

The National School of Tropical Medicine: Creating Innovation through Novel Strategic Partnerships

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"Presented at the 2014 ELAM@ Leaders Forum"

Background and Opportunity

In 2011, Baylor College of Medicine established the first comprehensive school of tropical medicine in the United States. The National School of Tropical Medicine (NSTM) has a four-fold mission: 1) Research, 2) Clinical, 3) Education, and 4) Policy. In **education**, NSTM has created a Diploma in Tropical Medicine for physicians and physicians-in-training, a seminar series and a variety of workshops and symposia in Tropical Medicine and has established a unique intensive two-week tropical medicine **Summer Institute** tailored for Baylor University (BU) pre-health undergraduates. The Summer Institute includes comprehensive laboratory training and one-on-one instruction focused on major tropical diseases in developing countries. Building on the ongoing success of the Summer Institute, NSTM and BU see great **opportunity** to expand this strategic partnership targeting NSTM as an extension of BU creating novel opportunities in Houston for the transition of undergraduates into graduate education specifically in the areas of tropical medicine and global health.

Purpose and Objectives

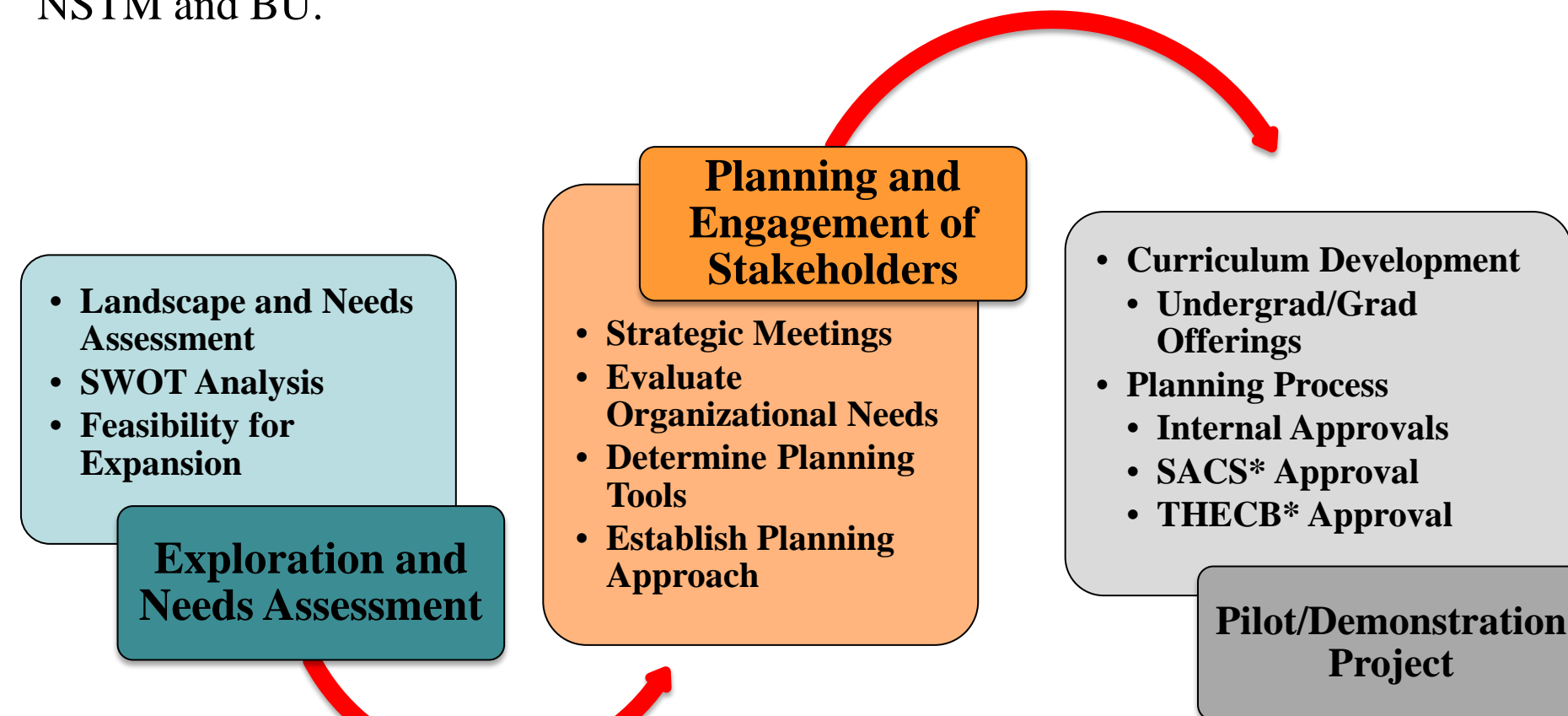
Explore, plan and establish a pilot/demonstration project for the expansion of the NSTM-BU strategic partnership and create an operational model for innovation in tropical medicine and global health **education**. This project evaluates the feasibility of expanding the Tropical Medicine Summer Institute into a BU/NSTM linkage program: **Bachelor in Science/Master in Science (BS/MS) in Tropical Disease Biology/Tropical Medicine and Global Health** using a "4+1" model where students would spend 4 years in Waco and 1 year in Houston.

