High Research Spending and Doctorate Production

- Spent at least **\$5 million** in total R&D in a year, as reported to the NSF HERD Survey

AND

- Awarded at least **20 research/scholarship doctorates** in a year, as reported to IPEDS

Research Colleges and Universities

- Spent at least **\$2.5 million** in total R&D in a year, as reported to the NSF HERD Survey
- *Does not include institutions designated R1 or R2*

For the 2025 classifications, institutions will receive the higher of either:

- Three-year average (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Most recent single year (2023)

Source: <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Carnegie-Classifications-Updates-Slide-Deck.pdf>

Potential Impacts for USM:

- More nuanced characterization of institutions based on mix of programs, students served, locational setting, and impacts
- More streamlined research categories to reflect doctoral degrees granted, research funding, and scale
 - Decoupling of research productivity from range and breadth of graduate degrees offered
 - Research designation applicable to all institutions with more than \$2.5 Million in research expenditures
 - Research 1 designation decoupled from “Comprehensive institution” characterization, leading to potential for new R1 institutions in the system
 - Research 2 designation within reach of multiple USM institutions that meet at least one of current criteria
- Potential recognition for social and economic mobility based on student outcomes

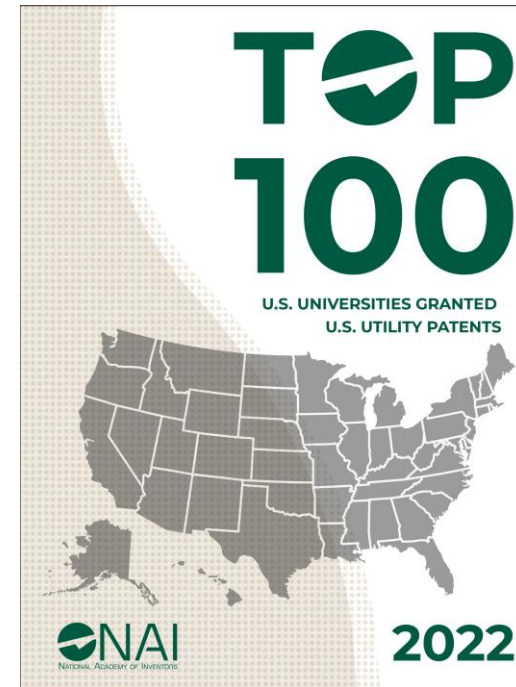
EDA Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Designation for Greater Baltimore in AI and Biotechnology – October 23, 2023

- Greater Baltimore Committee led effort to be designated as an EDA Tech Hub, creating eligibility for funding to support intersection of AI and biotechnology aimed at improving health outcomes by developing new medicines and therapies.
- Hubs are meant to catalyze the advancement of critical technology ecosystems through job creation and retention, leveraging capital investments, and stimulating the growth and development of businesses.
- Phase 1 - Designation as a Hub
- Phase 2 - Propose program concept and funding requests for component projects aimed at removing barriers for regional ascent to global competitiveness in core technology focus area; due Feb 29, 2024

More here: <https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/baltimore-federal-tech-hub-program-funding-artificial-intelligence-biotech/>

National Academy of Inventors

- In August 2023, the **University System of Maryland** was designated **25th** in the U.S. based on the number of patents filed in 2022
- The National Academy of Inventors is a member organization comprising U.S. and international universities; governmental agencies; and non-profit research institutes with over 4,600 individual members, including Fellows, Senior Members, and Chapter Members, affiliated with more than 300 institutions worldwide
- The Top 100 Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents in 2022 report was released in August by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) using data obtained from the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)



More here: <https://academyofinventors.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/8.30.23-Top-100-U.S.pdf>

3. MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH COMPUTING

Greg Ball, PhD, Vice President for Research UMCP,
UMB

Sujal Bista, PhD, Co-Director UM-IHC, UMD

Bradley Maron, MD, Senior Associate Dean for
Precision Medicine and Co-Director UM-IHC, UMSOM

Warren D'Souza, PhD, VP Enterprise Data and
Analytics, UMMS

11-30-2023



4. MOMENTUM FUND

Mike Ravenscroft
Managing Director
University System of Maryland

11-30-2023



5. LAUNCH FUND

Lindsay Ryan

Executive Director for Economic Development

University System of Maryland

11-30-2023



4. Q and A

Contact OVCRED

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UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

**3. Update on University of Maryland-Institute for Health Computing
– Co-Director Sujal Bista PhD, Co-Director Bradley Maron PhD, and
Vice President for Research Gregory Ball**

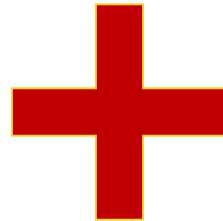


UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**INSTITUTE FOR
HEALTH COMPUTING**
MPOWERING THE STATE

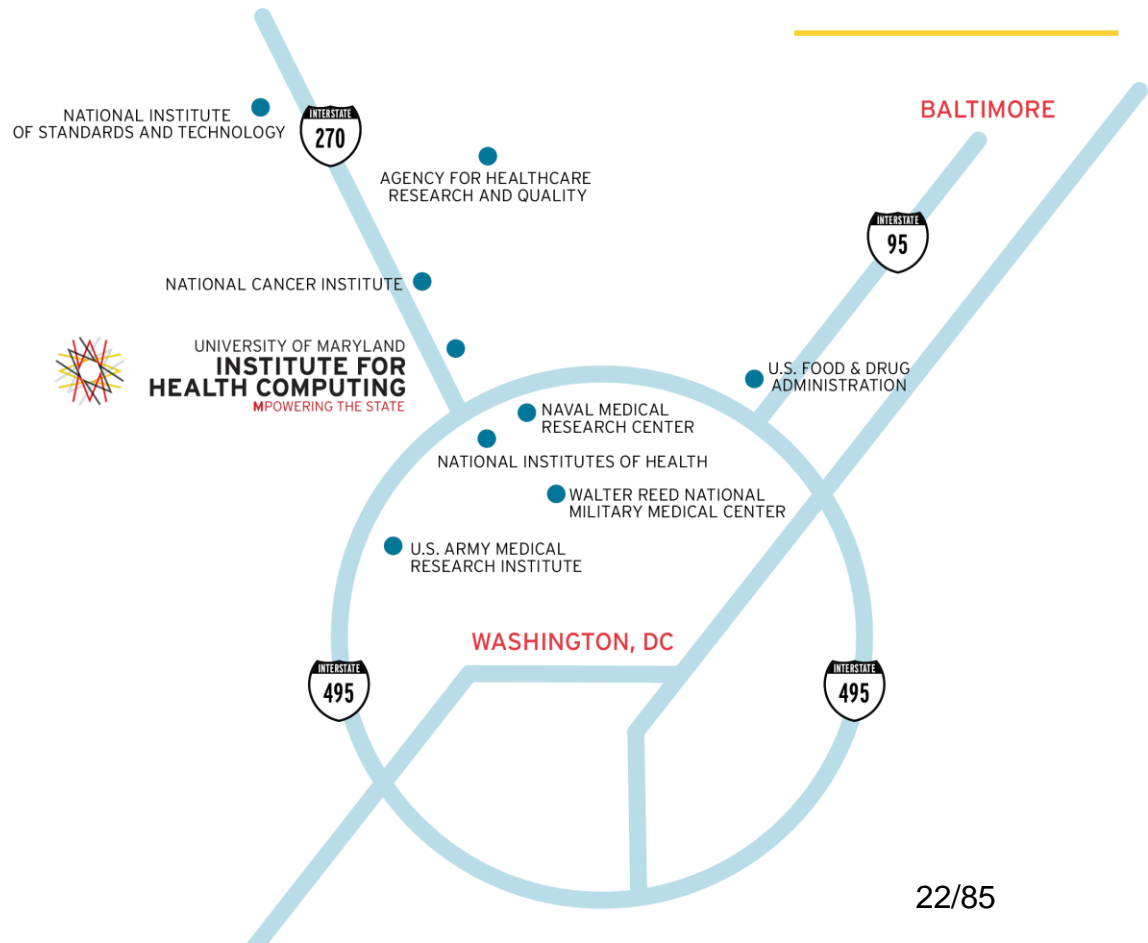
Sujal Bista, PhD
UMD

Bradley A. Maron, MD
UMSOM

MOU SIGNED IN NOVEMBER 2022



MONTGOMERY COUNTY LOCATION



Federal Agencies

NIH, FDA, NIST, NCI, etc.

Industry

300+ Biotech companies

Talent

40K+ Biotech workers in Maryland

Academia

Montgomery College and
The Universities at Shady Grove

INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS



**Computing and Data Science
Computational Infrastructure**

**School of Medicine
Learning Health System**

**16 Medical Centers
2M Patients 17M patient encounters**

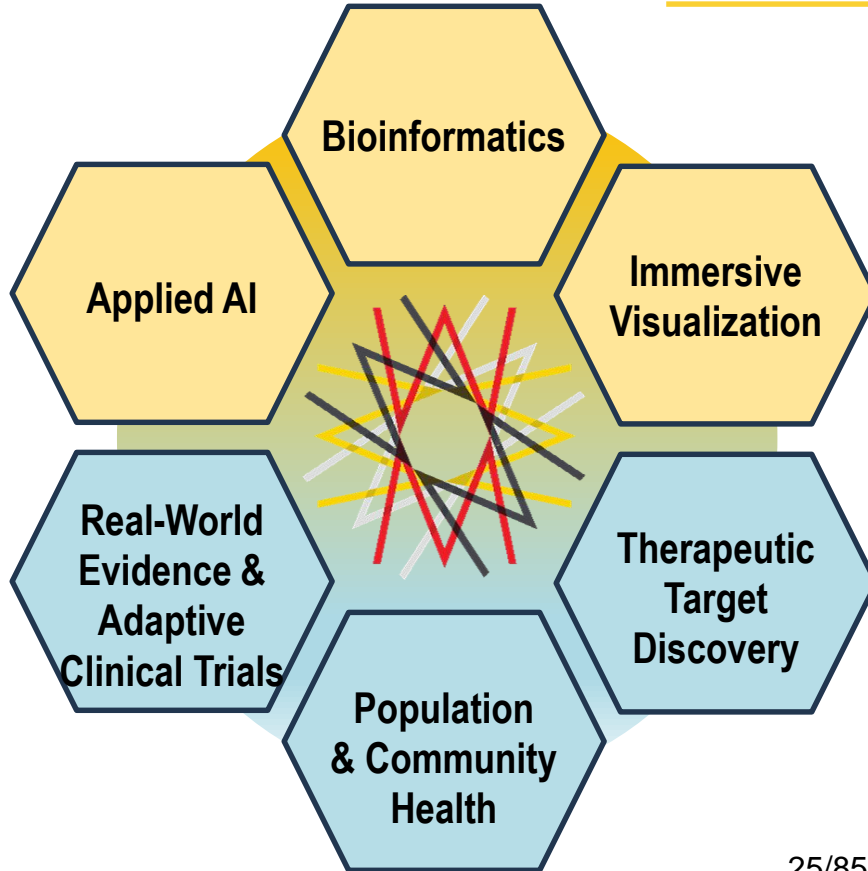


GOALS

- Economic development and placemaking in Montgomery County
- Be an asset to the biotech industry in Montgomery County
- Develop and deploy computational tools that improve human health
- Bring together academia, industry, and federal agencies to collaborate and innovate



RESEARCH AREAS

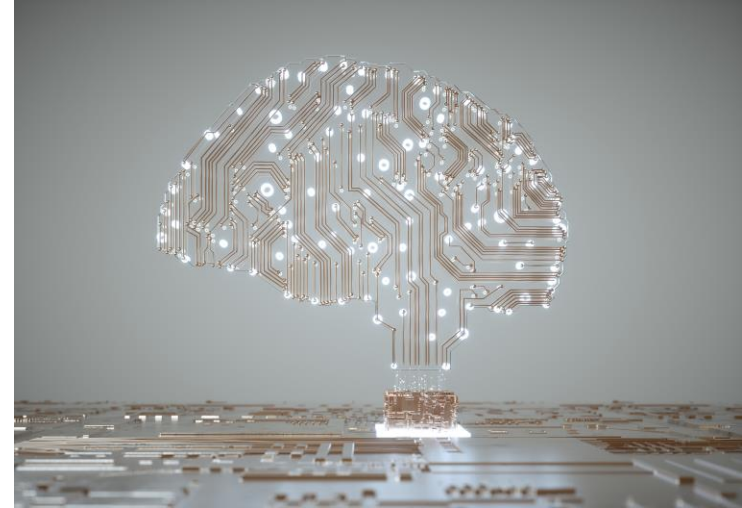


APPLIED AI

Develop AI tools to mitigate bias, promote fairness and explainability in decision-making

Use machine learning to identify hidden patterns and relations in data

- Patient health records
- Medical device data
- Bio-monitoring wearable data



BIOINFORMATICS

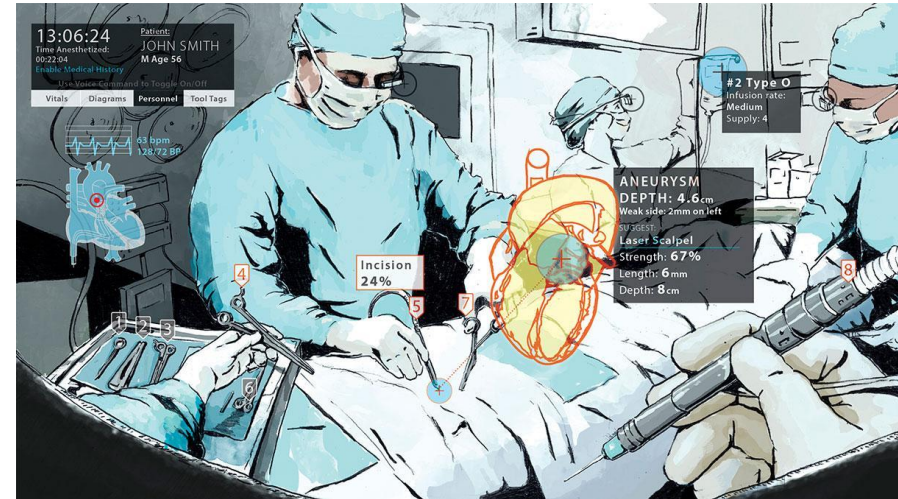
- Harmonize and analyze data to create multi-omics data sets to advance systems biology and clinical analytics
- UMD already has a very strong bioinformatics research program and software used in the industry



IMMERSIVE VISUALIZATION

Develop augmented and virtual reality tools for health care scenarios

- Scientific, medical, information visualization
- Visual knowledge discovery
- Remote medical assessment
- Training tools



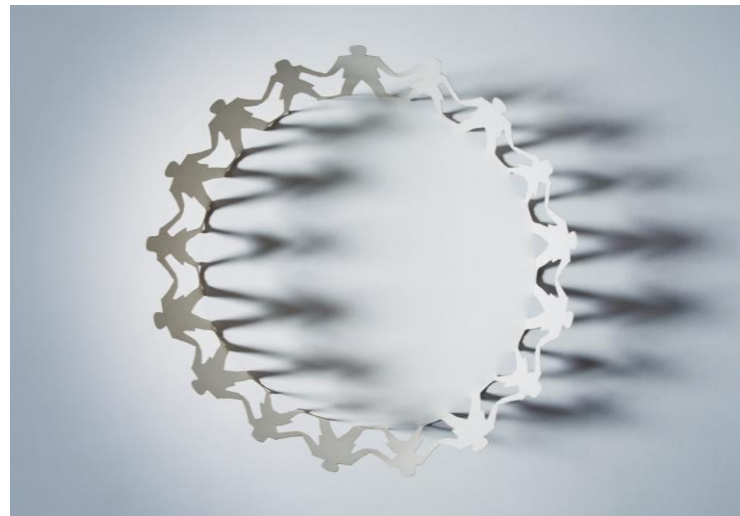
REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE AND ADAPTIVE CLINICAL TRIALS

- Develop and deploy an adaptive platform that identifies patients that can benefit and limits the risk of a patient receiving a treatment that does not work
- Leverage the electronic health records to conduct community-based studies that broaden access to participation



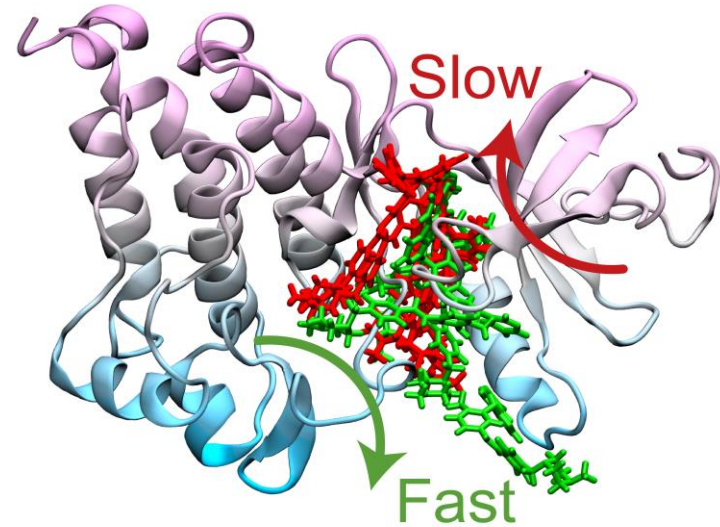
POPULATION AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Identify early signs of disease from electronic health records that enable early intervention
- Address fairness in training data and software tools to reduce disparities due to race, gender, and socioeconomic status



