



**Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
January 31, 2013; 4:00PM – 5:00PM
Dial-in: 888-670-3525; Access Code: 5729200222**

Attendees: Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez, Dr. Mary Jane Saunders, Mr. Casey Lunceford, Dr. John Newcomer, Dr. Heather Belmont, Mr. Andrew Duffell, Mr. Todd Holt, Dr. Roy Pocknee, Dr. Norma Kenyon, Dr. Gary Margules, Dr. Ed Massey, Dr. Rolando Montoya, Mr. Chris Mootoo, Mr. Frank Nero, Ms. Jennifer Hernandez, Mr. Shawn Rowen, Dr. Ronald Toll

Not in Attendance: Ms. Kelly Smallridge, Dr. David Armstrong, Dr. Ivan Baines, Dr. Dennis Gallon, Dr. Andres Gil, Mr. Robert Grillo, Dr. Linda Howdyshe, Dr. Philip LoGrasso, Dr. Stephen Sauls, Dr. Susan Webster

I. Welcome

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: Welcome ladies and gentlemen and happy New Year. This year marks the 3rd year of LSSF and it is evident that we have made great progress. Last year we said we wanted to amp the webinars and they are being held monthly now on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We also launched our quarterly newsletter as a way to share our accomplishments with the community. We said we wanted to connect with the life sciences industry and we had a meeting in October 2012 here at FIU and this past Tuesday at FAU with President Saunders. In addition, we participated at the BioFlorida 2012 Conference. We were both gold sponsors and participated on a panel. This year we will also have an active role at the BioFlorida Conference, which will be held in Tampa. Last year we completed an inventory of our STEM activities and we decided that we should have a conference that celebrates the STEM research performed by our undergraduate students. Later on we will hear about our first STEM research symposium. We have made significant progress toward the research portal, which we will hear more about later. We are working toward creating an Asset Map and Cluster Analysis inventory. I am so grateful to you all for the effort you have invested in this initiative and for making the success of LSSF one of your top goals.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2012

President Rosenberg motioned to approve the November 27, 2012 Life Sciences South Florida (LSSF) Executive Committee meeting minutes and they were approved.

III. New Business

A. Palm Beach Strategic Forum

Mr. Andrew Duffell: The Palm Beach Strategic Forum came to Florida in 2011, expanding on its successful models in Toronto and Montreal (19 years), and is returning for its 3rd edition in 2013. This forum is an ideal setting for Florida to take its place as a key partner in the discussion of the great issues of our time: energy, finance and governance. The forum speakers are internationally renowned and would be significant additions to the learning experience of your students. The confirmed speakers can be found here: <http://forum-americas.org/palmbeach/2013/speakers>

Last year we started to notice a great deal of interest in the conference from the Broward and Miami-Dade markets, and this year the trend continues. The director of Port Miami is a speaker, and will be a sponsor also, as is FPL. The issues being discussed are particularly relevant to the global city that is Miami. This year I'd like to see FIU get involved in the discussion; FAU and Palm Beach Atlantic University are involved, and the other major educational institution in our region should also be represented. The meeting agenda can be viewed at: <http://forum-americas.org/palmbeach/2013>

Please contact Andrew Duffell at aduffell@research-park.org for more information regarding the Palm Beach Strategic Forum.



B. BioFlorida Conference 2013 – Silver and Breakfast Sponsorship

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: Planning for the STEM Research Symposium is well underway thanks to Dr. Belmont and her great team on the program committee. The event is to be held on March 16 at MDC North Campus. FIU is in charge of fundraising and I am delighted to announce that FIU Division of Research has contributed, Undergraduate Education, FIU College of Engineering and Computing, and Nova Division of Research have all committed to sponsor. We have Gold level at \$1500, Silver level at \$1000 and Bronze level sponsorships at \$500. I ask that each of us at our corresponding institutions make a strong effort to promote the event and reach out to our colleges and departments to continue fundraising. Our goal is to fundraise \$8000 dollars. All funds will go to catering and awards for students at the conference. If we are able to fundraise more than needed for this conference we will utilize the balance toward next year's conference. If you have any questions regarding fundraising and sponsorship please email Jenesis Ramirez at (jenramir@fiu.edu).

*Since the LSSF Executive meeting we have also received sponsorship from Miami Dade College.

C. Seven50 Summit – LSSF Panel

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: You all may recall that at the last LSSF Executive Committee meeting, Isabel Cosio Carballo, the partnership coordinator for Seven50, spoke about the Seven50 initiative. She explained it is a long term Southeast Florida economic prosperity plan led by the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils and the Southeast Florida Regional Partnership. There were several action items involving Seven50 that I would like to report on.

