



8th Annual NIH Career Symposium May 15, 2015 Speaker Biosketches

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Where is your highest degree from? University of Michigan, Microbiology and Immunology, 2008

Other degrees:**What is your current role/responsibility?**

I am currently the Biology Lead for one program and the Project Team Lead (PTL) for a second program. As the Biology Lead, I am responsible for providing expertise and designing/executing experiments to answer questions relating to the biology/virology aspects of the project. During team meetings, I am expected to contribute intellectually to discussion around any aspect of the program, but my main role is to engage my group in supportive activities from the biological research side. As a PTL, I am expected to know and be responsible for all activities and decisions that are made relating to the project. I ultimately represent the team to leadership. Day-to-day activities involve extensive communication with team members by email and in meetings by teleconference or video conference to discuss issues and strategies, and identify the best solution and path forward for the project. I spend a significant amount of time preparing presentations to represent the team at intradepartmental meetings as well as board meetings. I also serve as the Biology Lead for this program, so in addition to the strategic and administrative responsibilities as the PTL, I also perform the more technical and scientific activities described above.

Finally, I am a manager for the four associates in my group. In this role, I help them design the best scientific experiments to address questions, prioritize their activities, and support their career development.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Absolutely essential are communication skills, both written and presentation skills, scientific expertise and reasoning, and the ability to work as a team. Good skills in time management, organization, and managing associates are also extremely useful. Finally, it's important to incorporate creativity and innovation into your work--having the vision to see when a protocol or line of thought could and should be changed/improved is extremely valuable.

The importance of being able to work in a team setting was surprising to me. Now having seen both high functioning teams and teams that are struggling with internal conflicts and lack of common vision, I can see how even a single person can disrupt productivity and change the momentum of the whole group. Every member of the team needs to share the common goal (though of course not always the same opinions!) and have the ability to communicate and critically discuss issues to find the best solution.

How did you get your current position?

In my case, I was contacted by a Talent Recruiter in HR—they were looking for a very specific skill set and had reached out to several labs with this focus, including the lab I did my graduate work in, to track down potential candidates. I was ~1.5 years into my postdoc at the NIH (so not necessarily looking for jobs at the time), but I interviewed for the position and was offered the job.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I think there is not one thing or experience that has allowed me to be successful in this role, but rather the accumulation of training throughout my graduate and postdoc work. I have to give a lot of credit to my graduate mentor (Mike Imperiale) and postdoc mentor (Joe Ziegelbauer) for rigorous training in both science and communication (writing and presenting skills), as well as dealing with critical feedback and being able to think on my feet.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Obviously having a strong scientific background and CV is essential, but what will set you apart from other candidates is your ability to communicate your work to others. During the interview, there will likely be a heavy emphasis on your presentation skills, how you field questions, and how well you are able to brainstorm and think creatively about the science from a different angle. From my perspective, the best way to prepare is to present in as many different forums as you can, and if possible, to other researchers with different backgrounds/expertise than your own. It can be very useful to talk with someone in industry before your interview to have a sense of what to expect and how to make your talk more applicable. Finally, as has been said a thousand times, the importance of networking cannot be overstated.

James Alaro

International Program Officer
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
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Where is your highest degree from? Drexel University, Microbiology and Immunology, 2011

Other degrees:

What is your current role/responsibility?

Currently: I work with the Office of Research Training and Special Programs in the division of extramural activities to manage NIAID's international activities. An integral part of my work is to develop and implement risk mitigation programs that train foreign scientists and science administrators how to properly oversee and manage NIAID research awards. For our international scientists, I am often the first contact on matters to do with NIH policies and regulations. As a subject matter expert on matters that impact non-US investigators, I serve in multiple NIAID and trans-NIAID committees tasked with fostering global health research and international partnerships.

Previously: As a global health research and policy analyst at Fogarty International Center, I helped assemble an inter-agency/multilateral technical working group, comprised of researchers, implementers, and policy-makers, from the U.S. and LMICs, to define research agendas and priorities to incorporate prevention, treatment and care of NCDs into the HIV/AIDS platforms. I also served in a multilateral WHO-led initiative that brought together international research funding agencies to design and implement coherent, coordinated and sustainable policies and strategies to strengthen research and innovation management capacity in sub-Saharan Africa.

