



Life Sciences Committee

Co-Chairs: Steve Davis, President & CEO, PATH & Lesley Esford, Lifesciences Industry Expert

Committee Members:

Elizabeth Alward	WA	Director of the Office of Science-Industry Partnerships, Seattle Children’s Research
Katie Owen	WA	Director, Neglected Tropical Diseases, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Matthew Trunnell	WA	Vice President & Chief Data Officer, Fred Hutch
David Grossman	WA	Senior Physician Leader, Kaiser Permanente
Giselle Commissiong	BC	Partner, Canadian Life Sciences Advisory Services Leader, E&Y
Alexei Doudkine	BC	Industrial Technology Advisor, NRC_IRAP
Ivone Martins	BC	Chief Innovation Development Officer, St. Paul's Foundation
Lisa Carver	BC	Director, Stakeholder Relations, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
Craig Thompson	BC	Director, Immunization A/Director, STBBI, BC Ministry of Health

Action Plan:

1. List & briefly explain your committee’s 1-3 “Big Ideas”:

To accelerate and evangelize the opportunities for public, private and social sector enterprises across the Cascadia Innovation Corridor to improve health and healthcare both for citizens of our region and people around the world. To realize these ambitious goals, we will take a three-pronged approach – the three A’s:

1. Accelerated Collaboration Leads to Regional Public Health Approaches – by closer regional collaboration supported by the CIC efforts, public health issues which have particular characteristics of, or profound impact on, our region would be approached and addressed with a regional lens and collaborations. Initially, this would include the anti-vaccination issues which are particularly affecting the Cascadia Region; other issues could include the opioid crisis or regional issues of aging populations. The goal would be to develop and implement a more Cascadia regional response to benefit the health of our region’s citizens.

2. Actionable Data Leads to Curing Disease – by expanding and promoting the Cascadia Data Initiative, engaging more enterprises in the data sharing strategies, reshaping regional policies to support health data sharing models, and promoting other tools (including AI and other precision medicine capabilities), we endeavor to see the Cascadia Corridor as a global **center** for precision medicines, particularly related to cancer and aspects of global health. The goal would be creating the regional ecosystem, policies and environment for a breakthrough cure or treatment of a cancer or infectious disease, primarily derived from this region’s assets and commitments.
3. Awareness Leads to Regional Networks – through regional communications, showcases and networking, we will make folks across borders more aware of the activities and opportunities for collaboration, regional partnerships, cross-border presence, and networks in the health and life sciences sector. This would build on existing networks (trade associations, global health alliance, etc.), but also include showcasing companies doing business with a “Cascadia” perspective. The 2021 goal would be informal (or formal) regional networks connected virtually with an online tool that would exist within two years of known players working across the whole corridor.

2. Describe the context in which your Big Ideas will be implemented (current state of the industry, challenges being faced by organizations, how our region currently operates in this field, etc.)

BC, Washington and Oregon have many enterprises – public, private and social sector – committed to life science innovation, health and healthcare. Some of the most important institutions on the globe leading the fight against cancer, advancing innovations in global health, and working on precision medicine models, are based in the region. That said, these health and life sciences sectors are often not viewed by the media, public or regional leadership as priority sectors, and there is a lack of understanding and awareness of how rich and potentially powerful this region is in health and life sciences. However, given the current sizes of the sectors across Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, and the current trends in the sector, there is opportunity in the next decade to pivot, and make the Cascadia Corridor better understood as a health/life sciences global leader which is having a profound impact on the health of our citizens, both here in the Cascadia Corridor, and across the globe. More specifically, in the past few years the region has developed more capability and reputation in several health areas, including but not limited to cancer research, global health innovations, and precision medicine using new data and information tools to address diseases and human and animal health. Building on these important trends, we believe we can find new approaches to create a Cascadia regional model to help advance our regional brand, our regional institutions, and most important our regional impact on health.

3. Briefly describe how the realization of your ideas would impact life in Cascadia:

If we realized these big ideas over the next five to ten years, Cascadia region would look very different. First, we’d be known as a global leader in health and life sciences as a region, and would attract more capital, talent and ideas across the region in health and life sciences. We would hopefully see a corresponding development of stronger policies and funding commitments in support of health and life sciences sectors. We would also see more effective deployment of the newest innovations in health being advanced to benefit our world, whether it is with a lens on curing cancers more effectively due to the power of AI and predictive analytics, or defeating malaria or other infectious diseases around the globe due to our regional collaborations in health. Finally, citizens of Cascadia would hopefully benefit directly as well from more coordinated and effective approaches to locals/regional public health challenges, including benefiting from more effective fight against the vaccine hesitancy movement, and more regional response to the opioid crisis, among others.

4. What major milestone can be accomplished by 2021 and announced/recognized at the centennial celebration of the Peace Arch? What interim milestones must be reached between now and 2021?

Milestone	Description/notes	Timeline	Owner(s)
Milestone 1	Increase participation across regional institutions in the data sharing initiative; evaluate regional health data sharing policies and work to harmonize	EOY 2019 – ask for engagement at conference	Matthew Trunnell Fred Hutch
Milestone 2	Accelerate and support the regional work on cancer, particularly expanding upon the Hutch – BC – Oregon Cancer collaborations, with specific actions and deliverables enabled by the CIC efforts	Fall 2020	
Milestone 3	Build and launch an inventory of regional health/life science enterprises, to create more awareness of capacity and collaborations; showcase companies undertaking important Cascadia cross-border approaches at a networking event in 2020;	Fall 2020	Giselle Commissiong E & Y
Milestone 4	Convene meeting of BC, WA and OR public health leaders around an identified public health issue (probably anti-vax) to support and develop a regional response, using best practices, assets, and regional funding models to address local public health issues	Spring 2020	Ivone Martins, St. Paul's, Craig Thompson, BC Ministry of Health, David Grossman, KP