



# Call Notes for the ELISA Advisory Council

Web meeting held:

Monday, August 31, 2020

10:00 AM Eastern / 7:00 AM Pacific / 4:00 PM South Africa

## **The following Committee members were in attendance:**

- Tony Centeno, PhD, Jose Centero Center for Medical Geology (Nigeria)
- Dana Ferreira, Pavillon 54
- Brandon Ford, Lubrizol
- Laurent Gil, CAST.AI
- Simba Kayela, Asst to Simon Muleya, Hwange District Development Coordinator
- Pavan Koshal, Neumann Kaffee
- Kemoy Liburd-Chow, Embassy of St. Kitts and Nevis
- Scott May, ICPD
- Thelma Munhequete, CSO Network Country Focal Point
- Mmboneni Muofhe, Department of Science and Technology (SA)
- Tony Ndifor, PhD, Janssen Pharmaceuticals
- Chinedu Nworu, PhD, Personal Genome Diagnostics
- Blessed Okole, PhD, CSIR
- Dustielyn Savage, ICPD
- Sarah Surban, ICPD
- Elisabeth Valerio, ICPD

## **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 Sarah Surban at [ssurban@icpdprograms.org](mailto:ssurban@icpdprograms.org) or Whatsapp +1 (619) 761-0669

Scott May welcomed the council members to the ELISA Advisory Council meeting. Scott mentioned that the agenda was sent via email. Scott reminded the council members that they could locate the agenda, past meeting notes and supporting documents for the meeting on the website [www.icpdprograms.org](http://www.icpdprograms.org), select "Committees" from the "Select an ICPD site" drop-down menu at the top right side of the page. Scott then invited everyone on the call to introduce themselves. Scott reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

## **ELISA Summit (April 27-29, 2021, in Hwange, Zimbabwe)**

- Participant recruitment - **Advisory council 50%, Sarah to set up 30-minute call with each member**, Summit registration is now open <https://elisanetwork.com/registration/>; Scott noted that we have started recruitment for the ELISA Summit. Scott asked Sarah to go over Participant recruitment. Sarah directed everyone to the ELISA Summit website and demonstrated how to register for the summit. Sarah explained that there is a 50% discount to all ELISA Advisory Council members. Sarah informed the Advisory Council that she will be scheduling a 30-minute call with each member. During this call she will show the member how to update their profile and add projects.

- **ELISA Scholars Training Session - Scholar recruitment target, cohort of 50 Scholars, expenses paid for the Scholars through sponsorship, and this can be segment specific**  
Elisabeth reminded everyone that the entire ELISA initiative is brand new. ICPD has worked on programs that are focused on professional development of scientist historically for over 2 decades. ELISA is focused specifically on Africa and is continent wide. Elisabeth directed everyone to a new page on the ELISA portal called "Scholars". This page highlights key dates. The Call for Applicants will go out in September 2020 for ELISA Scholars. Scholars will be the entrepreneurs that will be brought to the summit for purposes of professional development through an intense mentoring program. They will get the basics on how to take their ideas or businesses to the next level. The deadline is January 5, 2021. The announcement of scholars will be on February 5, 2021. All the chosen scholars will be brought to Hwange, Zimbabwe April 27-29, 2021.

There will be very strategic coaches and business experts who will work with the entrepreneurs. Elisabeth explained that anyone who has an idea or business specifically focused on Africa can apply. They can be based anywhere in the world, as long as they are interested in developing entrepreneurial ventures relating to Africa. As part of the scholarship, travel reimbursement will be provided, they will receive accommodations and meals, complimentary registration for the ELISA Summit and have permanent membership in the ELISA network. They will be able to interact with the world's foremost leaders from businesses and companies.

An ELISA scholar selection committee will be formed at a later date to help review submissions. Scott added that the target is to have 50 scholars at the Summit. We are able to do this by securing sponsors for the summit. Sponsors will be able to help decide what segments will be secured. Elisabeth asked the advisory council members to email any suggestions or thoughts for the portal and recruitment page.