What skills make you successful in this job?

First, I must say that my best 'skill' is the ability to not be afraid to take on any task. Most of the things I do today, I had no idea how to do them when I started. I am able to learn on the fly and adapt quickly to new roles, thanks to my rigorous training on the bench. Given the fluid nature of the jobs I have held, you are served well if you have multiple sets of skills; on day to day, you will rely on some more than others. As is evident, the two jobs I have held require lots of interactions with people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. To this end, you must have strong interpersonal skills. Another important skill is the ability to work effectively in teams. I found that my concept of 'teamwork' as a lab scientist was completely different. Literally everything I do involve multiple components and players. Organization, coordination and communication are key transferable skills that you must harness. You must be on top of your game to not pull people back. On the other hand, you must learn to deal with the frustrations of 'teamwork'; patience has a new whole meaning, especially when working in government. My current position comes with quite a bit of responsibility which calls on me to pay close attention to everything I say and do. I take on different assignments and so you must be able to multitask. An exciting part of my work is that you never get bored. I have been surprised at how decisions are made at high end, how quickly assignments and roles change. You must be flexible to be able to adapt quickly.

How did you get your current position?

Once I made the decision to move on beyond the bench, I followed OITE's career advice to network and seek informational interviews. I contacted lots and lots of people for informational interviews and that is how I got my opportunity at Fogarty, which started as a detail. The position was literally created for me so had I waited for an announcement, it never would have come.

FIC gave me the platform to look for other opportunities. As we all know, every job requires massive experience, even at entry level. Surmise to say.... 'I knew somebody who knew somebody who was looking for somebody'.....to land my current position.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

First: I think the straight path to transitioning from bench to non-bench is via a fellowship. DC metro area has lots of relevant fellowships including the popular AAAS fellowship. The second would be to seek a detail opportunity. There are opportunities at NIH for part-time detail. Talk to your boss about your intentions (many are supportive).

Second: Do not focus too much on your 'dream job'. It is unlikely that your first, second or even third job is going to be 'the job'. Focus on acquiring different skill sets. Skills are transferable. For your first, you may just want to focus on getting an opportunity to work outside the lab.

Third: Cultivate relationships, before and after you get the job. NEVER BURN BRIDGES.

Maria Luisa Balasta

Director/Patent Attorney
L'Oreal USA Products, Inc.
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Where is your highest degree from? New York University, PhD, Chemistry, 1993

Other degrees: Seton University School of Law, JD; USPTO registration

What is your current role/responsibility?

Director of Patents, responsible for managing the patent portfolio of the company's US R&D division in assigned technology areas, patent preparation and prosecution, developing patent strategies, freedom to operate and patentability assessments, counseling R&D teams on patent matters, managing direct reports and supervising the daily operations of the department

What skills make you successful in this job?

legal skills, decision-making, negotiation & communication skills, writing, presentation skills, time management and organizational skills, scientific, technical and computer skills, critical analysis, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and creativity

How did you get your current position?

department growth and career development

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

interview and shadow or work with patent professionals; consider taking the patent bar exam

John Balbach

Science Department Chair
Georgetown Preparatory School
Jbalbach@gprep.org

Where is your highest degree from? Washington University, St. Louis, Physics, 1998

Other degrees:

What is your current role/responsibility?

I teach primarily physics but also chemistry and biology as needed. I supervise the other teachers in the department.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Organization and empathy. Empathy was the big surprise, as I have found there are many ways to not understand science.

How did you get your current position?

It was listed on the school website.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Prep schools all have different personalities. Be aware and reach out to the rest of the faculty to find out what a particular place is like.

Aurelio Bonavia

Director, Translational Development
Aeras
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Where is your highest degree from? University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Microbiology, 2001

Other degrees: MSc University of Quebec Virology/Immunology

What is your current role/responsibility?

Responsible for translational development. Bridging pre-clinical studies with human clinical trials

What skills make you successful in this job?

Microbiology, animal models, clinical trials, manufacturing, broad understanding of drug development

How did you get your current position?

