



**A MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER**

DATE: October 29, 2025
TIME: 2:00 p.m. EST
PLACE: MLSC 1075 Main Street, Suite 100, Waltham, MA

Members Present: Secretary Eric Paley
Julie Chen, PhD, Designee for UMass President Marty Meehan
Pam Randhawa
Valerie Fleishman
Brian Johnson
Dana Mendenhall
Thea James, MD

Members Connected: Christopher Coburn

Members Absent: Bran Shim, Designee for Secretary Gorzkowicz
Thea James, MD

Call to Order

Kirk Taylor, MD, President and CEO

Dr. Kirk Taylor, MD, President and CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (the “MLSC” or “Center”) called the meeting to order. The meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with its business. Attendance was noted, as recorded above.

Approval of Minutes

Allyson McLaughlin Huntington, General Counsel and Board Secretary

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September 26, 2025. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the Board approved the minutes.

Co-Chairs’ Updates

Secretary Eric Paley, Executive Office of Economic Development

Secretary Paley provided brief remarks, including an update on the DRIVE initiative, the defense sector ecosystem in MA and the recent MASH-up convening focused on the manufacturing ecosystem in MA.

Dr. Taylor provided a brief update on behalf of Bran Shim regarding the status of the Supplemental Budget.

CEO Report

Kirk Taylor, M.D., President and CEO, MLSC

Dr. Taylor provided brief remarks on recent events and engagements. Dr. Taylor then introduced a strategic question related to the MA ecosystem involvement in cell and gene therapies. Members of the Board were invited to provide their

insights and perspective on the shift in investment theory regarding cell and gene therapies and how long the shift in investment theory will last. Dr. Taylor then provided opportunities for the members of the Board to engage with our stakeholders and ecosystem as part of MLSC events and outreach efforts.

VOTE: MassNextGen Round 8 Awards

Tiffany Walther, PhD, Program Manager, Scientific Innovation and Strategic Investments

Dr. Walther presented the MassNextGen Program providing an overview and the impact of the program and highlighting past awardees. Dr. Walther offered the proposed awardees, including a brief background on the entrepreneurs and the companies along with details on geographic and demographic diversity of the applicant pool and spoke of the industry partners sponsoring the program in the form of funding and in-kind support for the awardees.

After a robust discussion regarding the impact of the size of investment and the outcomes of the program for the economic development of the MA life sciences ecosystem, the Board moved to a vote. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to approve the allocation to the awardees as presented.

VOTE: Start-Up/Entrepreneur Fund Allocation

Ryan Mudawar, EVP Educational Partnerships and Workforce Investments

Tiffany Walther, PhD, Program Manager, Scientific Innovation and Strategic Investments

Cinar “Efe” Sumer, MSc, Senior Investment Associate, Scientific Innovation and Strategic Investments

Mr. Sumer presented the MLSC’s Startup and Entrepreneur Fund with an overview of the early-stage company pipeline and the fund’s three programs: MassNextGen, Impact Catalyst and Internship Programs. Dr. Walther gave a brief overview of the Massachusetts Next Generation (MassNextGen) program and structure from funding to coaching and pitch showcases. The MLSC Impact Catalyst Program was introduced to address the funding gaps for early-stage. Mr. Mudawar presented the Internship Programs outlining the robust workforce pipeline with a brief review of eligibility criteria and processes for applying to the program for interns and companies.

After the opportunity for discussion including an extensive discussion around program design and impact and bookmarking the topic for a future board meeting for in-depth examination, the Board moved to a vote. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to authorize the allocation to the program as presented.

VOTE: Pathmaker Awards – Change to new item

Jeanne LeClair, Chief Business Officer

Ms. LeClair presented two proposed Pathmaker awards. Gave a brief summary of the program with detailed information on the proposed awardees along with the industry partners and the training focus.

After the opportunity for discussion, and upon a motion duly made, seconded and carried by roll call vote, the Board resolved to approve the allocation to the awardees as presented.

Board and Committees Governance, By-Laws and Charters (Inform)

Allyson McLaughlin Huntington, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer

Ms. Huntington provided a summary of the process to review and update the Board bylaws and Committee charters.

Other Business:**Adjourn****Materials Used During Meeting:**

Agenda

Minutes of the September 26, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

MLSC CEO Report

Board and Committees Governance, By-Laws and Charters

VOTE: MassNextGen Round 8 Awards Presentation

VOTE: Start-Up/Entrepreneur Fund Allocation Presentation

Pathmaker Presentation