

Review of the SBIR and STTR Programs at NASA

Meeting of the Committee (April 25-26, 2024)

Biographies of Guest Speakers

In order of appearance

April 25 Open Session:

SOLANGE MASSA

Solange Massa MD PhD is the founder and CEO of Ecoatoms, a company developing space biomedical payloads. She was previously the Lead Investment Fellow at Life Science Angels and currently a member at the same group. Before that, she did her Postdoctoral Fellowship at Stanford University developing biomaterials for radiation induced diseases. During her doctoral research at Harvard-MIT HST she developed award-winning Organ-on-a-Chip platforms for drug toxicity testing. For this work she was named MIT Innovator under 35 and Women at the Frontier. Her work has been featured in TEDx, MIT Technology Review, BBC, Wired, and numerous scientific journals.

JACKIE JESTER

Jackie Jester is the Director of Government Affairs at Relativity Space. In this role, Jester leads Relativity's Government Affairs office in Washington, D.C. and guides policy engagement with all branches and levels of government.

Prior to joining Relativity, Jester served as a Policy Advisor at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, where she advised the Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs on various legislative and policy matters. She also served as a Policy Advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, advising the Director on space policy issues, leading legislative affairs, and serving as co-chair of the Space Weather Operations, Research, and Mitigation interagency working group.

Jester also served as a professional staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Her portfolio included aviation operations and safety policy, with a focus on unmanned aircraft systems, as well as civil space policy, and she played a lead role in the drafting and negotiating of numerous pieces of legislation. She has also spent time in state government as the Chief Legislative Aide to a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Jester is a graduate of Boston College where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and minored in economics and international studies.

April 26 Open Session:

MATTHEW WEINZIERL

Matt Weinzierl is Senior Associate Dean and Chair of the MBA Program at Harvard Business School (HBS), where he is the Joseph and Jacqueline Elbling Professor of Business Administration, and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. His research focuses on the optimal design of economic policy, in particular taxation, with an emphasis on better understanding the philosophical principles underlying policy choices. Recently, he has launched a set of research projects focused on the commercialization of the space sector and its economic implications, viewable at www.economicsofspace.com. He has created and currently teaches two courses in the HBS Elective Curriculum: The Role of Government in Market Economies (RoGME) and Space, Public and Commercial Economics (SPACE). For the former, he has written case studies on public education, national health insurance, welfare reform, immigration, and a variety of topics in taxation. For the latter, he has written case studies of Astroscale, Blue Origin, Made In Space, NASA, Planetary Resources, Space Angels, SpaceX, Spire, the U.S. Space Force, and other institutions.