



UMass LSTF February 8, 2008 Meeting Notes

Participants: Richard Antonak; Abigail Barrow; Jeff Brancato; Susan Braunhut; Brendan Chisholm; Tom Chmura; Nancy Cohen; Michael Collins; John Cunningham; Terence Flotte; Greer Glazer; Steve Goodwin; Andrew Grosovsky; Bill Hogan; Paul Kostecki; Winston Langley; George Langford; Carl Lawton; Steve McCarthy; James McNamara; Judy Ockene; Robert Peck (via phone); Lou Petrovic; Mark Schlesinger; Paulette Seymour-Route; Mark Trusheim; Paul Vigeant; Loren Walker; David Wegman

1. Introductory remarks from Dr. Collins
 - Overview of UMass LSTF work charge
 - Promote inter-campus collaboration
 - Create an aspirant plan to present to UMass Board of Trustees in June
 - UMass and the Life Sciences Initiative
 - UMass well positioned to partner with the Commonwealth on this initiative
 - UMass should position itself to receive half of the funding coming from the legislation
 - As the State's public university system, why wouldn't its owners (the legislature) want to invest in it?
 - UMass testified as a panel at the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies public hearing in Worcester on January 31st
 - Dean Flotte from UMass Medical School; Dean Langford from UMass Amherst; Dr. Michael Goodman from the UMass Donahue Institute
 - The bill should be reported out of committee in the near future
 - The Mass Life Sciences Center Matching Grants Program will be launched on February 11 at Mass General Hospital
 - \$12 million in available funds
 - Three grant programs
 - New investigator
 - Faculty start-up
 - Cooperative research
 - The Higher Education Bond Bill

- Another funding mechanism that UMass can look towards for much-needed campus infrastructure improvements

2. Working Group Presentations

• **Shared Infrastructure and Additional R&D Thrusts**

- Each campus has developed individual strengths in this area
 - Developing stem cell bank and registry
 - Creating pivotal state-of-the-art cores in biosample, biomaterial and medical device development and characterization.
 - Instituting a system-wide improvement in computing capacity and connectivity that would support assembly, access to and analysis of large data sets
- Industry wants use of cores
 - Will support them
- UMass should think about sharing its core facilities more effectively between campuses and with outside users
 - On-campus rates throughout the university
- Working group will develop a more comprehensive list of existing core facilities throughout the university

• **Advanced Therapeutics Cluster**

- Pillar defined around methodologies as opposed to concepts
- Discovery vs. application
 - UMass should excel at both
- UMMS Clinical and Translational Science Award application
 - To be submitted October 2008
 - There is a real need to include the other campuses in the project
 - Discussion to take place to talk about the possibility
- UMass should embrace new and emerging technologies
 - New targets are being developed throughout the University
 - UMass requires facilities and libraries to screen against
- Interactions across the campuses
 - Seed grants focused on collaborative, multi-campus projects
 - Post-doctoral support
 - Graduate fellowships
- ATC working group will have joint meeting with Nanotech working group

• **Nanotechnology**

- Definition of nanotechnology (less than 1 micron)
- Broader view of life sciences to include biologically-based systems such as biofuels
- Impediments to cross-campus collaboration
 - Access to resources across the campuses
 - Each campus has its own library system
- Nanotechnology needs greater interaction with other working groups

• **Technology Innovation Centers**

- Add value to a company's intellectual property

- Governor's Life Sciences legislative proposal calls for a series of regional innovation centers to link industry and academia in strategic life sciences areas
- UMass well positioned to house and develop regional innovation centers because the university resides in every region of the Commonwealth and because it has a well documented history of success in the developing innovation centers
 - Bio-manufacturing centers in Lowell and Dartmouth
 - M2D2 in Lowell and Worcester
 - Developed in response to clearly identified industry needs and interests
 - Strong industry/university linkages
 - Focused on translational research and commercial applications
- Opportunities in Boston (VDC), Amherst (Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute) and in Worcester and Dartmouth in collaboration with WPI and MBI
- Technology Innovation Centers require capital and operating costs
- **Workforce and Policy Initiatives**
 - What segments of the pipeline should the group focus on?
 - K-12
 - Undergraduate
 - Life Sciences Directly
 - Innovation and clinical researchers
 - Searchable Database Needed for Programs and Workforce
 - Policy for Life Sciences
 - Assess impact of Mass investment in Life Sciences
 - Support for K-12 and Higher Education Needs
 - Need for Research Training to Build Workforce
 - Opportunities
 - Undergraduate Funding
 - Funded Internships
 - Curriculum Redesign
 - Request additional representation from the campuses
 - Request expertise outside of health care
- **Health and Behavior**
 - Utilizing social-ecological model as conceptual framework
 - Developed case statement for working group
 - *Advances in the life sciences and related technologies will not be meaningful to MA residents and industries unless they lead to environments and practices that sustain the health of individuals and diverse populations.*
 - *Research in the Health and Behavior pillar addresses the creation and application of new knowledge, including cellular/molecular research, animal and human intervention studies, and population-based research. Studies in this pillar also address interactive influences of interventions, technologies, and policies on the environmental and societal level, as well as the impact on improved health and reduced health care costs*
 - Revised pillar to reflect conceptual framework

- Individual health
 - Family and community
 - Society and the environment
3. Discussion of position paper template
- Focus on inter-campus collaboration, recommendations and resource needs

Action Items:

- 1. Discussion on the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences**
- 2. Schedule joint meeting between the Advanced Therapeutics Cluster and Nanotechnology Working Groups**
- 3. Research concierge/Academy of Mentors**
- 4. Survey Monkey for Workforce and Policy Initiatives questions**
- 5. Interactions with non-university entities**

Next Meeting:

- **Late March/Early April**
- **Mid-May**