THERAPEUTIC TARGET DISCOVERY

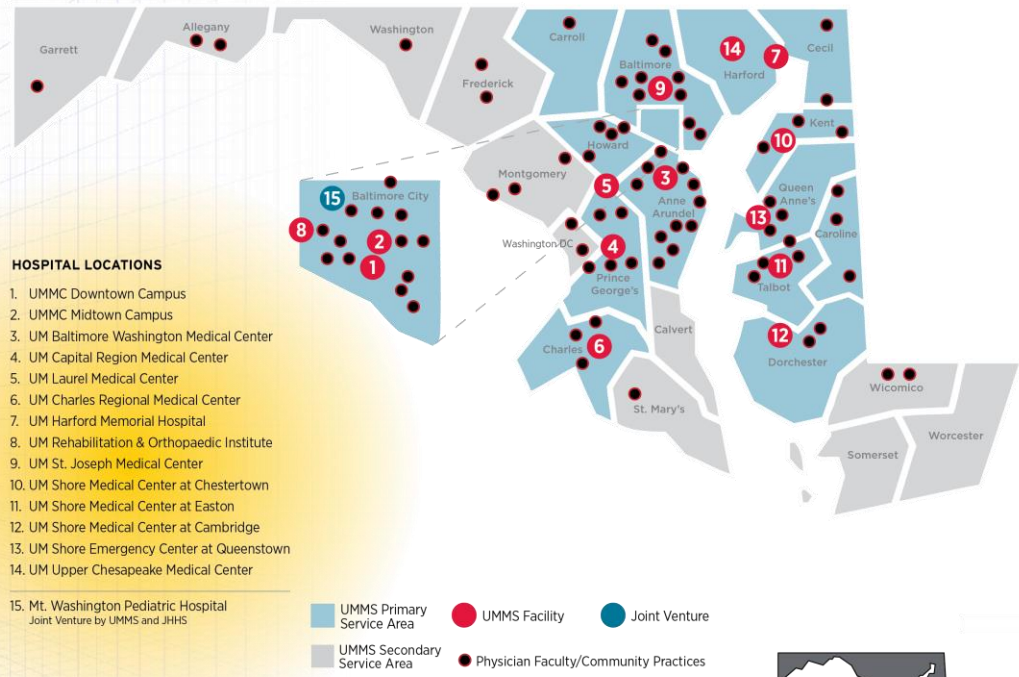
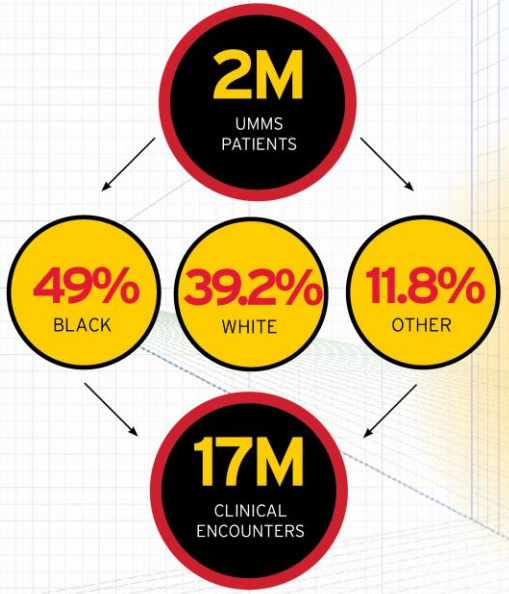
- Identify novel therapeutic targets
- Apply data science to chemical assay results and biospecimen data
- Develop real-time algorithms, software systems and toolkits that ingest, filter, visualize, and analyze multiple interacting data streams



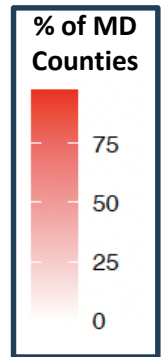
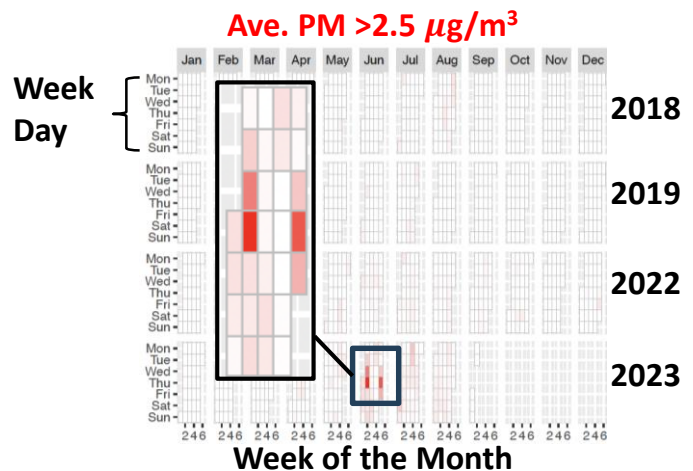
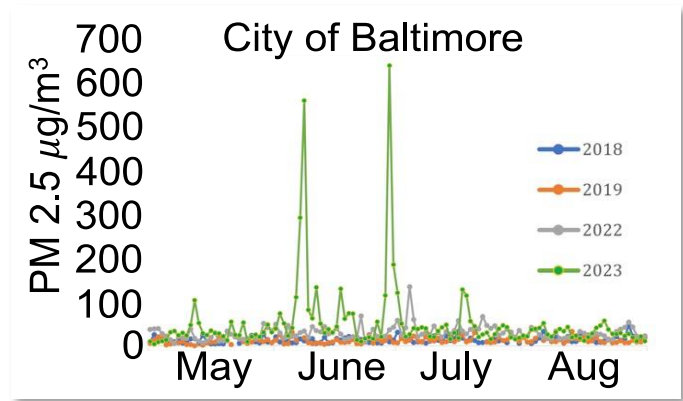
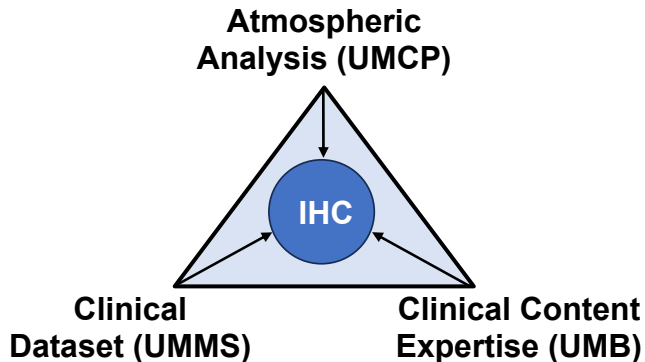
UMMS is Rare: A State-Wide and Diverse Health System

A Network Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts

UMMS provides care to 2 million unique and diverse patients across Maryland.



MODEL OF SUCCESS: EARLY EXAMPLE



>1 Million Individual Data Points

Age	Sex and Race	Heart-Lung Clinical Encounters: Hotspots vs.	
Date Discharge	Length of Stay		
Hospital	Date admission		
Geolocation	Chest X-ray Use		
		June 2023	+32%
		2018+19	+38%

MODEL OF SUCCESS: EARLY EXAMPLE

- **Current Goals:**
 - Optimizing analyses
 - Geolocalize affected patients, assess for health equity trends
 - Build models to quantitate economic impact for future planning
- **Next-Step Goals:**
 - Use data science to build predictive models (Abba Gumel, Ph.D.)
 - Establish [preventative](#) strategies to deploy resources for future events
- **Intermediate-Range Goals:**
 - Approach Dept. of Public Health to address [policy](#) opportunities
 - Build [business model](#) for evidence-based ‘AQI detection-deployment’
e.g., Target high-risk patients for ‘mail-out inhaler’ program



DECONSTRUCTING BARRIERS TO CARE

UM-IHC: Bringing Health Care *to* the People

CURRENT MODEL

Sick patients seek out health



- Limits Access to Care
- Favors Health Inequity
- Imprecise, ↓Outcomes
- Slow, stagnate, costly

UM-IHC MODEL

Bringing healthcare to patients.

Enabled by data science:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Bioinformatics
- Immersive Reality
- Other Digital Health Technologies

ANALYZE | INNOVATE | PREVENT | TREAT | ADAPT



MARYLAND
INSTITUTE FOR
HEALTH COMPUTING
EMPOWERING THE STATE

AUTOMATING REFERRAL TO AN EXPERT



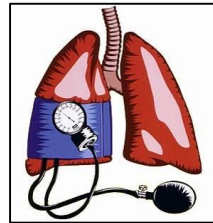
Yesterday



Today

Pulmonary Hypertension

- Ultra-silent killer
- >81,000 publications
- Evolved expertise



- ↓
- Internist
 - ↓
 - Lung doctor
 - ↓
 - Lung vascular doctor
 - ↓
 - Pulmonary hypertension expert



AUTOMATING REFERRAL TO AN EXPERT



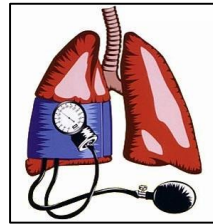
Yesterday



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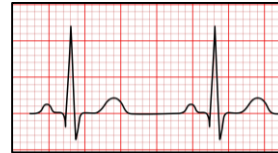
- Internist
- Lung doctor
- Lung vascular doctor
- Pulmonary hypertension expert

“No physician can diagnose a condition [she or] he never thinks about.”