- **Summit Sponsors - sponsorship page online - [www.elisasummit.com](http://www.elisasummit.com)**  
Sarah directed everyone to the sponsor page on the ELISA webpage. There are 2 levels of sponsorships. One is for the ELISA program and the other is for the ELISA Summit. The ELISA levels are: Lead (\$100,000); Major (\$50,000) Program (\$20,000) and Support (\$10,000). The ELISA Summit levels are listed under the "Support ELISA Summit" link. Sarah explained she will be calling each member directly to discuss in more detail. Scott noted that the details of each sponsor level is listed below each level. Elisabeth thanked the advisory council members for referring new members and requested that any new member suggestions be sent to Sarah Surban.
- **Summit Agenda - preliminary draft agenda is online; speaker needs**  
Elisabeth provided an overview of the 3-day ELISA Summit. Elisabeth shared that she is excited to host everyone in Gwango. It is at the edge of the largest national park in Zimbabwe. The first summit will be limited to 250 guests. Elisabeth directed everyone to the website where they could find the preliminary draft agenda. It will be an interactive safari setting. There will be a welcoming reception the first day, on day 2 there will be more in-depth summit sessions related to business on the African continent. As part of the experience, the advisory council will be asked for speaker suggestions. A Call for Speakers is also on the website and all suggestions should be submitted by December 15, 2020.



- Networking Events: Networking Lunch, Plenary sessions, Opening night reception, Summit Party, Black-tie Gala

Laurent Gil shared that he is concerned about travel during the month of April. Scott noted that we are constantly monitoring the situation of COVID and travel and will make a decision by end of January/early February on if it needs to be moved.

He also asked if there is an opportunity for "in-kind" donation instead of monetary. Sarah agreed to have a side bar about that.

Thelma Munhaquete has been in touch with several people in her network about the ELISA Summit and the feedback she is getting is that they are very excited to go on "holiday" in Zimbabwe. The concerns she is hearing are that: for the amount of money they would be spending, there needs to be clear activities that they will get to participate in and what benefit will they have by attending and concerns about the safety with not only COVID but the government situation in Zimbabwe. What will be done to ensure their safety? Scott answered that the travel to Zimbabwe is usually done through Victoria Falls and that area has been safe. If COVID is still affecting travel at the time of the summit, the dates will be postponed. He reiterated that the benefits are on the ELISA Summit page. He reminded Thelma that if the people she is speaking to would be scholars, that their travel and attendance would be covered.

Elisabeth assured Thelma that Zimbabwe is a safe place to travel. She explained that Hwange has hosted thousands of people and that they have never had safety issues. She asked Mr Kayela if he had anything to add. Mr Kayela stated with regards to the Zimbabwe situation, he understands there has been lots of social media posts, but currently the situation is very calm and civil and peaceful. Mr Kayela added that the numbers for COVID in Hwange are very low and assured the Advisory Council that the delegates that would be coming for the ELISA summit would be safe. Elisabeth explained that safety is the number one concern for ELISA participants.

### **ELISA Portal Updates**

- DISCOVER - Gateway Membership, Insider Membership, Corporate Partner, Searchable Project Pages

Elisabeth highlighted that the power of ELISA is connectivity. There is a new opportunity for any entrepreneur that wants to be part of the ELISA network and it won't cost them anything. They can join by Selecting the "Gateway" link on the ELISA portal. They will get a profile on the portal. They will be listed in the search directory when they create a "Project page". The project pages provide mini websites for entrepreneurs. Most people in Africa do not have websites. It is still a work in progress as we are building it. It will provide the individual the ability to share blog updates video contents and create collaborative teams. You will be able to follow a project that interests you. We are about to promote this tool on social media to entrepreneurs. They will get weekly "Bootstrap Briefings" which is content delivered to them to help them continue to grow their businesses.



- **CONNECT - Social media: connect with us on ELISA and amplifying our messaging;** Individual Networking  
The ELISA portal will become a valuable tool for connecting entrepreneurs.
- **GROW -CONFAB meetings with weekly learning content ; Weekly Bulletin;** member news can be posted on "What's on Your Mind"  
This will be discussed during the next meeting.

### Advisory Council

- **Council members have been provided ELISA profiles, please log on to update your profile and create your project page on elisanetwork.com**  
Sarah will be reaching out to each member to help them set up their profile and start project pages.
- Send additional suggested members to Sarah Surban
- **Advisory Council Announcements**  
None at this time.

### Update on other ICPD Programs

- 2020 SMDP Biotech virtual training session will be held September 20-21
- 2020 SMDP MedTech virtual training session will be held October 4-5
- Gallus for senior executives and rising talent engagement; online tours and briefings about ELISA and Gallus available by contacting Elisabeth Valerio

### Other & Action Items

Scott reminded the Advisory Council that the next ELISA Advisory Council meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2020. Please plan on 45-minutes for this call. Visit <https://elisanetwork.com/> for more information about ELISA.

### Upcoming Calls

Monday, October 26, 2020, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific  
Monday, December 14, 2020, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific  
Monday, February 8, 2021, 10:00 AM Eastern | 7:00 AM Pacific