



Date: 23 March 2018

Dear Colleagues

Invitation to a Thought Leadership Workshop on Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship – 10 April 2018

The Department of Science and Technology funded Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) in collaboration with one of its innovation platforms at UKZN, KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (KRISP), invites academics, government, clinicians, investors, law-makers, entrepreneurs and industrialists to an intellectually engaging exchange of ideas on the establishment of an innovative bio-incubation system. The goal of workshop is to communicate this model as well as to establish potential collaborations and possible investments.

You are cordially invited to attend the workshop on 10 April 2018 that will be held in Pretoria, the venue will be confirmed. KRISP and TIA will host the CEO of Biominas, Dr Eduardo Emrich Soares and the ex-CEO of Barcelona Scientific Park, Dr. Fernando Albericio, who will deliver presentation during this workshop and share valuable insights on lessons learnt from Brazil, Stanford and Barcelona.

In this regard, KRISP and UKZN have been working to define the best bio-incubation model to be developed in Durban. Amongst the models that we are evaluating includes the Stanford University SPARK Innovation model, for which we are part of their SPARK Global Program, the Barcelona Scientific Park model, which is one of the top performing models in Europe and the Biominas bio-innovation model of Brazil. Given the similarities between the scientific and industrial eco-systems in Brazil and South Africa, we believe that this is a great model to learn from. Biominas has inspired dozens of spin off companies that have contributed billions of dollars to the Brazilian bio-economy. Their model will be a useful reference for South Africa in developing strategies for setting up the first bio-incubator system at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. Durban entrepreneurship and business orientation culture provides an ideal combination to transfer scientific developments to commercial products.

KRISP's vision is to facilitate the translation of innovative research through entrepreneurship and commercialization for the benefit of society and is in line with the South African government's plans to increase economic growth.

RSVP - please click on the link below

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