



**ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
PARKS**

Creating Communities of Innovation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TO
HOST AURP 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DISCOVERY DISTRICT
*UNITING SCIENCE + INNOVATION***

Tucson, Arizona - September 20, 2018 - The Association of University Research Parks (AURP) and the University of Maryland have teamed up to present the AURP 2018 International Conference from October 22nd to October 26th. The International Conference attracts 200+ park leaders from around the world for knowledge exchange and networking with industry expert presenters.

AURP is a not-for-profit international organization that focuses on creating communities of innovation and education for university research parks both operating and planned, innovation districts, incubators, accelerators and businesses that cater to the research park industry.

The theme of the conference, *Uniting Science + Innovation*, is the foundation for a number of prominent speakers from the Maryland area including state of Maryland Secretary of Commerce Mike Gill, Sage Policy Group CEO Anirban Basu, and chief technology and business engagement experts from local technology companies, including Lockheed-Martin, Northrop Grumman, Capital One, and Medimmune.

AURP is looking forward to bringing innovation experts from around the world to the Baltimore-Washington Corridor to experience in person the powerful cluster that has developed among the collaborative park system.” Carol Stewart, CEO AURP.

The new Hotel at UMD, anchor of the University’s expanding Discovery District research park, will serve as the conference headquarters. The conference will include tours of the Discovery District—the largest in Maryland—and other research parks in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Also, local architectural design and development firms will feature their work in a Design Showcase.

Topics to be explored at the conference include the new Federal Opportunity Zones for funding companies and infrastructure, international partnerships, the role of community colleges in innovation zones, and ways to strengthen university-industry ties.

The Discovery District has been widely recognized for its leadership in research and engagement in 2016 UMD was awarded by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities the top award for an economic development program for its Greater College Park initiative, of which the Discovery District is a cornerstone. In addition, in 2015, University of Maryland Research Park was recognized as AURP's Research Park of the Year, and it is a state designated Regional Innovation Strategic Enterprise Zone (RISE) and a federal Opportunity Zone. WeWork is opening its first university-based co-working space in the Discovery District this fall.

“With our network of university research parks – coupled with nearly 75 federal labs –Maryland is an epicenter of science, technology, and innovation,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “Our state is the perfect location to explore unparalleled research facilities and expand partnerships at both home and abroad. I want to congratulate the University of Maryland, College Park for their leadership in bringing the AURP conference to Maryland, and offer my best wishes for a successful event.”

As if world class programming is not enough, the host committee has developed a DC Experience as a kick off to the conference with a seminar on how to work with your federal legislative leaders and provide an opportunity for attendees to schedule appointments with their government representatives or their country's embassy or consulate. A tour of research parks in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and the UMD Discovery District in College Park will cap off the conference conclusion highlighted by an address by Dr. Louis W. Uccellini, Director of the National Weather Service.

“The Capital Region, from Baltimore to Richmond, is one of the nation's most technologically advanced corridors,” said Jason Miller, CEO of the Greater Washington Partnership. “This conference will put on spotlight on our region's leading universities and robust science and technology ecosystem driving innovation.”

AURP registration is now open at www.aurp.net The host committee is chaired by former AURP President, Brian Darmody, Associate Vice President for Corporate Engagement at the University of Maryland.

AURP is pleased to announce local firms and organizations sponsoring the 2018 AURP International Conference including

The University Financing Foundation
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Further information can be found on www.international.aurp.net.