

**New Mexico Bioscience Authority (BSA) Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2026 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

Present: Paul Laur (Chair), Dana Catron, Christos Christodoulou, Dale Dekker, Tom Kieft, Alex Koglin, Lisa Kuuttila, Francisco Pallares, Tanner Schaub

Absent: David Perkins, Nora Sackett, Prisca Tiasse

Staff Present: Stephanie Tofighi, Irene Gray, Sterling Nichols, Ryan Cangioli

#	Agenda Items	Board Actions
1.	Call to order and Confirmation of Quorum	Chair Laur called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM. A Quorum was confirmed.
2.	Approval of Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 20, 2025, BOD Meeting 	<p>Chair Laur called for a motion to approve the November 20, 2025, meeting minutes.</p> <p>A motion was made by Alex Koglin with a second from Francisco Pallares to approve the November 20 meeting minutes.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, two in abstention and three absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Catron-Abstain, Christodoulou-Abstain, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Absent, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Absent</p>
3.	Announcements and Chair's Report	<p>NMBSA Chair Paul Laur provided his update for the month of January.</p> <p><u>New Mexico Legislature 2026</u></p> <p>The Chair announced that the first legislative session will convene on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 12:00 PM with</p>

		<p>Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham delivering the current state of New Mexico address.</p> <p><u>New Mexico Biotechnology and Biomedical Association (NMBio) Events for January:</u></p> <p><i>Lunch & Learn Seminar</i> – Wednesday January 21, 2026. The seminar will focus on the Quantum Computing and its applicability to biotech.</p> <p><i>NMBio Board Meeting</i> – The NMBio board meeting will take place following their Lunch and Learn event on Wednesday January 21.</p> <p><u>JP Morgan Meeting; Thursday January 22, 2026</u></p> <p>Representatives from JP Morgan will provide an update on their ongoing JP Morgan Health Innovation Conference in San Francisco, CA, January 12-15.</p> <p><u>Entrepreneurs Club Networking Event, Thursday January 16, 2026 5:00 PM</u></p> <p>The Entrepreneurs Club will host another networking event for New Mexico entrepreneurs.</p> <p><u>10th Annual Ski-Lift Pitch, Taos Ski Valley, New Mexico. February 2-3, 2026</u></p> <p>The BSA will be a day sponsor of the 10th annual pitch event that will gather New Mexico Investors and Startups on the Taos Ski Slopes.</p> <p><u>New Mexico Innovation HUB Kick-Off, Wednesday January 14, 2026. Santa Fe, New Mexico</u></p> <p>The BSA also supported the New Mexico Innovation HUB Kick-Off event that focused on expanding the state’s startup ecosystem.</p> <p>The Chair concluded his report thanking Directors Dana Catron and Greg Byrnes for their service to the NMBSA.</p>
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4.	Executive Director's Report	<p>NMBSA Executive Director (ED) Stephanie Tofighi provided an update on the following items for the month of January.</p> <p><u>NMBSA Feasibility Study</u></p> <p>ED Tofighi confirmed she has been in contact with Shauna Wolf, who the BSA has identified as a person of interest to help getting the feasibility study conducted. Tofighi plans to meet with Wolf during the week of January 19th to gather her input.</p> <p><u>2026 NMBSA Bioscience Commercialization Internship Program</u></p> <p>The Bioscience Commercialization program in conjunction with the University of New Mexico (UNM) has up to three vacant positions for prospective interns ED Tofighi reported. The 2026 Bioscience Commercialization Program (BCP) at UNM will run in concurrence with New Mexico State University (NMSU) and New Mexico Tech (NMT). Tofighi said NMT is preparing to initiate their BCP and will contact Patricia Knighton, the NMSU BCP representative, to obtain their program status. Tofighi announced that at this time, there were two interns hired at UNM to work with the Bioscience Authority in this capacity.</p> <p>2026 UNM Bioscience Commercialization Interns</p> <p><i>Damian Vigil</i> – Vigil is an undergraduate pursuing a degree in biology who interned during the 2025 Fall Semester and returns for the Spring of 2026.</p> <p><i>Shaya Golafshani</i> - Golafshani who has experience working with small businesses seeking potential customers in the Albuquerque area will join the program for Spring of 2026. Golafshani has a connection with the BSA having</p>

		<p>participated in the 2025 Tech Navigator Challenge that Tofighi helped judge.</p> <p>The interns will establish office hours at the NMBSA Rainforest location. They will assist small businesses in identifying available resources the state and the BSA have to offer.</p> <p>ED Tofighi added that she has talked with Suzanne Burns, owner of My Accessible Home. My Accessible Home is a digital application that assists patients returning home after leaving care facilities to establish safety protocols for successful living. In Tofighi’s meeting with Burns, she discussed possible internship opportunities with the BSA as well as connections with rural communities.</p> <p>ED Tofighi concluded her report.</p>
5.	IV Ensure Company Presentation	<p>The Chair introduced Mitchell Berenson, MPH; the CEO and founder of <i>IV Ensure: In Home Fusion Therapy</i>, based in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas metropolitan area. IV Ensure is an inclusive care platform that goes beyond the offering of medical devices and is looking into the potential of setting up a call center here in Albuquerque to meet the needs of clients in New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona.</p> <p>Berenson is a public health advocate with a background in epidemiology. As a public health advocate, Berenson seeks to identify trends in healthcare that will benefit patient care. Berenson obtained his Bachelor’s degree at Oklahoma State University and a Master’s in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Policy and Epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma. He continued his education further in pursuing a residency at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where he gathered specific insight on efficient methods to administer patient care from analyzing data.</p> <p>Berenson joined the BSA’s January 15th board meeting to inform how technology and advocacy can improve patient adherence rates by connecting physicians with their patients.</p>

		<p>The IV Ensure, In Home Fusion Therapy Care Platform</p> <p>Goal: Reduce readmission rates</p> <p>Reduced readmission rates present a better quality of life for the patient.</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Some challenges occur when the patient leaves the hospital and returns home which prevents an accurate tally of the medications being taken. -Hospitals are at full capacity with patients taking medications for infected related complications. -Therapies and treatment such as IV antibiotics are expensive. -45% of patients receiving IV therapy live alone so there is no hospital staff to administer the medications according to adherence protocol. -Rural populations are underserved due to location. <p>Solution</p> <p>Devise methods to support the patient at home. This determines when they need help. Providing transparency would be one of the solutions to support the patient at home.</p> <p>Solution for Transparency:</p> <p><i>IV Ensure Home Monitor Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -IV Ensure is an <i>Internet of Things- IOT</i> home monitoring technology which drives patient adherence to administered medications to the highest levels.
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		<p>-Collaborate with state leaders for investment.</p> <p><i>Rural Access and Equity Concerns</i></p> <p>-Using IV Ensure with the state’s Medicaid population would reduce costs in treating infections and possible readmissions.</p> <p>-Ability to reach the state’s underserved populations</p> <p>-Establish Health Plan partnerships to drive impact by working with medical payers covering various payment plans; <i>Indigent care, Accountable Care Organizations</i></p> <p>-University Partnerships; UNM Department of Infectious Diseases. Having a relationship with such departments as the UNM infectious diseases could impact efficient and effective ways to mitigate infections for improved care.</p> <p>Mr. Berenson concluded his presentation confirming his interest to work with the BSA to bring IV Ensure services to New Mexico.</p>
6.	<p>Executive Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBA Reimbursement Conversation Discussion 	<p>NMBSA Executive Committee Chair Paul Laur presented his report for the month of January</p> <p><u>SBA Reimbursement Conversation Discussion</u></p> <p>At the NMBSA Executive Committee Meeting; Friday January 9, 2026, committee members discussed strategies to mitigate costs for small biotech companies engaged in contract research with the state’s research institutions. The Chair confirmed that the discussion for mitigating costs originated at the NMBio-NMBSA Board of Director’s meeting on December 11, 2025. The Chair said working with the New Mexico Small Business Assistance (NMSBA) Program to provide funds to companies for testing and research. He confirmed the NMSBA have programs in place to assist companies such as <i>TRGR grants, Individual Grants</i> and the recent opening rounds of funding for <i>Leveraged Grants</i>. The grants help to offset costs such as equipment use, testing, and specific studies.</p>