Methods and Approach

Exploration/Needs Assessment. Initiated discussions with leaders at BU with the goal to perform a landscape and needs assessment (internally within each institution and externally) and create a SWOT analysis to establish feasibility for the expansion of the Summer Institute into a new BS/MS in Tropical Disease Biology/Tropical Medicine and Global Health.

Planning Phase/Engagement of Stakeholders. Established key novel strategic meetings at BCM-NSTM and at BU to determine the organizational needs, to study best-of-class planning tools and to make recommendations for a planning approach that would adhere to the organization's vision and aspirations.

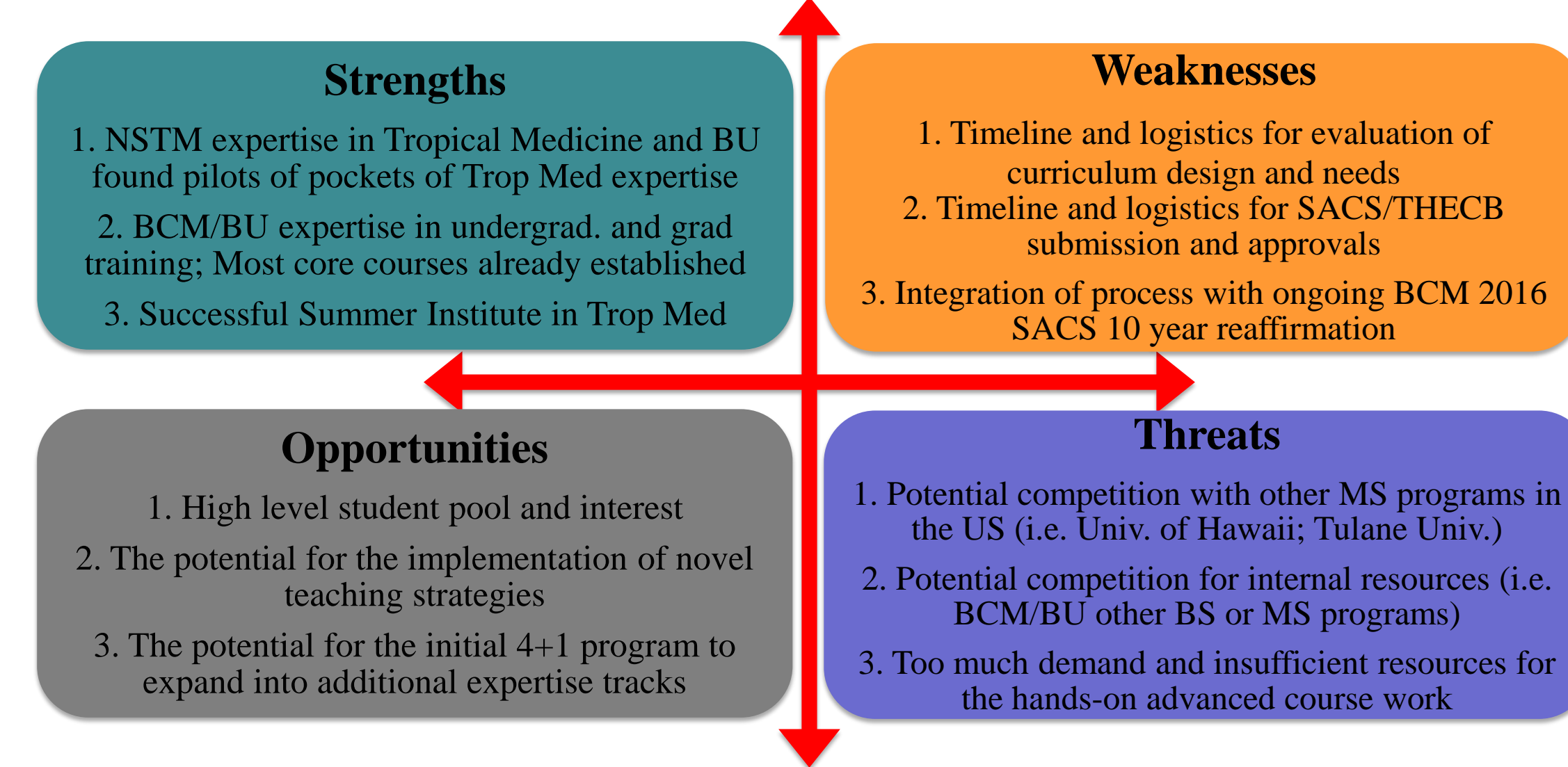
Pilot/Demonstration Project. Initiate the planning process to create the 4+1 BS/MS in Tropical Disease Biology/Tropical Medicine and Global Health as a proposed pilot/demonstration project and expand the ongoing partnership between NSTM and BU.



