Innovation Corps Advisory Committee

**John Burke** is a founder of True Ventures, with a passion in early stage investing and growing companies. For eight years, he lived through the balancing act of building his own company at BMI Software, which he founded in 1989 and sold in 1997. He began his venture career at ABS Ventures in 1999, working with Phil Black, and then, after the acquisition of Alex Brown and Sons by Deutsche Bank, continued on with DB Capital Partners. Before founding True, John was a Managing Member with Blacksmith Capital. He recently crossed an important threshold in his professional life: he has now been a venture capitalist longer than he was a CEO. However, like most life changing events, he can still remember the late nights dealing with HR issues, the relief of meeting payroll, and the satisfaction of delighting a customer.

Having lived through the tough decisions required in entrepreneurship, John is now able to guide his portfolio companies through the difficult times with a deftness that only those years of operating experience bring. John holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from U.C. Berkeley, a BA degree in Economics from U.C. Santa Cruz, and a MBA degree from Harvard Business School. When he is not thinking about how to create a more valuable company, you can probably find him bird hunting with his German Shorthair Pointer, teaching his kids to ski, or building furniture in his shop.
Vinton G. Cerf has served as Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google since October 2005. In this role, he is responsible for identifying new enabling technologies to support the development of advanced, Internet-based products and services from Google. Cerf also served at MCI, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, the U.S. Department of Defense’s Advanced Research Agency (DARPA), and as a member of the Stanford University Faculty.

Widely known as one of the "Fathers of the Internet," Cerf is the co-inventor of the architecture and basic protocols of the Internet. In December 1997, President Clinton presented the U.S. National Medal of Technology to Cerf and his colleague, Robert E. Kahn, for founding and developing the Internet. Kahn and Cerf were named the recipients of the ACM Alan M. Turing award in 2004 for their work on the Internet protocols. The Turing award is sometimes called the "Nobel Prize of Computer Science." In November 2005, President George Bush awarded Cerf and Kahn the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award given by the United States to its citizens. In April 2008, Cerf and Kahn received the prestigious Japan Prize.

Cerf served as chairman of the board of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (CANN) from 2000-2007 and as founding president of the Internet Society from 1992-1995, and in 1999 served a term as chairman of the Board. Cerf is honorary chairman of the IPv6 Forum, dedicated to raising awareness and speeding introduction of the new Internet protocol. Cerf also served as a member of the U.S. Presidential Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC) from 1997 to 2001 and serves on several national, state and industry boards and committees focused on cyber-security and other topics.

Cerf has received numerous other awards and commendations, nationally and internationally, in connection with his work on the Internet, including the Marconi Fellowship, the Charles Stark Draper award of the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Medal of Science from Tunisia. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, the ACM, and American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the International Engineering Consortium, the Computer History Museum, the Annenberg Center for Communications at USC, the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering, the American Philosophical Society, the Hasso Plattner Institute and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. In 2011, he was made Distinguished Fellow of the British Computer Society.

In December, 1994, People magazine identified Cerf as one of that year’s "25 Most Intriguing People."

Cerf holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Stanford University and Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from UCLA. He has received twenty honorary degrees.
Gururaj (Desh) Deshpande, Ph.D. served as Treasurer and Secretary of Sycamore Network Inc., from February 1998 to June 1999 and also as its President from February 1998 to October 1998. Dr. Deshpande founded Cascade Communications Corp., and served as its Executive Vice President, Business Development since January 1997, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Customer Service from April 1992 to January 1997, President from October 1990 to April 1992 and Chairman of the Board since January 1997. From December 1988 to May 1990, he served as Vice President of Engineering for Coral Network Corporation, which he co-founded in 1988. Previously, he served in various management positions for Codex Corporation, a subsidiary of Motorola. Dr. Deshpande co-founded Sycamore networks Inc., in 1998 and has been its Chairman of the Board since February 1998. He serves as Chairman of A123 Systems Inc., Tejas Networks India Ltd., and WebDialogs, Inc. He has been a Director of A123 Systems, Inc., since December 2001. He serves as a Board Member of Sandstone Capital. He serves as a Member of MIT Corporation. He serves as a Trustee of The Indus Entrepreneurs. He has been a Director of Cascade Communications Corp. Dr. Deshpande served as Director of Airvana, Inc., since May 2000. Dr. Deshpande is frequently invited to deliver keynote addresses at business, technology, education, and government conferences. He taught at Queens University in Kingston, Canada. He is an influential Technology Entrepreneur. He is widely respected for his contributions to education and the greater community. In 1999, both Red Herring and Massachusetts Investor's Digest named him one of 1999's Top Entrepreneurs. He was named the 1999 Mass High Tech All-Star in the telecommunications industry. The Massachusetts Telecommunications Council named him Industry Player for 2000. In 2001, the International Institute of Boston presented Dr. Deshpande with the Golden Door Award, an honor reserved for U.S. citizens of foreign birth who have made outstanding contributions to American society. He has also been the subject of numerous business and trade press articles. Dr. Deshpande holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in India, an M.E. in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Brunswick in Canada and a Ph.D. in Data Communications from Queens University in Canada.
Jonathan (Jon) D. Feiber serves as a General Partner at Mohr Davidow Ventures, Mohr, Mohr Davidow Ventures II, L.P., Davidow Ventures III, L.P., Mohr, Davidow Ventures VIII, L.P. and Mohr, Davidow Ventures VII, L.P. Mr. Feiber joined Mohr Davidow Ventures in 1991 and focuses mostly on investments in emerging technologies. Mr. Feiber is among its Senior Partners and is responsible for many of its successful investments. He has over 15 years of venture investing experience and has identified and guided numerous entrepreneurs and played a significant role in growing category-leading companies. Prior to that, Mr. Feiber served as a Vice President of Networking at Sun Microsystems. He joined Sun Microsystems in 1983, where he worked in various managerial positions overseeing product development and strategy in the areas of software development environments, software engineering technologies, and networking. Mr. Feiber began his career as a software programmer at Amdahl, where he served as a Senior Engineer. He serves at Fujitsu IT Holdings, Inc. and Oracle America, Inc. He serves as the Chairman of the Board at Panasas, Inc. He has been a Director of Woven Systems, Inc. since October 2007. He serves as a Director of SiteROCK Corporation and Coceve, Inc. He serves as a Director of Wordnik, Carrier IQ, Inc., PBWorks, Epigram, Fliptrack, Inc., Gordon Murray Design, IronKey, Inc., Entise Systems, VirtuOz SA, Brocade, Diversified Credit Investments, Phaethon Communications and Terraspring. Mr. Feiber serves as a Director of hi5 Networks, Inc., Xeralux, and Proofpoint Inc. He serves on the Advisory Board of Caltech Information Science and Technology. Mr. Feiber serves as a Director of Fliqz, Inc. since March 5, 2007. He served as a Director of Lantern Communications, Inc. and Allocity Inc. He served as a Director of Recurrent Energy, LLC. He served as a Director of ONI Systems corp. since January 1998 and served as a Member of the Compensation Committee and Audit Committee. Mr. Feiber holds a Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and Mathematics and Astro-Physics from the University of Colorado.
Robert S. Langer is the David H. Koch Institute Professor at MIT; being an Institute Professor is the highest honor that can be awarded to a faculty member. Dr. Langer has written nearly 1,130 articles. He also has approximately 800 issued and pending patents worldwide. Dr. Langer's patents have been licensed or sublicensed to over 220 pharmaceutical, chemical, biotechnology and medical device companies. He is the most cited engineer in history.

