The National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) aims to accelerate biopharmaceutical manufacturing innovation, support the development of standards that enable more efficient and rapid manufacturing capabilities, and educate and train a world-leading biopharmaceutical manufacturing workforce.

NIIMBL achieves these aims by funding innovation through collaborative efforts of our industry, academic, non-profit, and government members.

NIIMBL relies on strong and healthy technology transfer authorities to incentivize our members to lead industry-revolutionary development projects.

NIIMBL is very appreciative that NIST is seeking input from the community both in writing, and through open workshops with the senior leaders in NIST. The message is clear that strengthening our Federal Technology Transfer Authorities is a top priority.

To this end, NIIMBL fully supports the response by AUTM (attached). AUTM has been a tremendous advocate for the pre-competitive space projects the Manufacturing USA institutes are executing and they have described well the key elements that will ensure a robust future for an active technology transfer future.

One specific item of note, addressed in the AUTM response is particularly evident within the NIIMBL funding and partnering opportunities, is creating and funding effective translational programs from the university or federal lab into the commercial sector. The barrier to entry for an inventor of exquisite technology from a university or federal lab to launch a small startup is enormous and the federal funding model offers only a cliff between STTR, SBIR, and core Research and Development to the translational launch of a new company.

The Federal Government should create more of an “off-ramp” to support the transition from primarily federally-funded research to stand-alone small to medium enterprise.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the NIST RFI and we look forward to building a health nation and a strong economy together.

Kind regards from the NIIMBL Team,

Kelvin Lee

Institute Director