

Academia Industry Alliance

Mission

The Academia Industry Alliance (AIA) will unify undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate trainees across the University of Colorado (CU) campuses interested in biotechnology and related industries. AIA will support their interests in industry science careers and enhance all efforts that foster collaborations and networking between academia and industry.

Goal

Academia Industry Alliance serves to collapse the divide and build strong partnerships between academia and industry to enhance collaborative interactions and broaden networks to promote scientific and career progress of trainees.

Academia Industry Alliance Constitution

Preamble

We, the members of the Academia Industry Alliance, subscribing to the regulations and policies of the University of Colorado, establish this Constitution to govern the matters within our organization:

Article I – Identification

Section 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be “Academia Industry Alliance” and may be referred to as “AIA.”

Section 2 – Affiliations

Academia Industry Alliance is affiliated first and foremost with the Graduate School of CU Anschutz and reserves the right to partner with any CU-affiliated or non-affiliated organizations such that guidelines and rules set forth by the University of Colorado are upheld in the partnership.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1 – Purpose

Academia Industry Alliance will centralize undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students across University of Colorado campuses interested in biotechnology, independent of program, school, and other standing affiliations. The organization will facilitate collaborations and networking amongst like-minded young professionals, providing industry representatives a source of future talent and providing its academic affiliates an avenue to demonstrate their skills. AIA will serve as a platform to mediate the exchange of novel project/product ideas, to provide opportunities for mock-business plan pitches, to garner a larger network of peers and colleagues that can help one another identify potential job opportunities, and to identify the variety of professions that are needed within biotech and related sectors.

In addition to the above, the goals of AIA are, but are not limited to:

- Unify and strengthen the collective voice of young professionals in Colorado

- Enhance collaborative opportunities between academic researchers and industry (contracts, research projects, funding, etc.)
- Be a resource for identifying skills and experience desired by the biotechnology industry, allowing for members to critically evaluate their needs and progress towards standing goals
- Foster a culture of preparedness for those vying for positions that bridge academia and industry
- Demystify the process of becoming involved in both academia and industry

Article III – Membership

Section 1 - Membership and Advisor Position

Section 1A – General Membership

Membership will be limited to those **currently affiliated with the University of Colorado**, including: undergraduate, masters, medical, health-professional, law, and graduate students; postdoctoral fellows; medical residents; medical fellows; and staff scientists, instructors, research associates, and faculty. Members are not required to be currently in a professional degree-seeking program or in a post-graduate training program (residency, postdoctoral or medical fellowship), however, those who are in these programs are encouraged to join.

Membership in AIA requires the commitment of attendance to a minimum of **two** monthly general meetings every six months, beginning with the first meeting that they are able to attend upon joining. The Chief Operating Officer of AIA shall be responsible for tracking monthly meeting attendance; however, members are responsible for their own attendance and its notation. Any member fulfilling the aforementioned criteria, in addition to other position(s) held, is hereby regarded an “Active Member.”

Section 1B – Advisor

An advisor, defined as an experienced academic (*beyond their terminal traineeship*, e.g. after postdoctoral fellowship/medical residency or having acquired their degree), and/or industry representative (senior employee or affiliate) may be elected in to assist a given project.

Advisor recruitment will be discussed at the nearest monthly general meeting or during an “emergent” meeting as set by the Executive Board.

Designation of the Advisor will be determined by majority vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2 – Membership Rights, Privileges, Benefits

With active membership in AIA, members are privy to the rights, opportunities, and benefits stated herein, including:

- The right and privilege to participate, opine, debate, and present ideas during regular monthly meetings.
- The right to be considered for participation on any established subcommittee as determined by the respective subcommittee’s chair(s). In the case of a subcommittee which has more than one chair, the following is observed: more than half of the chairs must be present to unanimously grant participation rights to the member.

- The opportunity to develop new projects and serve as subcommittee chair and/or co-chairs.
- The opportunity to network with other young professionals from other campuses through AIA.

Section 3 – Removal of Membership

Membership from AIA may be revoked as determined through majority vote by members within the Executive Board, **only** during Executive Board Meetings (i.e. not during general monthly meetings). Removal through the Board’s decision shall be prompt; the ex-member will be notified of the decision and of any major grievances that led to the Board’s decision. The procedure for regaining membership shall be set forth by the current Executive Board.

Removal of membership will occur immediately, without vote, if any Campus, School, or University rules/laws put forth by the members’ associated Campus, School, and/or University are not adhered to.

Section 4 – Membership fees

There are no membership fees for AIA.

Article IV – Government

Section 1 - Model of Governance

AIA will function as a democratic organization; that is, members of the Executive Board are elected by active members yearly, during the first meeting of the academic year. There are particular positions within the Board whose appointment may be granted by other members of the Board; for these, if no incumbents occupies the position, AIA members may elect an individual to that position at the first meeting of the year following the position’s vacancy. The Executive Board is responsible for representing AIA, its interests, and its goals to the public and to officials of the University of Colorado who grant the organization its legitimacy.

