



Tara O'Toole, M.D.
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Dr. Tara O'Toole is an Executive Vice President and Senior Fellow at In-Q-Tel. Since 2014, she has led the IQT Lab known as B.Next, which is devoted to identifying and accelerating biotechnologies that could help detect, manage and quench epidemics of infectious disease, whether natural or deliberate. B.Next also strives to create an “ecosystem of innovation” – including government, the private sector and academia, around issues related to the life sciences, biotechnology and national security.

Prior to joining IQT, Dr. O'Toole served as Under Secretary for Science and Technology at the Department of Homeland Security. In this role, she was responsible for scientific and technological research designed to provide new security and resilience innovations. Her accomplishments included the creation of a cybersecurity research division; the establishment of a robust R&D portfolio review process; developed strong collaborations with other federal R&D organizations; and delivered multiple technologies to DHS operational components that improved mission effectiveness and efficiency. From 1999-2009, Dr. O'Toole was the CEO and Director of two university-based think tanks devoted to improving the country's resilience to major biological threats. While leading the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense, Dr. O'Toole also served as a Professor of Public Health. She was appointed Professor of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh while directing the UPMC Center for Biosecurity.

Dr. O'Toole has a bachelor's degree from Vassar College, an M.D. from George Washington University, and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University. She completed internal medicine residency training at Yale University and a fellowship in Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. She was chair of the board of the Federation of American Scientists and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. O'Toole has not previously testified before the Commission.