-Michael DeBakey, American Cardiac Surgeon

- Common Medical Tests
- Diverse Indications

12-Lead ECG



Cardiac Imaging



Deep Learning

Identify **Hidden** Patterns that Diagnose Patients at ↑Clinical Risk

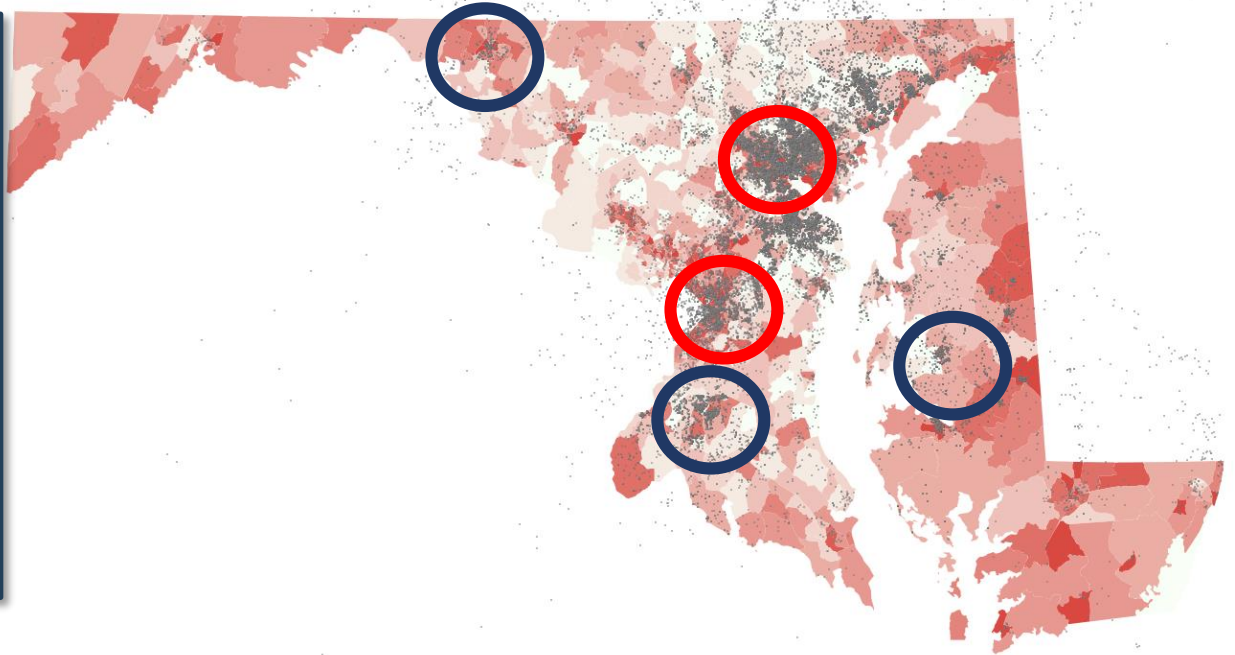
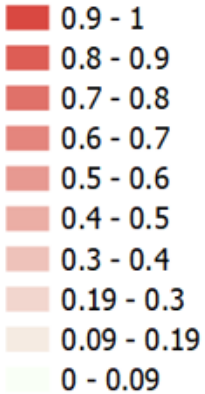


Automated Referral to a Specialist

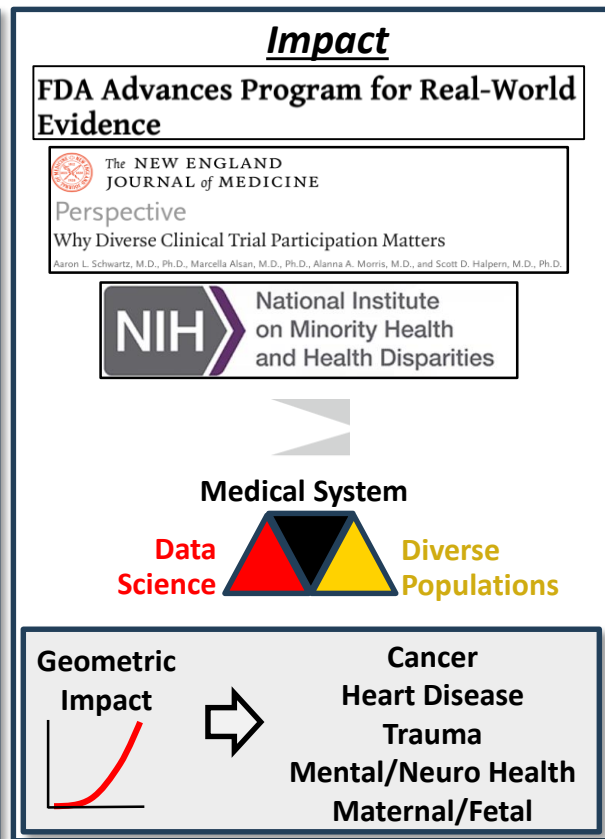
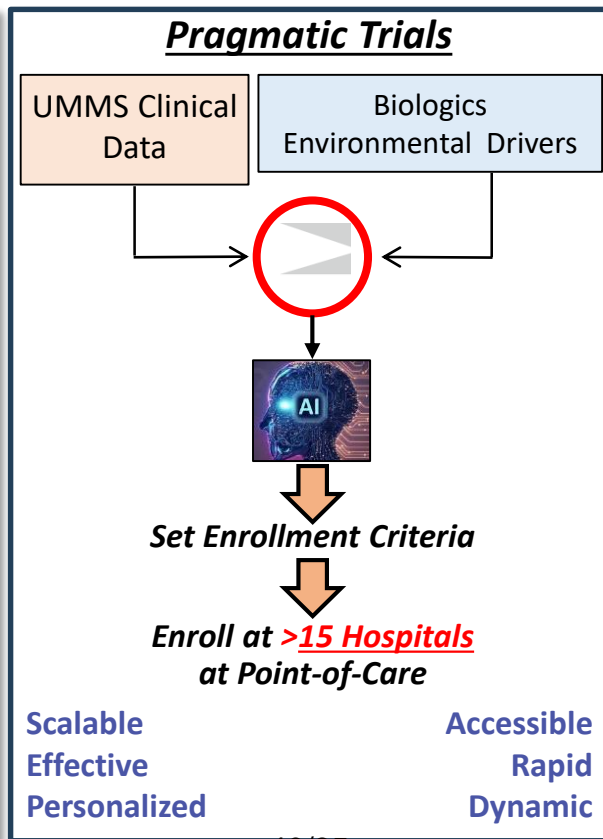
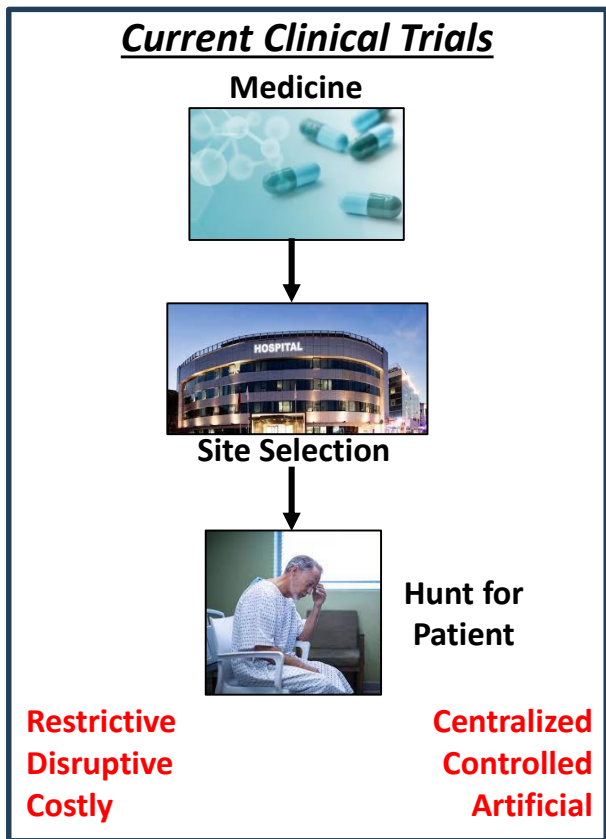
FIXING PROBLEMS AT SCALE AT IHC

Geolocalization of Patients At-Risk for Pulmonary Hypertension

Social Vulnerability Index



ADVANCING REAL-WORLD DATA



HIGH TECH ECONOMIC HUB

- Advance research in computing and life sciences as a driving force for economic development
- Develop skilled talent
- Strong collaboration with industry and federal agencies
- Community building events, classes, and workshops
- Support for start-ups
- Attract companies
- Grow supercluster



PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES



First founding partner

PI: Sujal Bista

Grant: \$750K for one year

Location: IHC, North Bethesda

Research Area

- AI-enabled data analytics
- Medical Visualization
- Immersive medic to treat pain and addiction

USD **11.3 BN**
FY23 REVENUE

OVER **1,400**
ACTIVE GLOBAL CLIENTS

OVER **250,000**
DEDICATED EMPLOYEES

WE'RE PRESENT IN **66**
COUNTRIES

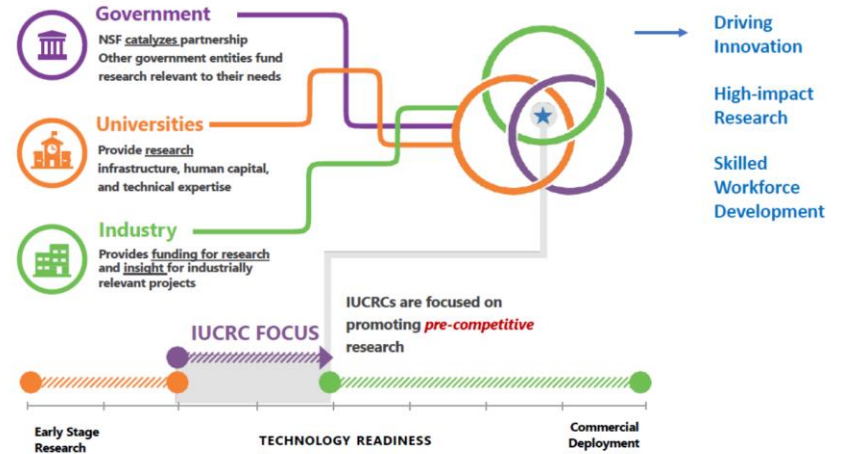
A PROUD HISTORY OF OVER
75
YEARS

The infographic box is a white rectangle with a thin black border. It contains five lines of text, each with a large, bold number and a smaller, orange-colored label below it. The background of the slide behind the box features a pattern of overlapping circles in shades of purple, pink, and blue.

PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES



Industry-University Cooperative Research Center (IUCRC)



PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES

Funded

Prevalence and Burden of Pulmonary Hypertension

— *Cardiovascular Medical Research and Education Foundation*

Developing InnoVative Equity-focused Regulatory Science (DIVERSE)

— *Food and Drug Administration (Partnership with PATIENTS Program)*

Likely Funded

Pharmacological Management of Diabetes with Chronic Kidney Disease

— *National Institutes of Health (Partnership with University of Miami)*

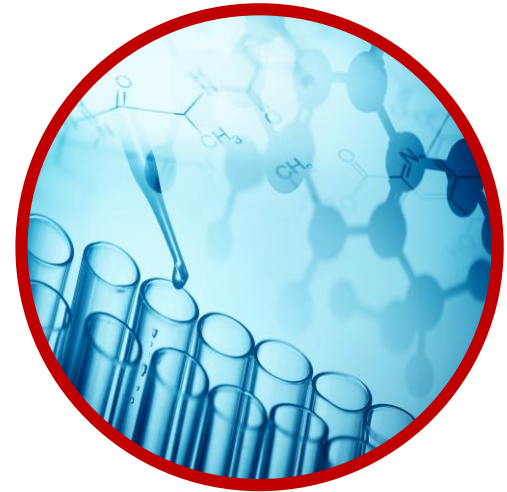
Pragmatic Trials to Treat Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension

— *Philanthropic Donor*

Submitted or in Preparation

Individualizing the Management of Obesity

— *Pharma*



PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

Preparing Physicians for the Clinical Algorithm Era

Katherine E. Goodman, J.D., Ph.D., Adam M. Rodman, M.D., M.P.H., and Daniel J. Morgan, M.D.

BMJ Journals

bmjmedicine

**Advances in the Management
of Type 2 Diabetes**

Galindo RJ, Trujillo J, Low Wang CC,
McCoy R. 2023, In press.

**American Journal of Respiratory
and Critical Care Medicine**

Pulmonary Hypertension: A Contemporary Review

Shelsey Johnson^{1,2*}, Natascha Sommer^{4*}, Katherine Cox-Flaherty^{5*},
Norbert Weissmann⁴, Corey E. Ventetuolo⁶ and Bradley A. Maron^{3,7}

Circulation

**Bleeding and Myocardial Infarction in Acquired Factor
VIII Deficiency**

Kim J, Stern R, Maron BA. 2023 In press.

CHEST[®] JOURNAL

Automated CT-Based Quantification of Pulmonary Veins

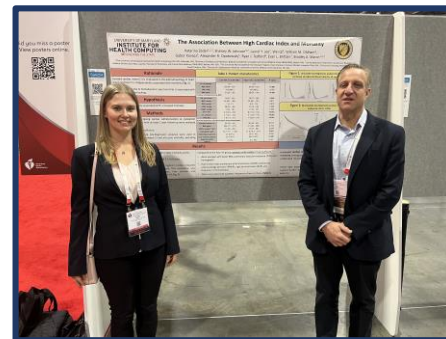
Synn A...Maron BA...Rahaghi F. In press 2023

Manuscript in Preparation

**Building A Statewide Learning Health System:
Advancing Health Equity at Scale**

Authors: *from the UM-IHC*

**American Heart
Association**



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**INSTITUTE FOR
HEALTH COMPUTING**
EMPOWERING THE STATE

CURRENT STATUS

- **Lease Signed:** 27,000 sq. ft. space, adjacent to NIH, FDA, NCI
- **Recruits:** 21 Faculty and staff members, 3 Students and trainees, 3 Extramural collaborator groups
- **Partners:** Cardiovascular Medical Foundation, NIH, FDA, WiPro
- **Active Projects:** 10
- **Research Grants**
 - \$15 million to the CDC (submitted)
 - \$750K from WiPro (funded)
 - \$500K to a Top-15 Pharma company (submitted)
 - \$400K to a Philanthropic donor (submitted)
 - \$300K to the Cardiovascular Medical Research and Education Foundation (funded)
 - \$250K to the FDA (submitted)
 - \$100K to the NIH (submitted)



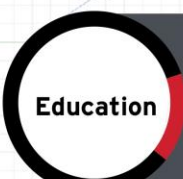



6116 Executive Boulevard, North Bethesda, MD



Return on Investment

The First Five Years

 Recruits	1 FACULTY MEMBER	Generates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1M/year in grants and contracts• \$19K/year in state and local tax revenue	Multipliers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hires research staff and programmers• Found a new company• Generates licensing revenue for novel intellectual property
 Innovation	Montgomery County (BIO)TECH COMPANY	Generates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$19M in venture capital funding• 45 new jobs	Multipliers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attracts established firms to an area rich with startup energy• Provides internship and employment opportunities for students and alumni
 Education	1 STUDENT	Generates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$11,000/year in tuition• \$22,000/year in rent and local spending	Multipliers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhances hiring pool for local companies• Remains in Maryland and builds the tax base
 Research Infrastructure	1 CLINICAL TRIAL	Generates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1M in pharmaceutical funding• Supports the employment of 20+ people	Multipliers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early access to novel therapeutics for historically underrepresented populations• FDA drug approvals for Maryland-based pharmaceutical companies



POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS



UMD ALUMNI EVENT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY – JUNE 2023



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Key to success: Unified Collaboration

Avoid over-programming a vertical hierarchy: Stunts creativity and slows progress

Build projects that leverage UMD-UMB-UMMS

Be highly productive:

Academics, Innovation, Entrepreneurship

Try to have fun 😊 while doing it...!





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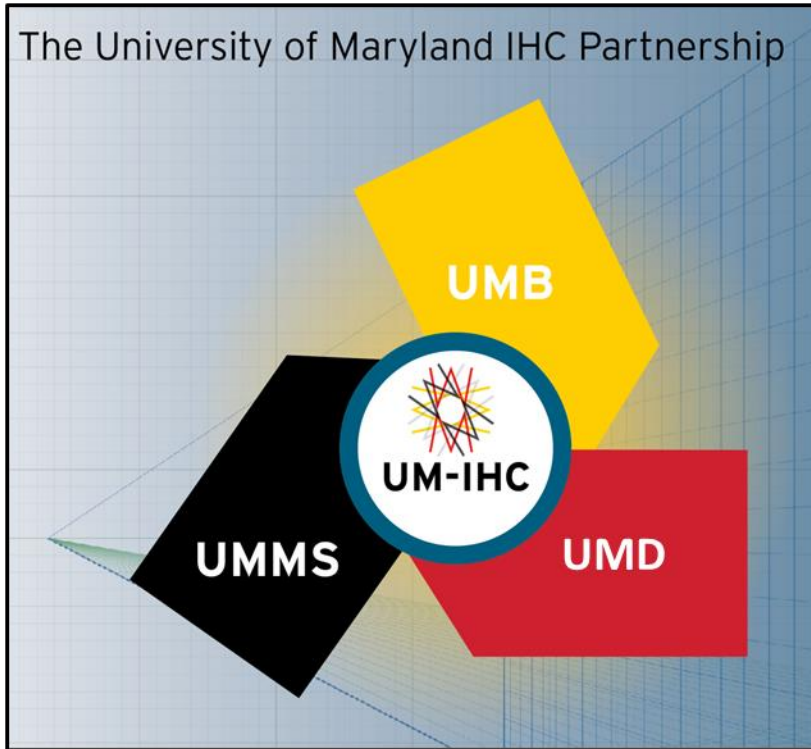
Sujal Bista, PhD
UMD

Bradley A. Maron, MD
UMSOM

EXTRA SLIDES



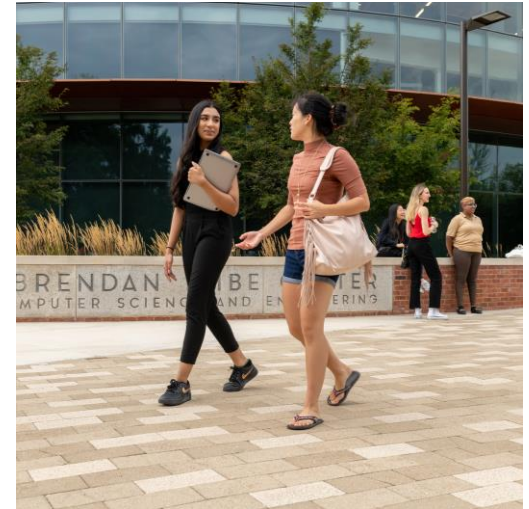
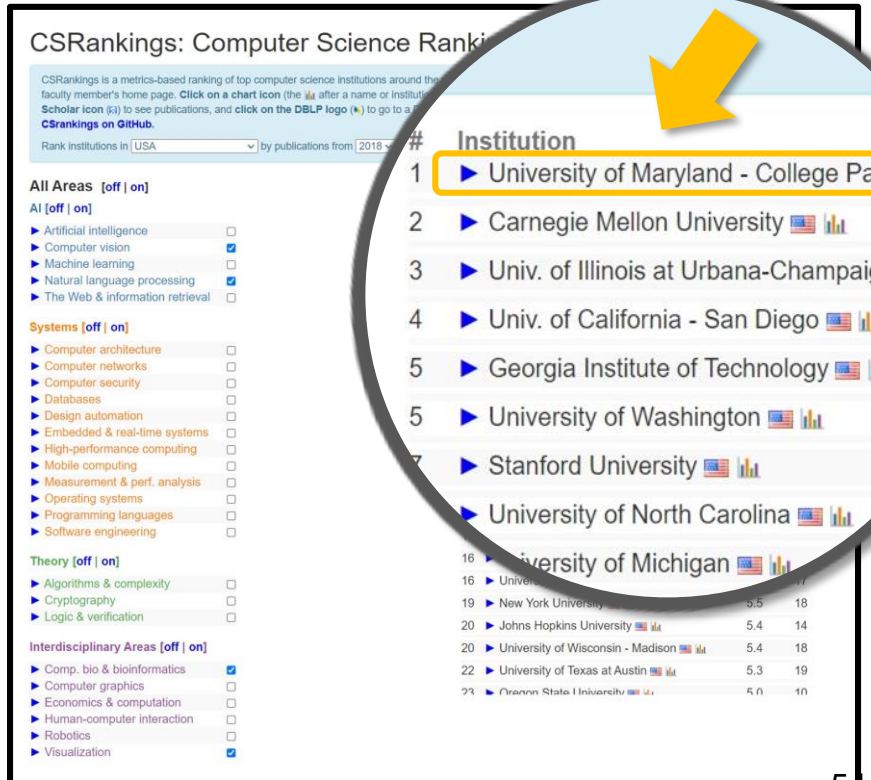
A NOVEL CONVERGENCE POINT



