

## Meetings of the Minds

In the report *Evidence and Opportunity: Biotechnology Impacts in North Carolina*, feedback from stakeholders indicated that “researcher networking” and “regional networking” were two of the highest ranked areas of impact facilitated by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. Two of the Center’s key programs for providing support for intellectual exchange and networking opportunities are the Intellectual Exchange Groups and the Regional Exchange Groups.

Exchange Groups foster a dynamic research and information-sharing environment for industry, community groups, and academia in areas related to biotechnology and the life sciences.



The Intellectual Exchange Group program (IEG) is one of the original Biotechnology Center programs. It began with the establishment of the Plant Molecular Biology Consortium in 1983. There are currently eight active IEG groups. Most of them meet at the Hamner Conference Center located at the Biotechnology Center in the Research Triangle Park. These groups conduct programs on a broad array of scientific and industry-related topics in the life sciences.

The Regional Exchange Group program (REG) was initiated in conjunction with the creation of the Center’s five regional offices. The first REG, Science at Starlight, formed in 2006, brings together scientists and researchers in Greenville, N.C. The REG program currently supports six groups in three regions. Discussion topics include entrepreneurship, clinical trials, biotechnology industry development, and scientific research topics.



## How can I participate?

If you are interested in learning more about these Exchange Groups or in finding out how you can participate in one of the meetings, check the Center website for more information. The links below will take you to information on each of the exchange groups described in this brochure as well as new groups as they are developed.

### Intellectual Exchange Groups

[http://www.ncbiotech.org/services\\_and\\_programs/intellectual\\_exchange](http://www.ncbiotech.org/services_and_programs/intellectual_exchange)

### Regional Exchange Groups

[http://www.ncbiotech.org/services\\_and\\_programs/science\\_technology/REG](http://www.ncbiotech.org/services_and_programs/science_technology/REG)

You may also contact the Biotechnology Center’s Science and Technology Development Program.

### Science and Technology Development Program Intellectual Exchange Groups

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15 T.W. Alexander Drive • P.O. Box 13547  
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**North Carolina  
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MEETINGS OF THE MINDS

What are the  
North Carolina  
Biotechnology  
Center Exchange  
Groups?

# What are our current Intellectual and Regional Exchange Groups?

## Intellectual Exchange Groups

The **Atlantic Coast Chromatin Conference** aims to capitalize on the tremendous growth and expertise of laboratories studying chromatin structure and function in the Research Triangle area. Monthly meetings provide an opportunity for scientists at Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State, NIEHS and local industries to exchange ideas, discuss strategies and share data pertaining to the rapidly growing fields of epigenetics, chromatin architecture and gene expression.

The Biotechnology Center initiated the **BioProcessing & Process Development Group** to address the growing area of bioprocess development applications research. Their mission is to provide a forum for process development scientists and engineers to discuss the issues they face and to obtain insight into the latest developments from speakers among their industry peers, technology vendor companies and experts from the regulatory community.

The North Carolina **Plant Molecular Biology Consortium** was established as a means for developing biotechnology based upon the plant sciences. PMB's programs are designed to strengthen research and education in the plant sciences and to encourage interactions among academic and corporate plant scientists.

The **RNA Society of North Carolina**'s mission is to promote communication and collaboration among individuals interested in the biological and chemical aspects of ribonucleic acid and to promote implementation of new technology resulting from research on all properties of RNA.

The **Smaller Eukaryotes Group** focuses on research involving lower Eukaryotes, primarily budding and fission yeast. Local scientists from Duke University, North Carolina State University, NIEHS, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill participate.

The **Triangle Chromatography Discussion Group** (TCDG) is one of the newer IEG groups. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for discussion and exchange of information with respect to all fields of chromatography.

**Triangle Immunology Interest Group** represents immunologists at levels of both principal investigators and trainees from the Triangle area. Participants include, but are not limited to, scientists from the UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, Duke University, EPA, NIEHS, GSK, and Wake Forest University. TIIG's mission is to promote collegial interactions and stimulate collaborative research among immunologists in the Triangle area.

The **Triangle Virology Association** brings together virologists from industry, universities and government in the Triangle, Triad and Eastern North Carolina to discuss the latest in basic and applied research. TVA's meetings focus on virology and its application to the development of human therapeutics and agricultural products.

## Regional Exchange Groups

The mission of **BioConnect** of Greater Charlotte is to foster and promote forward-thinking interaction and exchange between academia, industry, government agencies, trade, professional services and financial organizations involved in the life sciences and high technology in and around the greater Charlotte region. BioConnect specifically serves the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics, nanotechnology, and bioinformatics.

The **Clinical Trials Regional Exchange Group**, known as CTreg, brings together academic, private practice physicians, and support staff actively involved in conducting clinical trials in eastern North Carolina (and environs). Participants meet informally to share and gain information about conducting successful clinical trials, including

FDA regulatory requirements, sponsor objectives, identification of resources available to support clinical trials, and other topics of interest.

**CRI Life Sciences Lecture Series** This annual lecture series features national speakers in life science research areas that represent core research strengths or fields of interest to UNC Charlotte research faculty and students, research partners at the N.C. Research Campus, and regional healthcare and life science industry research partners. This series is designed to serve the community as a resource for the exchange of intellectual ideas that will stimulate prospective new research partnerships and projects.

The **Entrepreneur Action Team** is a group of economic developers and other organizations which share a focus on supporting entrepreneurial development in the Piedmont Region. The Group holds informal meetings throughout the region to enable members to share information about what each organization is doing to assist entrepreneurs, as well as to market events, share news and develop programs based on the needs of entrepreneurs in the area.

Meetings of the **PTEN Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Roundtables** provide a setting where life science entrepreneurs in the Piedmont Region can share ideas and information, discuss common issues and learn about programs that benefit their companies.

**Science at Starlight** Academic and industrial scientists in eastern North Carolina meet at the Starlight Cafe, a popular downtown gathering place in Greenville, to share information on research activities, learn about resources, form contacts and facilitate new collaborations. Presentations by researchers often focus on areas of interest that connect research scientists/engineers from East Carolina University, the ECU Medical School and private companies.