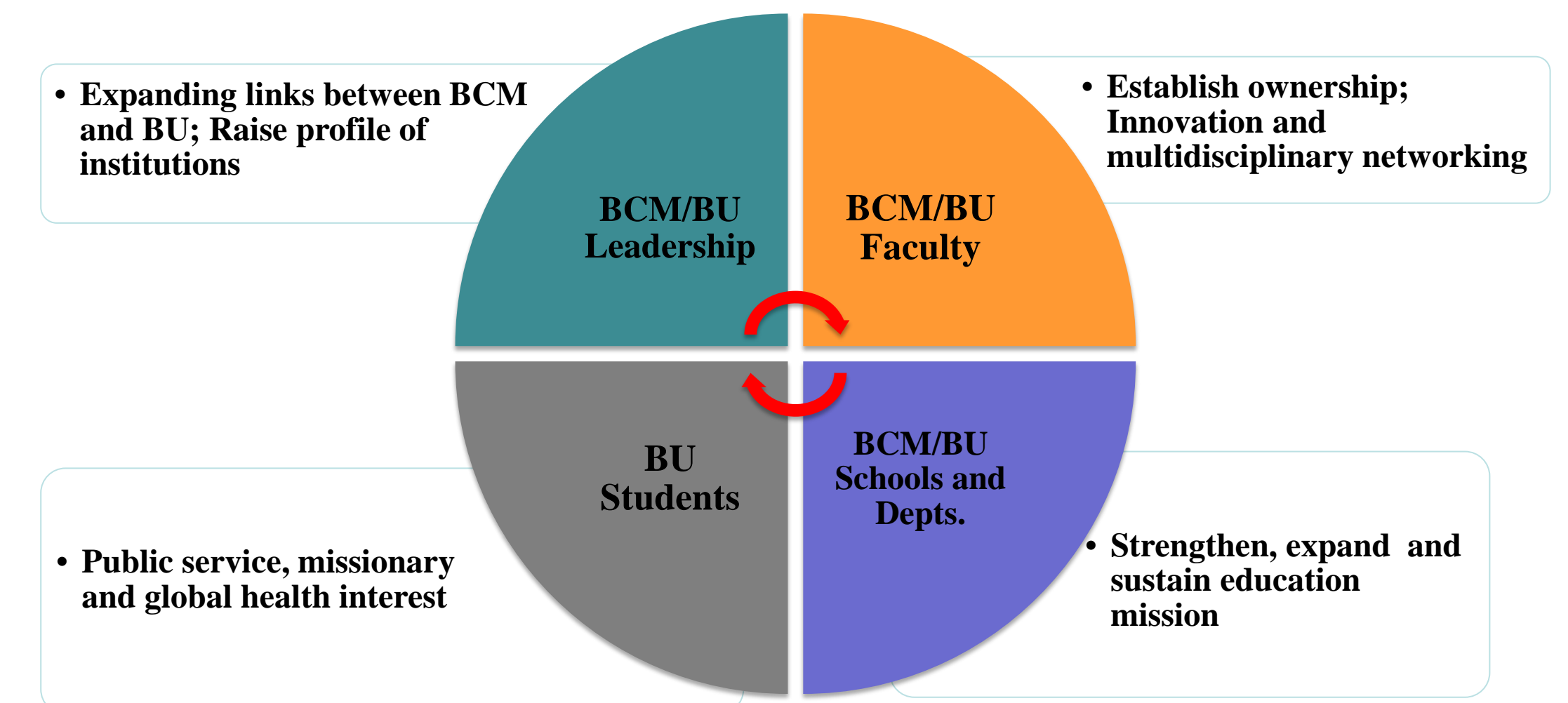
* SACS: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; THECB: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy

SWOT Analysis. Based on various strategic meetings and their outcomes the figure presents the list of BCM/NSTM and BU strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

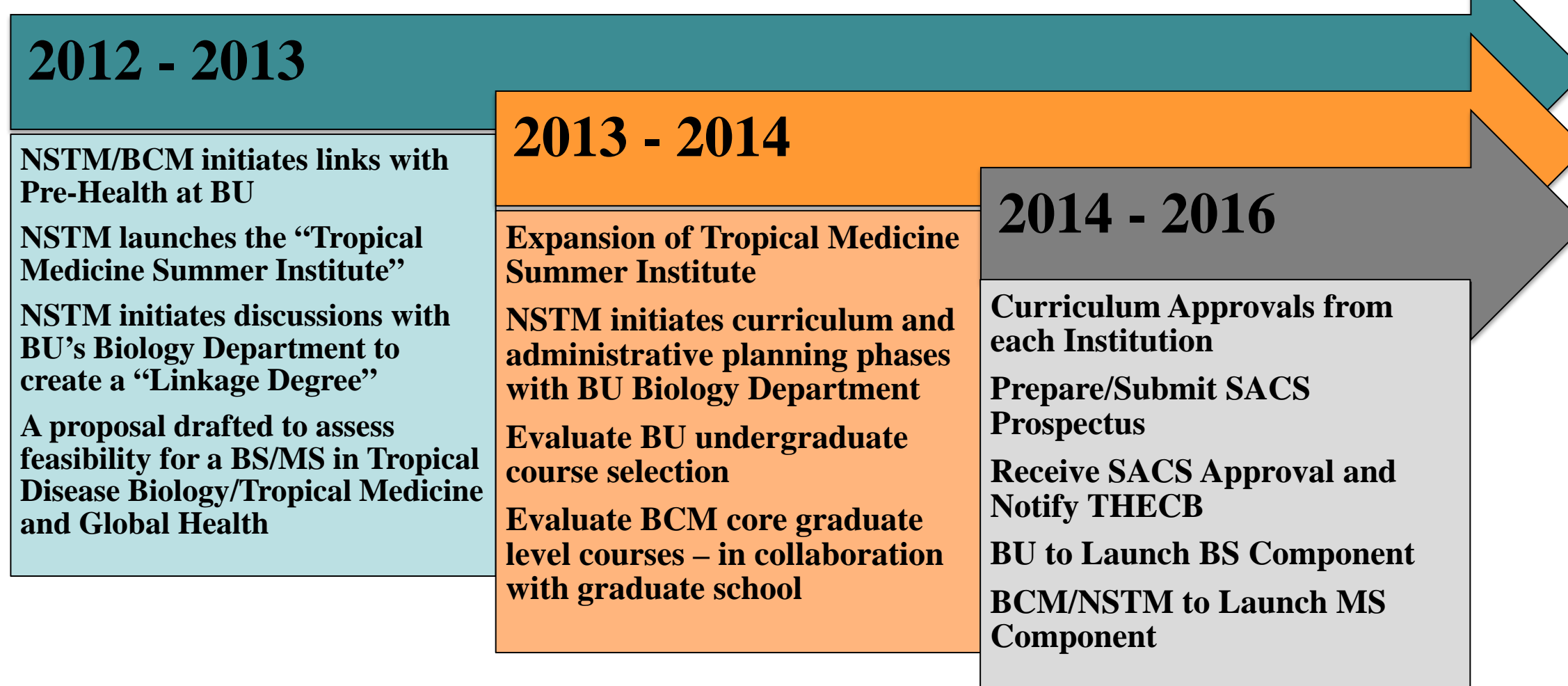


Stakeholders and Found Pilots*. Based on initial interviewing the following stakeholders, their interest in this project and found pilots were identified.



Evaluation Strategy. The evaluation strategies to be used throughout the demonstration/pilot project will include student/faculty surveys and site visits, tracking faculty and student engagement, financial planning and tracking and assessment of student competencies and placement.

Timelines and Milestones.



* Found Pilots: http://www.cfar.com/sites/default/files/resources/BN_Found_Pilots_in_Campaigns.pdf

