



Call Notes for the ELISA Summit Committee

Virtual meeting held:

Wednesday, May 12th, 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, MD, FACP, 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

Welcome 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

Website has been updated to reflect the 2022 ELISA summit dates
Call notes from last call have been published

Focus Topic:

Proposed revisions to committee objectives

Scott went through the proposed new committee objectives. These include:

Developing and managing the production of the annual ELISA summit and virtual content and programming.

- Promote awareness of the ELISA Summit and ELISA Scholars Program
- Select the summit theme and focus topics
- Plan and finalize the summit agenda and suggest content
- Identify, engage and confirm speakers for the summit and confabs
- Invite special guests to participate in the summit
- Oversee the process of selecting each cohort of ELISA Scholars
- Planning for the ELISA Scholars Program including curriculum

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He went on to explain that part of what draws people to want to attend the summit and join the ELISA Community is compelling content. So, the Summit committee will be helping generate that content building up the excitement for the official Summit.

Elisabeth added that the summit is like a destination and these content concepts are stop overs providing participants with a chance to network and connect prior to the big event. This keeps the momentum and starts to help build an understanding and an awareness of some of the benefits of program.

Confab description, speaker outreach and proposed dates

Marie-Ange recapped that Elisabeth had reached out to Dr. Tony to help getting a speaker from J&J for one of the CONFAB events. Elisabeth confirmed the suggested speaker being Linda Arthur, who was working on Africa implementation for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Her work being a very relevant topic of interest to almost everybody, regardless of what sector they're in. Elisabeth mentioned that she will be giving feedback to the committee about engagement of the speaker.

Marie-Ange asked if there was a speaker already lined up for the first CONFAB. Elisabeth responded saying that Dr. Blessed Okole who is part of the Advisory Council will be leading the first CONFAB. Elisabeth went on to explain that a schedule hasn't been set as yet because the ICPD staff is still trying to figure out the frequency. She asked for feedback from the Committee on this.

Elisabeth requested that the Committee help to brainstorm about who else to invite to join as conference speakers. What is needed is a lineup of four or five different speakers to cover this year. The speakers will be on the ELISA portal and on the ELISA social media pages.

Kemoy asked if the speakers will have an interactive engagement with the attendees. Elisabeth responded saying, the CONFABS will be hosted on Zoom. Each Confab begins with a speaker with 15-20 minutes of remarks, then all attendees are sent to small random groups where conversation and networking continues. The speaker will choose a topic that aligns with their experience and ICPD will select a Bootstrap Brief that is related for discussion during the breakout sessions. Scott appealed to the committee to help brainstorm possible kickoff speakers using the WhatsApp group.

Preetivi asked if the location of the speaker is limited to Africa. Also, taking into consideration the different time zones. Elisabeth responded saying that, the speaker should have some sort of relevance to entrepreneurialism in Africa. Preetivi mentioned that she had in mind some possible speakers from Ghana and that she would reach out to them.

Kemoy asked if the Bootstrap Briefs have already been outlined and if it is dependent upon the speakers to be identified. Elisabeth responded saying that the sessions will not be aligning with Bootstrap Briefs for that day, week, or month. We will select from any of the already released Bootstrap Briefs to align with the interests, journey or what the speaker is currently working on. The idea is once the Confab event occurs, we will create a video archive of it and align that video with the Bootstrap Brief. So, there will be a growing list of videos aligned with each Bootstrap Brief.

Kemoy asked if there would be any compensation for speakers (or is it voluntary) so this can be indicated from the initial communication with potential speakers. Elisabeth responded saying, speaker participation would be voluntary.

Marie-Ange suggested the CONFABS be held every 6 weeks. Elisabeth added that eight or nine speakers a year was sufficient, and as the forum becomes more popular the Committee could revisit the frequency.



Goals and objectives (benefits to attendees) for the 2022 ELISA Summit

Marie-Ange spoke about the goals and objectives of the summit looking at mainly the audience. Looking at the mission statement of ELISA, the aim is to bring together and celebrate high potential entrepreneurs and founders who have bold ideas to help solve the greatest challenges that are faced in Africa. She invited the committee to share their thoughts on ways to cater for all the different groups that will be in attendance. Kemoy recapped an agreement in the previous committee meeting about ensuring that the summit activities are aligned with the outcome expected for the participants.

Kemoy suggested that the summit needs to be dynamic to try and see how best we can make it innovative and of value to the participants. She suggested that we create mini pitch competitions, flash talks of small groups and attendees can ask entrepreneurs questions. Preetivi added that the idea could help the talk be an interactive one and participants could learn from other entrepreneurs' experiences. Elisabeth highlighted the various challenges that entrepreneurs face when doing business on the continent and added that if the speakers share their own experiences about how they overcame the obstacles, then attendees could actually relate to what they would be hearing.

Other & Action Items

The committee agreed to throw in theme suggestions and concepts in the WhatsApp group to continue with the conversation. The next meeting will focus on better defining the purpose of the ELISA Summit and the outcomes intended. Scott reminded everyone that the next ELISA Summit Committee meeting will be Wednesday, July, 12, 2021. Please plan on 45-minutes for this call. Visit <https://elisainetwork.com/> for more information about ELISA.

Upcoming Calls

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