- Centralize collaboration
- Ethos: “Sum is greater than individual parts”
- Deconstruct Silos and Historical Barriers to Progress
- Build a Wall of Success



UMD IS #1 IN APPLIED AI, BIOINFORMATICS, VR/AR



OFFICE LOCATION: 6116 EXECUTIVE BLVD, NORTH BETHESDA

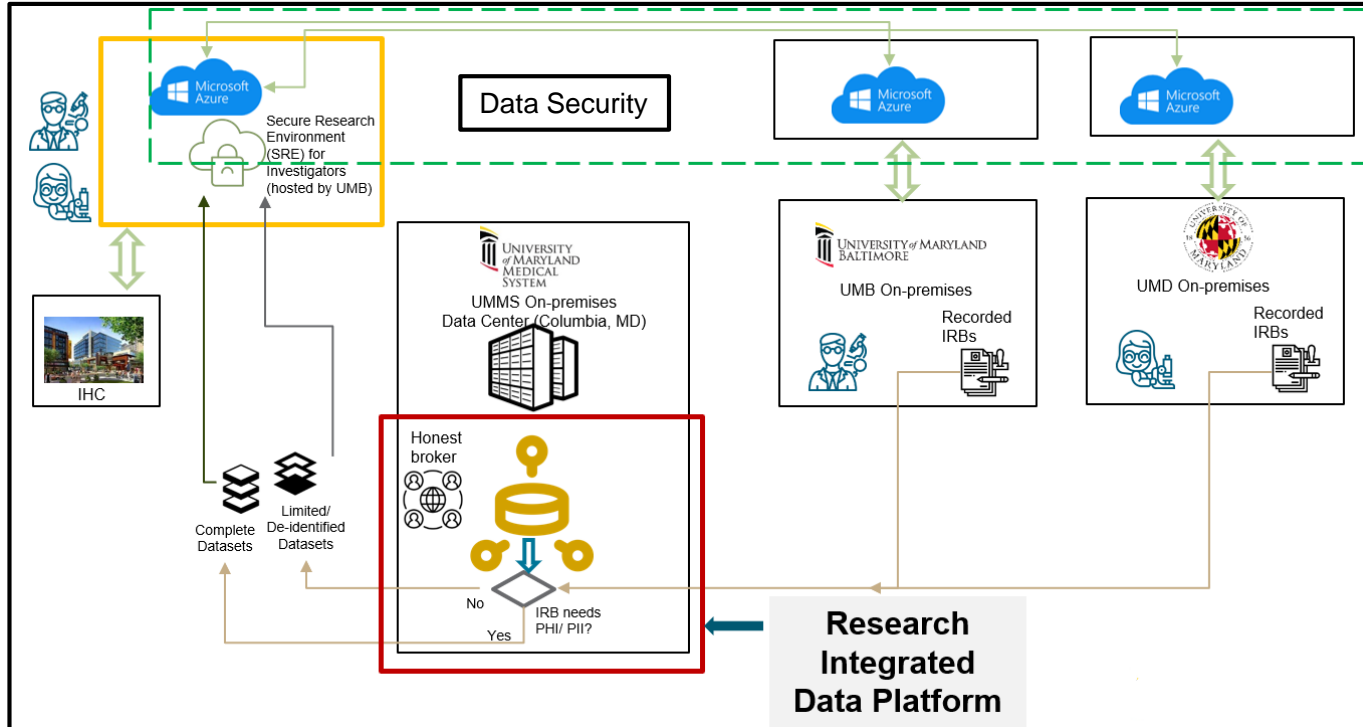


MOVE-IN PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 2023



IHC: AMPLIFYING ANALYTICAL POWER

Build out



Benefits

Function

- ↑↑ Project Capacity
- ↑↑ Project Complexity
- ↑↑ Productivity of IHC
- ↑↑ Innovation at IHC
- ↑↑ Personnel at IHC

Access Points

- IHC
 - ↑↑ Speed
 - ↑↑ Throughput
- UMB, campus wide
- UMCP, campus wide



USING THE LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES



- Integrate clinical and operational data to identify successes and quality improvement opportunities.
- Devise novel approaches to diagnosis, treatment, and delivery of care.
- Gather and observe data as practice trends rollout.
- Translate knowledge and evidence into practice improvements.

LUNG CANCER

More access to care.

Better quality of life.

Increased longevity.

Use Computational Sciences to:

Anticipate Disease > Detect Early > Proactive Screen > Save Lives



ON-SITE ENGAGEMENT AT IHC

- Workstations
 - Graphics
 - AI

Momentum Fund Update – Mike Ravenscroft

Maryland Momentum Fund

USM Venture Fellows Program

Prepared for:
USM Board of Regents - Committee on Economic Development
and Technology Commercialization



Presented By:
Mike
Ravenscroft
Managing
Director



Our North Star:

Equip USM students with the skills, connections, and professional experience they need to build careers in venture capital.



About me:

Managing Director, Maryland Momentum Fund
University of Maryland, College Park MBA '21
Consulting, accelerators, venture capital



INTRODUCTION

THE PROBLEM

There are few opportunities for USM students to gain exposure to venture capital. As a result, the industry remains insular and difficult to access.

THE SOLUTION

Create a robust regional talent pipeline using the Maryland Momentum Fund's network of VCs and our access to the USM talent pool.

VENTURE FELLOWS

The University System of Maryland's Inaugural Venture Fellows Program will select talented undergraduated and graduate students, educate and train the fellows on the foundations of venture capital, and match them with top-tier funds for summer internships.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

OUR MISSION:

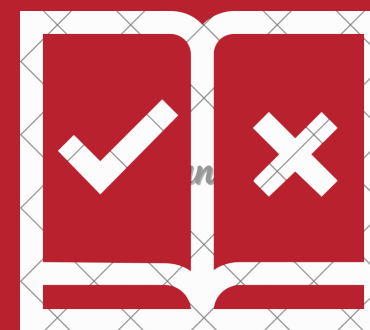
Empower students of all backgrounds to enter and explore the venture capital and early-stage finance industries confidently and fearlessly.

GOAL



Serve as a critical talent pipeline for venture funds in the Mid-Atlantic and beyond, providing USM students an on-ramp to enter the industry.

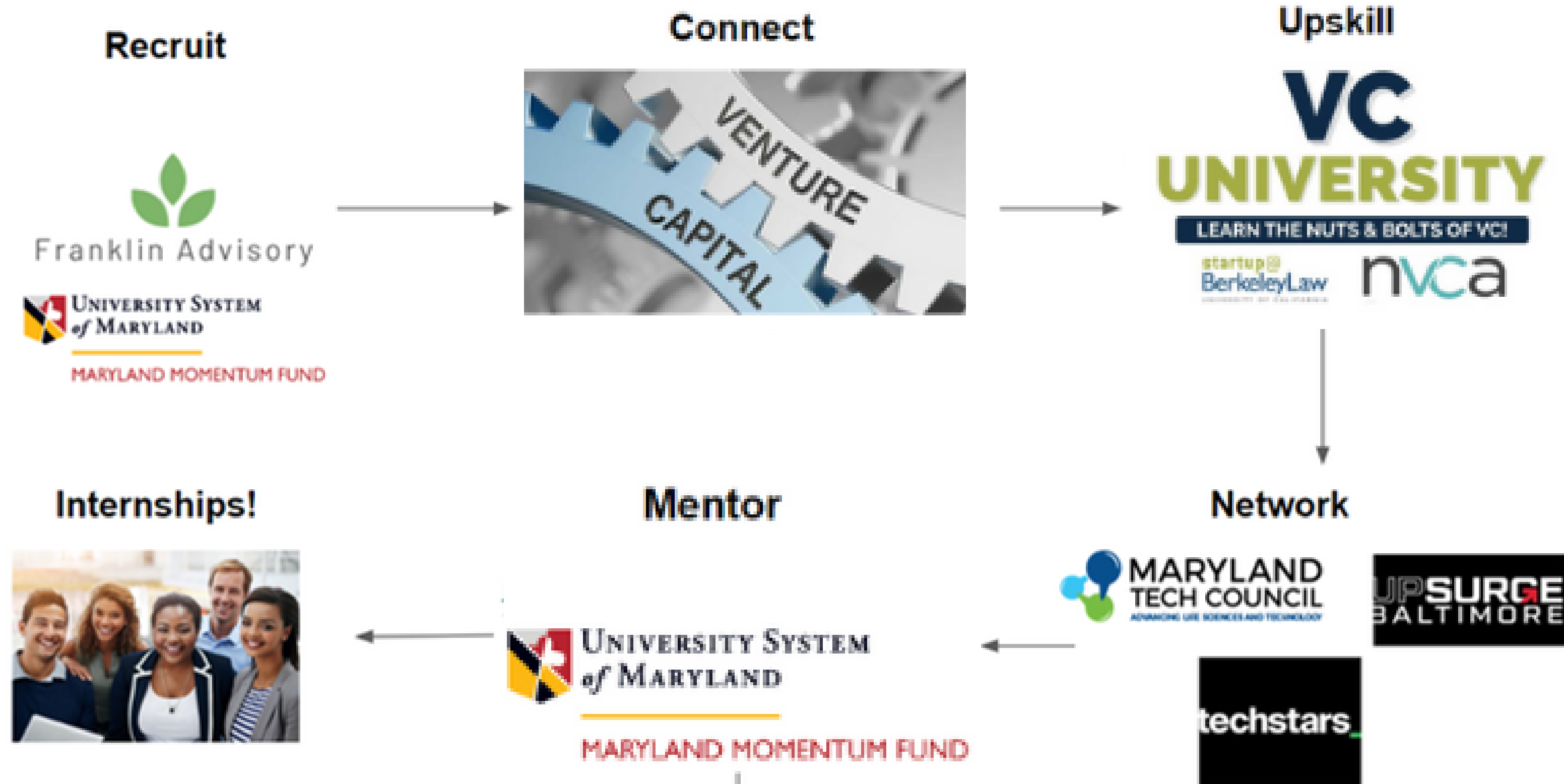
PROGRAMS



The Venture Fellows Program consists of three phases: Applications and Matching, Educating & Training, and mentorship through their Summer Internship.

