



December 8, 2021

**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 One: 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 Two: 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, 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.

The Honorable 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