UMass LSTF: Regional Innovation Centers Working Group Update and Preliminary Recommendations

Co-chairs:
Carl Lawton, UMass Lowell
Paul Vigeant, UMass Dartmouth
Situational Analysis

- The concept – initially put forward by the Governor – calls for the development of regional innovation centers that would provide infrastructure to promote regionally important elements of the life sciences sector (e.g., medical devices, manufacturing)
Situational Analysis

- The University’s goal is to position UMASS as a strategic resource for the development of such regional life sciences innovation centers around the state – either as the lead or a principal partner with other institutions (e.g., BayState, Mass BioMedical Initiatives)
Situational Analysis

- Key characteristics of such centers would include:
  - responsiveness to clearly identified industry needs and interests
  - strong university-industry links
  - a focus on translational (not basic) research and commercial applications
  - shared facilities/equipment/services, incubators and the like
  - support from local government and life sciences community
  - external support for capital and operating funds
Assessment of Campus Activities and Plans

- All campuses are either currently active in developing a regional center and/or have plans to do so
- All centers typically involve partners from other UMASS campuses, private institutions and/or the life sciences industry
Assessment of Campus Activities and Plans

- **Amherst** – continued development of Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute (PVLSI) …
  - partnership with BayState Medical Center in Springfield and EDC of Western Mass

- **Boston** – proposed Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy (CPCT) to be housed in the Venture Development Center
  - partnership with Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center
Assessment of Campus Activities and Plans

- **Dartmouth** – proposed Bioprocessing Center
  - potential partnership with Lowell campus, City of Fall River and South Coast Partnership

- **Lowell** – continued development of Mass BioManufacturing Center with Dartmouth, Mass Medical Device Center (M2D2) with Worcester, and incubator space
  - partnerships with Mass Biotech Council, MassMedic, Merrimack Valley EDC and several individual life science companies

- **Worcester** - potential opportunities to partner with Mass Biomedical Initiatives, WPI and City of Worcester
UMASS campuses have received about $28 M in state funding to date to support the development of various regional innovation centers.

- PVLSI, BioManufacturing and M2D2 were all recipients of President’s S&T Funds ($100-150 K each).
- PVLSI ($3 M), BioManufacturing ($150 K), and M2D2 ($650 K) have all secured John Adams Innovation Institute Funds.
Progress to Date

- BioManufacturing ($15 M as part of Bio-Nano Manufacturing Facility) and Venture Development Center ($5 M) were funded thru the 2006 Economic Stimulus Bill
  - Bio-nano facility in planning, construction to start 2009
  - VDC to open Fall 2008

- M2D2 ($4 M for facility) has received state funding at the recommendation of the Mass Life Sciences Center
  - facility planning underway
  - project to start in 2008
Progress to Date

- BioProcessing ($10 M for facility) has funds set aside in MORE program thru the 2006 Economic Stimulus Bill
  - proposal pending for release of funds

- Over $50 M (primarily capital funding) proposed for regional innovation centers linked to UMASS in life sciences legislation
  - PVLSI in Springfield
  - ATMC in Fall River
  - centers in New Bedford and Taunton
  - matching grant program in Lowell, CPCT in Boston, etc.
Recommendations

- Pursue capital and operating funds thru Life Sciences legislation – typically $5-10 M range for capital costs … $1-2 M annual operating costs per center.

- Explore other funding opportunities – next economic stimulus bill, Medical School’s CTSA proposal to NIH, US Economic Development Administration funding, etc.
Recommendations

- Incorporate workforce development as an explicit element of the work program of each regional innovation center.
- Organize centers as a state-wide “network”, with potential role for an organization such as the Mass Tech Transfer Center to assist in connecting the centers, sharing resources, etc.