

North Carolina Central University  
Biotech Entrepreneurship Forum  
Friday, March 18, 2011



# ABOUT BRITE

North Carolina Central University is home to one of the newest and most innovative biotechnology educational initiatives in the country and the only formal biotech degree program offered by a North Carolina university. The University's Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) is creating a pool of incredibly well-trained students ready to excel in biotechnology and biomanufacturing workplaces upon graduation. Our institute has a strong research focus, particularly in the areas of drug discovery and manufacturing technology. In an industry where revenues have exploded from \$8 billion in 1992 to over \$50 billion in 2005, and job growth continues to outpace national statistics, our students will be in demand and poised to succeed. BRITE combines highly credentialed faculty with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to create an unparalleled learning environment. Students follow curriculum developed in conjunction with premiere biotech companies, participate in hands-on research and receive career counseling — all designed to create the leaders in the next wave of amazing biotech discoveries.





# PARTICIPANT INFO



# Agenda

**11:00 AM-11:15 AM**

Arrival / Expo Opens

**11:30 AM – 12: 30 PM**

Luncheon - Conference Room 2120

**12: 45 PM**

Welcome / Introductions - Room 1050

**BIOTECH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PANEL**

Moderator, Farad Ali, Senior Vice President  
NC Institute of Minority Economic Development

Leah Brown, Owner and President  
A10 Clinical Solutions

Karen LeVert, CEO and Co-Founder  
Southeast TechInventures, Inc.

Richard E. Kouri, Ph.D, Executive Director  
BioSciences Management, NC State University

Russ H. Read, Executive Director  
National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce

**2:00 PM**

Forum Adjourns



## Guest Panel



### **Leah Brown**

Owner and President of A10 Clinical Solutions, Inc.

Ms. Brown is one of the leaders in providing highly talented, clinical-research professionals to the healthcare industry particularly to projects that experience disparities. With more than 20 years as a consultant in healthcare/regulatory compliance, she also possesses the distinguished designation of Certified in Healthcare Compliance (CHC). A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, she holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Kentucky and was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1992. She has completed two Executive Management Programs: Tuck School of Business (Dartmouth College) and the Kellogg Graduate School of Management (Northwestern University).



### **Richard E. Kouri**

Executive Director, BioSciences Management,  
NC State University

In addition to being a distinguished professor and one of the industry's leading spokesperson for biotechnology, Dr. Kouri over the last three decades has been an executive leader among several companies associated with the business sector of research and development in the healthcare industry. He served as Managing Director of SyneCor, LLC; CEO of Ercole Biotech, Inc.; President/CEO of Nanolytics, Inc.; and President/CEO of RemedEase, Inc.; companies all based in Research Triangle Park, NC. Prior to his appointment at NC State University, he served as Entrepreneur-in-Residence and adjunct professor at Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill. He continues to work with leading biosciences companies such as Biogen Idec, Eisai, Athenix, GSK, BASF, LabCorp and WakeMed to name a few. A graduate of Ohio State University, he holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Radiation Biology from the University of Tennessee, and is a post-doctoral fellow of the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology.

## Guest Panel



### **R.H. (Russ) Read**

Executive Director, National Center for  
Biotechnology Workforce

Mr. Read, born and educated in Montreal, has worked in senior positions in the pharmaceutical industry for over 30 years. His work with Glaxo Wellcome led him to key strategic marketing opportunities, including the launch of “bench to the bedside” antivirals (acyclovir, AZT, 3TC and abacavir) for the treatment of HIV. From mid 2001 until August 2004 he was the founding CEO & President of Kucera Pharmaceutical Co., formerly based in Winston-Salem NC. In 2005, he was appointed Executive Director of the National Center for the Biotechnology Work Force based at Forsyth Tech Community College, NC. In October 2008 it became a center within BioNetwork the statewide program for education and training in life sciences. He has co-written multiple successful grant /loan /award applications and serves on the Board of Directors of Onconix Diagnostics, NC Biosciences. A graduate of Loyola, McGill and Concordia Universities in Montreal, Mr. Read holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Masters in Educational Philosophy and a graduate degree in Health & Education Administration.



### **Karen LaVert**

CEO and co-founder of Southeast TechInventures, Inc.

Ms. LeVert’s business experiences encompasses both corporate and leadership in entrepreneurial ventures, executive management, finance and information technology. Her company, STI, is described as an accelerator that migrates the most promising technologies from university research labs to the commercial marketplace, operating from prototype development to established entities. Her career began with a Fortune-500 company, before launching her own business in bioremediation. She co-launched a Silicon Valley venture-funded software company in San Francisco, CA. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, Ms. LaVert holds an MBA from the University of Dayton.



## Moderator



### **Farad Ali**

Senior VP, NC Institute of Minority  
Economic Development

Mr. Ali is responsible for a business development team of managerial and financial technical assistance consultants with MBA's, advanced training and critical business experience. The team focuses on enhancing the internal controls and capacity of minority firms and includes the Minority Business Enterprise Center of North Carolina, the Women's Business Center of North Carolina, and a Financial Education and Training Department that focuses on building financial intelligence of business owners and consumers. He worked for almost two decades as a banker and consultant, providing managerial and financial technical assistance, securing millions of dollars in procurement and contracts for minority businesses and a proven catalyst of capital for minority businesses. Mr. Ali is a graduate of the Kenan-Flagler School of Business at UNC-Chapel Hill, has an MBA from Campbell University, and post graduate training from Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

