

## BES-SC Leadership Camp 2013 Report

Prepared by Kevin Leong

The Leadership camp was attended by 19 students in total on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013. This leadership camp serves several purposes:

- 1) To gain an understanding of Students' perspective of the Biomedical industry. This is to bridge the gaps between the Industry and students.
- 2) To allow students to understand that the industry comprises of many different factors for it to progress –looking at the bigger picture.

The first session started off with a team-building/get-to-know each other activity. Participants were to play "Pictionary" in their assigned teams. Individuals took turns and required to draw terms and words relating to Science and the Biomedical industry. It started with easier words and as the game progressed, the words got more complicated. This allowed participants to bond with each other and broke the ice as they started contributing by guessing what each other drew. The purpose here is to allow students to understand that different people from different levels have different levels of understanding of the terms. As the Biomedical Engineering field is a field that comprises of different disciplines, communication and expression of ideas are both very important when it comes to writing a proposal, or even selling of ideas to others. We must always take note of who our target audience is.

The workshop progressed to the next activity which was 2.5hrs. Participants were given a problem statement to explore the progress of the Biomedical Industry. Reading resources about the development of the industry was given to the students, which allowed participants to have a better understanding of how different disciplines built-up this industry. The participants had to discuss in teams, contributed and shared about their perspectives on the industry and which factors affected the industry in different parts of the world. They brought up issues of how politics, culture, economy, regulations, commercial value, society/communities, academics, cross-discipline/cross-cultural collaborations and research are key factors in the progress of the Biomedical industry. Our aim is to get participants of different levels to share their thoughts on it. This teased out key factors and that progress depends on many other factors and not just about research based on one's interest. A discussion of the integration of factors allowed the participants to understand this industry better and how the other factors mentioned would affect them. This would allow students to plan better when they decide their next step. This session was facilitated by myself and Jessica with the help of student volunteer facilitators from Hwa Chong Institution and Republic Polytechnic. (Student facilitators were briefed and given materials to read beforehand to aid them in facilitating and leading discussions.

The second session started off with a short briefing on managing contribution of ideas by myself. This allowed participants to understand on how to breakdown ideas contributed by others and look out for key factors for implementation. The participants as a whole, sat in a circle and they had a brainstorming session where students from different institutions contributed ideas for the next event. I managed to lead the event by injecting ideas and summarizing their points to get them on track. This session aims to get participants to understand the needs of their target market and discuss what they would want to come up with for the next event in March. The session concluded with the participants deciding to have

lab visits to market and create awareness about this industry. The 2 universities will work together in organizing it with the clubs/societies in their respective institutions, while the rest will work on the marketing and dissemination of information. They also decided to also use this event to market the Scientific Meeting. During the discussion, the participants exchanged information, appointed representatives and also managed to set up a Facebook group. Resource management, task management and delegation was brought up and discussed during this session. The participants also contributed and shared the different resources they hand and capabilities within their institutions and how they can contribute, to give the rest a better idea of what they could work with when planning the event.

Things to note:

Students normally think of this industry as Science/Engineering and it being related to research. More can be emphasized on the other factors that affect this industry, such as commercial value, societal needs, the business side of it, regulations and how they all affect funding(even for those interested doing research). This gives students a better understanding of the different disciplines involved and not just about Physics and Biology.

Students realised that the needs for students at different levels are different when creating awareness. For example, a JC student will be more interested in the university life and opportunities than research projects. Polytechnic students are interested in professional development and the different research projects. This is based on their prior knowledge, choices given academically and exposure to the industry.

