

Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR)

*Improving the Nation's Research Infrastructure
Through Access, Insights, and Outcomes*

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Goal

- To improve the research enterprise of the United States

Method

- Convening meetings and initiating projects that involve senior representatives from government, universities, and industry

Membership Structure

- Council Members (by appointment by National Academies Presidents)
 - Heads of federal agencies
 - CEOs from industry
 - Presidents of universities
- Associate Members (delegated by Federal Agency Heads)
 - One-level-down members for federal agencies
 - Typically, a senior non-appointee (i.e., permanent) staff person who knows his agency well. Often the person who serves as acting Director or Administrator between Administrations.
- University-Industry Partners
 - Typically VP of Research level; some department heads
 - Partners pay dues to join; \$30,000 for each university-industry pair
 - University-company pairing assures membership balance of GUIRR is maintained

Current U-I Partners

- Battelle
- Boeing
- Corning
- General Electric
- Hewlett-Packard
- IBM
- Intel Corporation
- John Deere
- Lockheed Martin
- MARS, Inc.
- Northrop Grumman
- Northrop Grumman – Space Tech Center
- PNNL
- Raytheon Company
- SRC
- Telos
- The Ohio State University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of California, Los Angeles
- Stanford University
- University of California, Berkeley
- Iowa State University
- University of Maryland
- University of California, Davis
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- California Institute of Technology
- Washington State University
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Texas at Austin
- George Washington University

Leadership and Support

- GUIRR Co-Chairs:
 - C. D. (Dan) Mote, Jr., President, University of Maryland
 - Lydia Thomas, Retired President and CEO, Noblis
- Core funding provided by federal agencies (DOD, NIH, USDA, NIST, DHS) and University-Industry partners

How is GUIRR Different from the Rest of the Academies?

- Roundtable format: Discussion generally not open to the public and not disseminated in reports; body cannot make recommendations
- Significant participation by senior federal officials
- Core funding from federal agencies and U-I partners rather than project-by-project funding
- Can and does spin off projects (e.g., FDP, Data Overload, UIDP)
- Can prompt reports (e.g., *Here Or There? A Survey of Factors in Multinational R&D Location*, by Jerry and Marie Thursby)

Seeking Solutions to Problems

GUIRR focuses on issues at the interface of government, university, and industry that have a science or technology component.

- National innovation infrastructure
- Export controls and visa policy
- Science and engineering workforce
- Migration of corporate R&D
- Data overload
- Global research collaboration
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Two Rules for Selecting GUIRR Topics

1. All GUIRR topics must be of interest to at least two of our three (government, university, industry) sectors.
 - a. This rule ensures focuses on “interfacial” issues. There are other organizations that are better-suited to work on intra-sector issues (e.g., pure university issues)
2. Each topic or project must have an individual GUIRR member identified as its “champion.”
 - a. Champion is project leader. S/he provides name and vision for the project. Staff does the work.
 - b. This rule ensures at least one company, university or federal agency is ready and willing to use the result of the work.

Approval is granted through consensus of the GUIRR Executive Committee

Themes of Recent GUIRR Meetings (2007-2008)

- *Global Energy Policy Solutions (I and II)*
- *Environmental Sustainability: A Path Forward
Via Government-University-Industry Partnerships*
- *Flying Over the Valley of Death: Accelerating
from Discovery to Product*
- *New Partnerships on a Global Platform*
- *Food Security: Global Challenges and Directions*

Examples of Current Projects

- **Overcoming the Technical and Policy Constraints That Limit Large-Scale Data Integration (“Data Overload”)**
 - Joint project between GUIRR and the National Academies’ Board on Mathematical Science and Their Applications (BMSTA)
 - Current sponsors: NIH, NIST and DOD
 - Cross-disciplinary workshop planned for late fall to explore alternative visions for achieving large-scale data integration of importance to the federal government
 - Expected outcome: consensus summary identifying major opportunities and threats that cut across multiple communities
- **Partnerships for Emerging Research Institutions**
 - Workshop held September 2007 highlighting barriers that emerging research institutions face as well as strategies for overcoming those barriers
 - Workshop status report presented at May 2008 FDP meeting
 - Final report due for release in November 2008
- **Challenges and Tensions in International Research Collaborations**
 - New activity arising from June 2008 GUIRR Council meeting (“New Partnerships on a Global Platform”)
 - Two meetings held to date by *ad hoc* working group
 - Prospective outcome: Primer outlining particular challenges with cross-national and multi-sector collaborations, including a list of questions to be considered when entering into international research agreements

GUIRR Success Stories

Semi-Autonomous Partnerships

- University-Industry Demonstration Partnership – UIDP
 - Genesis: University-Industry Partnership (“Re-Engineering Intellectual Property Negotiations”) 2003-2005
 - Developed “Guiding Principles” for university-industry interactions
 - Showed how Guiding Principles played out in actual negotiations (“Living Studies” document)
 - Developed concept for TurboNegotiator
 - Operational solutions tool for universities and companies working on IP terms in industrially sponsored research agreements
 - Conceptualized new organization and “sold” it to the community
 - UIDP Inaugural Meeting held December 2006; 3 meetings per year since
 - Over 90 companies and universities now members of UIDP
 - Executive Director: Dr. Anthony Boccanfuso
- Federal Demonstration Partnership – FDP
 - First GUIRR spin-off project; historical ties
 - Primary beta tester for most new research grant practices

Going Forward

Challenge: to maintain engagement at the highest level within all three sectors

Opportunity: a new Administration marks an ideal time to reinvigorate GUIRR

Focus: issues and dialogue increasingly assuming a global focus/dimension

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- Tony Boccanfuso – Exec. Director, UIDP

For More Information

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