The USM Venture Fellows Program

How it Works:



APPLICATION & PROGRAM TIMELINE





How are we doing so far?

20 venture funds, angel groups, and accelerators committed to interview our applicants

57 student applications from UMD, UMB, UMBC, Bowie State, Frostburg State, Towson, University of Baltimore

3 internship offers out, 1 accepted

VC fund manager feedback so far: “You made this process easy to manage and this is a high quality group of applicants.”



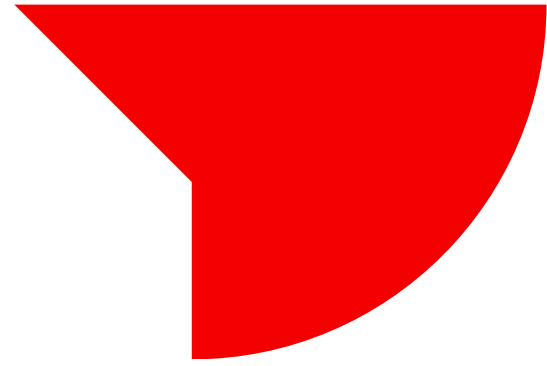
Our goals with the pilot:

Refine program design and build playbook for execution

Build and strengthen relationships with partner venture funds and angel groups

Market the program across the system

Deliver value-add interns to our partner venture funds via a seamless, curated hiring experience



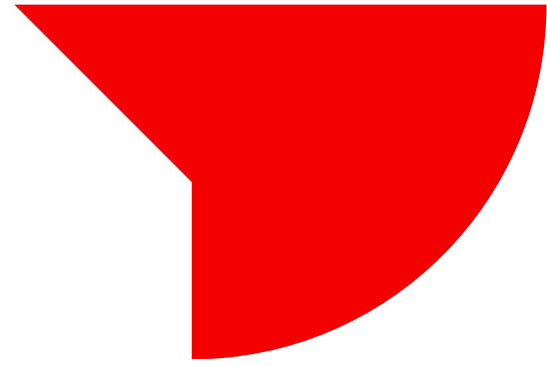
Our goals with the program:

Build the nation's leading Venture Fellows Program

Become an indispensable aspect of the regional talent pipeline for VC firms and angel groups

Foster knowledge sharing and collaboration across USM institutions

Create opportunities for alumni to give back, participate, and fund student scholarships / program participation



Where does this go next?

In talks with UMD to make a “Veterans in VC” track

Expanding out to cover national venture funds

Creating a similar fellows program for students seeking startup and/or growth tech company experience

Alumni sponsorship of fellows (i.e. scholarships or subsidized internships)

Launch Fund Update – Executive Director of Economic Development Lindsay Ryan

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development

Board of Regents Committee on Economic Development
and Technology Commercialization

Update

November 30, 2023

72/85



The University of Maryland climbed into the nation's top five colleges for cultivating student entrepreneurialism, according to rankings by The Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur* magazine. UMD placed No. 5 across all institutions, No. 4 among public universities and No. 1 in the Mid-Atlantic in the 2024 edition of the annual list of undergraduate entrepreneurship programs; this marks Maryland's ninth straight year in the top 10.



USM LAUNCH FUND UPDATE

Lindsay Ryan
Executive Director of Economic Development
University System of Maryland

November 30, 2023



LAUNCH FUND BACKGROUND AND COMPONENTS

Charge: “Enable relatively small amounts of capital (under \$75,000) to be deployed to USM-affiliated entrepreneurs and ventures in order to demonstrate the generation of economic development activity...to enable flexible, non-prescriptive early capital to be deployed alongside resources and accountability”

Components:

1. Microgrants for students and employees – **launched!**
2. Grants and investments for ventures – **grants launched!**
3. Pre-entity funding, e.g. proof of concept – **in development**

EARLY IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Encouraging preliminary evaluation of **values** by Executive Committee and external reviewers (average rank of 4-5 out of 5):

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Transparency
- Adding value to all applicants and institutions

“The fund is a lot more transparent than other opportunities I've seen, and I think the thoughtful, personalized feedback is well appreciated.” – Launch Fund Reviewer

“An amazing service to the start up community in Maryland!” – Applicant

Future improvements identified (e.g., sustainability in adding value back).

VALUES SPOTLIGHT: DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION

Progress

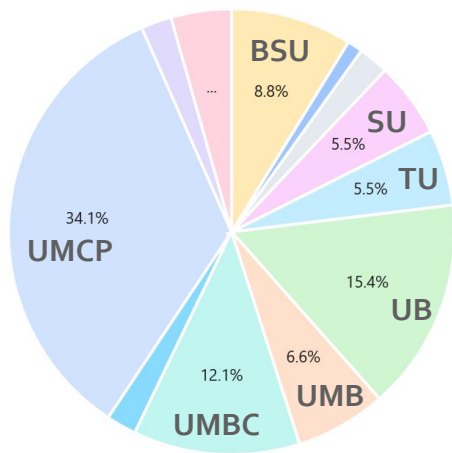
- Attracted a diversity of ventures and founders
- Sought and supported ventures with barriers to capital inclusion
- Ensured recipient pool reflected applicant pool
- Reporting on DEI in terms of representation

Future Work *(informed by applicants, reviewers, & Executive Committee)*

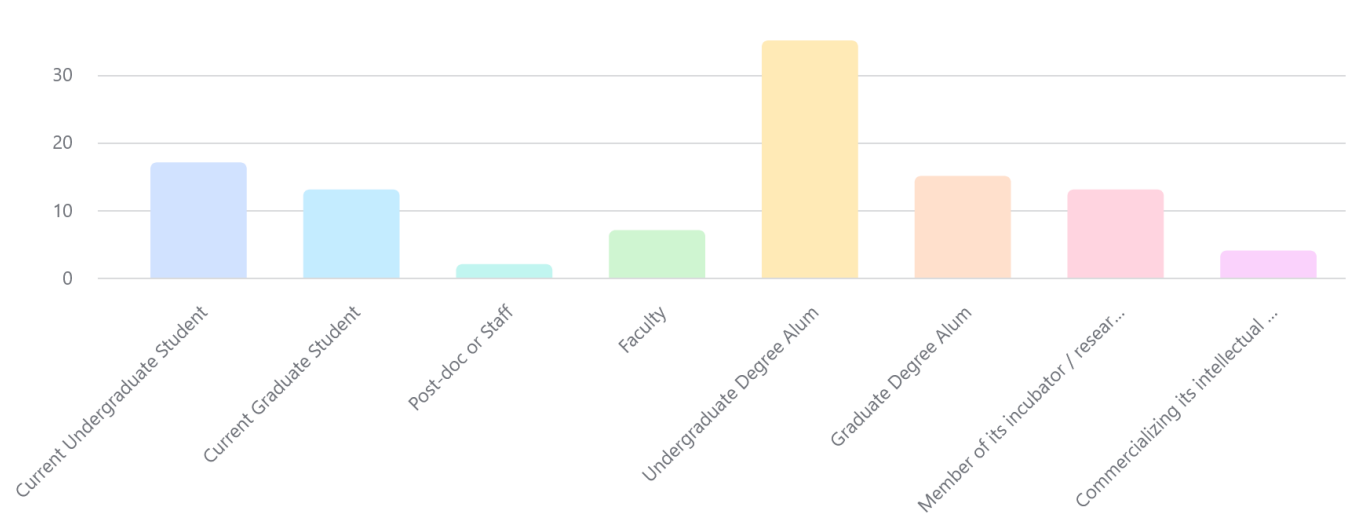
- Is the above enough; what is true equity? Any applicant/recipient goals?
- Consider total DEI effects, including DEI impacts of ventures.
- Continue assessment of inclusion through feedback.
- Keep DEI central when marketing the Fund (e.g., intentional outreach)

DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION: APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

