
SC Medical Device Alliance Commercialization Advisor
Professor of the Practice, Clemson Bioengineering

Position Summary:

The Bioengineering Department at Clemson University seeks a well-qualified applicant on a consultancy basis, for the new role of “SC Medical Device Alliance Commercialization Team Advisor”. Clemson, together with co-applicants South Carolina Research Authority and Medical University of South Carolina, received a recent \$1.8M award from the Department of Commerce for the formation of the South Carolina Medical Device Alliance (MDA), as part of the Regional Innovation Strategies i6 Challenge. In years 2 -3, SCRA has also committed additional funds external to the i6 grant to support projects from other South Carolina institutions not affiliated with the i6 award.

The MDA seeks to connect clinicians that have unmet clinical needs with engineers who can develop commercial solutions. This coordination of efforts will facilitate and accelerate the translation of medical technologies, build entrepreneurial capabilities among students, faculty, and clinicians, and foster startup formation in the sector with the over-arching objective of growing the economic impact and attracting multi-national businesses to establish a presence in South Carolina.

Under this new program, the “Advisor” will assist the MDA in selecting promising biomedical device inventions from senior design teams as well as faculty members or clinicians. For each technology, the Advisor will then select a Clemson University MEng graduate student to receive a Fellowship, and they will serve as the MDA team-lead for the development of a technology. The Advisor will then assist in the selection of a complete student team, in the development of an effective process for advising teams, and serve as the primary mentor to these teams as they advance this technology through one additional year of development. This 3-year appointment will advise 3, 6 and then 8 teams through this process in years 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

The duties of the new SC MDA Commercialization Team Advisor will include the following:

- Serve as the primary design and commercialization mentor for MDA student teams, comprised of engineering, business, and law students, as part of their experience in the design and development of biomedical devices. This includes the areas of prototyping, entrepreneurship, commercialization, intellectual property, regulatory and reimbursement strategy, and general evaluation of medical devices.
- Develop an efficient, effective and impactful mentoring process for the MDA student teams, with significant academic and professional development opportunities, and manage the bi-weekly update meetings with these teams.
- Develop and engage an outside network of professional mentors that can assist the MDA and student teams in their efforts, especially at the state level.
- Develop and engage with outside vendors to aid student teams in product development efforts.
- Work with the MDA leadership on the management and distribution of project funds to support development of the student teams and technologies.
- Work with the MDA Clemson PI to develop an assessment strategy for student and project outcomes related to the MDA teams, and lead Clemson’s collection and reporting of these outcomes.
- Lead the solicitation, review and selection of new MDA fellows from Biomedical Engineering MENG student applicants, in coordination with the graduate student coordinator and Bioengineering department administration.

- Work with the MDA leadership, Clemson engineering school's design faculty, and business schools across the state, to develop a recruiting and selection process for graduate student teammates (3-5 students per team) to assist the MDA fellow in the development of each MDA technology.
- Serve as an advisor to Clemson senior design faculty as they work with MDA partners to identify clinical needs, and develop innovative solutions in the senior design program.
- Serve as an advisor to Clemson MENG design faculty in development of courses and programs, and selection of MENG projects.
- In coordination with MDA leadership and institution technology transfer offices, lead in the identification, evaluation and down-selection of promising design solutions that could enter into the MDA pipeline.
- Coordinate with the MDA leadership, teams and faculty to promote and disseminate MDA program and teams outcomes, serve as spokesperson for the program through presentations to internal and external stakeholders, and be a strong advocate for team attendance at symposiums, design competition applications and attendance.

This position will be a consulting role for the Clemson University Department of Bioengineering. Interested applicants should contact the following institutional leads for more details.

Dr. John DesJardins, jdesjar@clemson.edu, 864-650-0748

Christine Dixon Thiesing, christine.thiesing@scra.org, 843-789-5302

Dr. Michael Yost, yostm@musc.edu, 803-446-0514

Applications will be accepted through bids, taken through the [Clemson BuyWays](#) system. Interested applicants must contact Dr. John DesJardins, and be invited to become a new vendor. They will then have to register as vendors in the system (which can take up to 7 days to confirm). They will then be allowed to answer the call for bids to this solicitation for a quote of \$50,000/year. This contract will be payable though an hourly rate during the year, and has the possibility for renewal for years 2 and 3.