



Call Notes for the ELISA Summit Committee

Web meeting held:

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 10:00AM Eastern / 7:00AM Pacific / 5:00PM CAT (Central Africa Time)

The following Committee members were in attendance:

- Kemoy Liburd-Chow, Embassy of St. Kitts and Nevis
- Preetivi Ellis, Revna Biosciences
- Marie-Ange Noue, EMD Serono
- Scott May, ICPD
- Tony Ndifor, PhD, Johnson & Johnson
- Siya Ntutela, PhD, International Council of Biotechnology Association (ICBA)
- Dustielyn Savage, ICPD
- Elisabeth Valerio, ICPD
- Ruva Chindara, ELISA

Welcoming remarks & introductions: BOLD ITEMS WILL BE COVERED DURING THE CALL.

For a more in-depth briefing or if you are unable to attend a meeting but would like a debrief, contact Elisabeth Valerio at evalerio@icpdprograms.org.

Scott May welcomed the committee members to the ELISA Summit committee meeting and introduced Marie-Ange as the committee chairperson. Scott oriented (through screen-sharing) the committee members to the web-based resources. Scott asked the committee members to go to the website www.icpdprograms.org, select "Committees" from the "Select an ICPD site" drop-down menu at the top right side of the page. Scott told the committee members that they could locate the meeting agendas, past meeting notes and supporting documents for the meeting on the ELISA Summit Committee Tab. Marie-Ange led the committee through the [agenda](#) for the Committee. Marie-Ange then invited everyone on the call to introduce themselves.

ELISA Summit Committee

Updates and recent developments

A Summit committee WhatsApp group was created.

Focus Topic:

Summit, when to have it (suggesting Aug 30th - Sept 1, 2022)

Marie-Ange asked the committee if the original 2021 dates still seem feasible. Siya cautioned that the approach to the dates should be flexible as there are still uncertainties about people around the globe getting access to the COVID vaccine. Siya suggested the dates be moved or the event be fully digital. Preetivi from her medical experience agreed that most of the world might not yet be vaccinated making it unsafe for people to travel for the summit or in general. Marie-Ange raised a concern asking if the impact of the first Summit will not be compromised by making the event virtual.

Elisabeth highlighted some of the things to be taken into consideration. The first being if the event is hosted virtually the target audience, particularly the cohort of 50 Scholars all being African based. Will they have broadband, or Wi-Fi access that is stable enough to be able to sit through a multi-day summit? The second being the different time zones. She added that the general thought from the



development committee was that it was not going to be optimal to host a virtual summit for ELISA. A virtual gathering would be create challenges for people from very diverse regions.

Elisabeth then suggested a different approach in terms of shaping and building this initiative, and that is to focus on building a virtual community for the next year. So that way there is a community which is gathering to share ideas and disucss what is happening in Africa on the entrepreneurial front.

Kemoy suggested having small workshops that will build momentum towards the Summit. Elisabeth mentioned that ELISA has been working on something of the same sort called CONFABS. These are monthly virtual 45-minute meetings where an entrepreneur speaks for about 20 minutes and then participants break into virtual breakout groups.

Agenda topics, themes

Elisabeth proposed that the 2022 ELISA Summit event be pushed to Aug 30th-Sept 1, 2022 and in the meantime a very robust summit agenda that people will anticipate and look forward be developed. The committee agreed and Elisabeth highlighted that the change of dates enables getting to know entrepreneurs around the continent and their interactions as the applications to attend the Summit and Scholar applications come in.

Scott oriented the committee through the draft structure for the summit. See [Summit Info](#). Elisabeth emphasized that the information is only a draft and that the ICPD is looking forward to hearing input from the Summit Committee. She asked the committee to what extent the speakers will shape the summit themes? Or should the committee be putting forward themes and then identify speakers to shape them?

Marie Ange encouraged the committee to start working on the build up of the Summit by tackling and brainstorming on a potential theme for the summit. Siya suggested using the WhatsApp platform to throw in ideas instead of waiting for the monthly meetings. That way the objectives are moved the WhatsApp group also becomes active and meetings can be used to finalize ideas.

Siya suggested that we have got to craft the theory behind the conference itself, because that simplifies what it is that we are trying to achieve. That is obviously defined by where the African continent is now and where it will be 2022. And in between what will be happening? There will be one umbrella theme and then there's the sub themes of the different days and different problems that are happening, or then led by that, and also the speakers shape the conference.

Dr. Tony asked who the conference was for and pointed out that the committee should know what the main goal of the Summit is and what benefits the attendees can expect so that they want to attend. Scott highlighted that the draft of the Summit objectives are on the portal under Events and appealed to the Committee to go through them and suggest changes to be made to them or provide input.

Elisabeth mentioned that the ELISA Summit will attract individuals who want to shape the future environment for businesses on the continent of Africa. It's about shaping what is the future looks like and understanding the obstacles we face and how do we fix them. She asked how to we transform this continent economic outlook and make Africa an environment that's more conducive to business? How do we shape the future?



Marie Ange added explaining that since there is a lot that is happening in Africa, for the committee to come up with relevant themes they should be aware of current affairs and how ELISA can fill the gap.

Plenary speakers

Elisabeth highlighted thinking of ways to bring attention to CONFABS and the Summit to really start to ignite that excitement for entrepreneurship on the continent. For example, if Strive Masiyiwa who is a standing out entrepreneur in Africa were to speak at the event, the engagement would be great. Elisabeth added that she is shaping a lineup of CONFAB speakers for the rest of the year and she invited the Committee to suggest speakers. ELISA will also use social media to build interest in the online community, and bring attention to the speakers and networking opportunities as well.

Other & Action Items

Committee members to send theme suggestions and concepts to the WhatsApp group. The next meeting will focus on better defining the purpose of the ELISA Summit and then the outcomes that will be achieved. Scott reminded everyone that the next ELISA Summit Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Please plan on 45-minutes for this call. Visit <https://elisanetwork.com/> for more information about ELISA.

Upcoming Calls

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific

Wednesday, July 12, 2021, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific

Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific