

The BioHealth Hub Happy Holiday Happy Hour Event

The BioHealth Hub Happy Holiday Happy Hour event took place on December 6, 2024, at the Greencourt Innovation Center. Organized as a networking and knowledge-sharing opportunity, the evening brought together industry professionals, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to explore key trends and opportunities in the biohealth sector. The event featured three distinguished speakers—Mr. Bradley Gillenwater, Mr. Xin Tao, and Ms. Stephany Yu—and concluded with a lively panel discussion moderated by Bei Ma, Co-founder of the BioHealth Hub.



Photo 1. From Left to Right: Cathy Bauer, Stephany Yu, Joe Gerhardt, Susan Lee, Bei Ma, Xin Tao

Keynote Talks

The first speaker, **Mr. Bradley Gillenwater**, Business & Innovation Development Manager for the Office of Life Sciences at the Maryland Department of Commerce, opened the talks by highlighting the robust government support for the life sciences industry in Maryland. He discussed various state initiatives designed to attract investment, foster innovation, and facilitate collaboration between research institutions and private enterprises. Mr. Gillenwater emphasized Maryland's commitment to maintaining its position as a global leader in biotechnology, particularly through infrastructure investments and targeted incentives for life sciences companies.

Next, **Mr. Xin Tao**, Partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP, offered valuable insights into the complex landscape of international law affecting healthcare and life sciences, particularly in the U.S.-China context. He addressed key legal frameworks, challenges, and opportunities for cross-border collaborations in research, clinical trials, and biopharmaceutical innovation. Mr. TAO underscored the importance of regulatory harmonization and the need for mutual trust to unlock the full potential of international partnerships in the sector.

Finally, **Ms. Stephany Yu**, Co-founder of the BioHealth Hub and Sunwater Capital, provided an overview of general market and investment trends shaping the biohealth space. She highlighted the growing interest in precision medicine, digital health technologies, and biologics as key drivers of investment activity. Ms. Yu also discussed the rising influence of venture capital and private equity in accelerating the growth of emerging companies, while cautioning against potential risks related to market volatility and geopolitical uncertainty.

Panel Discussion

The individual talks were followed by a dynamic panel discussion moderated by **Bei Ma**, Co-founder of BioHealth Hub. The three speakers engaged in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, delving deeper into Maryland's unique position in the global life sciences ecosystem. They discussed the state's talent pool, proximity to leading research institutions, and the role of international collaborations in advancing innovation. Audience questions spurred conversations about navigating regulatory challenges, fostering diversity in life sciences startups, and strategies for sustaining long-term growth in a competitive global market.



Photo 2 & 3. Panel Discussion – From Left to Right: Bei Ma, Xin Tao, Bradley Gillenwater and Stephany Yu

Closing Remarks

The evening concluded with brief but impactful remarks by **Maryland Secretary of State Susan Lee** and her senior advisor, **Joe Gebhardt**. Secretary Lee emphasized the pivotal role Maryland plays in the life sciences sector, declaring this moment as a critical time for the state to lead in innovation and growth. She reiterated the state government's unwavering support for initiatives like the BioHealth Hub and encouraged stakeholders to seize the opportunities ahead.



Photo 4. Joe Gebhardt, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State

Conclusion

The December 6 Happy Hour at Greencourt Innovation Center successfully highlighted Maryland's vibrant biohealth ecosystem while fostering meaningful connections among attendees. The evening's discussions not only underscored the state's leadership in life sciences but also illuminated pathways for continued collaboration and growth on both local and international scales.

About Biohealth Hub

The Biohealth Hub @ Greencourt Innovation Center is a premier innovation space dedicated to advancing life sciences and biotechnologies in Maryland. The hub offers a collaborative environment where startups, researchers, and investors come together to foster growth in life sciences, biotechnologies, medical devices, and digital health.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Haiyan Mei

mm@biohealthhub.net

240.673.1680

Biohealth Hub @ Greencourt Innovation Center

12358 Parklawn Drive

North Bethesda, MD 20852

www.biohealthhub.net