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U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Dr. Robert Smith

National Program Leader in the National Institute for Food and
Agriculture (NIFA)

Dr. Bob Smith serves as the National Program Leader in the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for USDA. He received his DVM from the University of Illinois and his PhD (Animal Nutrition) from The Pennsylvania State University. His professional background includes private veterinary practice (NJ, MD, PA IL), academia (University of Illinois and Penn State), industry (Feed) and the Federal government (USDA) for the past 15 years. He also served in the U.S. Army (Veterinary Corps), active and reserve, for 28 years and is retired. Currently, Dr. Smith manages the national Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (FARAD) program, the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSGP), the Animal Health and Disease Research sec.1433 capacity program and the Animal Production and Health Protection program for USDA's SBIR program.



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Manny Oliver

Director of the SBIR/STTR Programs Office

Manny Oliver has served as the Director of the SBIR/STTR Programs Office within the Department of Energy since 2010. During his tenure he has focused on streamlining the operation of the programs, working collaboratively with DOE National Labs to foster technology transfer, and improving commercialization outcomes.

Prior to joining DOE, Manny spent 16 years leading applied R&D and technology commercialization efforts at Motorola. He performed R&D in Li ion polymer batteries, biochips, haptics, wearable user interfaces and mobile surveillance and has received 18 U.S. patents. He previously held positions as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT and as a Member of Technical Staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories. He received both his B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Science from MIT.



DoD Joint Science & Technology Office for
Chemical and Biological Defense (JSTO-CBD)

Larry Pollack
Program Manager

Mr. Pollack is the Program Manager for the Chemical and Biological Defense (CBD) SBIR and STTR Programs at the Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JSTO-CBD). This office is located in the Chemical/Biological Technologies Department at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). His technical expertise encompasses field and laboratory chemical analysis (detection & identification) and environmental sample collection. Mr. Pollack has worked with the DoD SBIR Program for more than 10 years.

Mr. Pollack received his Master of Science degree from the Florida Institute of Technology (Melbourne, FL) and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland (College Park, MD). He was recognized in 2015 by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) with a Tibbetts award for his continuing contributions to the SBIR and STTR small business programs.



U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
Office of Investment and Innovation

John Williams
Director of Innovation and Technology

Mr. John Williams is the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Director of Innovation and Technology. His primary responsibility is for Federal policy implementation and oversight, of the \$2.5 B per year Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs across all participating agencies. He also manages the Growth Accelerator program, Federal and State Technology Partnership (FAST) program.

Prior to joining the SBA in December of 2014, Mr. Williams served as the Director of the Navy SBIR and STTR programs. Through his leadership the Navy led the way in supporting the acquisition and transition of SBIR/STTR technologies, awarding more Phase III contracts than the rest of the DOD combined. His career with the Navy spanned 27 years.

Mr. Williams is a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES), has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland College Park, and a Masters in Engineering Management from George Washington University.



U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Brittany Sickler

Outreach and Partnership Strategist, Office of Innovation

Brittany Sickler serves as outreach, training, and partnership strategist for the SBA's Office of Investment and Innovation. Her primary duties support the advancement of the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/ STTR) programs, which enable small businesses to explore their technological potential and profit from its commercialization. She oversees initiatives to increase understanding of SBIR/STTR opportunities with SBA offices and partner networks across the country, as well as manages the agency's Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program. Brittany spent almost four years in SBA's North Dakota District Office as an Economic Development Specialist, building and strengthening connections throughout the state, particularly with regional startup networks and rural communities. She also served as Special Advisor in SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development, advancing strategic initiatives and coordinating SBA's first Virtual Conference.

Prior to SBA, Brittany served in Guatemala as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Volunteer Leader in the Sustainable Community Tourism program, a combination of economic development and environmental conservation. She was a Masters International Fellow, completing a Master's in International Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University. She also holds degrees in Business Administration and Spanish from Indiana Wesleyan University. Her career in economic development started in Southern Florida with microlender ACCION USA, providing small business loans to individuals who could not access traditional credit.



U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

Anthony Aldrich
SBIR Program Manager

Mr. Anthony J Aldrich is the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Program Manager for Special Operations Forces, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics (SOF AT&L), Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He is responsible for all USSOCOM SOF AT&L SBIR funded activities. Mr. Aldrich has over 14 years of civilian Federal service.

Mr. Aldrich entered Federal Service in 2002 as a Physicist at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida where he served in the Guided Weapons Evaluation Facility as a Hardware-In-the-Loop Test and Evaluation engineer. In 2005, he transferred to the Eglin Range Support Squadron serving as an Electronics Engineer and Program Manager for the threat radar, tracking radar and telemetry systems. Mr. Aldrich transferred to Us Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in 2009, where he supported the Range Radar Replacement Program as a Project Director.

