

Statement: I have extensive experience in developing and leading interdisciplinary and international research and training programs. I joined the Department of Bioengineering at Clemson University in 2003 and as a pioneering faculty member of the Clemson-MUSC Bioengineering alliance, played a leadership role in creating a strategic plan to grow the satellite graduate program at the MUSC. This plan focused on faculty and student recruitment, curricular development, resource building, distance education, and clinical partnerships. During my time at the Cleveland Clinic, I also served as a member and Chair on the external advisory committee of the NIH-Funded South Carolina Bioengineering Center for Regeneration and Formation of Tissues (SC-BioCRAFT). In this role, I provided expert consult to build center research resources, and mentorship to junior target faculty to transition into NIH-funded PIs. At the Clinic, I also served as the director of graduate Biomedical Engineering program, and was led the development of our academic and research partnership with the BME department at Case Western Reserve University. In addition, I was a member of strategic team to develop and implementing two, still ongoing international partnerships with the Center for Nanomedicine and Nanotechnology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, and the Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología in Lima, Peru. In my current role at Lehigh University, I lead a) the curricular expansion and restructuring of our Bioengineering graduate programs to provide curricular flexibility, experiential learning, industry exposure, and enhanced interdisciplinarity, and b) efforts to build faculty resources for academic and research collaborations with our new College of Health, with an emphasis on wearables, remote-sensing, and point of care devices. I am also leading a major University thrust in developing thematic, multi-disciplinary academic-research partnerships in India. I am very interested in serving the BMES CoC Long Range Planning Committee to support the leadership in a) developing new experiential learning models in BME/BioE that leverage distance education tools that have evolved considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic era, b) establishing new BioE/BME curricula and learning materials that emphasize interdisciplinary principles and practices, and c) augmenting Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) practices and opportunities in our field. I am particularly interested in developing a long-term plan to integrate bioengineering teaching and research with rapidly evolving principles of 'sustainable futures'. This will be critical for us bioengineers to be able to develop technological solutions that meet current needs without depleting the resources of future generations. I would like to initiate a dialogue on how best bioengineers can develop low-cost solutions for mass implementation especially for low resource markets.