

The National Center to Accelerate Cures

A Joint Initiative between Blackbird Laboratories, Arrowpoint
Labs, and Critical Path Institute

March 6th, 2026



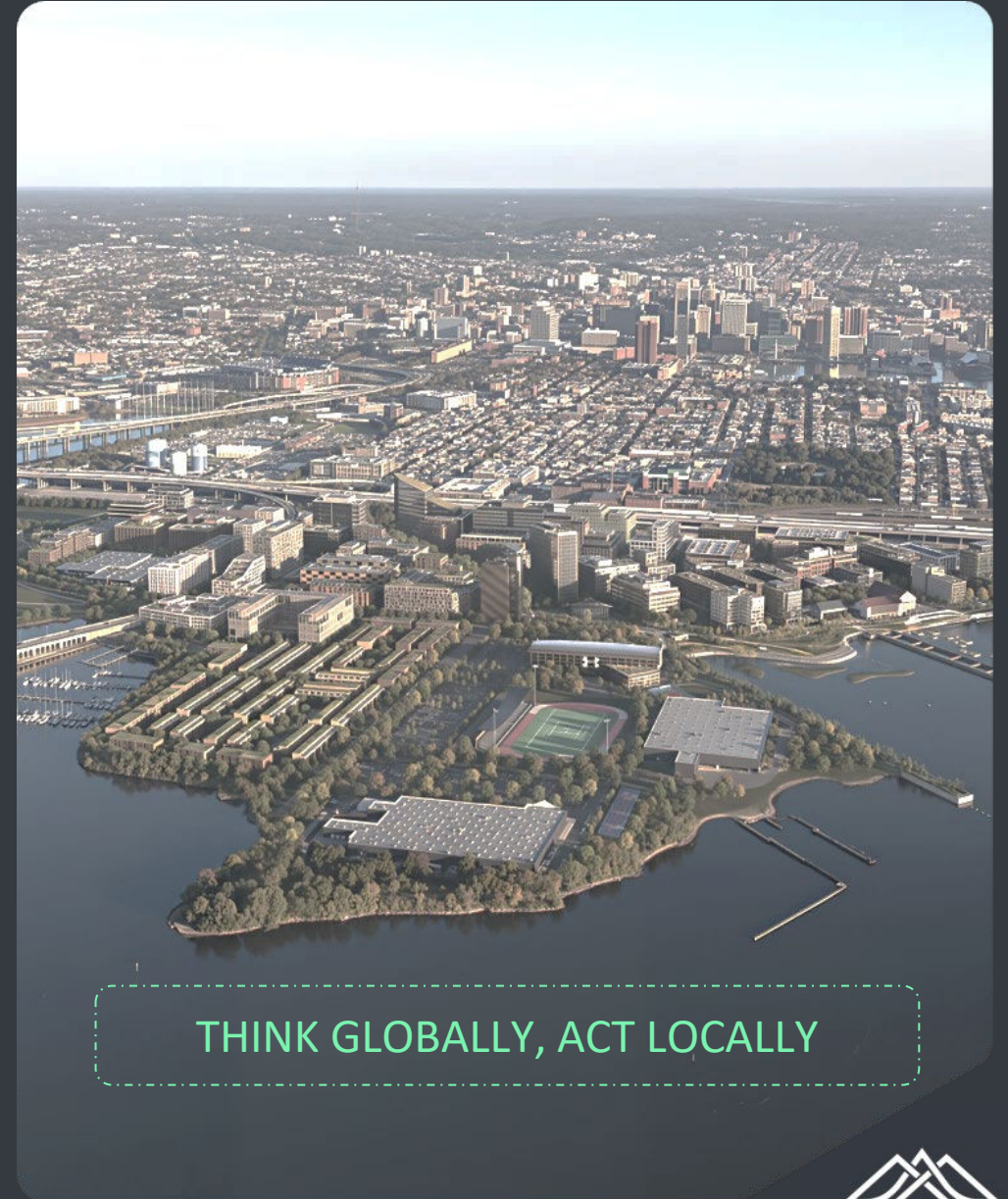
Blackbird's Founding Mission

Help universities and entrepreneurs commercialize their research through the creation of new startups in Baltimore.

