

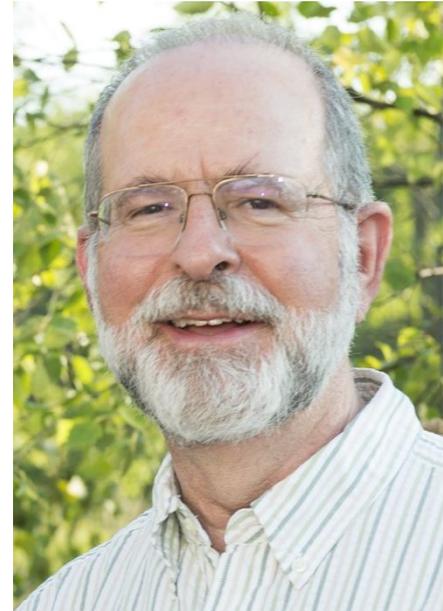


Frank DiSalvo External Collaborations Fund

Amazing things happen every day at universities, but a real measure of impact is when creative and promising solutions to our most pressing global challenges are put into practice in the world beyond the campus.

A hallmark of Frank’s tenure as founding director of the Atkinson Center has been his tireless effort to connect world-class research at Cornell to external organizations with “complementary skills and capabilities.” Together, we can bring exciting discoveries to scale.

His early roots in the private sector (Bell Labs) and his collaboration with industry through the Cornell Center for Materials Research helped shape Frank’s views, but it was at the Atkinson Center where Frank’s dream of maximizing real-world impact really took off. Under his leadership, ACSF has formed partnerships with CARE, Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Matt Brewing Company, Oxfam, Smithsonian, and NYSEG’s parent company Avangrid.



Now ACSF and these leading organizations work together on ground-breaking projects on climate change, environmental messaging, renewable energy, food security, and more. The Center’s collaborations have already made breakthroughs possible. Thanks to a joint graduate training program with the Smithsonian, the world’s first test-tube puppies were born last year. These IVF pups herald a new era for conservation of endangered wildlife species. Looking forward, we are especially excited about our new partnerships with Environmental Defense Fund and Avangrid, the U.S. arm of Spanish energy giant Iberdrola. ACSF and Avangrid are working to sponsor Ithaca as New York State’s Energy Smart Community, with 12,000 smart meters and its own data transmission network.

At the core of Frank’s thinking is the benefit of “co-creation.” Often the Atkinson Center seeds initial collaborations to test-drive working together. Collaborators put up funds, too. In the best of circumstances, an “anchor” gift provides a solid foundation on which to build these joint ventures.

The Frank DiSalvo External Collaborations Fund will enable the Atkinson Center to expand and speed delivery of solutions to a world in need—a lasting legacy for a leader who has inspired and instituted a new paradigm of research with impact.