



AGENDA

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

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

<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/84556086516?pwd=mPbnX8uwBafRlyw6yxuaLtYtQGaNfl.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
- **Planning for the 2027 SMDP Biotech Training Session, June 5-10 in Philadelphia**
 - o **Scholars - Will begin recruiting in November; DISCUSSION ITEM - Review selection criteria and feedback from committee members:**
<https://smdpnetwork.org/selection>
 - o **Mentors - Recommend partner companies begin recruiting new and repeat mentors in August; ICPD will offer a call for mentors which will be a customised flyers for each company; based on reported best practices, it is recommended that partner companies hold a competition for mentors; repeat mentors can be encouraged to apply; ICPD is compiling a list of best practices for supporting the mentors at the partner companies.**
 - o **Venues - ICPD requests a partner company host the training program in the Philadelphia area for 160 participants, all day Sunday, June 6 and the morning of Monday, June 7; contact Scott May to discuss this**
 - o **Site visits - ICPD requests two to three partner companies host site visits 1:30-3:30 pm, Monday June 7; contact Scott May to discuss this**
 - o Agenda and Speakers
 - o Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception
 - o Update on the BIO International Convention
- **2025 SMDP Biotech**
 - o **End-of year reunion call was July 23; the reflections from the Scholars were truly gratifying as many of them expressed appreciation for the exposure, support and network they had gained through the SMDP mentoring experience; scholars also stated that they felt significantly more prepared for their transition to industry**
 - o **Scholars need to meet monthly reporting requirements to graduate from SMDP Biotech, receive certificate of completion and be welcomed into the SMDP Alumni Network**
- **Debrief about the 2026 SMDP Biotech Training Session, June 20-25 in San Diego**
 - o **The opening night reception was a great success; the SMDP Alumni Steering Committee was fully present along with a number of SMDP alumni**
 - o **Thanks to Pfizer for hosting the Drug Discovery Game once again, it was well received; while the scholars were in the Drug Discovery Game, the mentors discussed plans for the virtual mentoring year and also shared ideas about how ICPD can support and engage mentors as part of SMDP**



- o The training reverted back to not having concurrent sessions and this was well received
- o A total of 73 scholars were sponsored; all scholar/mentor pairs have been connected and the ICPD team is ensuring that they are on track for their monthly mentoring meetings; a virtual session for remote mentors/scholars will be July 29
- o In person we had 46 mentors and less than 10 stand in mentors, which strained the stand-ins; there were also challenges with the virtual 1:1 sessions due to the tight scheduling; ICPD aims to prepare for this session by allocating scholar-mentor pairs to breakout rooms in advance; mentors who can't attend in-person should be available for virtual 1:1 sessions, but in some instances, the mentors had not yet been confirmed prior to the training session, which created challenges when assigning pairs; overall it did work out and the ICPD team has been working on post session support to ensure 100% of the scholars are introduced to their mentors
- o The Lane was a very good meeting venue; the food and beverage for the opening night reception was excellent but the deli lunch Sunday was limited; also when the mentors and scholars had separate sessions, it was difficult to hear the mentors due to the noise from the Drug Discover Game as the scholars were highly vocally engaged/enthused; overall the service was great
- o The Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech went very well and attendance was at maximum capacity
- o Site visits - Thanks to J&J, Lilly and Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals for hosting the events; the scholars who had mentors at one of these companies had site visits with those companies, and the remaining scholars were divided randomly amongst the three companies
- o ICPD continues to use QR codes as part of the training and events to allow attendees to "sign-in" with their cell phones; this greatly reduced wait times
- o BIO International Convention - ICPD is grateful to BIO for its support at the convention; many scholars attended the BIO Community & Culture Brunch
- o ICPD implemented an enhanced conference page for the SMDP Biotech event in San Diego
- Partner Support
 - o Scott May will be contacting all current partners in August to request the number of scholar/mentor pairs they want to reserve for SMDP Biotech and SMDP MedTech in 2027
 - o Opportunities to support scholar/mentor pairs in 2026 SMDP MedTech (Training Session will be held October 16-21 in Boston)
 - o Identification of executive sponsors
 - o ICPD will support two emerging companies for no-cost sponsorship for one scholar/mentor pair each; would any partner companies like to support any emerging companies engagement?
 - o The 2027 sponsorship rate will be \$12,000 per scholar/mentor pair
Sponsorship information available here: icpdprograms.org/sponsorship



- Alumni program
 - **The ASC is prioritizing establishing 6 regional chapters and providing in-person and virtual programming**
 - **The 2026 SMDP Alumni Networking Event was held in person and virtually on June 20 in San Diego. Alumni who attended in person were also invited to participate in the opening event for the incoming 2026 SMDP Biotech Scholars and Mentors.**
 - **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>
 - SMDP Alumni Program Steering Committee (ASC) has been formed and they meet monthly
 - SMDP ASC has a budget for 2026
- 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 -
 - 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
 - **Kenvue Virtual Open House - Thursday, July 30**
 - **Feedback from partner companies - SMDP scholars have skills that they don't see as strongly with other new hires; SMDP scholars are inclined to mentor and be mentored, are effective at networking and are more comfortable presenting to senior management; how can the partner companies help quantify this?**
- Other ICPD program updates:
 - **SMDP MedTech - 2026 SMDP MedTech Training Session will be October 16-21 in Boston; 2027 SMDP MedTech Training Session will be October 1-6 in San Francisco**
 - **Enterprise, Leaders & Innovators Society for Africa (ELISA) - to partner with ELISA contact Scott May;** the 2026 ELISA Business Scholars Training ; Session and ELISA Business Summit was March 19-22 in Hwange, Zimbabwe (near Victoria Falls)
- Other/Action items

Upcoming SMDP Biotech O&P Committee calls:

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

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