



**CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY ANNOUNCES LOUIS A. PEÑA, PHD, MBA AS
PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE TO DIRECT PROGRAM IN LIFE SCIENCES
INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

*Seasoned industry veteran tapped to lead industrial educational efforts
for Stony Brook University*

Stony Brook, N.Y. - April 3, 2023 - The Center for Biotechnology has announced the appointment of Dr. Louis A. Peña as Director of the new Program in Life Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Additionally, Dr. Peña has been appointed as Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the College of Business at Stony Brook University.

The Professor of Practice will steward the University's Advanced Graduate Certificate in Life Science Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which was established under Empire State Development's Life Science Entrepreneur Development award, and further develop educational and experiential learning initiatives. The Director of the Program in Life Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship will build upon the Center's efforts to synergize technology and business accelerator activities with opportunities for students to gain real-world technology commercialization experience.

Prior to joining the Center for Biotechnology and Stony Brook University, Dr. Peña held leadership positions in both industry and academia. He is experienced with startup and early stage companies. Commercializing scientific discoveries he made at Brookhaven National Laboratory, Dr. Peña co-developed a biotech startup that took a biomaterial from idea to clinical trials and acquisition. He later served as Chief Scientific Officer of a biopharma Contract Research Organization. Dr. Peña has also consulted for technology startups in bioagriculture, medical devices, medical imaging, and energy, supporting technology assessment, market assessment, and business strategy.

"We are excited to have Louis join the Center for Biotechnology and Stony Brook University to further our efforts of expanding entrepreneurial education in the life sciences" Diane Fabel, Director of Operations at the Center for Biotechnology said. She continued "His industry involvement, coupled with his academic experiences allow him to bring a unique perspective to the role and for students in our programs to benefit from his real-world experience."

“I am very happy to join the team at the Center for Biotechnology and my colleagues at Stony Brook University. The Center has a great, established foundation of commercialization and education in this sector and I’m eager to further develop these unique and critical programs” Dr. Peña said. “Our goal is to bolster the life science commercialization knowledge of students graduating from New York universities. At one level, this will help entrepreneurs gain the mix of skills and expertise needed to successfully guide innovative life science startups along the path to commercial viability. At a broader level, this will help with the biotech workforce development of our region and state for those who may not want to start companies but want to understand the sector in great depth so they can secure well-paying and/or leadership positions in this sector.”

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About the Center for Biotechnology at Stony Brook University

Established in 1983, the Center for Biotechnology (CFB) at Stony Brook University is an Empire State Development Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) Center for Advanced Technology. The Center for Biotechnology serves as an important catalyst in the development of new biomedical technology and emerging companies in New York State.

Through groundbreaking initiatives, the CFB supports technology commercialization and company formation by bridging the gap between discovery and commercial success and training the next generation of biomedical leaders. The Center for Biotechnology also supports New York’s biotechnology industry by providing access to scientific and business expertise and creating strategic infrastructure that promotes the growth of the life sciences industry in the state. The CFB has contributed to the development of more than a dozen FDA approved products including ReoPro®, Xiaflex®, Oracea®, Cavistat®, V3D®-Colon Virtual Colonoscopy and Exogen® Bone Healing System, among others, as well as supported the formation or development of dozens of emerging bioscience companies.