

NEWS RELEASE

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2008 LIFE SCIENCES SUMMIT

Stony Brook, NY April 21, 2008 – Dr. Nora D. Volkow, Greg Simon, and Dr. James Weyhenmeyer were announced as the keynote speakers for the 2008 Life Sciences Summit: “Bridging The Gap from Concept to Commercialization.” The event is scheduled for Thursday, June 5th at the Hilton Long Island in Melville. Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, President of Stony Brook University, will make the welcoming remarks.

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, will present the opening keynote, “Addiction from Scientific Knowledge to Clinical Solutions”. As a research psychiatrist and scientist, Dr. Volkow pioneered the use of brain imaging to investigate the toxic effects of drugs and their addictive properties. She has also made important contributions to the neurobiology of obesity, ADHD, and the behavioral changes that occur with aging. “This summit is a valuable opportunity for business leaders in the Life Sciences community to learn about and address some of our most serious problems, including substance abuse and addiction,” said Dr. Nora D. Volkow. “What we now know about the science of addiction can inform new, more targeted treatments.”

The luncheon keynote will be given by Greg Simon, President, FasterCures. “What you Seed Is What You Get – Making Faster Cures the Central Organizing Principle of Our Research Enterprise” FasterCures is an “action tank” committed to saving lives by saving time. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization examines the medical research and development process to discover and promote ways to accelerate the discovery, development, and deployment of new medical treatment for today’s deadly diseases. “Our current system of medical research is based on the organizing principle of studying human biology. Every part of the research culture – tenure, grant writing, fear of failure, publication delays, a conservative peer review system – all derive from that principle. In the 21st Century our challenge is to make curing diseases the central organizing principle of our national research enterprises, with all of the cultural changes that implies”, said Greg Simon.

Dr. James Weyhenmeyer, Ph.D., who is the SR. VP for Research, Research Foundation and Senior Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development at SUNY, will give the Closing keynote. He is also a renowned researcher in the field of biology and neuroscience who has published extensively on degenerative brain disorders. Dr. Weyhenmeyer will provide vision, energy and leadership for research and innovation at the State University of New York. In December 2007, Dr. Weyhenmeyer was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. This prestigious independent institution promotes innovation and economic development internationally. Among its select group of 1,000 members are renowned scientists, engineers and economists from major U.S. research universities as well as international universities and companies.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of panels focused on the theme of Bridging the Gap from Concept to Commercialization throughout the day from 8am – 5pm. There are six tracks in all, covering topics such as Emerging Company Corporate Showcases, Business and Technology Development Strategy, Life Sciences for the HR Professional, Bioscience Professional Development, and Translational Research. There will also be a free career fair from 10am-3pm for both graduates and undergrads.

Early Registration closes May 2nd! For more information or to register to attend the event, please call 631-632- 8521 or visit

<http://www.biotech.sunysb.edu/educWork/summit2008/index.html>

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About the Summit

The Life Sciences Summit is a premier gathering of life sciences leaders and professionals focused on issues of strategic importance to the industry in the Long Island region. The Life Sciences Summit is produced by the Center for Biotechnology, a New York State Center for Advanced Technology, in cooperation with the Long Island Life Sciences Initiative, an industry trade organization representing the interests of the region's biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, and personal care industries.