

Lunch & Learn Sessions (Friday, June 5th, 2014)

(Free to all conference registrants; attendance capped at 12)

Commercializing University-Based Research

Facilitator: Dr. Daniel Boyd, Dalhousie University

This lunch and learn will feature a university based researcher with experience in licensing and spin out companies. During the session, you will learn about the mechanisms by which you can commercialize a research idea. You will learn about the pitfalls, advantages and strategies associated with each approach, and you will also learn about a very simple tool that will help you to assess if a new research idea has commercial potential. The lunch and learn will be informal and highly interactive. Real life cases will be used to illustrate key learning points.

Enriching the Biomaterials Classroom Experience: Facilitating more engagement with less marking

Facilitator: Dr. Marianne Ariganello, University of Ottawa

Increasing class sizes may require tweaking of the traditional course framework, while new trends in pedagogy are promoting increased student engagement. What strategies can we use to reconcile these issues when teaching biomaterials? Is there a simple way to add a design component into our classes? Share your ideas, your experiences (as a student or an instructor) – and even your failed attempts – at building a more comprehensive biomaterials education.

An Applied Science Approach to An Academic Career

Facilitator: Dr. Paul Santerre, University of Toronto

The evolution of the knowledge based society in Canada is enabling more professionals to pursue careers within industry, without solely working for large pharma or technology intensive corporations such as J&J, Dupont, 3M, and GE, and in some cases while not necessarily compromising their academic careers. More opportunities for combining niche needs, insightful and deep knowledge, and innovative solutions to practical problems in the biomedical devices sector are giving rise to an increased number of trainees considering putting their Masters, PhDs and postdoctoral experience to work as key employees in spin-off companies, or running entrepreneurial ventures with their own technological ideas. This lunch and learn will be hosted by Dr. Paul Santerre, current chief scientific officer and co-founder of Interface Biologic, Inc. (20 employees), and past director for the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Toronto. Two topics will be discussed: 1) recognizing low-hanging technological niche product opportunities while pursuing innovative discovery science; and 2) creative approaches to managing spin-off companies while still achieving performance in your academic career.

What's Taking Tissue Engineering So Long?

Facilitator: Dr. J. Michael Lee, Dalhousie University

The last two decades have been punctuated with bold statements from tissue engineering leaders suggesting that the era of off-the-shelf engineered organ and tissue replacements was imminent. With the passing years, a great deal of the gas has gone out of that particular party balloon and fewer research teams are willing to promise any defined timeline for complex replacements. One might reasonably ask what happened. After capturing the imagination of scientists and the public, why has this endeavour turned out to be much harder than it was imagined to be? At this session, we'll explore a set of issues that have proved to be obstructions or detours that have impeded rapid progress. As tissue engineering has morphed into a branch of regenerative medicine, what strategic choices could we now make to accelerate success?