Discussion

NSTM is a new school in Houston, Texas at the nexus of geographical opposing forces including extreme poverty, tropical climate and dramatic expansion in trade, commerce and population.

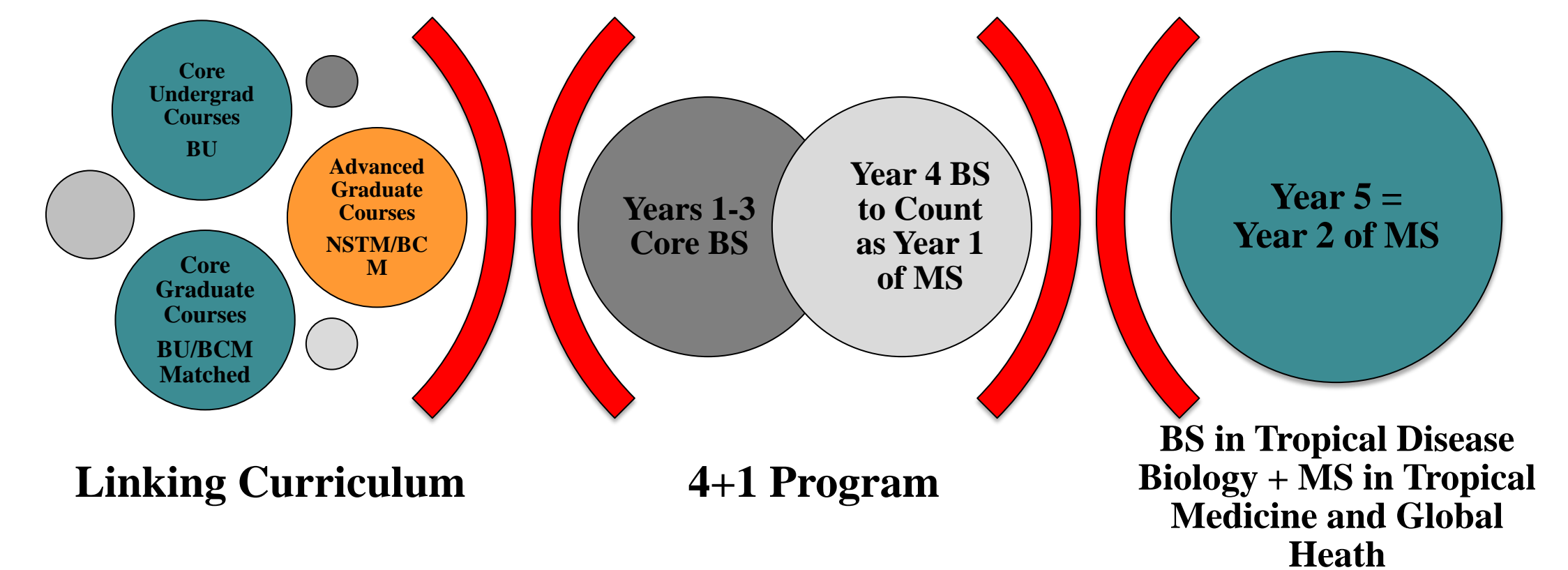
NSTM since its inception has already shown an **impact** by harnessing the scientific capacity of Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, the Texas Medical Center, and strategic partners such as Baylor University applying it towards solving global health problems affecting the world's poorest people. Therefore, and as part of its **education mission** it is already leading efforts to develop new training programs for a new generation of students, physicians, and scientists in the area of tropical medicine.

