

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO – MAYAGUEZ
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

BACKGROUND

The Biotechnology industry is growing rapidly on a global scale, and analysts are predicting that it will have a profound impact on health care, agriculture, energy, and environmental management. The Industry has more than tripled in size since 1992, with revenues increasing from \$8 billion in 1992 to \$27.6 billion in 2001. This is the industry of the future. It is responsible for medical diagnostic tests that keep blood supplies protected from the AIDS virus and detect other conditions early enough to be effectively treated. Environmental biotechnology products make it possible to clean up hazardous wastes more proficiently and competently without the use of caustic chemicals. People can now use biotechnology enhanced agricultural products such as papaya, soybeans and corn. Hundreds of biopesticides and other agricultural products are used to improve our food supply and to diminish our dependence on conventional chemical pesticides.

A small number of biotechnologists in our country are minorities. The lack of minorities in this field and the growth of our minority population make it imperative that minority higher education institutions develop graduate programs that will provide opportunities for more Hispanics and African Americans to enter the field of biotechnology. To be able to prepare those professionals so that they might perform at the highest level of excellence, minority institutions must work together supporting each other and securing assistance from federal agencies, private corporations and foundations to accomplish this goal. Preparing more minorities in this area will allow our country to be in a position to provide the kind of leadership necessary to be secured in this field.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

This Memorandum of Understanding and Intent (MOU) is established to develop collaborative programs in the field of biotechnology. The undersigned institutions will jointly work to implement and enhance state-of-the-art research, educational and technology transfer endeavors in biotechnology.

Jackson State University (JSU)

Jackson State University is a historically Black (HBCU), coeducational, research-intensive public institution of higher learning that has been designated by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning as the urban/comprehensive institution of Mississippi. The University functions as a community of learners in which teaching, research and service are central to its total learning environment.

JSU, through its College of Science, Engineering & Technology, has Ph.D. degree granting programs in Environmental Science and Chemistry. It also has major interdisciplinary research programs in Biomedical Science, Environmental Science and Computational Science. Teams of faculty researchers join with graduate and undergraduate students to solve problems in bioremediation, atmospheric science, molecular structure and dynamics, human health, and other areas in basic and applied science. The faculty has produced outstanding research and published in prestigious journals. Many of our undergraduate students have become research faculty, medical professionals, industrial scientists and entrepreneurs.

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM)

The University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), is also a Land Grant, Sea Grant and Space Grant Institution of higher education. It is primarily recognized in Puerto Rico, the

Continental United States and internationally as the Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (SMET) Campus of the University of Puerto Rico. It is a co-educational, bilingual public educational institution offering four and five year programs, masters and doctoral degrees. It comprises the Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, and Engineering. The College of Agricultural Sciences also encompasses the Agricultural Experimental Station and the Agricultural Extension Service.

UPRM is the only university in Puerto Rico offering an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in industrial biotechnology since 1994. More recently, a doctoral initiative in biotechnology is being developed. It is expected that Tropical Environmental Biotechnology, Protein Structure, Function and Dynamics, Tropical Marine Biotechnology, Agricultural Biotechnology and Bioengineering will constitute the concentration areas within this program.

MAJOR COMPONENTS

1. Educational Programs - Consortium participants and/or other entities as agreed by Consortium members will work as collaborators in the development and evaluation of relevant curricula and research programs at the participating institutions in the field of biotechnology.
2. Faculty Development - Joint faculty/staff appointments, internships and exchanges at respective institutions will be encouraged (e.g., adjunct faculty, summer faculty, visiting staff scientists). These faculty/staff appointments, internships, and/or exchanges may or may not be salaried.
3. Joint Research - Research programs and projects will be developed and/or enhanced through collaboration with participating laboratories and universities. The results of the research will be published in the open literature in recognition of the contributions of the participant institutions.
4. Student Development - The educational institutions participating in the Consortium are committed to identifying undergraduate and graduate students and will provide them a secure pathway through the Ph.D. program.
5. Technology Transfer - Consortium participants will collaborate in the transfer of informational and technological resources. The participants will provide resource personnel to teach courses and present lectures at participating educational institutions as allowed under corporate policies, and assist in development and/or enhancement of courses, short courses, lectures, and workshops.

INITIAL TERM AND FUNDING

It is in the best interest of the parties that the initial term of this MOU shall be for five years. This MOU shall become effective upon the date of signature and shall remain in effect as written unless terminated or otherwise amended by mutual agreement.

Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the participating members to expend funds or devote a certain amount of time and effort in furtherance of the purposes and responsibilities set forth in this MOU except as agreed to in writing by the parties. All expenditures by the Consortium members will be subject to precious negotiations and the availability of funds.

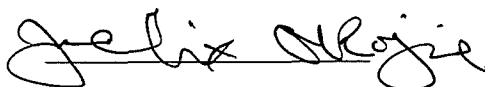
It is expected that the parties to this MOU will enter into component agreements for formal support to each other and/or non-signatories that may include university, nonprofit and for profit corporations. These agreements may include Interagency Agreements, Funds-in-Agreements, Cooperative Agreements, Grants, Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, Joint Programs, and other forms of collaboration as appropriate and consistent with authority and availability of funds.

AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

This MOU may be modified or amended by written agreement of all Parties. Any Party may terminate its participation in the MOU upon providing a sixty-day written notice to the other Parties.

FOR THE PARTIES:

Jackson State University



University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez

