



University of South Florida I-CORPS Panel Presentation

Moderator: Sudeep Sarkar, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Research & Innovation

Speakers: Clifford R. Merz, Ph.D., Kyle B. Reed, Ph.D., and Ivy Drexler

When: Friday, September 18, 2015 at 12:00 PM (Brown Bag Lunch)

Where: USF College of Nursing
12901 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
MDN 1032

The University of South Florida (USF) has been named an I-Corps™ Site by the National Science Foundation (NSF), becoming the second site in Florida and one of only three dozen institutions around the country to earn the designation.

As an I-Corps site, USF will provide training to teams with technology concepts that are potential candidates for commercialization. This innovative program offers participants valuable, real-world tools to help transform their technology into commercial opportunity that can generate revenue and benefit society. The goal of the program is to launch multiple successful start-up companies at the end of the three-year grant. This program benefits faculty, students, entrepreneurs and anyone with an interest in learning lean startup concepts.

Selected teams for the I-Corps program will:

- *Identify a real-world application and market for their technology*
- *Receive beneficial curriculum and instruction*
- *Create connections to investors, mentors, and industry experts*
- *Test their business model and products in USF's business incubator*

Please join us to learn more about this exciting opportunity from our panel of experts who were previously selected and completed the I-Corps program. Our speakers will provide detailed insight into the program and the many benefits of participation.

Please RSVP to jmendezh@usf.edu or 813-974-6650. Reservations not required, but space is limited. Open to the USF Community.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodation to participate in this event is asked to advise Lauren Golin at least 48 hours in advance. To request accommodation, call 813-974-0102 or email lgolin@usf.edu



Moderator

Dr. Sudeep Sarkar is a professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Associate Vice President for Research & Innovation at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering, on a University Presidential Fellowship, from The Ohio State University. He is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award in 1994, the USF Teaching Incentive Program Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence in 1997, the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1998, and the Theodore and Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award in 2004. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), and a charter member and member of the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He has 25 year expertise in computer vision and pattern recognition algorithms and systems, holds three U.S. patents and has published high-impact journal and conference papers.



I-Corps Mentor

Clifford R. Merz, Ph.D., is a Research Associate in the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida and Program Director of the Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System at USF's College of Marine Science. He is the President and founder of Diallytics, Inc., a technology start-up company focused on research and commercialization of salinity gradient based ocean energy technology developed and patented as a result of his Ph.D. studies.

Dr. Merz served as an I-Corps mentor for the "Software Suite for Quality-Control of Patterned Nanostructures" team that was awarded an NSF I-Corps grant September 1, 2014. As a mentor, Dr. Merz provided entrepreneurial expertise and served as the principal guide in determining the technology disposition.



I-Corps Faculty PI

Kyle B. Reed, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Florida. He is also the Director of the Rehabilitation Engineering and Electromechanical Design (REED) Lab at USF. Dr. Reed's research focuses include rehabilitation engineering, haptics, human-machine interaction, medical robotics, and engineering education.

Dr. Reed served as the Faculty Principal Investigator for the "Walking Crutch/Cane for Enhanced Assistance, Balance, and Control of Walking Dynamics" team that was awarded an NSF I-Corps grant July 1, 2014. As the team's principal investigator, Dr. Reed served as the technical lead and project manager.



I-Corps Entrepreneurial Lead

Ivy Drexler is a postdoctoral researcher who recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of South Florida. She is currently studying the cultivation of algae in wastewater using a passive membrane design. Her research interests lie in biological wastewater treatment, resource recovery (particularly in conjunction with sanitation), and algal biofuels.

Ivy served as the entrepreneurial lead for the "Pathways to Market for ICA-RUS Algae Cultivation and Harvesting Technology" team that was awarded an NSF I-Corps grant July 1, 2015. As the entrepreneurial lead, Ivy possessed the relevant technical knowledge and commitment to investigate the commercial landscape surrounding the innovation. She led the team's customer discovery activities and is also prepared to support the transition of the technology should it leave USF for commercialization.

