



# British-American Business Association Washington, D.C.

*Fostering valuable UK-US trans-Atlantic business relationships for more than 30 years*  
A Member of the BritishAmerican Business Network

Newsletter

January 2021

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COVID-19 Vaccine Partnership

### Our Platinum Members

**AstraZeneca** 

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## The 24th Annual Gala Christmas Party Came Dashing through the Snow Virtually!

Over 130 guests joined our virtual Christmas gala on December 10<sup>th</sup> which featured our guest of honor, **Her Majesty's Ambassador, Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG**. The Ambassador gave her remarks live from the Fairmont Hotel where our Chairman, Mark Herlach; President, Eamonn Cooney; General Manager of the Fairmont, Mark Huntley; Emcee Bob Heck; and Mrs. Claus, Sally Anne Andrew were also on hand to lead the festivities. (all while maintaining appropriate Covid-19 precautions)

*(For more event photos, see pages 6-7)*



*From left to right, Mark Huntley, Mark Herlach, Ambassador Karen Pierce, Eamonn Cooney and Anne Collett with the British Embassy.*

# From the President . . .

Dear Members:

Let me start by wishing you and yours a Happy New Year and all the very best for a safe and far better 2021!



We always appreciate the great support BABA receives from all of you, our members, but this was especially true during a challenging 2020. We are particularly grateful to our Platinum and Sponsoring members and to all of you who renewed your memberships – thank you all!

Despite so many changes and challenges to all our working lives last year, BABA moved swiftly into the virtual world and we were pleased to provide a

**wide-range of 45 business and social events** for our members and colleagues.

As we gladly headed out of 2020, these two major events in December spring most to mind:

⇒ On Dec 10<sup>th</sup> BABA held its **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Party**, so different this year as a show produced and live streamed from the *Fairmont Hotel DC*, to all our guests, virtually. It was brilliant to have so many of you join us for the fun! I want to especially thank **British Ambassador Karen Pierce DCMG**, not only for being our Guest of Honor, but for joining us live at the Fairmont to make her excellent remarks! A special thanks to all our wonderful sponsors who made this event possible. Naturally we really look forward to partying in-person with so many of you again next Christmas!

⇒ On Christmas Eve **the UK and the EU reached an historic agreement on a post-Brexit trade deal**, which was then overwhelmingly approved by UK MPs in Parliament on Dec. 30th. We congratulate all those in the UK government and EU who worked so hard to achieve this historic agreement.

As we look forward into 2021, BABA will again plan business events in support of topical issues including **post-Brexit developments, the new US Administration and Congress, UK Defence funding, US-UK FTA progress and COP-26**. There will, of course, also be **fun social events including more in our wine series!**

I also welcome these BABA members to their new roles: our two new **BABA Board Directors, Andrea Thompson, Northrop Grumman** and **Elizabeth Lee, Womble Bond Dickinson**; our new **DATS Committee co-Chair Ed O'Callaghan, Northrop Grumman** and our two new **Health & Life Sciences Committee co-Chairs, Tom Harrell, IndigoNDA** and **Paul Seltman, Smith & Nephew**. A huge thanks also to their predecessors, **Pam Frazier, Northrop Grumman** and **Rich Buckley, AstraZeneca**, for all your great work and support as Committee Chairs! (Pam, have a wonderful well deserved retirement!) I encourage BABA members to join the BABA Committee or Group in their business sector if you have not already done so.

As always, thank you, all of you, for your membership and your continued support and engagement in BABA.



**Eamonn Cooney**  
President@babawashington.org

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*Terence Roche Murphy, OBE*

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*Jan Mul, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority*

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*Chris Fetzer/Ed O'Callaghan,*

*Defense, Aerospace, Transportation & Security (DATS)*

*Joe Tirone, Energy & Environment*

*Dave Hollander/Mike Fletcher, Financial Services*

*Tom Harrell/Paul Seltman, Health & Life Sciences*

*Jill Landefeld/Jan Mul, Marketing/Business Development*

*Chris Parker, Small Business*

*John Dickerman/Jennifer Taylor Hodges, Trade & Policy*

*Miriam Smallman/John Bleed, Young Professionals*

## ADMINISTRATION

*Patricia A. Karhuse, MBE, Executive Director*

*P. Rugger Smith, Administrator*



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# Embassy News

The third, fourth, and fifth rounds of UK-US free trade agreement negotiations took place in August, September, and October 2020 respectively.

