



News Release

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NIH Official to Keynote National Conference in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. – The principal deputy director of the National Institutes of Health will keynote a national conference in South Dakota that aims to connect small businesses to federal funding opportunities.

Lawrence A. Tabak will speak to an estimated 500 participants at the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Conference Oct. 28 in Sioux Falls. The event is hosted by the University of South Dakota Research Park and will be held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center Oct. 28-30.

The conference focuses on funding opportunities through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that are open to small businesses who seek to commercialize health-related technologies. “The idea is to establish partnerships between the NIH and small businesses to bring new products and technologies to market,” said Paul Turman, vice president of research and economic development for the South Dakota Board of Regents. The conference also provides opportunities for researchers engaged in health-related fields to collaborate with federal agency staff and industry partners.

Turman said it is the first conference of its kind to come to South Dakota. “It’s a terrific opportunity for South Dakota to demonstrate its growing medical research capacity, the research work under way at our public universities, and the state’s positive business climate to companies from across the nation,” Turman said. “We are pleased to have Dr. Tabak in South Dakota to offer his insights into this growing opportunity for university and private-sector partnerships.”

Tabak’s work with the NIH has focused on support of team science and diversity of the biomedical research workforce. A former research dean and professor at the University of Rochester in New York, his major research focus is on the structure, biosynthesis, and function of glycoproteins. He continues his work in this area and maintains an active research laboratory within NIH, in addition to his administrative duties.