

Growing Biotechnology in NYC

Eva Cramer, Distinguished Service Professor of Cell Biology, Vice President for Biotechnology and Scientific Affairs at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and President of the Downstate Biotechnology Incubator and BioBAT at the Brooklyn Army Terminal

ABSTRACT

NYC has the largest concentration of academic institutions in the country, \$1.4 billion in NIH awards and a significant bioscience workforce. The city also offers a broad range of opportunities for entrepreneurs, start-up and more mature biotechnology companies. These include funding initiatives, grant assistance programs, training programs and tax incentives. Although NYC offers biotech companies these advantages, it historically lacked affordable biotech space. Recognizing this significant need, in 2000, Downstate Medical Center started an initiative to develop a Biotech Incubator for early-stage companies and BioBAT for more mature companies. The project, a new direction for Downstate, involved a steep learning curve with many lessons learned. Building on our experience, we look forward to exploring exciting new opportunities to help the biotech industry grow in NY.

BIOGRAPHY

Eva Cramer, Ph.D., is a Distinguished Service Professor of Cell Biology, Vice President for Biotechnology and Scientific Affairs at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., and President of the Downstate Biotechnology Incubator and BioBAT at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Dr. Cramer received her Ph.D. from Jefferson Medical School and completed her postdoctoral training at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

As a scientist, Dr. Cramer has published numerous research articles and book chapters in the area of inflammation, was awarded a patent, and received grants from Federal and private agencies. For her role in teaching and curriculum reform she has received a number of teaching awards.

Dr. Cramer has spearheaded efforts to establish the biotechnology industry in Brooklyn. Since 2000, she has helped raise more than \$90 million, predominantly from city, state, and federal governments. These funds are being used to build an Advanced Biotechnology Incubator, and to develop BioBAT at the Brooklyn Army Terminal as a site for biotechnology expansion and manufacturing. For her work on the Brooklyn biotech initiative she received the Leadership in Urban Health Award from the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, the Partners in Leadership award from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York, the Chancellor's Award from the State University of New York, and was made a Distinguished Service Professor in 2006.