By the end of the third round, most chapter areas had moved into the advanced stages of talks. In August 2020, in parallel to the third round of talks, UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss also made a brief visit to Washington to meet with her counterpart, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. In between rounds three and four, the UK and US also exchanged their first tariff offers, which allowed meaningful market access discussions to take place during the fourth round in September. The fifth round took place in October, concluding shortly before the US presidential elections. By the end of the fifth round, a significant proportion of legal text had been agreed across multiple chapters. Both sides agreed a programme for continued talks at official level for the weeks following the U.S. election.

On 10 November, following the US election, Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke with President-elect Joe Biden. They discussed the close and longstanding UK-US relationship and committed to building on this partnership in the years ahead, in areas such as trade and security. The Prime Minister and President-elect spoke about working closely together on their shared priorities, from tackling climate change, to promoting democracy, and building

back better from the coronavirus pandemic. During the call, Prime Minister Johnson invited President-elect Biden to attend the COP26 climate change summit that the UK will host in Glasgow in November 2021. They also look forward to seeing each other in person, including when the UK hosts the G7 Summit later this year.



On 24 December, the Prime Minister announced that the UK had reached a deal with the European Union on their future relationship. It is the first free trade agreement the EU has ever reached based on zero tariffs and zero quotas; UK businesses will be able to continue to trade smoothly, selling to their customers in the EU. From financial services to automotive manufacturing, the deal protects high quality jobs and investment across the UK. The E.U.-U.K. Joint

Committee also reached agreement in December, ensuring that Northern Ireland's place within the U.K. and its economic future are protected in accordance with the Good Friday Agreement.

As Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab wrote in an opinion piece for the [Washington Post](#) in December: "... we look forward to the next chapter in our history. We will be resolute in defending open societies, promoting global trade and standing up for those values we have always championed side-by-side with our friends in the United States."



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## The BABA Trade & Policy Committee Provides Programs focused on the US-UK FTA and Brexit

A Trade & Policy Committee program was held in October focusing on the latest on the US-UK Free Trade Agreement Talks. **Sarah Clegg, Head of Trade Policy at the British Embassy in Washington** provided a detailed readout of the progress made so far, the state of play



after the 5th round of negotiations, the challenges that remain, and the political prospects for the deal in 2021.

Closing out the year, Will McGarrigle, principal international trade advisor at the Confederation of British Industry in London was the guest speaker at a virtual roundtable in December. McGarrigle discussed the latest developments in Brexit negotiations, how the UK is constructing its global trading future after Brexit, and how this all affects the UK-US relationship.

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## Platinum Member AstraZeneca's Covid-19 Vaccine Authorized for Supply in the UK

AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for emergency supply in the UK, with the first doses released on December 30 so that vaccinations may begin early in the New Year.

AstraZeneca is working with Public Health England and National Health Service England to support the deployment and roll out of the vaccine in the UK, in line with the MHRA and the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation dosing recommendation. The Company aims to supply millions of doses in the first quarter as part of an agreement with the government to supply up to 100 million doses in total.

Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive Officer, said: "Today is an important day for millions of people in the UK who will get access to this new vaccine. It has been shown to be effective, well-tolerated, simple to administer and is supplied by AstraZeneca at no profit. We would like to thank our many colleagues at AstraZeneca, Oxford University, the UK government and the tens of thousands of clinical trial participants."

Matt Hancock, UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, said: "This is a moment to celebrate British innovation - not only are we responsible for discovering the first treatment to reduce mortality for Covid-19, this vaccine will be made available to some of the poorest regions of the world at a low cost, help-



ing protect countless people from this awful disease. It is a tribute to the incredible UK scientists at Oxford University and AstraZeneca whose breakthrough will help to save lives around the world. I want to thank every single person who has been part of this British success story. While it is a time to be hopeful, it is so vital everyone continues to play their part to drive down infections."