The first item was to identify where the areas of synergy exist between Seven/50 and LSSF. Isabel recommends that LSSF become an official partner. There are a number of LSSF members already in Seven50, such as Dr. Massey (President, Indian River), Dr. Gallon (President, Palm Beach State College), Ms. Smallridge (President, Business Development Board of Palm Beach County), and Dr. Armstrong (President of Broward College). If we all agree, I will begin to draft the partnership agreement so that all LSSF members are included in the partnership. Can I get a motion to draft the agreement?

Dr. Montoya and Dr. Kenyon moved to approve the motion. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez will take this action item.

The second item involved working together toward the high-speed rail project. Isabel has provided two contacts for "All Aboard": Husein Cumber, Assistant VP for Public Affairs and Jose Gonzalez, VP for Corporate Development. We can either invite them both to the next LSSF Executive Committee meeting on April 12 or coordinate a separate meeting between them and representatives for your corresponding institutions you all would like to designate for this project. Which would you prefer? What does the group feel is more appropriate in terms of meeting the "All Aboard" members?

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: We should either schedule a conference call or ask them to have a presentation at our next LSSF Executive Committee meeting.

Dr. Mary Jane Saunders: Having a conversation with All Aboard would be good, as long as we do not veer off our mission.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: That is a good point. With that in mind, perhaps it is best to request they give a presentation at our next meeting.

The third item was to set up a meeting with representatives from the various regional workforces and discuss internships. Isabel and I agree that first step would be for the South Florida Regional Planning Council to host an informal meeting at their offices to have an exploratory conversation with their workforce partners before the next LSSF meeting.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: Who would like to go to the exploratory meeting?

Dr. Heather Belmont agreed to attend the meeting with South Florida Regional Planning Council.

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: Thank you, Heather. All other committee members, please free to email Jenesis about who from your organizations would like to attend the meeting. Jenesis will follow up with Executive Committee members to coordinate representatives to attend the meeting with Florida Regional Planning Council.



Lastly, on January 24 we had a panel of speakers at the Seven50 second annual summit. The summit's focus was "A Look Ahead: Trends and Opportunities." LSSF was represented by a panel I moderated composed of: Dr. Rosson (VP of Research at FAU), Dr. Margules, Dr. Belmont, and Dr. Kenyon. I would like to thank you all for participating and for representing LSSF so well. The panel focused on a discussion of LSSF initiatives, including the STEM Research Symposium, the Research Resources Portal, and the Asset Map and Cluster Analysis projects. I would say that the panel discussion was very informative to the audience about what LSSF's current projects and future goals entail. I think we succeeded in painting a very clear picture of what we are trying to accomplish through regional collaboration.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Asset Map and Cluster Analysis

Mr. Andrew Duffell: We held a subcommittee meeting to discuss the needs of asset mapping for the region, and after that I put together a proposal. In the subsequent meeting the committee discussed the document once more. We want to approach agencies and begin this project as soon as possible. Please refer to the Proposal Document sent out with all meeting materials for this call.

B. STEM K-20 Student and Workforce Development

Dr. Heather Belmont: First, I would like to thank all the committee members for their work. The STEM research symposium is scheduled for March 16. By now the submission guidelines should be circulating all the campuses and all institutions should select up to 10 students to attend the conference. The internal submission deadline is February 15, which gives readers time to select students. Submission to Dr. Belmont of all selected abstracts is March 1. We have secured the keynote speaker, Edith Widder, who was part of the expedition who captured the first giant squid on camera. The Discovery Channel is featuring the documentary. We have invited St. Thomas University, Florida Memorial University, and Barry University as well.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: Thank you Dr. Iacono for securing such a great speaker, Dr. Edith Widder. I also want to thank Dr. Belmont and Dr. Montoya for their commitment to coordinating the symposium

C. Talent Recruitment

Dr. Mary Jane Saunders: FAU hosted a life sciences industry luncheon on January 29. We secured 5 companies who attended and we were impressed with the sophistication of companies in our area. Companies said that 5-6 years ago they only hired outside Florida and now they are hiring Florida graduates. One thing that came up was having university provide help to start-up companies for SBIR grant writing services.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: It was surprising to see the heterogeneity of the group. There was one company leader who was a company with 300 employees. Another company leader spoke about the need for venture capital.

Dr. Mary Jane Saunders: It is clear that there would be cordial relationships with talented people if we more intentionally connected with them about getting involved with LSSF.

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: If you could provide me their contact info, I can reach out to invite them to be webinar speakers.