Prior to entering Civil Service, Mr. Aldrich worked at various small businesses designing Industrial Control Systems, Medical Equipment and Aviation Electronics.

EDUCATION: University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK -Bachelor of Science degree in Physics, 1984.



National Science Foundation (NSF)

Graciela (Gracie) Narcho

Deputy Division Director for the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)

Graciela (Gracie) Narcho has been the Deputy Division Director for the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) at NSF for five years. She works with the Division Director in providing leadership and direction to the Division through strategic planning and management, human capital management including recruitment of staff, budget preparation for submission to Congress, and overseeing the evaluation of proposals and recommendations for awards and declinations. The IIP Division includes the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Programs, Innovation-Corps (I-Corps), Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (IUCRC), Partnerships for Innovation (PFI) and Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry/Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students (GOALI/INTERN). Gracie also served as the NSF Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Small Business Research and Development for the past three years. Gracie came to IIP after a 10-year tenure at the NSF Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) where she served in multiple senior positions. Gracie holds a MPA in Government Contracting from George Washington University and a B.A. in Economics from Tufts University and has over 25 years of experience in science and engineering administration and management.



National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Patricia Swayne
SBIR/STTR Specialist

Patti Swayne joined the NIH SBIR/STTR Program from the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia where she worked to promote collaboration and innovation in the regional business community through unique health care, education, and community outreach initiatives.

As the Communications Specialist, Patti helps develop, implement, and evaluate the team's outreach strategy which specifically targets demographics that historically have lower application rates, including Women-owned and Socially Disadvantaged small businesses. Patti is invested in progressive public health initiatives, the impact of technology in solutions and delivery of care, and aging research. Her goal is to translate important, effective information into a language that everyone can understand.

Patti is a proud alumnus of Temple University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications.



Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Susan Celis

Program Director, Small Business Programs Office

Ms. Celis has served the Department of Defense for 30 years in a variety of positions ranging from financial management, personnel management, and program analysis/management to computer information systems development, and training. She served as the US Army SBIR Program Manager at the US Army Materiel Command from 2004-2008, and is currently serving at DARPA as Small Business Programs Office Director, where she is focused on creating an environment that considers small businesses a primary source of innovative solutions. Ms. Celis holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and Computer Information Systems from Park University, and a Master of Public Administration from American University.



Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)

Jonathan Leggett
SBIR/STTR Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Leggett is responsible for planning and executing the outreach activities for the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) SBIR/STTR Program Office to educate and encourage small businesses to participate in the program. Mr. Leggett has been working with various Department of Defense Programs since May 2000. He worked two years in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy, Space Policy as the Office Administrative Manager. Mr. Leggett previously worked on NAVSEA's Force Advanced Warfare Technologies (FACT) Program and the Navy's Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program as a Test Planner. Mr. Leggett graduated from Marymount University in the spring of 2003 where he obtained his Master's in Business Technologies. He has a Bachelor degree in Business Writing from Christopher Newport University.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Gwenevere Jasper

MSFC SBIR Technology Transition Lead

Gwenevere Jasper is a native of Huntsville, Alabama. She graduated from Alabama A&M University and majored in Mathematics and a Master's degree in Computer Science. She started her career as a Meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She transferred to NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) and became an Atmospheric Scientist. She transitioned from an Atmospheric Scientist to an Aerospace Engineer. She has held many positions at NASA. She currently serves as SBIR/STTR Center Technology Transition Lead at MSFC.



Missile Defense Agency (MDA)

Sloan Armstrong
SBIR/STTR Operations Manager

Ms. Sloan Armstrong is from Huntsville, AL. She earned her BS in Management Information Systems from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1988 and her MS in Management from Florida Institute of Technology in 2003. Sloan began her career with United Technologies in 1989 in contract pricing. She continued in the pricing and contracts career field with various contractors through 2006 when she joined the Missile Defense Agency (MS) as a contractor. Sloan began supporting the MDA SBIR/STTR program in 2008 and became a civilian in 2010. Sloan has been the Operations Manager for the MDA SBIR/STTR programs since 2012.



U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Peter Nielsen

Management and Program Analyst

Peter Nielsen joined the DHS/SBIR Program in August 2016 as a Program Analyst. Prior to this, Peter worked for the DHS/Science and Technology, Finance and Budget Division as a financial analyst. Prior to joining the federal government, Peter worked in municipal government as a management and budget analyst and in the private sector as an investment advisor and banker.