Professor Andrew Pollard, Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group and Chief Investigator of the Oxford Vaccine Trial, said: "The regulator's assessment that this is a safe and effective vaccine is a landmark moment, and an endorsement of the huge effort from a devoted international team of researchers and our dedicated trial participants. Though this is just the beginning, we will start to get ahead of the pandemic, protect health and economies when the vulnerable are vaccinated everywhere, as many as possible as soon possible."

In addition to the programme led by Oxford University, AstraZeneca is conducting a large trial in the US and globally. In total, Oxford University and AstraZeneca expect to enroll up to 60,000 participants globally.

# Bon Voyage?

Travel Update Presented by British Airways and WorldTravelService

During this time of self-isolation we can all dream about the day when we can travel and vacation at ease. **Derrick Surratt** with **British Airways** and **Denny Lewis** with **WorldTravelService** provided some insights and updates to the travel scene and what we might expect in 2021 and beyond.

The dialogue between the two travel experts was moderated by BABA President, Eamonn Cooney. Some comments made during the conversation:

- Cumulative loss for the world's airlines for 2020 is estimated at \$84B;

- Closed borders have resulted in an estimated GBP 45B loss in trade between the US and UK;

- Improved treatments and a vaccine will be required to fully restore demand for air travel.



In October the CEO of IATA, the main travel association said the risk of catching Covid-19 on board a plane is similar to being struck by lightning, claiming only 44 cases of potential coronavirus infections have been traced back to flights since the start of 2020, a tiny proportion of the 1.2 billion people who have travelled by air in the same time period.



Derrick Surratt



Denny Lewis



Eamonn Cooney

# Cyber Innovation: A Visit to DreamPort



Organized by BABA's Defense, Aerospace, Transportation & Security Committee

On October 28<sup>th</sup> the DATS Committee treated members to a virtual tour of DreamPort, a public-private partnership facility created by CYBERCOM. DreamPort enables cyber innovation, collaboration, and prototyping. Following the tour there was a short panel discussion on the unique opportunities it presents for US and UK firms.



From top left the three Speakers: **Ed Devinney – Corporate Director for Cyber Programs, Northrop Grumman Corporation; Scott Dade, USCYBERCOM Director, Technology Outreach and Partnerships; and Matt Malarkey, US General Manager, Titania Ltd.;** opening the meeting was BABA President, Eamonn Cooney.

From bottom left: the two DATS Co-Chairs: Pam Frazier, Northrop Grumman and Chris Fetzer, Dentons.





## 24th Annual Gala Christmas Party

Special thanks and appreciation for the generous support of our event Sponsors: *Diamond Sponsor, Lockheed Martin; Platinum Sponsors: AstraZeneca, Eversheds Sutherland and Womble Bond Dickinson; Gold Sponsor: BT; Silver Sponsors: MBDA and National Grid; and Bronze Sponsors: Indigo DNA and the Welsh Government;* and to our *Event Sponsor: Fairmont Washington, DC, Georgetown.*

Many thanks also to the companies who donated raffle prizes: **AstraZeneca, BMW Group, Eversheds Sutherland, Fairmont Washington, DC, Georgetown, LeFay Cottage/Proprietor Sally Anne Andrew, Lockheed Martin, Old Glory D.C. Rugby Football Club, Welsh Government, Whiteford Taylor Preston/Philip Niedermair, and Womble Bond Dickinson.**

**The Christmas Party show, live-streamed from the Fairmont, can be viewed here.**



*Her Majesty's Ambassador, Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG*



*Chairman, Mark Herlach raises a glass in a holiday toast.*



*It's Christmas Cracker opening time!*



*President, Eamonn Cooney and Emcee, Bob Heck maintaining social distancing*

**All Christmas Party photos can be viewed here**





With the support of all of our generous sponsors and guests, BABA donated a portion of the proceeds to **SOME (So Others Might Eat)** an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital. They strive to meet the immediate daily needs of the people they serve with food, clothing, and healthcare. In addition they offer additional services such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment, and counseling, to the poor, the elderly, and individuals with mental illness. Each day, SOME is restoring hope and dignity one person at a time.



