



AGENDA

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

Video Conference Call: Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 12:00 noon Eastern | 9:00 AM Pacific

<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/86791690511?pwd=abx53Frn7qwwQ8yxMAzbm6ARLJbdOA.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
- Partner Support
 - **Scott May is beginning to meet with SMDP partner companies to reserve scholar/mentor pair sponsorships for SMDP Biotech and SMDP MedTech in 2027 and confirm executive sponsors**
 - **Opportunities to support scholar/mentor pairs in 2026 SMDP MedTech (Training Session will be held October 16-21 in Boston)**
 - **The 2026/2027 sponsorship rate will be \$12,000 per scholar/mentor pair**
Sponsorship information available here: icpdprograms.org/sponsorship
 - 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 will host an inaugural event in Boston October 19, 5-8 pm, register here:**
 - **The ASC is prioritizing establishing 6 regional chapters including in these areas: Boston, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia**
 - **The ASC is planning a series of virtual professional development sessions**
 - **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.**
 - **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
 - **Jobs Board - ICPD is determining the best way to locate jobs and post jobs on the mentoring portal at partner companies; ideas include using AI to extract postings from partner company career portals, querying primary SMDP contacts, and asking SMDP mentors; to discuss in greater detail contact Dayveon Cooper, dcooper@icpdprograms.org**



- **Virtual Events - Desire to have a November Career Networking event?**
- 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 when presenting to senior management; how can the partner companies help quantify this?**
- **2027 SMDP Biotech Training Session, June 5-10 in Philadelphia**
 - **Scholars - Will begin recruiting in November, after the next Outreach & Planning Committee meeting; DISCUSSION ITEM - Review draft changes to the 2027 SMDP Biotech 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 1:30-3:30 pm, 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 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.
 - Agenda and Speakers
 - Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception
 - Update on the BIO International Convention
- **2026 SMDP Biotech**
 - **ICPD staff are monitoring the scholar's monthly updates of their individualized 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 mentoring plans**
 - 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



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