Networking

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

During your career try to work in different places and acquire as much broad knowledge as you can.

Ben Boyerinas

Scientist II

bluebird bio

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Where is your highest degree from? University of Chicago, Cancer Biology, 2009

Other degrees: Dickinson College

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am a scientist in an immunotherapy group that is working to develop CAR-T therapies for cancer. My current responsibilities include project management on multiple projects as well as some bench work. I also have managerial responsibilities for 1 direct report. A big part of my role is interfacing with other teams in the immunotherapy group as well as teams external to the group such as project management, vector biology, and process development. I am responsible for assuring that the projects I am working on are moving forward as quickly as possible, from initial conceptual design to resource allocation and data analysis.

What skills make you successful in this job?

The science skills are obviously quite important. I need to make important decisions on project directions, and a solid background in both the field as well as proper experimental design are essential. Industry is driven by commercialization, and product development requires you to get things done fast and conclusively. The pace is certainly much different from an academic research setting. One set of skills that are necessary in industry are the soft people skills. You are constantly working with people and in meetings with both scientists and non-scientists. It is essential to be able to work with people well and communicate effectively, regardless of how strong your scientific chops are. This skillset is also essential for promotion.

How did you get your current position?

I got my job through classic networking channels. A good friend of mine from grad school worked with someone at another company who is currently employed at bluebird. He put us in touch and I was able to secure an interview.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

You need to do good scientific work and publish well. Companies hire scientists because they need a specific skillset, and you have to prove that you can fill that need for them. Not just tell them you can fill it, but demonstrate with concrete examples that you can. The other important thing is to be able to demonstrate people skills - science is only half the battle in industry and we aren't interested in hiring scientists that can't work well with other people. Try to work in a large lab where you can collaborate on projects with other scientists and/or clinicians. Look for opportunities to train or mentor. And do things outside of the lab that show initiative and people skills. In addition, your resume needs to be top notch. Work with NIH career services to make it perfect!

Samuel Bunting

Assistant Professor
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Where is your highest degree from? University of Cambridge (UK), Developmental Genetics, 2006

Other degrees: MBiochem, Oxford University, 2002.

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. My primary role is running my research lab, which includes one postdoc and two graduate students. I also teach undergraduate and graduate students and participate in several academic committees

What skills make you successful in this job?

Time management is the most important skill. Good organizational capabilities are also essential. People management is a big part of running a lab. Obviously, you need some aptitude in scientific practice as well.

How did you get your current position?

Job posting on naturejobs.com

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Reaching the current stage of my career was based on being able to publish good papers when I was a postdoc, and good recommendations from senior scientists. I also had a K99/R00 grant, which was helpful.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

You have to publish, that is the most important thing. After that, you need to figure out who is going to write letters for you. If you have done both of those things, you have a good shot at a faculty position.

A. Malcolm Campbell

Prof. of Biology & Director of Genomics Program
Davidson College
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Where is your highest degree from? PhD from Johns Hopkins, Biology (cell.molecular), 1992

What is your current role/responsibility?

I teach undergraduate biology courses (intro bio, genomics, genomics lab) and mentor undergraduates conducting research. My area of basic science research is synthetic biology (with NSF funding). I conduct education research as well and publish in peer reviewed education journals. I have published two textbooks (genomics and intro bio). I advise biology majors as well as pre-majors until they declare. I serve on college and departmental committees. I am also active in national education organizations. I also do service work in the community related to education.

What skills make you successful in this job?

I am paid to be a life long learner. My job is not to teach but to maximize student learning. There is a huge difference between the two. I develop new teaching methods for lecture and lab courses. I write papers and grants. I help students find their passion and make connections for internships and jobs. I interact with 18 - 23 year old students 95% of the time. I have research and teaching collaborators within biology, at different departments and on different institutions. I have to be able to communicate effectively in writing and verbal formats.

How did you get your current position?

Job ad in Science, followed by application and interview. I wrote a booklet about this experience

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Networking with college educators, reading education literature, giving guest lectures or seminars at undergraduate institutions.