Peter was born in Philadelphia and spent his youth in Grinnell, Iowa. Peter received his BA (1983) in English and Ancient Greek from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA; MPA / MSW (Public Administration and Social Work) in 1996 from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. Peter lives in Falls Church, Virginia



National Institute of Standards and
Technology (NIST)

J'aime L. Maynard
CRADA & SBIR Administrator

J'aime Maynard is the CRADA, License & SBIR Administrator for the Technology Partnerships Office (TPO) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

She has been with the Federal government for over 15 years, and joined NIST in November 2001. J'aime has a BA in Political Science from Chestnut Hill College, PA.



Naval Sea Systems Command

Richard McNamara
RRM & Associates, LLC.

Mr. McNamara had a distinguished forty year career with the Department of Navy culminating in eight years as a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES) -- four years as the Deputy Program Manager for the Virginia Class Submarine and four as Executive Director PEO Submarines. In 2008 he retired and established RRM & Associates, LLC.

He has more than 22 years in senior program and executive management positions in acquisition and procurement and is a recognized leader in the Navy acquisition community. He is Level III certified in two Acquisition Professional competencies – Program Management, and Research and Systems Engineering. He has been awarded the DOD Small Business Program Manager of the Year in 2002 and holds the distinction of having managed over \$1 Billion in successful Small Business Innovative Research [SBIR] transitions to the fleet. As a Legislative Fellow, he worked on Capitol Hill in the United States Senate.

Throughout his career he has been in the forefront of innovation and introducing new capabilities to the submarine fleet including the Tomahawk cruise missile, Open Architecture Rapid COTS processing for all submarine combat system elements and overseeing successful execution of the SSGN conversion program. More recently he has been invited to participate on a variety of special study teams here and abroad.

A graduate of Northeastern University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he has been recognized by both public and private sectors, being awarded a Presidential Rank Award, Distinguished Civilian Service and Medal, the Naval Submarine League Distinguished Civilian, the SBIR Career Achievement Award and industry's NDIA VADM Weakly Award among others.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Kimberly Cannon

Langley SBIR Technology Infusion Manager

Kim Cannon has spent 41 years of providing program and project management support to NASA's missions, including serving as Science Manager for the Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations (CALIPSO) mission and as Deputy for Proposal Development at Langley Research Center. She is currently the Center Technology Transition Lead for the SBIR/STTR Program at Langley Research Center and was awarded NASA's Small Business Technical Advisor of the Year in 2017.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Derek Bramble

SBIR/STTR Program Support

Derek Bramble serves as Lead SBIR Support for NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA, where's been in the role for more than 3 years now. His time in LaRC's SBIR office has afforded him a deep appreciation for the grand efforts and accomplishments of American small businesses, the breadth and diversity of technologies being developed across the program, and the awe-inspiring NASA missions these technologies support. Prior to that, he spent 5 years in NASA Langley's Office of Procurement and also worked in the private sector for a number of years. He holds an MBA from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA (of which he is also a resident) and a Bachelor's Degree in Communications-Journalism from the University of Miami. He hails from the Eastern Shore of Maryland.




Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)

Anthony Archer

SBIR/STTR Phase I and Phase II Team Lead


Tony Archer is currently the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Phase I and Phase II Team Lead. He is directly responsible for the planning, execution, and processes of the two programs. Tony received his Baccalaureate Degree from the University of Florida where he majored in Aerospace Engineering. He also earned a Master's Degree in Aviation Systems Engineering from the University of Tennessee and is a graduate of the United States Naval Test Pilot School. Tony joined the Marine Corps in 1979 where he held numerous billet assignments including Squadron Pilot, Battalion Air Officer, and H-53 Test Pilot and Squadron Operations Officer. After retiring from the Marine Corps in 2005, he spent three years as a Program Manager with Viasat, Inc. managing the design, development, and installation of ground based earth stations. In 2008, Tony returned to NAVAIR, and has held the positions of H-53 Platform Coordinator, Mission Systems Test and Evaluation Branch Head for Integrated Communications Systems, and most recently his current position, as SBIR/STTR Team Lead within the NAVAIR Chief Technology Office.

	<p>U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)</p> <p>Chris McNeal</p> <p>Program Analyst</p>
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Chris McNeal is a Program Analyst with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Innovation and Technology. Chris joined the SBA in 2015 as a Presidential Management Fellow. He works with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR), and Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAFC) programs under the Office of Investment and Innovation. SBA acts as the coordinating agency for the SBIR/STTR programs, directing the agencies' implementation of these programs, reviewing their progress, and reporting annually to Congress on its operation.