Dr. Mary Jane Saunders: We are working on that and will get that to you as soon as it is ready

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: Provost Toll, would you like to share anything else?



Dr. Ronald Toll: I have learned much being part of this. Talent recruitment work is about meeting and talking to people and us understanding what we can provide for different companies. It was surprising that a word like “internship” is not defined the same way across different sectors that recruit talent. For colleges and universities it means one thing and to workforce agencies, another. As we get to meet organizations in the different sectors we should not assume we have a common understanding of what we all do. I think we recognize that we have to build our own network from bottom up rather than tap into an existing network that can be immediately responsive to our mission and goals as LSSF. We will keep working at it and I think progress will come in smaller pieces because we really have to build the network. President Saunders, I welcome your perspective.

Dr. Mary Jane Saunders: You are right. This is business to university and both sides need hand holding. We need to figure out what our most immediate goals are first.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: Provost Toll, what I hear you saying is that we need to approach different groups separately and that this is a piece-meal type of project, rather than one that we can start up quickly.

Dr. Ronald Toll: We tend to be more altruistic than the companies. I am pleased that when we have come together we can build relationships and get students into good jobs in South Florida.

D. Regional Conferences and Webinars

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: I would like to make a final announcement that our next webinar is on February 18. The speaker is Mike Reed, the Director of Global Assay and Applications Development at Beckman Coulter. He leads a team of over 60 scientists who develop life science and diagnostic tests and applications for a diverse range of technologies with a primary focus on flow cytometry. He will be speaking about “The Emergence of Flow Cytometry as a Routine Diagnostic Testing Technology.” I invite you all to attend and share the flyer across your institutions. You can log in through the link on the flyer you all should have received via email. After this call, Jenesis will be sending a list of all webinar speakers who are scheduled through June of this year.

Dr. Roy Pocknee: We urge that executive members make recommendations so that we can contact potential speakers.

E. Shared Technology and Communication Portal

Dr. Gary Margules: Primarily, the FIU team has done a wonderful job in putting together an advanced prototype and the committee agreed that it is a fine prototype and a foundation we can use to build on. The beginning of the population of the database has begun and data is being entered. However, each university has cited a challenge in providing uniform and adequate information regarding the equipment. As a result, we have started referring back to the original equipment catalogues, which is very time-consuming. Next Steps: Data testers are starting to put their heads together regarding legal uniformity for the portal. They will report on what the best uniform system will be. In the future, small companies and other people will be able to use the portal and we will add that explanation to make sure all are aware that this is for small and development stage companies as well.

Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez: There are still questions about which companies will be able to use the portal and how the portal should work in general. We can create a survey and send it out to the executive committee for input.

Dr. Mark Rosenberg: The issues remaining about the portal are critical and we will wait until Dr. Becerra sends out the survey materials to get your input.

V. Conclusion

Dr. Mark Rosenberg concluded the meeting by mentioning some upcoming events:

- Next Executive Meeting: April 12 at Nova Southeastern University from 10am-12pm



- Next Webinar: February 19 at 12:30pm (Presenter: Andrew Ripps, President & COO, AssureImmune)
- Life Sciences South Florida STEM Research Symposium: March 16, from 8:30am – 2:30pm , Miami Dade College, North Campus

VI. Action Items

1. Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez will:
 - a. Work with Ms. Isabel Cosio Carballo to draft the partnership agreement, which will include all LSSF members in the official partnership with Seven50.
 - b. Connect with All Aboard and invite them to give a presentation at the next LSSF Executive Committee meeting on April 12.
 - c. Work with the Research Resources Portal team to create a survey and email it to Executive Committee members.
2. Dr. Mary Jane Saunders will provide Dr. Becerra-Fernandez with a list of company leaders who attended the life science luncheon at FAU on January 29. Dr. Becerra-Fernandez will connect with those leaders in an effort to get them involved with LSSF initiatives, in particular to be speakers for the webinar series.
3. Mr. Andrew Duffell is to distribute the Asset Map and Cluster Analysis proposal to several external agencies and advise on how the LSSF Executive Committee should proceed at the Executive Committee meeting on April 12.
4. Jenesis Ramirez will:
 - a. Email a list of all webinar speakers who are scheduled through June of this year.
 - b. Follow up with Executive Committee members to coordinate representatives to attend the meeting with the Florida Regional Planning Council. The purpose of the meeting is to have an exploratory conversation with Florida Regional Planning Council's workforce partners before the next LSSF meeting.
5. All Executive Committee members will select a representative from his or her institution to be the contact point for inputting equipment data onto the Research Resources Portal.