Abstract

The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (IICTR), home to Columbia University’s CTSA Program Hub, supports a mission of bringing novel innovations to patients through education, mentorship and pilot award funding through the Accelerate program.

The Accelerate program leverages Columbia University’s proficiency in drug discovery and provides access to entrepreneurs and industry partners, with a goal of advancing novel therapeutics from the lab towards the path of commercialization and clinical implementation. Close collaboration with Columbia University’s technology transfer office, Columbia Technology Ventures, has provided an opportunity for partnership with CTV’s Diversity and Inclusion in Commercialization and Entrepreneurship, which focuses on providing education around entrepreneurship for graduate students and post-docs from traditionally underrepresented groups in life science commercialization. Through this collaboration, DICE participants were able to join the Lab-to-Market bootcamp which includes Accelerate Pilot award applicants.

**ACCELERATE Resources and Dissemination**

**Accelerate**
- Pilot Programs
- Boot Camp & Pitch Day
- Innovation Mentorship Consultation Services
- First in Human Pathway
- Exit Opportunities

**Partnerships**
- Technology Ventures
- Engineering School
- Business School
- Cancer Center

**Columbia Programs**
- TRx (Translation)
- Cancer Therapeutics
- BioMedX (Devices)
- Future Accelerators

**CTSA / IDeA Partners**
- Rockefeller University
- Wake Forest School of Medicine
- CTSA Program Network
- Puerto Rico Science & Technology Trust

**Indivduals**
- Columbia Investigators
- External Investigators
- DICE Program

Diversity & Inclusion in Commercialization & Entrepreneurship Activities

**ACCELERATE Lab-to-Market Life Science Boot Camp**
- Multi-session educational course that highlights key aspects of translation of innovations from the bench towards commercialization and ultimately to patients. Lectures are led by industry experts with experience translating therapeutics from bench to bedside.

**Part I: Registered Students+ Faculty Applicants to CU Life Science Accelerator Programs**
- Validating the Problem: Unmet Clinical Need, Cycle of Care, Stakeholders
- Validating the Business Case: Value Proposition, Market Size, Who Will Pay
- Commercialization De-Risking: Killer Experiment & Intellectual Property
- Commercialization De-Risking: Regulatory and Reimbursement
- Pitch Story Telling

**Part II: Registered Students+ DICE Participants**
- Case Study: Commercialization in Life Sciences
- Commercializing Technology: License & Negotiations
- Start-ups: Start Up Financing, IP Diligence
- Investor Perspective: How to evaluate Commercial Opportunity
- Start-ups: Start up formation, key things to consider when starting a company

**Collaborative Final Assignment**

**Workforce Development in Life Science Commercialization**

Columbia University’s Program for Diversity and Inclusion in Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (DICE) aims to support early-career individuals who identify as being from traditional underrepresented groups in life science commercialization.

- **17** Participating Students
- **12** Departments Represented
- **8** Class Sessions
- **4** Fireside Chats

**EDUCATION**
In addition to sessions on Lean Launchpad Methodology, DICE participants completed the Lab to Market Life Science Accelerator Bootcamp.

**MENTORSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES**
Mentorship is a key component of early career development. Through the DICE program, participants were given the opportunity to meet with program sponsors and provided resources to assist in their job searches.

**FUNDING SUPPORT**
Upon successful completion of the program, DICE participants were each given a one-time stipend of $1,000 to be used for professional development.

**Fireside Chats**
Participants in the program attended curated intimate group discussions led by with experienced life science entrepreneurs, industry executives, and VCs from traditionally under-represented populations.

**Outcomes:** Small group engagement resulted in several mentor-mentee relationships and increased exposure to examples of successes in the life science field from underrepresented groups.

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*As a first-generation student from a low-income household, the concepts of commercialization and entrepreneurship have often felt inaccessible and unapproachable. The fireside chats with experts of diverse backgrounds made the information relatable and helped me gain invaluable insight on previous paths that what I could potentially achieve in the future.*

- Biomedical Informatics PhD student