		<p>Director Christos Christodoulou affirmed that the SBA’s programs is very helpful for small companies who conduct research at large facilities. Funding is allocated for each project; \$7K-\$8K, that allows the inclusion of students which assists companies improve their product when seeking a second round of funding. The Chair followed Director Christodoulou comments stating that the BSA website can be a future resource for companies seeking resources for offsetting costs related to contract research.</p> <p>Chair Laur concluded his report for January.</p>
7.	<p>Finance Committee Report Monthly Financial Statement Review (November & December)</p>	<p>NMBSA Finance Committee Chair (FCC); Alex Koglin presented the January Finance Committee Report.</p> <p>Through screen share, FCC Koglin presented the 2025 November and December Financial Statements.</p> <p><u>November 2025 Financial Statement</u></p> <p>FCC Koglin reported there were no significant changes to the budget for the month of November.</p> <p><u>December 2025 Financial Statement</u></p> <p>FCC Koglin also reported there were no significant changes to the budget for the month December.</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to approve the November and December financial statements.</p> <p>A motion was made by Dana Catron to approve the 2025 November and December financial statements with a second from Christos Christodoulou.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with nine in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and three absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Catron-Affirm, Christodoulou-Affirm, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Absent, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Absent</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIO 2026 Travel Grant RFP Review 	<p><u>BIO 2026 Travel Grant RFP Review</u></p> <p>ED Tofighi screen shared the BIO 2026 Travel Grant RFP Preview.</p> <p>FCC Koglin explained the Travel Grant Request For Proposal was prepared by ED Tofighi. The proposal addresses support to attend the 2026 BIO International Convention in San Diego, California. The grant program is designed to increase national-international visibility of New Mexico bioscience companies and facilitate investor-partner engagement while strengthening the states bioscience ecosystem.</p> <p>Koglin stated a total of \$90,000 is available which supports funding for two ‘tracks’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pitch Competition Track -New Mexico Pavilion Staffing Track <p>ED Tofighi announced she would ask for members of the BOD to volunteer for the Travel Grant RFP Selection Review Committee at the February 2026 Executive Committee Meeting. Once the proposal is posted online it will be open for 60 days to review application. During the 60 days, the selection committee will review proposal applications.</p> <p>FCC Koglin called for a motion to approve the BIO 2026 Travel Grant RFP.</p> <p>A motion was made by Francisco Pallares to approve the Travel Grant RFP with a second from Dana Catron.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with nine in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and three absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Catron-Affirm, Christodoulou-Affirm, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttila-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Absent, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Affirm, Tiasse-Absent</p>
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		Directors Christos Christodoulou and Tanner Schaub left the meeting at 12:30 PM.
8.	<p>Mission Accomplishment Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NM Research University Expertise Project Update 	<p>Mission Accomplishment Committee Chair Tom Kieft presented his report for the month of January</p> <p><u>NM Research University Expertise Project Update</u></p> <p>The Mission Accomplishment Committee recently discussed the possibility to survey research capabilities at the state’s research institutions. The survey would be conducted by a third party in which they would gather input from the institutions Offices of the Vice Presidents for Research. MAC Chair Kieft said when the proposal was presented there were concerns about the value of the survey, time spent to conduct the survey, and possible negative effects resulting from on the results of the survey if findings did not support the individual priorities of the universities. Kieft reported that it was suggested to begin the process by collecting and analyzing information using InCites Benchmarking & Analytics tool through Clarivate which is a platform available to UNM employees but provides information related to all the state’s researchers.</p> <p>Tofighi explained she received a demonstration of the program from Clarivate after being invited to join the presentation by Dave Hanson; Associate Vice President of Research at UNM Main Campus and NMBSA Intellectual Property Specialist Anne-Laure Schmitt Olivier who works with Dave Hanson. The InCites program is a comprehensive data base complete with citations from publications with plans to include citations on patents which adds value to the information the BSA is looking for Tofighi said. Tofighi continued explaining she has logged on to Clarivate and has selected information to analyze such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Areas of expertise for the state’s research institutions ✓ Collaboration with research among institutions <p>The rationale of using Clarivate would be to possess the ability to create questionnaires that would simplify information with an emphasis on specifics, Tofighi</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEE Internship Pilot Phase Data Report 	<p>confirmed. Then, these questionnaires could be presented to these institutions at less cost financially and timewise.</p> <p><u>Business Entrepreneurial Experience (BEE) Internship Pilot Phase Data Report</u></p> <p>Via Screenshare, NMBSA Communications Industry and Outreach Manager (CIOM); Irene Gray, presented the BEE Intern Pilot Data Report.