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**Virginia Catalyst Announces Upcoming Panel Discussion at
Virginia Bioscience Webinar – Wednesday, April 22 Noon – 1:00 pm**

Funding for Virginia Public-Private Biotech Partnerships...Come Learn How to Score and Win!

Join us on Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/644376195>

RICHMOND, VA – April 9, 2020 – The Virginia Catalyst today announced that it is hosting a webinar in conjunction with Virginia Bio. This complimentary event will feature an expert panel sharing what it takes to score highly, get funding and to position your company and research university for significant follow-on funding from large corporations, venture capitalists, DARPA, NIH and philanthropic foundations.

There are many sources of funding for early-stage innovation in Virginia. The Virginia Catalyst is one such source, providing grant funding for collaborations of universities and industry on commercialization projects. Cumulatively through the first ten funding rounds, the Catalyst has provided \$19.1 million in milestone-based grants to 43 projects involving 6 universities and 34 companies. This has resulted in a 10:1 ROI for the Commonwealth including: \$34 million in matching funds, \$228 million in follow on funding, and 173 new jobs in life sciences. The Catalyst is now looking to fund collaborative projects through Grant Round 11, with emphasis placed on innovative projects focused on solutions for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Come hear from **Mike Grisham** about the timeline for Virginia Catalyst Grant Round 11 and how to apply for Catalyst funding. As President and CEO of Virginia Catalyst, Mr. Grisham facilitates the mission of Virginia Catalyst by advancing life sciences through strategic initiatives, which includes providing capital to Virginia's research university investigators and industry partners to commercialize Virginia's research innovations. Mr. Grisham has extensive experience of successfully growing high potential bioscience and healthcare companies. He is also the founder and CEO of GPB Scientific, Inc., a leader in cell and gene therapy processing.

Along with Mr. Grisham, panel members include:

Mickey Kim, former Senior Vice President, Research and Commercialization, Inova Translational Medicine Institute, Inova Health System. Dr. Kim has over 20 years of experience fostering innovation and partnerships across medical products, healthcare IT and healthcare services as a pharmaceutical executive, strategy consultant, venture capital investor and entrepreneur. Prior to Inova, Dr. Kim was a member of the Partnering & Strategy Leadership Team at MedImmune, the biologics R&D arm of AstraZeneca. As Head of Out-licensing and Spin outs, he led the successful spin out, partnering and sale of multiple MedImmune assets to external parties. He also led successful institutional collaborations between MedImmune and academic, charity and government institutions, including the University of Maryland System, Cancer Research UK and NIH's NHLBI's NCAI program.

James Powers, Chairman and CEO, HemoShear Therapeutics, LLC. Prior to joining HemoShear in August 2008, Mr. Powers was a member of the executive team that took PRA International (now PRA Health Sciences) public in 2004. He transitioned PRA from a clinical data management company to a global clinical trials management organization, recruited its first operations leaders and led PRA's business development activities.

Thomas D. Roberts III, General Partner, Harbert Growth Partners, Harbert Management Corporation. A founding member of venture capital fund Harbert Growth Partners, Mr. Roberts has spent the last 25+ years as a principal in creating and investing in new businesses and as an advisor to entrepreneurs and corporate executives on operating growth, financing and exit strategies. His industry focus is primarily on enterprise technology software and services, security, mobile devices, cloud computing as well as e-commerce and e-commerce enabling technologies.

Event details: Wednesday, April 22nd
Noon - 1:00 pm

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About Virginia Catalyst

Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), known as Virginia Catalyst, has a vision of advancing life sciences throughout Virginia as a means of addressing large unmet medical needs to improve human health and to create high-paying jobs throughout the Commonwealth. Funded by the Virginia General Assembly's General fund, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Eastern Virginia Medical School, George Mason University, Old Dominion University, and William and Mary, Virginia Catalyst has funding opportunities to support collaborative projects in the Commonwealth and is home to the Virginia Neuroscience Initiative. For more information, visit www.VirginiaCatalyst.org

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