My basic science research led to several papers prior to applying for tenure track jobs. Since then, pedagogical research has played a big role too.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Read this booklet:

<http://www.ascb.org/files/careerpubs/How-to-get-a-teaching-job.pdf>

Join your professional society's education committee.

Anything else?

I love my job. I can balance work and life with reasonable success. I work with bright students who enjoy learning and they work hard to accomplish as much as possible. We are a one income family with 2 children in college. This job pays enough to have a comfortable lifestyle without the stress of getting grants all the time. If my students do not publish, I still get paid and they still graduate.

My professional impact is on the undergraduates I teach and mentor. My papers will not impact society, but honestly, that is true of most basic research. I enjoy mentoring others who want a job like mine.

Barbara Cheifet

Assistant editor
Genome Biology
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Where is your highest degree from? Yale University, Molecular, developmental biology, 2014

What is your current role/responsibility?

Each day, I work with the team of editors at Genome Biology to read new manuscript submissions and decide if they are suitable to send for review. If so, I research and find reviewers, and then make final decisions on manuscripts when reviews come in. I also commission long articles, work on PR for certain articles, go to conferences and meet with PIs.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Organization is a must, as you have to handle manuscripts in many different stages in as quickly a manner as possible. It helps to be a quick reader. There is a lot of socializing involved, so you actually must be pretty outgoing.

How did you get your current position?

I applied online for the job from a job posting.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I worked as an issue editor for the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine for several years during graduate school. I was also involved in science outreach programs.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Write! Start a blog, write for a newsletter. Write your own publications and become familiar with the process of publishing. Review papers if you can. Find out what is going on in science that is not your area of expertise.

Anything else?

You can't do it anywhere - journal offices are only located in a few cities in the US.

Gul Dolen

Assistant Professor
Johns Hopkins University
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Where is your highest degree from? Brown University, Neuroscience, Medicine, 2009

What is your current role/responsibility?

Principle Investigator

What skills make you successful in this job?

Writing is the most important skill I need for this job.

How did you get your current position?

Networking/job-listing

Any other experiences that led to your success?

consistent interest in the same research question during grad/post-doc as well as a diverse technical skill set.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Always do the project for which you have the greatest passion. Become a skilled writer.

Carla Easter

Chief, Education and Community Involvement Branch
National Human Genome Research Institute
easterc@mail.nih.gov

Where is your highest degree from? University of California, San Diego, Biology (Molecular Genetics), 1997

Other degrees: University of California, Los Angeles and Washington University

What is your current role/responsibility?

I make programmatic recommendations designed to improve genomic science education and community engagement and guide the Institute's goals and strategies related to genomic literacy. I also assist in the development and establishment of short and long term goals, operational plans and programs for the Education and Community Involvement Branch that align with the overall goals of the Institute. I am currently overseeing the evaluation, standards and implementation of educational programs that have been designed to support the development of genomic science education. I work closely with the NHGRI Policy and Public Analysis Branch, Genomics Healthcare Branch, and Communications and Public Liaison Branch in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies that impact genomic research activities and genomic education programming. It is also my responsibility to provide information regarding genomics educational and public programming activities to the institute's senior leaders to support their formulation of responses to officials, educators, congressional members, and organizations. I represent NHGRI at various organizational, congressional, and educational meetings, and develop programs designed to engage the public, students, and educators in the field of genomics. I also manage educational and community engagement contracts as a Certified Level I Contract Officer Representative.

What skills make you successful in this job?

The ability to communicate a variety stakeholders; the ability to problem solve (critical thinking skills); ability to convey the enthusiasm I have for the work I do; ability to see beyond the day to day activities and keep moving toward the big picture; and the ability to write anything from emails to manuscripts.

How did you get your current position?

I had been with the branch for 8 years prior to being named the chief. I originally came to NHGRI through my contacts with the previous branch chief.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I had a lot of experience working with schools, and I spent time as an education fellow in the Washington University Education Department.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Those who wish to work with communities need to demonstrate an ability to work effectively with the communities and an understanding of the communities they plan to serve.

Mónica Feliú-Mójer

Vice-director, Ciencia Puerto Rico; Science Outreach Program Manager, iBiology/UCSF
Ciencia Puerto Rico; iBiology; UCSF
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Where is your highest degree from? Ph.D., Harvard University, Neurobiology, 2013

Other degrees: B.S., University of Puerto Rico in Bayamón

What is your current role/responsibility?

