

# Boston University Medical Campus

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## Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories (NEIDL)

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### MEETING NOTES

Wednesday April 14, 2021

4:00 pm. \* Zoom

#### Attending

J. Kevin Fisher, CLC; Jean Lee, CLC; Robert Timmerman, CLC; Jim Keeney, CLC; Norm Stembridge, CLC; Kenneth Nwosu, CLC, Nefertiti Lawrence, CLC; Olawumi Akinwumi, CLC; Chimel Idiokitas, Director of Community Outreach, BU; Valeda Britton, Executive Director, Community Relations/MED, BU; Elizabeth Leary, Executive Director, Government & Community Affairs; Kevin Outterson, Executive Director of CARB-X, BU; Dr. Ronald Corley, BU Department of Microbiology, Director, NEIDL

#### Welcome

Ms. Britton introduced and welcomed the newly added CLC members: Olawumi Akinwumi, Nefertiti Lawrence, and Norm Stembridge.

Dr. Ron Corley, NEIDL Director, introduced presenter, Kevin Outterson, Esq.

#### Introducing CARB-X

Kevin Outterson is neither a PhD nor a scientist. Instead, he is a BU School of Law Professor, who is also the founding Director of CARB-X. CARB-X stands for Combatting Antibiotic- Resistant Bacteria.

CARB-X is a global non-profit partnership that is fully embedded in BU's research mission. With 24 current employees, CARB-X supports the research and development of antibiotics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products to fight drug-resistant bacteria. The Company was founded when the Law School applied and was awarded a grant by the US Government for \$250M. Wellcome Trust, based in London, contributed an additional \$155M.

From 2016-2022, CARB-X has allocated \$480 million to accelerate and reward innovation addressing the global rise of antibiotic resistance. Its targets for funding are researching early development projects for serious bacterial threats that cause harm to human health and are on the CDC and WHO list. These are high-risk projects with big-impact potential for patients if they succeed. As of the end of March 2021, there were approximately 55 active projects. This large and scientifically diverse portfolio includes thirty-six therapeutics, twelve preventives and seven rapid diagnostics.

Professor Outtersson noted that innovation must go hand in hand with Stewardship and Access. That is why CARB-X focuses on accelerating innovation, but also achieving antibiotic sustainability. Innovation without Access is unjust and without Stewardship is wasteful. To solve all three issues simultaneously, CARB-X developed a Development Guide (Guide) that requires drug development companies that they fund to build access and stewardship language into their contracts. This Guide follows the product to patent expiration, and has been recognized as a benchmark for the broader antibacterial R&D community. In closing, Professor Outtersson reminded us that “Technology is great, but we can’t forget the human element at the end.”

#### **NEIDL Director Update by Dr. Ron Corley:**

Dr. Corley reported that the NEIDL continues to contribute to public health efforts. Researchers are busy at the NEIDL not only continuing their research activities, but also sharing their findings in a variety of different scientific publications. Dr. Corley mentioned that Dr. Connor is working with BU and BMC to sequence Covid positive samples. This will allow us to detect variants of concern circulating in our population and the frequency of these variants. Over 150 variants have been reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

#### **Government & Community Affairs (GCA) Updates:**

Mr. Idiokitas gave an update and overview on the Speaker Series. The Speaker Series is a virtual career exploration program that allows for High School students to directly engage with BU professionals around college preparedness, job skills, and their personal pathway to their respective career. Past guests include NEIDL researchers and Faculty, a NEIDL engineer, Associate Directors for Research Safety BSL-3 and BSL-4, as well as journalists, and photographers. Government & Community Affairs has developed partnerships with Madison Park Technical Vocational High School & MATCH High School to hold the Speaker Series on a monthly basis during the 2020-2021 school year. The series has also been held with other student groups whom belong to organizations in which we support. Since July 2020, we have engaged with over 60 students from various neighborhoods throughout the City. We hope to continue to engage with students around career exploration and help grow the next generation of leaders.

#### **Other Topics:**

Next meeting – Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 4pm; Location - Zoom

**Meeting adjourned**