

Name: Justin Topp, Ph.D.

Present Position: Assistant Dean of Science, Technology, and Mathematics; Professor of Biology and Bioengineering

Organization: Endicott College

Chapter Affiliation: North Shore of MA

Biographical Information: Justin Topp received his B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Iowa and his Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry from the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center. He pursued post-doctoral studies in the departments of Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry at the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center prior to being hired as a faculty member in the department of Biology at North Park University. He is now Professor of Biology and Bioengineering and Assistant Dean of Science, Technology, and Mathematics at Endicott College, where he oversees ten growing undergraduate programs.

Dr. Topp maintains an active research lab. His research projects are diverse and have included the detection of infectious agents in ticks and small mammal reservoirs, bacterial proteomics and genomics, signal-induced alternative splicing, and characterization of the protein ALS2/Alsin which when mutated causes juvenile neurodegenerative diseases such as ALS. He is an active collaborator who routinely partners with faculty colleagues, non-profit research centers, and biotech companies. All of his research involves undergraduates, many of whom have co-authored national meeting abstracts or articles. Dr. Topp has also served as a member or chair of undergraduate research committees at multiple institutions.

An avid fundraiser, Dr. Topp has received more than \$5.5 million in grants from organizations including the NIH, NSF, and Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. The latter organization funded a highly collaborative effort that resulted in the formation of the Life Sciences Consortium of the North Shore. The consortium was formed to promote a formal partnership between four colleges, a non-profit incubator, and local industry to enhance the life sciences workforce through the purchase of advanced instrumentation, strategic partnerships, and the reimaging of curriculum.

In addition to serving as president of the North Shore of MA chapter of Sigma Xi, Dr. Topp is actively engaged in several other organizations including the North Shore Technology Council, Biomedical Engineering Society, American Scientific Affiliation, and American Conference of Academic Deans. He is committed to the success of startups on the North Shore through his work with companies in the Endicott STEM incubator and his volunteer business development activities with the incubator North Shore InnoVentures.