As the vice-director of Ciencia Puerto Rico, a non-profit that uses community-based approaches to engage scientists with science education, outreach, communication and mentoring, I co-lead daily operations. I am in charge of strategic planning to secure the sustainability of the organization. I also support fundraising, manage volunteers, and coordinate outreach. As the Science Outreach Program Manager for iBiology, a non-profit that produces open-access educational videos featuring the world's leading biologists, I design, run and oversee science outreach and education resources, tools and strategies. I serve as a liaison between iBiology and the National Research Mentoring Network. I am also in charge of developing and implementing a volunteer program.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Time management, communication skills, networking skills, strategic planning, grant writing, interpersonal skills, understanding of academia, scientific expertise

How did you get your current position?

Volunteering, networking

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Network, network, network. Volunteer, take workshops. Work on developing your effective communication skills, gain as much relevant experience as you can while you are training. Don't be afraid to innovate, think outside the box, create your own path. Be visible, create a personal brand.

Aurora Fontainhas

Patent Examiner
USPTO
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Where is your highest degree from? Rutgers/UMDNJ, Neuroscience, PhD

What is your current role/responsibility?

I review patent applications to determine if they are in condition for allowance as a patentable application.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Multiple skill sets are needed to complete my job. I need to be able to identify what is being claimed. I need to be aware if the prior art teaches what is being claimed. Is it taught by someone else or is it an obvious variant of the teaches in the prior art? I also need to perform these tasks within the legal framework that governs the USPTO. The legal framework is one of the aspects of this job that is taught by the USPTO once you have the job.

How did you get your current position?

I obtained my current position by searching USA jobs website. The USPTO is continually hiring and one has to be persistent and keep checking for job announcements. Be prepared with the required paperwork to upload to the USAjobs website (like your college and graduate transcripts).

Any other experiences that led to your success?

The multiple Post-docs I had at NIH prepared me for this position.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

There are other options besides the USPTO to be able to work in the intellectual property field. Working with inventors and attorneys to prepare the Specification and claims to be submitted to the USPTO is another option for one interested in this field.

Patricia Forcinito

Science Analyst
NIH/Office of Portfolio Analysis
forcinitop@mail.nih.gov

Where is your highest degree from? University of Buenos Aires, ,

Other degrees:

What is your current role/responsibility?

There are two main parts to my role in OPA. I'm part of the OPA training program, which trains NIH staff working in the ERP (Extramural Research Program) how to carry out analyses of their research portfolios. In this role I coordinate and organize the training classes, and I also teach a class on how to use a text mining tool widely used in portfolio analysis. The second role is much more focused on carrying out analyses on the NIH research portfolio to answer questions regarding research areas, and resulting impact.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Good communication, critical thinking, and analytical skills. Computer literate, willingness to learn and retrain.

How did you get your current position?

I started at OPA as a detailee, worked with OPA for a couple of months, and then applied for a job opening at the office.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

The intramural program offers post-docs the opportunity to acquire skills in other scientific areas through the detailee program, which I highly recommend.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Pick up as many data analysis skills as you can. Many of the software used in this field is open source and freely available. Take MOOCs to learn/refresh stats or other areas.

Marie Fortin

Project Leader - Toxicology
Revlon
marie.c.fortin@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? Universite de Montreal, Public Health - Toxicology & Risk Analysis, 2009

Other degrees: Postdoctoral training at Rutgers (EOHSI)

What is your current role/responsibility?

As a project leader, I am a significant contributor to the day-to-day activities, but also oversee and mentor my teammates. In addition, I manage the projects that are not part of the routine activities. In a cosmetic companies, daily activities include ingredient and formula review as well as safety testing.

What skills make you successful in this job?

The most important hard skills required for the job are safety (a.k.a. risk) assessment and biological sciences. As for almost any other job, good personal soft skills are helpful.

How did you get your current position?