*Ambassador Karen Pierce*



*Mrs. Claus gets ready for the raffle*



*Who will win the wine basket?*

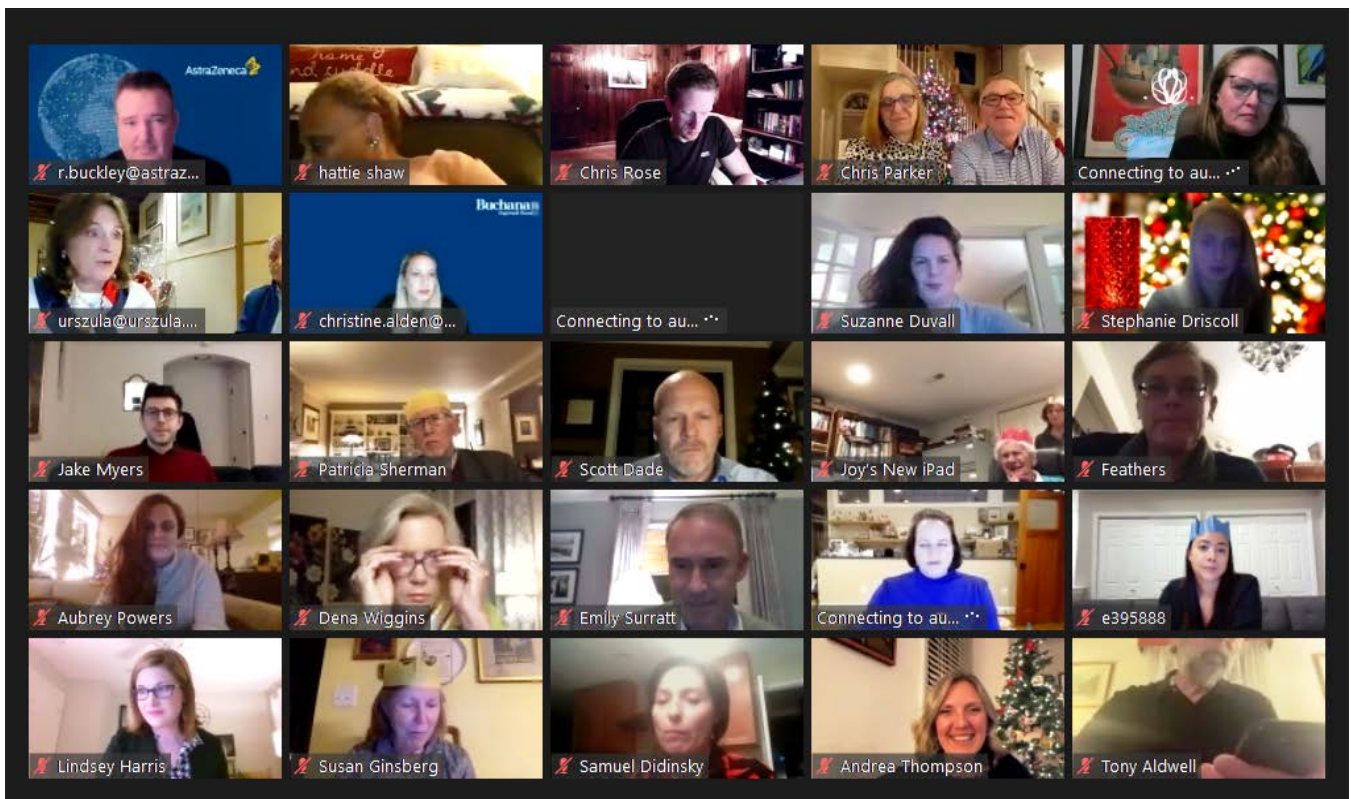
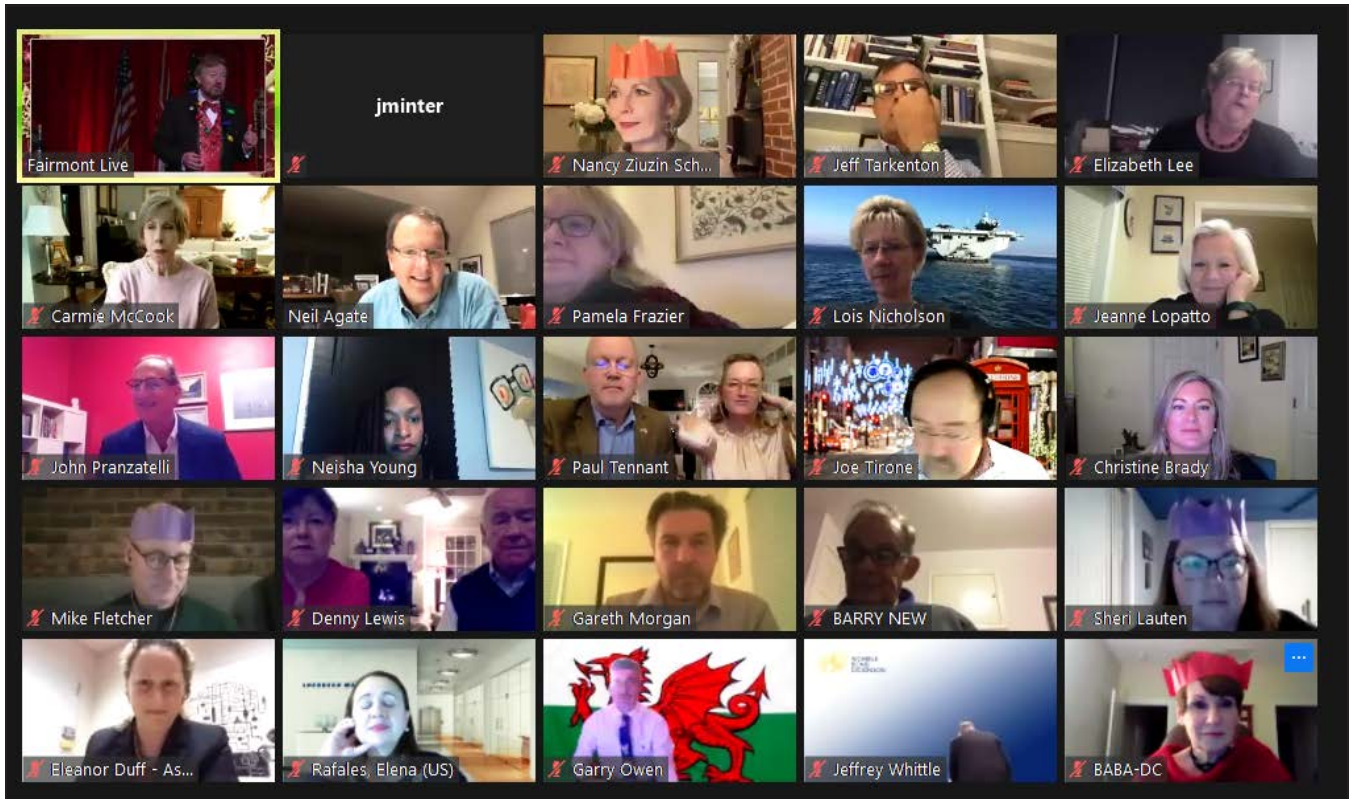


