



# AGENDA

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

**Video Conference Call:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 12:00 noon Eastern | 9:00 AM Pacific  
<https://icpdprograms-org.zoom.us/j/85441139161?pwd=2MV6vuJ9OhPLfQNrAObu5kjaA2dMFd.1>

- Welcome & Introductions - **BOLD ITEMS WILL BE COVERED DURING THE CALL;**  
For a more in-depth briefing contact Scott May ([smay@icpdprograms.org](mailto:smay@icpdprograms.org)) or  
+1 (202) 441-7370
- SMDP enhancements
  - **The acronym now represents Scholar Mentoring and Development Program**
  - **Objective criteria now includes "disadvantaged backgrounds," as defined by the National Institutes of Health 2025**
  - **Objective criterion also includes: Is currently enrolled at or received a degree from an accredited United States of Puerto Rico based institution of higher education, and the applicants will be required to submit their most recent transcript and it should be no more than 3 years old**
- Partner Updates
- **Planning for the 2026 SMDP Biotech training session, June 20-25 in San Diego**
  - **Scholars** - Applications are live here and applications are being accepted here: [smdp.icpdprograms.org](http://smdp.icpdprograms.org); Recruitment at society meetings and universities: NSBE will be in Baltimore March 18-20; Fireside Chat on January 23rd had around 100 attendees; Dustie Savage will be hosting informational sessions for USC, Dartmouth, Cornell, University of Cincinnati and Rutgers; please email your selection committee names and email addresses to Scott May and Dustie Savage ([dsavage@icpdprograms.org](mailto:dsavage@icpdprograms.org)) by **April 8**
  - **Mentors** - ICPD is compiling a list of best practices for supporting the mentors at the partner companies. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** - Advice on how to support mentors attending the in-person training, ICPD communications with the mentors, pre and post-training program; please email your mentor names, titles and email addresses to Scott May and Dustie Savage by **May 8**
  - **Venues** - Seeking a site for the training session in San Diego, with approximately 200 participants, all day, Sunday, June 21, and 7am to 1 pm, Monday, June 22; Seeking a location for a site-visit(s) on Monday, June 22 lunch time
  - **Agenda and Speaker needs** - please email recommended speaker names, titles and email addresses to Elisabeth Valerio ([evalerio@icpdprograms.org](mailto:evalerio@icpdprograms.org)) and Dustie Savage by **May 8**
  - **Annual Celebration of SMDP Biotech reception** will be held the evening of Sunday, June 21; **SMDP Biotech O&P Committee members are invited to attend and should RSVP to Dustie Savage by May 22**



- Partner Support
  - **Thank you to the companies that have already confirmed their 2026 sponsorship**
  - **Scott May will continue to schedule meetings with committee members to debrief about 2025 and plan for 2026**
  - **If you have not already confirmed your 2026 support, please let Scott May know by **February 27****
  - **Seek two emerging companies for no-cost sponsorship for a scholar/mentor pair; please provide introductions to Scott May**
  - **The goal is to have 95 sponsored scholar/mentor pairs for the 2026 cohort**
  - The 2026 sponsorship rate will be \$12,000 per scholar/mentor pair
  - Sponsorship information available here: [icpdprograms.org/sponsorship](https://icpdprograms.org/sponsorship)
- Alumni program
  - **SMDP Alumni Program Steering Committee (ASC) has been formed and they have held 2 meetings so far; The SMDP ASC have adopted a budget for 2026 and each of the area specific leads plans to prioritize identifying and addressing alumni needs relevant to their respective roles**
  - **The 2026 SMDP Alumni Networking event to be held as a hybrid in-person and virtual event occurring Saturday, June 20 in San Diego; it culminates with a networking event during which we welcome the in-bound 2026 SMDP Biotech Scholars and Mentors; SMDP partners are invited to attend and should RSVP to Dayveon Cooper ([dcooper@icpdprograms.org](mailto:dcooper@icpdprograms.org)) by **May 22**; The SMDP ASC will also attend.**
  - **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>**
- 2025 SMDP Biotech
  - Scholars - staff are tracking their monthly updates
  - Mentors - follow-up meetings as needed
- 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**
  - **Desire for Career Networking online event**
  - App and interactive map live on portal
  - Weekly email summary - If you would like to feature any of your activities in this email publication, then email Elisabeth Valerio ([evalerio@icpdprograms.org](mailto:evalerio@icpdprograms.org))
  - Mentor Moments - Over 95 have been published
  - Career Spotlights - 48 Career Spotlights published, featuring SMDP alumni
  - Project pages; SMDP Gateway membership program
- Other ICPD program updates:



- **SMDP Medtech - the 2026 SMDP MedTech Training Session will be held October 16-21 in Boston**
- **Enterprise, Leaders & Innovators Society for Africa (ELISA) - the 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**
- **Sage Clubs K-12 program launched with 8 pilot schools: a new school-based program that equips students with practical skills, confidence and opportunities to contribute positively where they live and learn**
- Other/Action items

**Upcoming SMDP Biotech O&P Committee calls:**

**Tuesday, April 28, 9-9:30 am PT**

**Tuesday, July 28, 9-9:30 am PT**

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

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