CMRR had a successful collaborations with two French universities, the University of Paris Sud and University of Lorraine which resulted in co-funded US-French projects such as co-organized workshops, regular faculty visits between laboratories, student exchanges, several high-profile publications, and discussions on establishing a joint degree. As a final outcome of this fruitful partnership, the Associated Laboratory on Nanoelectronics (LIA) was created. LIA held its kickoff meeting at CMRR on September 17 & 18, 2015. The kick-Off meeting focused on the feasibility of Franco-American collaborations in the fields of scientific and technological research. The french consul, professors, researchers, directors, deans, and chancellors from all the participating institutions congregated to explore potential possibilities for projects, programs, research exchanges, shared teaching, and the development of the joint degree. The two day summit was not only productive but also strengthened the professional and personal relationships between the LIA members.