

Forward BIOLABS unveils advisory board, recognizing leaders in state biohealth industry

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Forward BIOLABS is touting the expertise of its newly unveiled advisory board, which offers insight and support to the Madison-based organization's leadership.

The co-working space, which specializes in life science laboratories, first launched its pilot program in 2018 before moving to a larger space. Its goals include supporting the state's biotech ecosystem and helping life science startups get off the ground earlier.

The group today is officially announcing the 22 members of the board, though many have been involved with Forward BIOLABS from the very beginning. That's according to CEO and co-founder Jessica Martin Eckerly.

"They did more than talk, they got involved in a meaningful way that really helped Forward BIOLABS not just come to fruition, but also helped sustain it, bring it to where it is today," she told WisBusiness.com yesterday in an interview. "And most of all, all of these advisors want to see Wisconsin entrepreneurs and startups be successful."

Eckerly said she reaches out to individual advisory board members "on an as-needed basis" to get their input on local, regional and national industry trends.

She spotlighted some of the advisors who played a key role in supporting the organization in its early days, including UW-Madison's Forward Bio Institute Director Bill Murphy, Gilson CEO Nick Paris, Findorff Vice President of Science and Technology Robert Hougard Jr., Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation CEO Erik Iverson, and others.

"Their hearts are in it to help these companies, and to see these technologies evolve and be rolled out to people — whether that's in health care, or in ag tech, water tech," she said. "They're excited to see them be successful."

See the full list of advisory board members

here: <https://www.wisbusiness.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/FBIO-Advisor-Release-11-28-23.pdf>

See an earlier story on the co-working

space: <https://www.wisbusiness.com/2021/forward-biolabs-leverages-coworking-to-support-biotech-startups/>

See details on the current group of startups at the Madison

facility: <https://www.forwardbiolabs.org/member-startups>

-By Alex Moe