



AGENDA

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

Video Conference Call: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 12:00 noon Eastern | 9:00 AM Pacific
<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/87586874456?pwd=JlhqV2OQfpHdo1ZriEMuEnxpU6lIr.1>

Meeting ID: 875 8687 4456

Passcode: 069345

- 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 2026 SMDP Biotech training program, June 20-25 in San Diego**
 - o Scholars - **Applications will go live in September; proposed revisions to the selection criteria (<https://smdp.icpdprograms.org/selection>); suggest replacing these two objective criteria:**
 - **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?****With this objective criteria: Is currently enrolled at or received a degree from an accredited United States of Puerto Rico based institution of higher education**
 - o Mentors - DISCUSSION ITEM - Advice on how the partner companies recruit and support their mentors
 - o Venues - Seek a site for the training program in San Diego, with approximately 200 participants, all day, Saturday, June 20, and 7am - 1 pm, Sunday, June 21
 - o Agenda and Speaker needs
 - o Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception
- Alumni program
 - o **Debrief about SMDP Alumni Program in-person and virtual, June 16, Boston**
 - **[Agenda](#)**
 - **Attendees - 40 were in-person and 45 were virtual**
 - **Venues - The hotel venue worked well; The virtual session was well produced; future events will not be held on the same day as training**
 - o **Governance - SMDP Alumni Program Advisory Council (exists) and SMDP Alumni Program Steering Committee (being formed)**
 - o **2026 SMDP Alumni program to be held in-person and virtual, the event will occur on Saturday, June 20 in San Diego culminating with informal dinner**
 - o Scholar alumni research reports for SMDP Biotech and SMDP MedTech have been published: <https://smdp.icpdprograms.org>
- Partner Support
 - o **The 2026 sponsorship rate will be \$12,000 per scholar/mentor pair**
 - o Sponsorship information available here: www.icpdprograms.org/sponsorship



- Virtual programming -
 - o **2024 SMDP Biotech Scholar End-of-Year Virtual Reunion was August 7**
 - o **2024 SMDP MedTech Scholar Reunion Debrief, November 6**
 - o **Jobs Board - Any member can post; engage recruiters; portal Orientation for recruiters at partner companies, schedule with Scott May**
 - o **App and interactive map live on portal**
 - o Desire for Career Networking online event
 - 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 Project pages; SMDP Gateway membership program
- 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
- 2025 SMDP Biotech training program, June 14-19, Boston
 - o Scholars - 99 scholars sponsored
 - o Mentors - follow-up meetings as needed
- Sponsor Updates
- Other ICPD program updates:
 - o **2025 SMDP MedTech training will be October 3-8 in San Diego**
 - o **ELISA - 2026 ELISA Business Scholars Training Session and ELISA Business Summit will be held March 19-22 in Hwange, Zimbabwe (near Victoria Falls); to partner contact Scott May**
- Other/Action items

Upcoming SMDP Biotech O&P Committee calls:

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