



AGENDA

Scientist Mentoring & Diversity Program for Biotechnology (SMDP Biotech) Outreach & Planning Committee

Video Conference Call: Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 12:00 noon Eastern | 9:00 AM Pacific

<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/81539288760?pwd=OaxWblpENg8WCuFnb6Rk9UfjeSWpSv.1>

Meeting ID: 815 3928 8760 **Passcode:** 863171

- 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
- **Debrief about the 2025 SMDP Biotech training program, June 14-19, Boston**
 - o **Agenda - Feedback on the agenda; thanks to Pfizer for hosting the drug discovery game once again, it was well received; it worked well having concurrent sessions - the scholars received mentoring portal training while the mentors discussed plans for the virtual mentoring year**
 - o **Scholars - 99 scholars sponsored (versus budget of 90); will be follow-up virtual sessions(s) about use of the portal**
 - o **Mentors - 70 in-person mentors, 12 stand-in mentors and 29 virtual mentors (up from 26 in 2024); approximately 8 of the 29 virtual mentors joined 1:1 meetings; the virtual 1:1 session worked well; for the scholars whose mentors did not attend the in-person or virtual 1:1 sessions, then ICPD doubled those scholars with another onsite mentor; mentors who can't attend in-person should be available for virtual 1:1 sessions**
 - o **Venues - all worked well; Revere Hotel Boston Commons was a very good meeting venue, but the service was lacking; having separate break-out rooms made some of the sessions more interactive; mentors from the same companies were split amongst the breakout rooms and this kept the sessions balanced**
 - o **Celebration of Mentoring and Diversity Reception - the event went very well and attendance was "sold out"**
 - o **Site visits - Thanks to Amgen, AstraZeneca, and Pfizer 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 **Group size - ICPD posted QR codes at 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 brunch**
- Partner Support
 - o **Last call for sponsorship of the 2025 SMDP MedTech (October 4-9 in San Diego); contact Scott May**
 - o **The 2026 sponsorship rate will be \$12,000 per scholar/mentor pair**
 - o Sponsorship information available here: www.icpdprograms.org/sponsorship/
 - o Portal Orientation for recruiters at partner companies, schedule with Scott May
- Sponsor Updates -
- Virtual programming -
 - o **2024 SMDP Biotech Scholar End-of-Year Virtual Reunion - August 7**
 - o **2024 SMDP MedTech Scholar End-of-Year Virtual Reunion - November 6**
 - o Weekly email summary - **If you would like to feature any of your activities in this email publication, then email Elisabeth Valerio (evalerio@icpdprograms.org)**
 - o Mentor Moments – Over 95 have been published
 - o Career Spotlights - 48 Career Spotlights published, featuring SMDP alumni
 - o Jobs Board - Any member can post; engage recruiters



- o Project pages; SMDP Gateway membership program
- **Planning for the 2026 SMDP Biotech training program, June 20-25 in San Diego**
 - o Scholars – **Applications will go live in September. DISCUSSION ITEM - Should we still have these two objective criteria for scholar selection?**
 - **1. Citizens or permanent residents of United States and Puerto Rico are eligible to apply**
 - **2. Legally authorized to work permanently in the United States without needing a visa or sponsorship?**
 - o Mentors - DISCUSSION ITEM – Advice on how the partner companies recruit and support their mentors
 - o Agenda and Speaker needs
 - o Venues
 - o Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception
- SMDP Alumni program
 - o **Debrief about the SMDP Alumni Program in-person and virtual, June 16, Boston**
 - **Agenda -**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CJVRxW8rdu_pIg9fHOaez15sOBWlHxOO2pHNzH8CFI0/edit?usp=sharing
 - **Attendees - 40 were in-person and 45 were virtual**
 - **Venues - The hotel venue worked well; The virtual session was very well produced**
 - o **Governance - SMDP Alumni Program Advisory Council (exists) and SMDP Alumni Program Steering Committee (being formed)**
 - o **App and interactive map in development**
 - o Scholar alumni research reports for SMDP Biotech and SMDP MedTech have been published: <https://smdp.icpdprograms.org>
- SMDP enhancements
 - o The acronym now represents Scholar Mentoring and Development Program
 - o Objective criteria now includes “disadvantaged backgrounds,” as defined here: https://www.era.nih.gov/commons/disadvantaged_def.htm
- Scholar updates
- Other ICPD program updates:
 - o **ELISA - 2025 ELISA Business Scholars EBS training session will be held November 18-21 in Hwange, Zimbabwe (near Victoria Falls); partner companies can provide coaches and support an ELISA Scholar for \$6,000 per pair; contact Scott May for more information**
 - o **2026 SMDP Alumni program in-person and virtual event will be Saturday, June 20 in San Diego**
 - o **2025 SMDP MedTech training will be October 4-9 in San Diego**
- Other/Action items

Upcoming SMDP Biotech O&P Committee calls:

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

Tuesday, November 4, 9-9:30 am PT