AGENDA

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

Video Conference Call: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 12:00 noon Eastern | 9:00 AM Pacific
https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/89656944385?pwd=0kPqfI1kjrCjjt8dN7vVvjKhaJOX91.1

- 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

  2027 SMDP Biotech Training Session, June 5-10 in Philadelphia
  - **Scholars - We begin recruiting in November 2026, after the enhanced selection criteria have been adopted; DISCUSSION ITEM - Review final proposed changes to the 2027 SMDP application and selection requirements**
  - **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**
  - **Site visits - ICPD requests two to three partner companies host site visits 1:30-3:30pm, Monday June 7; contact Scott May to discuss this**
  - **Mentors - Recommend partner companies begin recruiting new and repeat mentors in Fall 2026; ICPD will offer a call for mentors which partner companies can distribute to prospective mentors; 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**
  - Agenda and Speakers
  - Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception
  - Update on the BIO International Convention

- **2026 SMDP Biotech**
  - **ICPD staff are monitoring the individual monthly updates for the scholars' Personalised SMDP Mentoring Plans**
  - ICPD staff will be sending quarterly email updates to the mentors

- **2025 SMDP Biotech**
  - **Graduating scholars are receiving certificates of completion once they have completed their monthly Personalised Mentoring Plans; they are also welcomed into the SMDP Alumni Network by the Alumni Steering Committee**
  - End-of year reunion call was July 23rd; 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

- Partner Support
  - **Scott May is continuing to meet with SMDP partner companies to reserve scholar/mentor pair sponsorships for SMDP Biotech and SMDP MedTech for 2027 and to confirm executive sponsors**
  - **The 2026/2027 sponsorship rate will be $12,000 per scholar/mentor pair**
  - ICPD will support two emerging companies for no-cost sponsorship for one scholar/mentor pair each; would any partner companies like to support any merging companies engagement

- Alumni program
  - **The Alumni Steering Committee (ASC) and the SMDP Boston Area Alumni Chapter hosted an inaugural (in-person and virtual) event in Boston on October 19th**
  - **The ASC is prioritizing establishing 6 regional chapters in these areas: Boston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Diego and San Francisco**
  - **The ASC is launching a series of virtual professional development sessions, beginning in December 2026**
  - 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: smdpnetwork.org/events

- Virtual programming
  - **SMDP Gateway - ICPD has received an anonymous $400,000 grant to expand our global platform for careers in life sciences**
  - **The SMDP app is now live for IOS and Android devices and this is a key tool that SMDP alumni and mentors can use to stay connected; the app is available by searching for SMDP in the Apple Store and Google Play**
  - **ICPD has recently completed a significant cybersecurity upgrade in response to newly identified security vulnerabilities affecting PHP-based systems worldwide**
  - **Virtual Events - ICPD plans to host a Career Networking event in January 2027 featuring three partner companies; to reserve a spot email Scott May**
  - **Jobs Board - ICPD is exploring AI strategies for identifying relevant job openings at partner companies to be posted on the portal; ICPD will also periodically query primary SMDP contacts at partner companies and mentors for job openings to post; to discuss in greater detail contact Elisabeth Valerio, evalerio@icpdprograms.org**
  - Weekly email summary - If you would like to feature any of your activities in this email publication, then email Elisabeth Valerio (evalerio@icpdprograms.org)

- **Partner Updates**
  - **SMDP related announcements**
  - **General announcements**

- Other ICPD program updates:
  - **SMDP MedTech - 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 2027 ELISA Business Scholars Training will be August 4-7; and the ELISA Business Summit will be August 5th, in Hwange, Zimbabwe (near Victoria Falls)**

- Other/Action items

Upcoming SMDP Biotech O&P Committee calls: 2027 calendar requests will be sent in December 2026