



December 8, 2021

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**The Athena Agenda:  
Executing The Apollo Program for Biodefense**

**OBJECTIVE**

Provide the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense with a better understanding of: (1) ongoing federal efforts to implement The Apollo Program for Biodefense; (2) the role of the private sector in implementing The Apollo Program for Biodefense; and (3) how the public and private sectors can fully implement The Apollo Program for Biodefense by the end of the decade.

**SCHEDULE**

**10:00 – 10:30 am**                      **Opening Remarks**

**10:30 – 11:15 am**                      **Panel Two: Executive Perspective**

*Government official will provide their views about the role of the Executive Branch in ensuring that the public and private sectors work together to achieve The Apollo Program for Biodefense by the end of the decade.*

**Eric S. Lander, DPhil**

Science Advisor to the President; Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, The White House

**11:15 am – 12:00 pm**                      **Panel One: Congressional Perspective**

*Member of Congress will provide their views about the role of the Legislative Branch in implementing The Apollo Program for Biodefense.*

**Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)**

Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, U.S. Senate

**12:00 pm – 12:45 pm**                      **Lunch and Video**

**12:45 – 1:50 pm**

**Panel Three: A Vision for Something Greater**

*Experts will discuss their visions for what The Apollo Program for Biodefense could look like and how the public and private sectors can work together to achieve that goal.*

**The Honorable Tara O’Toole, MD, MPH**

Executive Vice President, In-Q-Tel; former Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security

**Jacob L. Swett, DPhil**

Co-founder, altLabs; Visiting Scientist, Biodesign Institute, Arizona State University

**Syra Madad, DHSc**

Senior Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program, New York City Health + Hospitals

**1:50 – 2:55 pm**

**Panel Four: Coordinating Efforts and Strategic Direction**

*One former and two current government officials will discuss the role of the federal government in achieving The Apollo Program for Biodefense by the end of the decade.*

**Stephen M. Hahn, MD**

Chief Medical Officer, Preemptive Medicine and Health Security Initiative, Flagship Pioneering; former Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

**Sandeep Patel, PhD**

Director, Division of Research, Innovation, and Ventures (DRIVE), Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services

**Brandi C. Vann, PhD**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, U.S. Department of Defense

**2:55 – 3:10 pm**

**Break**

**3:10 pm – 4:15 pm**

**Panel Five: Fostering Innovation at Scale**

*Former government and private sector experts will discuss the role of the private sector and academia in achieving the goals of The Apollo Program for Biodefense by the end of the decade.*

**May Chu, PhD**

Clinical Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health; former Assistant Director of Public Health, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Executive Office of the President (Obama); former Director, Laboratory Policy and Practice Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Akhila Kosaraju, MD**

CEO and President, Phare Bio; former Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense

**Dan Wattendorf, MD**

Director, Innovative Technology Solutions, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**4:15 – 4:30 pm**

**Closing Remarks**

**4:30 pm**

**Adjourn**