Section 2 – Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board will consist of the officers listed in Article IV Section 3B of the AIA Constitution. The general duties of the Executive Board will include meeting at least once every other month (in addition to the monthly general meetings), maintaining the goals and vision of the organization, speaking positively and advocating for AIA, representing AIA, overseeing subcommittees, voting on membership removal and Advisor recruitment, and setting monthly and emergency meetings. If attendance to a meeting is unable to be kept by a member of the Board, they must report their absence at least three days prior to the meeting date.

Section 3 - Eligibility and Positions within AIA

Section 3A – Executive Board Eligibility

To be eligible for an Executive Board position, one must have been a member of AIA for at least six consecutive months and have attended at least three meetings (any combination of general monthly meetings and subcommittee meetings). This individual may then be either appointed or elected to the Executive Board.

Section 3B – Executive board officers, roles, and responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Duties include: chairing the Executive Board; appointing, organizing, and overseeing subcommittees with the advice and consent of at least a majority vote by the Executive Board; maintaining, establishing, and growing the existing network of AIA members and industry representatives; and organizing meetings with key contacts in the University, industry, and leaders of groups such as the Colorado BioScience Association.

Due to the demanding nature of research-related positions constituting the primary occupation of most members of the AIA, the responsibilities of the CEO may be shared with **one** other person; in the case of shared leadership, these individuals will be considered co-CEOs. Only **one** vote will remain for this position; therefore, co-CEOs must come to a unanimous decision before casting the CEO's vote in an Executive Board meeting.

Chief Operating Officer (COO) – Duties include: planning, establishing, and overseeing networking events; communicating meeting times, locations, and agendas; and assuring that both general and Board meetings discuss set agendas and adhere to timely execution. General meeting times, locations, and agendas will be determined at least one week in advance. The COO may be appointed by the CEO(s) to oversee activity of subcommittees. The COO, once appointed to oversee a subcommittee, will be the final decision maker in absence of the CEO(s).

Due to the demanding nature of research-related positions constituting the primary occupation of most members of the AIA, the responsibilities of the COO may be shared with **one** other person; in this case, these individuals will be considered co-COOs. Only **one** vote will remain for this position; therefore, co-COOs must come to a unanimous decision before casting the COO's vote in an Executive Board meeting.

Chief Communications Officer (CCO) – Duties include: maintaining and organizing contact information of industry representatives and AIA Members; directly contacting industry representatives for surveys and requests related to networking events; and recording meeting minutes to distribute to all AIA members the Friday or Monday following general meetings.

Due to the demanding nature of research-related positions constituting the primary occupation of most members of the AIA, the responsibilities of the CCO may be shared with **one** other person; in this case, these individuals will be considered co-CCOs. Only **one** vote will remain for this position; therefore, co-CCOs must come to a unanimous decision before casting the CCO's vote in an Executive Board meeting.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – Duties Include: maintaining all fiscal business of the AIA; establishing a yearly budget, allocating money for given AIA purposes; approving subcommittee budgets; and generating **monthly** financial report to be disclosed at monthly general meeting, including, but not limited to: total money, total spent to date, and total spent within the last month.

Section 3C – Campus Representatives

The AIA of the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) may partner with affiliated University of Colorado campuses (Anschutz Medical Campus, Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs). Under such an affiliation, a representative from that campus may be determined. The roles of the Campus Representative will include: relaying AIA announcements to all AIA members from their respective campus via email, flyers, and in-person communications, and establishing and nurturing relationships with biotech companies located close to their campus in order to expand AIA's network.

Section 4 – Subcommittees

Committees related to event programming, communications, finance, fundraising, marketing, information technology, and other functions required by AIA activities will be established as needed. A vote by the Executive Board will determine the subcommittee chair(s).

Article V – Meetings and Voting

General meetings will be held on the Anschutz Medical Campus on a monthly basis. Any decisions pertaining to the AIA as an organization will be made by majority vote of the Executive Board members. Decisions pertaining to subcommittees will be made by their respective chair(s). If the chair(s) is absent, the CEO may stand in and take responsibility for oversight and decision-making.

Executive Board Meetings shall be set on a monthly or every other month basis on Anschutz Medical Campus, contingent on the activities of the AIA. These meetings will be led by the CEO(s), documented by the CCO(s) and at least one member of each Board position must be present for the meetings to commence. Key points of these meetings will be communicated to the all AIA members during the general meeting immediately following these.

Article VI – Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by **any member** of the AIA. Members will be allowed to submit **one** amendment proposal per annum. Ratification of an accepted amendment will occur only by unanimous decision of the current Executive Board and will be effective immediately. Multiple amendments may be accepted in each year. Amendments will be formalized and integrated into the written constitution in Article VII, at the second meeting of the year, and shall contain the following information: the year of its acceptance and declaration of its purpose. Each ratified amendment to the Constitution will be made known to all members of AIA in this meeting.

Article VII – Amendments to the Constitution

2016 Amendments

1. To be listed here.