Institutional Affiliation



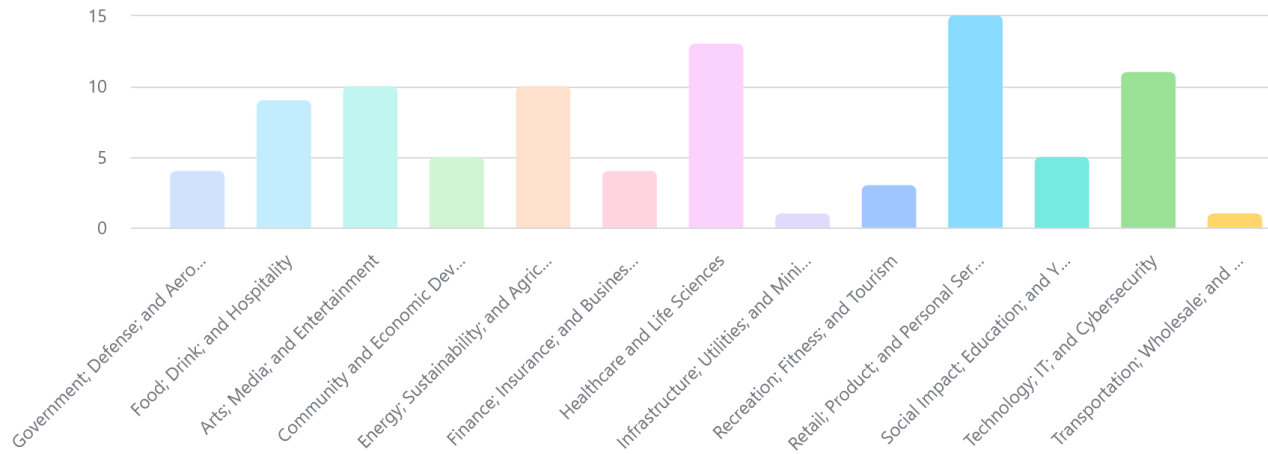
All 12 institutions
represented!



Awardee mix: Generally similar

DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION: APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

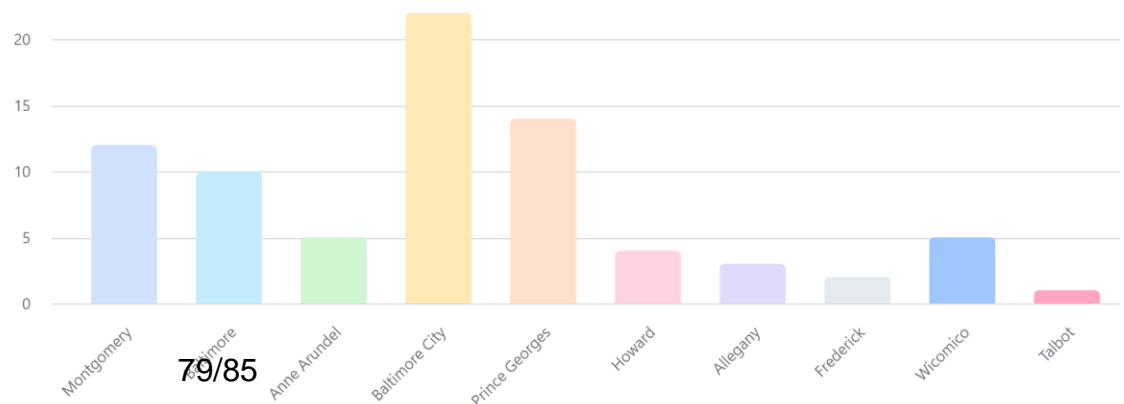
Industry



← Awardee mix:
Generally similar,
less IT/Cyber
representation

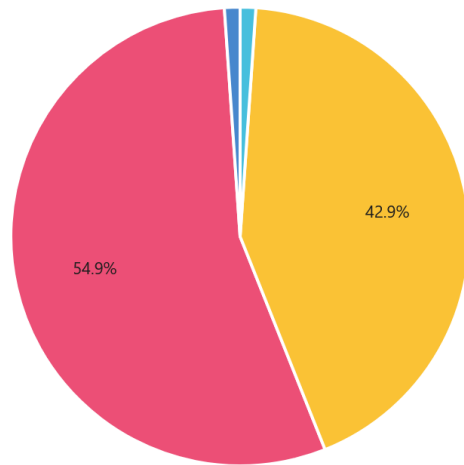
Awardee mix: →
Generally similar

Entity County



DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION: APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

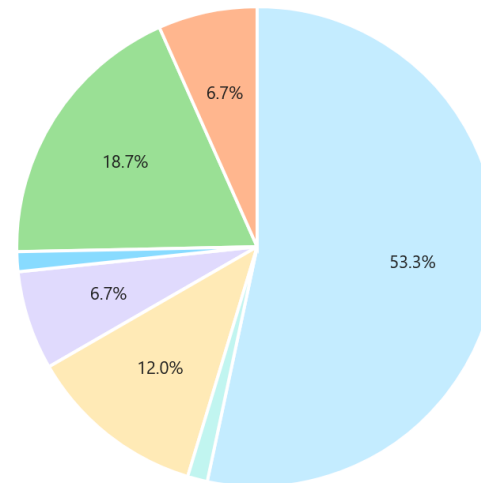
Founder Identities



- Another gender identity
- Female
- Male
- Nonbinary

3 Veteran Founders
9 Founder with a
Disability

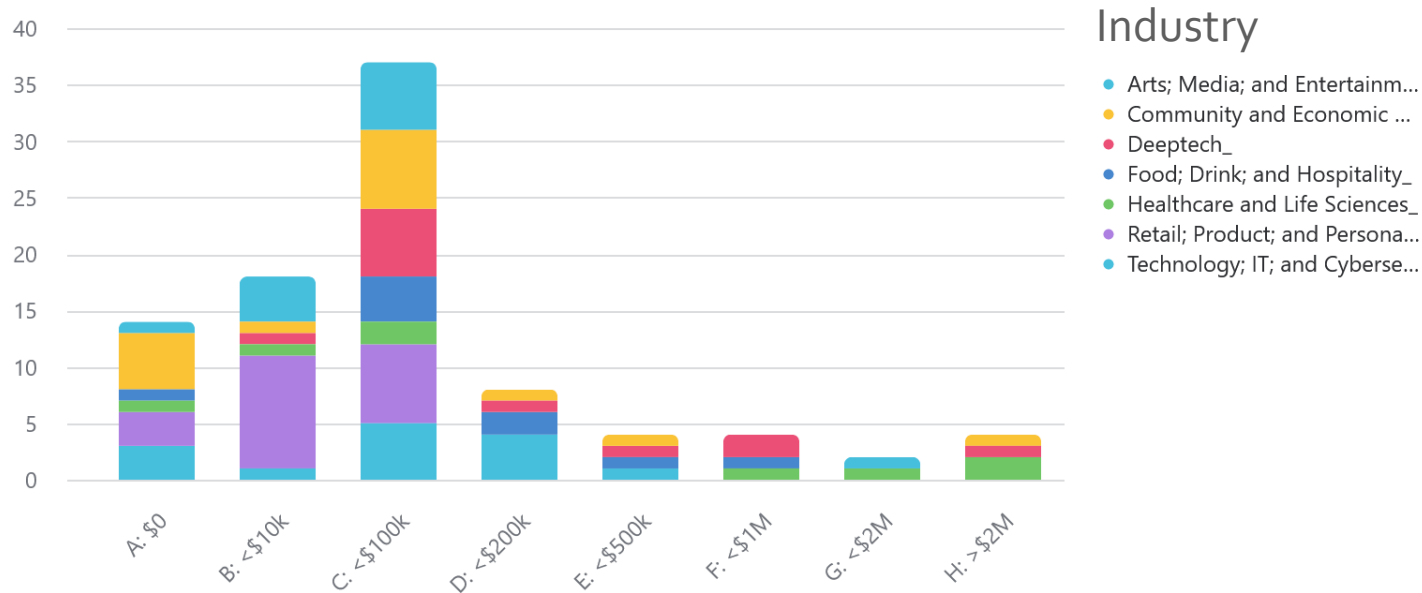
Awardee mix:
Generally similar



- African American Afro-Caribbean
- American Indian or Alaskan
- East Asian or Asian
- Latinx or Hispanic
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Non-Hispanic white or European
- South Asian or Indian

DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION: APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS

Previous Funding



Awardee mix:
About half <\$10k
Almost all <\$100k

Former Entrepreneurial
Experience:
– About 50-50 for applicants and awardees!

VENTURE GRANT AWARDEE IMPACTS

The Fund is **addressing a wide spectrum of early capital gaps, with early impacts and progress** in advance of structured reporting:

- Completing a critical milestone to get started
- Enabling a needed pivot
- Accomplishing critical milestones during the long process of raising dilutive venture funds (e.g., congrats to ReBokeh on [recent investment!](#))
- Scaling/expanding

Takeways from awardee conversations:

- Funding has enabled more serious identification and consideration of non-financial resources that can move the needle
- Founders are values-driven and community-minded
- Funds have been critical but (as expected) are not enough

PLANNING FOR ENHANCED IMPACT

Potential and growth across USM is high. Pilot funding and implementation continues to focus on sustainability and expansion.

Demand Information	Scale-Minded Plan
<p>Microgrant demand is high leads to more activity and ventures.</p>	<p>Complete 2nd round and articulate value</p>
<p>Venture grant need is already greater than pilot funds (\$225k distributed for \$3M in requests, at least \$1.5M recommended to be funded!).</p>	<p>Tailor 2nd round with input from potential outside funders</p>
<p>Research translation is even more capital-intensive.</p>	<p>Develop with input from potential outside funders</p>

PLANNING FOR ENHANCED IMPACT

Expand beyond the Launch Fund by convening other USM Funds and major resource center leaders:

1. Increase USM cohesion of USM ecosystem to benefit programs, applicants, recipients
2. Help articulate USM resources hopefully -- *\$10M+ annual funds across 13+ sources!*
3. Strategize to collectively address gaps, enhance resources, and look ahead

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