I found my job on an online job board. After I decided to return to the East Coast, I set up alerts on indeed and simply hired.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I think what my manager appreciated the most was my solid training and versatility. Through my graduate and postdoctoral training, I worked on pesticides and metals, I did in vitro and clinical research. After my postdoctoral work, I worked as a consultant in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

When a manager is looking to hire, he/she seeks someone who will be able to accomplish the job. In my experience, "fit" is extremely important. So if you know what type of job you want to do, research and learn about the tools that are used and skills that are needed and make the effort to understand and utilize them.

Michael Gambello

Section Chief, Division of Medical Genetics
Emory University School of Medicine
mgambel@emory.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology, 1993

Other degrees: Pediatric Residency St. Louis Childrens, Clinical Genetics residency NIH

What is your current role/responsibility?

I serve as the Section Chief of the Division of Medical Genetics, coordinating the wide spectrum of genetic services at Emory and actively expanding the Division to provide timely and state of the art genetic care (<http://genetics.emory.edu/patient-care>). My clinical responsibilities include the diagnosis and care for children and adults with birth defects, lysosomal storage diseases and inborn errors of metabolism. Teaching medical students, genetic counseling students and medical residents is another important aspect of my responsibilities. I also serve as the program director for the ACGME accredited medical genetics residency program and am a member of the ABMGG. My research focuses on the neurogenetic disorders tuberous sclerosis complex, NGLY1 deficiency and exploring new gene discovery projects.

What skills make you successful in this job?

1. To have excellent clinical skills
2. To communicate and teach well
3. To ask good questions
4. To focus and prioritize
5. To be collaborative
6. To write well
7. To know when to ask for help

How did you get your current position?

I was ready for a change and challenge after have been at UT Houston for ten years.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Excellent training and mentors.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Talk to people in the field. Get data before you make a decision.

Anything else?

Anything else?

Medical genetics is a truly fascinating, stimulating and satisfying career.

Nady Golestaneh

Assistant Professor
Georgetown University Medical Center
ncg8@georgetown.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of Paris VI, Pierre et Marie Curie, Biochemistry, 2000

Other degrees: Master of Science, University of Paris VI, Pierre et Marie Curie

What is your current role/responsibility?

Training students and postdocs, designing the experiments, interpreting the data, meeting with the students and discussing the data, helping the students to overcome the problems, teaching and lecturing, writing manuscripts and writing and submitting grant proposals. Rendering service to the University such as sitting on different committees, rendering service to the scientific community such as serving on study sections, and reviewing manuscripts for the peer reviewed journals.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Ability to present and give comprehensive lectures,
Ability to face problems and find alternatives to resolve them,
Ability to write grant proposal, grantsmanship,
Ability to write manuscripts,
Ability to work as an independent scientist,
Ability to overcome challenges of the current research environment,
Social skills to work in good terms with other faculty
Negotiation skills,

How did you get your current position?

I was working as a Research Fellow at Georgetown University when I wrote and submitted a grant proposal that was awarded. That helped me to become independent and continue doing research as an independent scientist. I was promoted to Assistant Professor Tenure Track after publishing actively and showing productivity.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Communication skills and research experience that I had acquired during my postdoctoral trainings

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

To become a faculty and independent scientist at a University, one should be motivated, have a strong personality, should be willing to face challenges and be able to resolve the problem without being affected personally. Should be diplomatic and have social skills.

Cameron Good

Bioengineering Scientist

US Army Research Laboratory (Altus Engineering)

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Where is your highest degree from? Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Neuroscience, 2005

What is your current role/responsibility?

Manage and execute projects, generate and present results, analyze data, write reports

What skills make you successful in this job?

Data analysis and statistics, literature searches, Matlab, technical writing, project management, presentation skills, experimental design

How did you get your current position?

Networking

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Look outside your current area of expertise and extrapolate your skills to new problem space.

Lesley Griner

Investigator II
Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research
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Where is your highest degree from? Umass Amherst, Molecular and Cellular Biology, PhD

What is your current role/responsibility?

My main role in the Oncology group at NIBR in Cambridge, MA USA is to support new and existing project teams with the development of high throughput cellular assays. This includes building robust and novel assays to be utilized for SAR compound expansion and screening. In addition, I am supporting the group by providing expertise in high content image analysis and the development of more advanced and complex models for Oncology as a whole.

