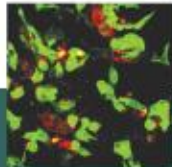


NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center

Planning Grant Bootcamp
January 13, 2010



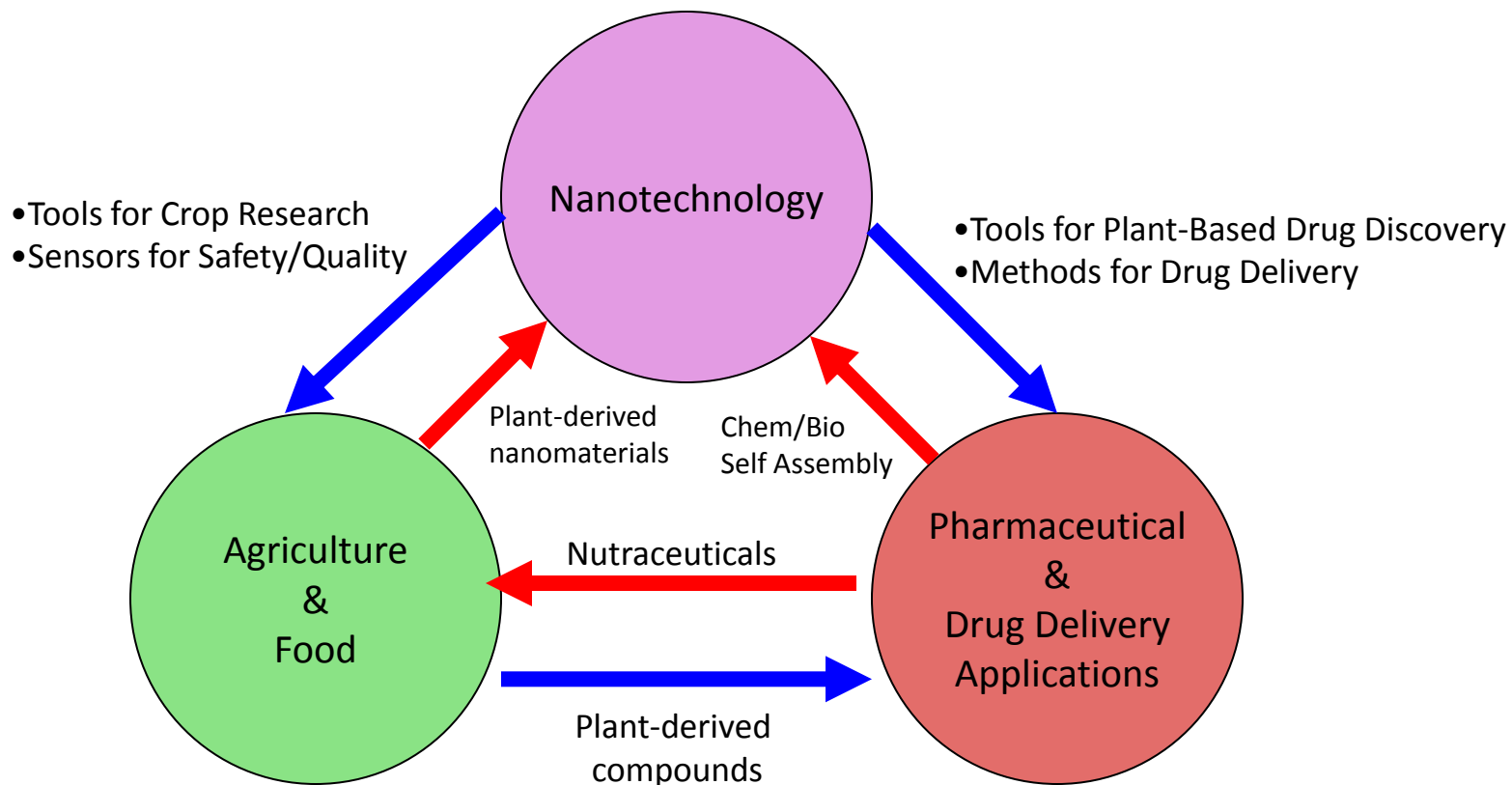
Outline

- Motivation for CAPN
- CAPN Vision and Example Projects
- Challenges
 - Interdisciplinary focus
 - Coordinating multiple institutions
 - Getting industry participation
 - Getting faculty involvement
- Lessons

Defining a Center Vision

- Select a topic that is not addressed by any currently existing I/UCRC
- Take advantage of unique expertise of Center faculty
- Vision broad enough to support wide range of projects for >10 years
- Vision broad enough to attract a diverse set of companies for support

CAPN Vision



Challenges - Interdisciplinary

- Very strong support from Deans
 - College of Engineering
 - College of ACES (Agricultural, Consumer, & Environmental Sciences)
- Call upon faculty to participate
- Participated in planning meetings
- Talk about the Center and its importance to the campus

Challenges – Multi-institution

- Illinois-Purdue
 - Decision to have an equal partnership
 - Within driving distance
 - Many pre-existing personal relationships and professional collaborations
 - Both extremely strong in research areas
- Several organizational meetings for faculty to interact and get to know each other's work
- Proposals to be structured to encourage multi-institution projects to continue building ties

Challenges – Industry Participation

- Got involvement from Development offices to engage big companies at a high management level
- Used personal connections of the Center faculty
- It was relatively easy to get support letters for planning grant, since no money was required
- Local startup incubators were supportive

Challenges – Faculty Involvement

- Center seen as a good way to seed cross-disciplinary projects for larger future grants
- Enthusiasm of Deans and Department Heads may have encouraged participation
- People who showed up were added and people who did not were dropped
- If given enough advance notice and a few small tasks, involvement in planning activities was sufficient

Lessons

- We thought that two planning meetings would be better than one
 - This was not true
 - Large participation in first meeting at Illinois
 - Scant participation from Industry at second meeting at Purdue
 - Video link was used for ~8 companies who could not travel, but it was not nearly as good as having people there in person

Lessons

- Planning meeting provided the ideas that we are moving forward with in the full Center proposal
 - Faculty presentations at planning meeting should be mostly to inform Industry about general capabilities
 - Challenge to find overlap between what Industry people want to do, and what faculty expertise exists

Lessons

- Provide “ammunition” that Industry representatives will need to convince their managers to join the Center.