



AGENDA

Scholar Mentoring & Development Program for Biotechnology (SMDP Biotech) Outreach & Planning Committee

Video Conference Call: Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 12:00 noon Eastern | 9:00 AM Pacific

<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/84252282181?pwd=siZrVilcxI3shbYpsOHTQHrzXI6WLC.1>

- Welcome & Introductions - **BOLD ITEMS WILL BE COVERED DURING THE CALL;**
For a more in-depth briefing contact Scott May (smay@icpdprograms.org) or +1 (202) 441-7370
- Alumni program
 - **SMDP Alumni Program Steering Committee (ASC) has been formed and they meet monthly**
 - **SMDP ASC has a budget for 2026 and they are prioritizing establishing 6 regional chapters and providing in-person and virtual programming**
 - **The 2026 SMDP Alumni Networking event will be an in-person and virtual event occurring Saturday, June 20 in San Diego; the alumni attending in-person are invited to participate in the opening event for the in-bound 2026 SMDP Biotech Scholars and Mentors; **SMDP partners are invited to attend** and should RSVP to Dayveon Cooper (dcooper@icpdprograms.org) by **May 22****
 - **The ASC will host an Alumni Event coinciding with SMDP MedTech in Boston**
 - **Scholar alumni research reports for SMDP Biotech and SMDP MedTech are being updated to include job history of alumni; the past reports are available here: <https://smdp.icpdprograms.org>**
- 2025 SMDP Biotech
 - Scholars - staff are tracking their monthly updates
 - Mentors - follow-up meetings as needed
- Virtual programming
 - **Jobs Board - Demonstration of how to post opportunities, any member can post (you just need to be logged into the portal); engage recruiters; portal orientation for recruiters at partner companies can be scheduled with Scott May**
 - **Virtual Events - "Belonging In Industry" by AstraZeneca, April 30; "SMDP MedTech Career Networking", May 12; "J&J Innovative Medicine R&D Roundtable with Senior Leaders", May 21; "SMDP Biotech Career Networking", May 28**
 - **Weekly email summary - If you would like to feature any of your activities in this email publication, then email Elisabeth Valerio (evalerio@icpdprograms.org)**
 - App and interactive map live on portal
 - Mentor Moments - Over 95 have been published
 - Career Spotlights - 48 Career Spotlights published, featuring SMDP alumni
 - Project pages; SMDP Gateway membership program



- **Partner Updates**
- **Planning for the 2026 SMDP Biotech training session, June 20-25 in San Diego**
 - **Scholars - 330 applications were received; thank you to everyone who volunteered for the selection committee; application scoring is underway and will be completed April 27**
 - **Mentors - Please email your mentor names, titles and email addresses to Scott May and Dustie Savage by **May 8**; DISCUSSION ITEMS - Role of Executive Sponsors at partner companies; ICPD is compiling a list of best practices for supporting the mentors at the partner companies.**
 - **Agenda and Speaker needs - please email recommended speaker names, titles and email addresses to Elisabeth Valerio (evalerio@icpdprograms.org) and Dustie Savage by **May 8****
 - **SMDP Biotech Opening Event, Saturday, June 20, 6-8 pm; **SMDP Biotech O&P Committee members are invited to attend** and should RSVP to Dustie Savage by **May 8****
 - **Venues - The host hotel, training site and location for the opening event are being finalized**
 - **Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception will be held the evening of Sunday, June 21 on the Admiral Cruise Ship**
 - **Update on the BIO International Convention**
- **Partner Support**
 - **76 scholar/mentor pairs sponsored thus far; thank you to the companies that have already confirmed their 2026 sponsorship**
 - **Please let Scott May know to support additional scholar/mentor pairs**
 - **Seek two emerging companies for no-cost sponsorship for a scholar/mentor pair; please provide introductions to Scott May**
 - **The budget goal is to have 95 sponsored scholar/mentor pairs for the 2026 cohort**
 - **The 2026 sponsorship rate will be \$12,000 per scholar/mentor pair**
 - **Sponsorship information available here: icpdprograms.org/sponsorship**
- **Other ICPD program updates:**
 - **SMDP MedTech - the 2026 SMDP MedTech Training Session will be held October 16-21 in Boston**
 - **Enterprise, Leaders & Innovators Society for Africa (ELISA) - the 2026 ELISA Business Scholars Training Session and ELISA Business Summit was March 19-22 in Hwange, Zimbabwe (near Victoria Falls); to partner with ELISA contact Scott May**
 - **Sage Clubs K-12 program launched with 8 pilot schools: a new school-based program that equips students with practical skills, confidence and opportunities to contribute positively where they live and learn**
- **Other/Action items**

Upcoming SMDP Biotech O&P Committee calls:

Tuesday, July 28, 9-9:30 am PT

Tuesday, September 22, 9-9:30 am PT

Tuesday, November 3, 9-9:30 am PT