

A meeting of the Hampton Roads Research Partnership's Bioscience Cluster Steering Committee was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12 PM to 2 PM in the conference room of the City of Norfolk Economic Development Department. The attendance list for the meeting is at the end of this report. The meeting was chaired by Bill Wasilenko of Eastern Virginia Medical School and Cluster Leader for HRRP.

Bill facilitated the meeting from a series of PowerPoint charts which are posted on the Bioscience Cluster Web Page which can be found at <http://www.hamptonroadsrp.org/>. Three major topics were discussed, regional bioscience updates, current and planned events, and cluster future support.

Regional bioscience updates started with Bill asking Cynthia Keppel of Hampton University to describe and provide a status report on HU's Proton Beam Therapy Facility. Bill then talked about local companies that are now collaborating with academia. He then invited Alyce Jones of LifeNet Health to talk about their R&D efforts and the companies strategy to move beyond an organ and tissue provider to developing and marketing innovations in tissue regeneration and implantation. Bill Bean provided a description of the VIMS Industry Partnership. Bill Wasilenko then talked about the new faculty recruits at EVMS and they school's new research initiatives. He then invited Tom Osha to talk about the ODU innovation park, and in particular about the wet lab space they are developing. They will rent wet lab spaces for as short a period as six months for rents of \$5000 per month.

In the current activities discussion Bill reviewed the results of the recent Bioscience survey which can be found at <http://www.hamptonroadsrp.org/bioscience.php> including information about the size of the industry in the region, who the companies are in various sectors, and what is needed for continued development of bioscience in Hampton Roads. Bill also talked about the Bioscience Lunch that was held on October 1, 2008, a well attended event that featured Del. Phil Hamilton as a speaker. He also pointed out the upcoming Sensors Science and Technology Forum to be held at VMASC on February 17<sup>th</sup> focused in Sensors in Bioscience - from Research to Products. Details and registration for the free event can be found at <http://www.hrtc.org/en/cev/277>. Finally he introduced a series of Lunch & Learn events sponsored by Morgan Marrow Company and LeClairRyan focused on forming and managing a high-tech company. The first in the series of six events will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Virginia Air and Space Center. The flyer for the event is in the powerpoint file and registration can be done with Amber Chapman at [amberc@morganmarrow.com](mailto:amberc@morganmarrow.com). Registration is \$20.00.

On the topic of cluster future support, Bill started out by describing the proposal from the team of EVMS, Norfolk State University, and the HRRP for an NSF Partnerships for Innovation grant. The powerpoint file has a description of the proposal which was lead by EVMS. Next Bill asked Lee Beach to talk about the formation of the new Hampton

Roads Innovation Alliance, an alliance between HRRP and the Hampton Roads Technology Council. Support for the new entity could come from a future Economic Development Administration grant which HRRP and HRTC are currently pursuing. Bill then asked the members of the steering committee to think about other sources of support for the cluster.

At the end of the meeting Bill opened the floor for suggestions as to how the cluster could be more useful. Suggestions included field trips to companies by small groups, invite companies to visit universities, providing mechanisms for companies to see what is available in academia and vice versa, opportunities to hear presentations and seminars, and a possible workshop on bridging the gap between academia and companies.

Bill Wasilenko asked members of the committee to make suggestions about a topic or format of the next Bioscience Lunch, which will be sponsored by VaBio. Possible formats include having several companies give brief, prepared talks about their activities, an "open mike" meeting where participants can speak for a few minutes on topics of interest, or having a featured speaker on a topic. Send suggestions to Doug Dwoyer at [ddwoyer@hamptonroadsrp.org](mailto:ddwoyer@hamptonroadsrp.org). Additionally, if anyone is interested in participating as a lunch cosponsor please let Doug know.

## Attendance

Name	Organization	E-mail
Lee Beach	HRRP	<a href="mailto:lbeach@hamptonroadsrp.org">lbeach@hamptonroadsrp.org</a>
Bill Bean	William & Mary	<a href="mailto:webean@wm.edu">webean@wm.edu</a>
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