NSTM rapidly recognized that BU has a unique commitment to Christian mission training in the area of global and missionary health and medicine. NSTM also recognized that there is a high level of interest by the stakeholders to strengthen the alliance between BCM and BU and create **"innovative models to sustain and expand educational initiatives"**.

Leveraging the ongoing Summer Institute provided a great **opportunity** to expand BCM and BU strategic partnership targeting NSTM as a logical extension of a BU educational campus in Houston. The overall vision will be to use the successes obtained from this initial education-based program to expand the strategic partnership into programs that will encompass the other missions - research, clinical and policy of both institutions.

Summary, Conclusions and Next Steps

The Curriculum Design Pathway



The Administrative Pathway



Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the stakeholders for their valuable feedback. From BU special thanks to Dean Lee Nordt, Dr. Robert Doyle, Chair of Dept. of Biology and Dr. Ericka Abel, Undergraduate Program Director and the BU Summer Institute students. From BCM/NSTM special thanks to Sr. Dean for Education, Dr. Alicia Monroe, the NSTM Faculty and Dr. Simone Tiu.

ABSTRACT: 2014 ELAM Institutional Action Project Poster Symposium

Project Title: The National School of Tropical Medicine: Creating Innovation through Novel Strategic Partnerships

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Background, Challenge or Opportunity: In 2011, Baylor College of Medicine established the first comprehensive school of tropical medicine in the United States. The National School of Tropical Medicine (NSTM) has a four-fold mission: 1) Research, 2) Clinical, 3) Education, and 4) Policy. In education, NSTM has created a Diploma in Tropical Medicine for physicians and physicians-in-training, a seminar series and a variety of workshops and symposia in Tropical Medicine and has established a unique intensive two-week Tropical Medicine Summer Institute tailored for Baylor University (BU) pre-health undergraduates. The Summer Institute includes comprehensive laboratory training and one-on-one instruction focused on major tropical diseases in developing countries. Building on the ongoing success of the Summer Institute, NSTM and BU sees great opportunity to expand this strategic partnership targeting NSTM as an extension of BU creating novel opportunities in Houston for the transition of undergraduates into graduate education specifically in the areas of tropical medicine and global health.

Purpose/Objectives: Explore, plan and establish a pilot/demonstration project for the expansion of the NSTM-BU strategic partnership and create an operational model for innovation in tropical medicine and global health education. This project evaluated the feasibility of expanding the Tropical Medicine Summer Institute into a joint Bachelor in Science/Master in Science (BS/MS) in Tropical Medicine and Global Health using a “4+1” model where students would spend 4 years in Waco and 1 year in Houston.

Methods/Approach:

Exploration/Needs Assessment: Initiated discussions with leaders at BU with the goal to perform a landscape and needs assessment (internally within each institution and externally) and create a SWOT analysis to establish feasibility for the expansion of the Summer Institute into a new BS/MS in Tropical Medicine and Global Health.

Planning Phase/Engagement of Stakeholders: Established key novel strategic meetings at BCM-NSTM and at BU to determine the organizational needs, to study best-of-class planning tools and to make recommendations for a planning approach that would adhere to the organization’s vision and aspirations.

Pilot/Demonstration Project: Initiate the planning process to create the 4+1 BS/MS in Tropical Medicine and Global Health as a proposed pilot/demonstration project and expand the ongoing partnership between NSTM and BU.

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy: NSTM leads efforts to develop new training programs for a new generation of students, physicians, and scientists in the area of tropical medicine. NSTM recognized that BU has a unique commitment to Christian mission training in the area of global and missionary health and medicine. The following outcomes will be presented: results of the SWOT analysis, summary of strategic meetings and their outcomes; timelines, achieved and proposed milestones. The evaluation strategy will include student/faculty surveys and site visits, tracking faculty and student engagement, financial planning and tracking and assessment of student competencies and placement.