Blackbird's Current Vision

A thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Baltimore:

- Innovative biotech companies
- Life-changing technologies
- Accumulation of talent and net-new capital
- Community impact through job creation



Blackbird's Integrated Funding Solution



Non-profit organization with a \$100M grant from the Bisciotti Foundation. Build a pipeline of startups in Baltimore.



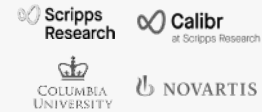
Venture capital investment vehicle with \$500 million in capacity. Syndicate with top-tier VCs to anchor NewCos in Baltimore.



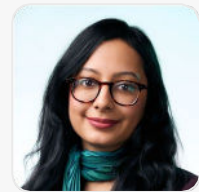
Blackbird Team



Matt Tremblay, PhD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



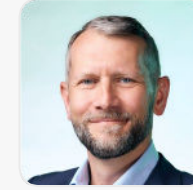
Eddie Cherok, PhD
CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER



Maisha Rahman, PhD
CHIEF OF STAFF



Anthony Accorsi, PhD
VENTURE PARTNER



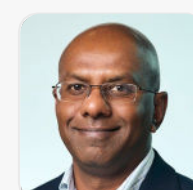
Matthew Lawler
VENTURE PARTNER



Jonathan Robbins, MD, PhD
VENTURE PARTNER



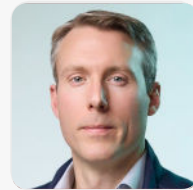
Virginia Burger, PhD
VENTURE PARTNER



Hemaka Rajapakse, PhD
VENTURE PARTNER



Yixuan Qiu, PhD
DIRECTOR, RESEARCH PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS



Geoff Lynn, MD, PhD
ENTREPRENEUR IN RESIDENCE



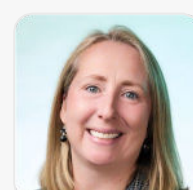
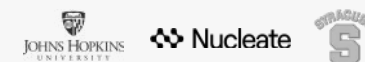
Avinash Khanna, PhD
SR. DIRECTOR, MOLECULAR DISCOVERY



Emily Wilkinson
HEAD OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS



Esther Park, PhD
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, VENTURES



Bridget Duvall
DIRECTOR, LAB OPERATIONS



Blackbird By-the-Numbers

Progress since 2023

14
TEAM
12 Scientists
2 Admin
Experienced team of biotech operators

18
STARTUPS
Portfolio Companies
75% Baltimore
95% Maryland
4 Blackbird-incubated

7.8x
GRANTS
Leveraged Grant \$
19 Grants
4 Licensed to newcos
11 Active projects

70M
RESOURCES
\$ Committed
\$33M Research + Infrastructure
\$37M Investments

35k
LAB SPACE
ft²
Opened Q1-2026
35% pre-leased
7 companies

3x
INVESTMENTS
Leveraged Investment \$
Net-new venture capital
Strong network of VCs
Team building

Developing life-changing new medicines across modalities and disease areas



BioHub Members



MYOLOGICA



University Partners



**Stanford
University**

UC San Diego



Investment Partners



FORESITE
CAPITAL



CURE VENTURES



NOVO
holdings

T1D Fund
A Breakthrough T1D Venture™



orbimed

GENERAL CATALYST



F/PRIME



The National Center to Accelerate Cures

- Established in 2026 with a \$3M founding federal earmark award via NIST
- Mission
 - **Develop, validate, and scale** novel Drug Development Tools
 - Support implementation of the **FDA Modernization Acts 2.0 & 3.0**
- Vision
 - Establish Baltimore/Maryland as a **national & global hub** for next-generation drug development technologies
 - Seed **private investment** and **industry partnerships**



Co-Founding Organizations



Blackbird's Framework will Propel the NCAC

Capabilities

- Hiring 2-3 **dedicated bench scientists**
- Effort from members of Arrowpoint Labs, Blackbird Laboratories, and Critical Path Institute
- Access to on-site animal facilities for potential **benchmarking** studies
- Act as a conduit for **various experimental models**:
 - Standardization assays
 - Disease modeling
 - Toxicity studies
 - Reproducibility studies
 - Comparative predictive studies
 - FDA DDT qualification studies
 - In silico modeling

Resources

- Fully outfitted lab with **top-of-the-line shared equipment**, office space, tissue culture and microscopy rooms
- Centrally located on the Eastern Seaboard
- Active **Master Research Agreements** with multiple institutions for seamless collaborations (e.g. access to computing resources at JHU's DSAI and UMD's IHC)
- Strong network of **venture capital** and pharma advisors



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Data Science and AI Institute



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
**INSTITUTE FOR
HEALTH COMPUTING**
MPOWERING THE STATE



Shared lab designed to create critical mass in Baltimore. Opened Feb 2026, 35% pre-leased.