Chris supports SBIR/STTR policy, outreach, program strategy, and program operations. In addition to the Office of Investment and Innovation, Chris worked for the SBA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Administrator, and Office of Capital Access. He also detailed at the U.S. Department of the Navy SBIR/STTR Program, supporting outreach initiatives and policy guidance efforts.

& Local Administration and Public Management (Management Consulting Focus).

	<p>National Science Foundation (NSF)</p> <p>Kerstin Mukerji</p> <p>Staff Associate</p>
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Kerstin Mukerji is a Staff Associate in the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP) at the National Science Foundation (NSF), Directorate for Engineering (ENG). Prior to joining IIP, Ms. Mukerji served as a Program Manager in the ENG Office of Emerging Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities (EFMA) and Acting Operations Specialist for the ENG Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems Division (ECCS) Division. In FY 2016, she received the NSF Director's Award for Excellence.

Before coming to NSF in 2011, Ms. Mukerji served as a faculty member of Northeastern University's Engineering Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Program, and later as the Assistant Director of the Women in Engineering and NSF-funded Connections Programs at Northeastern. While at Northeastern, she led university/industry outreach activities as well as taught introductory engineering courses for the College of Engineering.

She holds graduate degrees in both Biological Engineering from Cornell University and Instructional Design and Evaluation from Syracuse University. Her research has focused on both biological treatment and remediation of agricultural and industrial waste, as well as STEM educational design and assessment at the middle school, high school and undergraduate level. Her research has been funded by NSF and NASA.

Before returning to academia for her second graduate degree, she spent time in industry as a practicing engineer for Weston Solutions managing abatement and remediation activities for the New England United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Division. She received an award from USACE for outstanding safety performance, dedication, and service.



Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC)

Jennifer Stewart

FLC Far West Regional Coordinator, Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Corona

Jennifer Stewart serves as the Office of Research and Technology Applications (ORTA) representative for Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division. As the ORTA, Jennifer Stewart acts as a broker, connecting Corona Division's scientists and engineers with academia and industry for technology transfer. Stewart, a graduate of California Baptist University, Riverside, Calif., joined NSWC Corona's Product Engineering Assessment Department in 2003.

Corona Division received its Federal Laboratory designation on Jan. 26, 2010. In December 2012, Stewart left Product Engineering Assessment Department to head up the ORTA position full time as the technology transfer officer. In addition to serving as ORTA, Stewart supports community economic development efforts by serving as a liaison for organizations such as InSoCal CONNECT whose mission is to attract high-technology companies to the Inland Empire region of Southern California.



U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

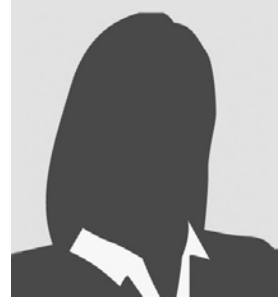
NaThanya Ferguson

Supervisory Innovation Development Program Specialist

NaThanya Ferguson is currently a Supervisory Innovation Development Program Specialist in the Office of the Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development. Her office focuses on outreach to and engagement of independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, university inventors, and underserved communities across America. NaThanya joined the USPTO in 1989.

During her twenty-nine year tenure at the USPTO, NaThanya has worked as a Paralegal Specialist in the Patents Technology Centers, Lead Patent Analyst for the Patent Reengineering Lab, Management and Program Analyst in the Science and Technology Information Center, Contracting Officer Technical Representative in the Office of Data Management, and Project Manager in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Patent Operations.

NaThanya is a recipient of numerous awards including a Department of Commerce Gold Medal Award in 2015 for her contribution to the innovative and collaborative implementation of the First Inventor to File statutory provisions of the America Invents Act, a Department of Commerce Distinguished Career Award in 2011 for continued outstanding service, and a Silver Medal Award in 1999 for her contribution to the development and implementation of the Patent Reengineering initiative to increase quality of products and services and increase customer and employee satisfaction.

	<p>U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)</p> <p>Tammy Taylor Contracting Officer</p>
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Tammy Taylor is a Contracting Officer (CO) in the Innovative Research Program Office of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Volpe Center located in Cambridge, MA. She has served as a CO of DOT's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program since June 2016. In addition to her work on SBIR, Taylor served as the Volpe Center's Disability Employment Program Manager for a three year term that began in June 2015. Taylor also acts in an independent role as the President of the Recreational Association of Volpe Employees. She has extensive Government acquisition and leadership experience.

Prior to joining Volpe, Taylor worked as a Team Lead CO managing the work of up to nine Contract Specialists at the Department of Defense's Hanscom Air Force Base. Before that, she spent almost 20 years at the Army's Soldier Systems Center. While the majority of these years were in the contracting field, she also did work in the logistics and administrative operation fields. Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Management, both from Emmanuel College.