*Musical entertainment by Mr&MrsGrey/Elegant Entertainment and by the Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet*





# Fun After Party Networking on Zoom!





# AstraZeneca and Oxford University's Partnership on the COVID-19 Vaccine



Organized by BABA's Health & Life Sciences Committee

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, BABA members and colleagues heard from two distinguished colleagues in the health science community.

**Associate Professor Teresa Lambe, The Jenner Institute, Oxford University** and **Dr. Ann Taylor, Chief Medical Officer, and Head of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Global Issues Management Team** provided a fascinating commentary on a topic of utmost importance to the world.



Professor Teresa Lambe



Dr. Ann Taylor

Professor Lambe discussed Oxford's pioneering efforts to discover a safe and effective vaccine and their partnership with Astrazeneca while Dr. Taylor covered AstraZeneca's comprehensive response to the pandemic. A lively and informative Q&A followed the discussion.

# A Panel of Experts Discuss the Financial and Economic Issues Related to the U.S. Election



Organized by BABA's Financial Services Committee

With the US election only weeks away, the Financial Services Committee convened a panel on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss various issues that would be addressed under the next Administration. The speakers covered diverse topics including the overall deficit challenges at the Federal and state levels; the tax policy expectations under either administration, and the expectation for additional Covid related economic stimulus.



Patti Burquest – Leader of RSM's Washington National Tax Practice



James Lucier, Co-Founder, Capital Alpha Partners



Brian Gardner, Managing Director and Chief Policy Expert, Stifel



Jean-Paul Schwarz, Tax Principapl, Citrin Cooperman



MODERATOR  
Jim Alex. Principal at RSM US LLP - National Tax Go To Market Leader

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## BABA YPs and the YFPF Enjoy Virtual Time Together with a British Pub Quiz Evening

On October 15<sup>th</sup> YPs from the British-American Business Association joined with the Young Professionals in Foreign Policy to play a UK-themed Zoom trivia match. The YPs enjoyed meeting each other through the virtual platform.

The event was organized by the co-chairs of the BABA's Young Professionals Group, Miriam Smallman with the British Embassy and John Bleed with The CBI. A

follow-up quiz evening will be scheduled in early 2021. These fun events help to expand members' professional networks through a diverse, expansive community of young professionals.

To learn more about the BABA Young Professional Group go to [www.babawashington.org](http://www.babawashington.org) and click on "Committees".

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## Innovation in a Time of Disruption

*Organized by the  
BABA Small Business Group*

With 2020 confirmed as a year of disruption, the October 13<sup>th</sup> BABA program was timely in offering a conversation with US and UK lead practitioners of Innovation and Transformation at 10Pearls, a leading end-to-end digital technology company.

The speakers provided a lively discourse on innovation and transformation in a time of disruption and presented pointers on navigating



*Rumi Mirza, Principal, 10Pearls*



*Joshua Konowe, Head of Digital Innovation, 10Pearls*

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## Lockheed Martin Celebrates a Year of F-35 Successes & Contribution to UK Economy

**Despite COVID-19 challenges, F-35 Program delivers 123 aircraft and supports British economy**

In 2020, the F-35 Program met its revised target of delivering 123 aircraft. As part of this, the UK received its latest batch of three F-35 B variant aircraft as expected, at the end of November. The UK's F-35 fleet now includes 21 aircraft, out of a program of 138.

The B variant is designed to operate from the UK's aircraft carriers. Initial Operating Capability (Maritime) for the F-35 was declared at the end of 2020, following successful sea trials throughout the year.

In addition to the critical capabilities provided by the F-35, the Program makes a significant contribution to the UK economy. It will contribute at least £40.6bn to UK GDP, supporting over 20,000 British jobs and 500 British companies each year. The economic benefits of the F-35 Program will continue to be important, as the UK's economy recovers from COVID-19.



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## Sponsoring Members

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**Rolls-Royce North America Inc.**

**RSM US LLP**

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**WETA**

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# New Members

## **SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS**

### **BIOSPACE76, LLC**

*Health Research*

### **CRESTVIEW STRATEGY**

*Government Affairs*

Website: [www.crestviewstrategy.com](http://www.crestviewstrategy.com)

Crestview Strategy is a public affairs consultancy with offices in the US, UK and Canada.

### **CROESSMANN & WESTBERG, PC**

*Legal Services*

Website: [www.cwattorney.com](http://www.cwattorney.com)

Law firm that focus on architecture, engineering and construction of major infrastructure projects in the areas of project delivery and risk management.

## **YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS**

**Amin Alshangiti**

**Kelly Brown**

**Patrick Fitzgerald**

**Joe Kalmin**



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