</p> <p>Spring 2026 BEE Pilot Data</p> <p>-The BEE has 13 Interns representing all of New Mexico’s major research universities, as well as CNM.</p> <p>-Two do not currently have a school affiliation.</p> <p>Intern Degree Status</p> <p>-The BEE has a significant number of students with ‘undergraduate status’ - 62%</p> <p>-The BEE has 1 ‘doctoral’ student and two ‘masters’ students.</p> <p>Intern Majors</p> <p>-Biology 42%</p> <p>-Business Admin 17%</p> <p>-Biomedical Engineering 17%</p> <p>-Accounting & Finance 8%</p> <p>-Business Analytics & Cybersecurity 8%</p> <p>-Mathematics 8%</p> <p>BEE Host Organizations</p> <p><i>Inward</i> of Santa Fe: 2 Interns <i>Mesa Alta Research</i> of Albuquerque: 3 Interns <i>Tramway Ventures</i> of Albuquerque: 2 Interns <i>Prosperous Research Systems</i> of Albuquerque: 2 Interns <i>Life Science Testing & Analysis</i> of Albuquerque: 2 Interns <i>Algae Analytics & Algae Aura</i> of Truth or Consequences 2 Interns</p>
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		<p>How did we get Here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -55 people expressed interest -19 of these applied for Spring of 2026 -13 were placed. 2 of the 13 want to join the Summer Cohort -2 of the 19 that applied could not participate for the Spring of 2026 -4 that applied were not placed -6 additional applicants want to participate in the summer Cohort <p>Majors of the 55 Initial Interested Individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Details the areas of study among the applicants. Biology is prominent area of study. <p>Degree status of Initial Interested Individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Undergraduate student -Doctoral Student -Master Student -No Student status <p>Intern Promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Email: List-Serv -Social Media -Web -Other <p>How Potential Interns Heard about BEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NMBSA Website 3 placed -Handshake 1 placed -URAD Event (Under Graduate Research & Design Network) 1 placed <p>BEE Internship Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -25 Students registered (5 attended)
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		<p>-28 recorded attendees (some attendees did not sign in) -7 Businesses were in attendance -1 Company did not attend. Information was sent</p> <p>BEE Internship Fair Survey Responses</p> <p>-34% Response rate -Received 3.4% rating out of 5</p> <p>BEE Internship Fair Survey Suggestions for Next Event</p> <p>-More information on the NMBSA -How the internship works -Present information in a streamlined manner. -more visual aids for presentation: Flyers</p> <p>How did we get Here-Host Organizations</p> <p>-11 companies expressed interest in the 2026 Spring Cohort -6 companies will participate for Spring 2026 -1 company decided not to participate -some companies did not receive applications</p> <p>Business Promotion</p> <p>How the 2026 Spring Cohort was promoted to businesses</p> <p>-Email -Social Media -Web -Other vehicles</p> <p>Gray added a focus will be made to promote strategically for future events by strengthening relationships.</p> <p>Goals for the 2026 Spring and future Cohorts</p> <p>-Monthly Communications -Site Visits -Final Survey that will be sent to students and host organizations -Additional efforts for Outreach -Monthly Information sessions for students and companies</p>
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		<p>-Produce video for website -write news stories for local communication outlets</p> <p>Before conclusion of the BEE Internship Pilot Phase Data Report, Director Dale Dekker made suggestions to consider moving forward:</p> <p>-Connect with CNM Workforce solutions -Consult with New Mexico Senator Michael Padilla to participate in Sen. Padilla’s annual job fair -Adopt video formats from other bio organizations to curate a BSA video for various audiences</p> <p>CIOM Gray concluded the MAC Report following her presentation.</p>
9.	Other NMBSA Related Business Discussion	<p><u>Letter of Support for The New Mexico Science & Technology Roadmap: Prioritizing Investments for Enhanced Competitiveness in Science and Technology Plan</u></p> <p>Director Dekker proposed to draft a letter which could be sent to the Governor and the Secretary of Economic Development Director; Robert Black. Dekker’s rationale is to establish continuity with the existing and forthcoming executive administrations for sustained and long-term economic development strategies for New Mexico. Dekker revealed that Bioscience in New Mexico was listed as an emerging growth opportunity sector in a recent ‘Techonomy’ Report. The letter will make it imperative to continue with current economic development initiatives and not start over when the current executive administration completes their turn and the next administration begins.</p> <p><u>Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) plans for establishing specialized learning academies</u></p> <p>Director Dekker informed that APS Superintendent Gabriela Blakely has plans to introduce learning academies to prepare the future workforce in various sectors such as culinary arts, Life sciences, advanced manufacturing. Dekker suggested that the BSA attend and participate in APS</p>

		Community events involving discussions regarding the proposed learning academies.
10.	Adjourn	<p>Chair Laur called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made by Tom Kieft to adjourn the meeting with a second from Alex Koglin.</p> <p>A roll call vote of all board members was called with seven in the affirmative, none in opposition, none in abstention and five absent. The vote was as follows:</p> <p>Catron-Affirm, Christodoulou-Absent, Dekker-Affirm, Kieft-Affirm, Koglin-Affirm, Kuuttilla-Affirm, Laur-Affirm, Pallares-Affirm, Perkins-Absent, Sackett-Absent, Schaub-Absent, Tiasse-Absent</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Sterling Nichols & Stephanie Tofighi.