EPOCH
EPIGENETICS

EARLY DISEASE DETECTION
Precision Diagnosis and Improved Outcomes

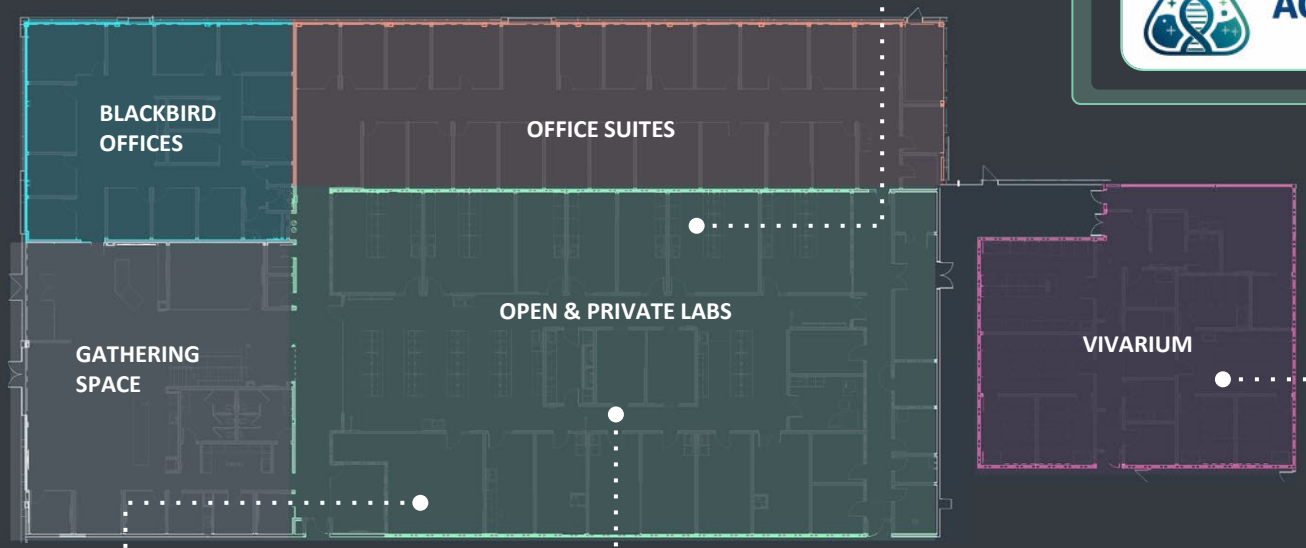
DARPA & MILITARY FOUNDERS



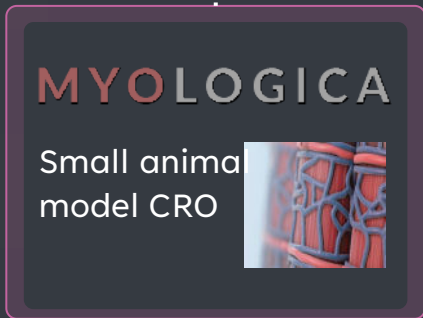
Eric Van Gieson, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Eric - 25+ years developing medical technology in diagnostics and critical care, initiated programs using host-based methods to mitigate emerging diseases and optimize human performance.



Neil Hermansen
Chief Operating Officer
Herm - Highly decorated 27-year Navy SEAL, Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) with extensive combat operations, led special projects bridging defense technology and emerging disease programs.


THE NATIONAL CENTER TO ACCELERATE CURES



MYOLOGICA
Small animal model CRO

3 university spin-outs
Space available for 10+ more

Blackbird BioHub Overview

Located 15 min from BWI airport, Amtrak, and Baltimore institutions; commutable from DC metro area.



Within 1 hour of:

FDA

NIH

FNL

JHU

UMD





blackbird

LABORATORIES