He served as a member of the United States Food and Drug Administration’s SCIENCE Board, the FDA’s highest advisory board, from 1995 - 2002 and as its Chairman from 1999 - 2002. Dr. Langer has received over 200 major awards including the 2006 United States National Medal of Science; the Charles Stark Draper Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for engineers, the 2008 Millennium Prize, the world’s largest technology prize and the 2012 Priestley Medal, the highest award of the American Chemical Society. He is also the only engineer to receive the Gairdner Foundation International Award; 72 recipients of this award have subsequently received a Nobel Prize. Among numerous other awards Langer has received are the Dickson Prize for Science (2002), Heinz Award for Technology, Economy and Employment (2003), the Harvey Prize (2003), the John Fritz Award (2003) (given previously to inventors such as Thomas Edison and Orville Wright), the General Motors Kettering Prize for Cancer Research (2004), the Dan David Prize in Materials Science (2005), the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research (2005), the largest prize in the U.S. for medical research, induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame (2006), the Max Planck Research Award (2008) and the Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research (2008). In 1998, he received the Lemelson-MIT prize, the world’s largest prize for invention for being “one of history’s most prolific inventors in medicine.” In 1989 Dr. Langer was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and in 1992 he was elected to both the National Academy of Engineering and to the National Academy of Sciences. He is one of very few people ever elected to all three United States National Academies and the youngest in history (at age 43) to ever receive this distinction.

Forbes Magazine (1999) and Bio World (1990) have named Dr. Langer as one of the 25 most important individuals in biotechnology in the world. Discover Magazine (2002) named him as one of the 20 most important people in this area. Forbes Magazine (2002) selected Dr. Langer as one of the 15 innovators world wide who will reinvent our future. Time Magazine and CNN (2001) named Dr. Langer as one of the 100 most important people in America and one of the 18 top people in science or medicine in America (America’s Best). Parade Magazine (2004) selected Dr. Langer as one of 6 “Heroes whose research may save your life.” Dr. Langer has received honorary doctorates from Harvard University, the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Yale University, the ETH (Switzerland), the Technion (Israel), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), the Universite Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Willamette University, the University of Liverpool (England), Bates College, the University of Nottingham (England), Albany Medical College, Pennsylvania State University, Northwestern University, Uppsala University (Sweden) and the University of California – San Francisco Medal. He received his Bachelor’s Degree from Cornell University in 1970 and his Sc.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1974, both in Chemical Engineering.
Lesa Mitchell is a vice president with the Kauffman Foundation. She is responsible for leading the Foundation’s initiatives to advance innovations. Mitchell joined the Foundation in 2003.

She has been responsible for the Foundation’s frontier work in understanding the policy levers that influence the advancement of innovation from universities into the commercial market. Under Mitchell’s leadership, the Foundation is identifying critical research opportunities, defining and codifying alternative commercialization pathways, and identifying new models to foster innovation. Mitchell was instrumental in the founding of the Kauffman Innovation Network and the iBridge Network, a founding sponsor of the National Academy-based University–Industry Partnership, and leader in the replication of innovator-based mentor programs at universities across the country. In addition, Mitchell serves on the boards of Gazelle Growth in Denmark and the University of Kansas Research Institute.

Prior to joining Kauffman, Mitchell’s professional background included consulting for global pharmaceutical clients such as Takeda, Eli Lilly and Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium. She spent twenty years of her career in global executive roles at Aventis, Quintiles, and Marion Laboratories.