What skills make you successful in this job?

I not only have to use my scientific skills but I have to be really good at communicating. I present usually 2-3 powerpoint slide decks a week and compose a number of important emails that are shared amongst the group.

How did you get your current position?

I used a tremendous amount of resources to obtain my position. I networked with a college friend at a users group meeting for an instrument we use. Then his boss invited me to give a seminar and when they had job openings encouraged me to apply. Now because people already knew me when I applied they knew who I was and what I worked on.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I have always had an active role mentoring and teaching and I think it keeps my skills very sharp. I also have very good interpersonal skill and I try to get along with people no matter what.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

I would say get to know people, a lot of people because it is all about building up a reputation and standing out in that of resumes.

Anything else?

I would encourage them to learn how to manage staff and give trainees independence but without micro-managing them.

Stacie Grossman Bloom

Senior Executive Director for Administration & Policy, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience & Physiology
NYU Langone Medical Center
stacie.bloom@nyumc.org

Where is your highest degree from? Georgetown University, Cell Biology, 2000

Other degrees:

What is your current role/responsibility?

- Provide leadership support and represent the SVP/Vice Dean as the liaison for scientific and clinical departments within the School of Medicine
- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals, special programs, and related initiatives
- Maintain substantive knowledge of all fields of study across the Institution to identify areas of synergy, and align the departments/institutes with the organization's strategic goals
- Conduct strategic assessments and define the scope and goals for enterprise projects
- Identify opportunities to leverage cross-program/service strengths, and support implementation of new and/or improved programs
- Administratively support existing and new departments and institutes, and oversee meetings of department administrators
- Monitor the financial performance of each department with the intent of ensuring financial integrity and solvency
- Research and suggest resolution plans to leadership regarding financial issues
- Evaluate the implications of various program recommendations and requests for resources

What skills make you successful in this job?

Communication
Interpersonal skills
Scientific background
Organizational management
Finance

How did you get your current position?

Networking

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Mentorship, Institute building, fundraising, grant writing, communication skills, relationship with the scientific community.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Don't be afraid to jump ship, ask for help, understand your value, find people who have done it, don't burn bridges, say yes to as many opportunities as you can.

Jeff James

Licensing Manager
UVA Licensing and Ventures Group
jeff.james@virginia.edu

Where is your highest degree from? New York University, Biomedical Sciences, 2004

Other degrees:

What is your current role/responsibility?

Managing the University of Virginia's intellectual property assets, attracting commercial investments in UVA technologies, and facilitating biomedical business development, innovation and new venture creation.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Mastery of important scientific, business, and legal concepts, good communication skills, the ability to work with others, and the ability to anticipate, avoid, and solve problems.

How did you get your current position?

Networking and recruitment.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Fellowship experience at the NIH, and networking at National Conferences.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Develop interest in areas outside of science, e.g. law or business. Document experiences and show keen interest in volunteer work or internships. Seek opportunities to gain experience in a technology transfer office or patent law firm (if you don't already have business or legal experience it could take several months of preparation to land a job in technology transfer).

Anything else?

It is a rewarding and dynamic job. You will engage in many different areas of expertise and interact with many different kinds of people, all towards the goal of setting potentially useful drugs, devices, etc on a commercial path that could ultimately benefit the public.

Seth Jonas

Research Staff Member

IDA-Science and Technology Policy Institute

Where is your highest degree from? Johns Hopkins University

What is your current role/responsibility?

I provide objective and actionable analyses and policy recommendations to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other executive branch departments, agencies (including NIH), and councils. I work across a broad spectrum of scientific and technical topics that include program evaluation, national preparedness, and space weather.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Communication and writing skills are paramount. Other important skills include the ability to: (1) spin-up quickly on a range of (often unfamiliar) topics, (2) approach topics objectively, (3) work collaboratively in groups with diverse skill sets, and (4) be a self-starter with a high degree of curiosity.

How did you get your current position?

On-campus recruiting

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Transitioning from bench science to a policy position can be challenging. Here are several ideas that may help prepare you for a job in policy:

- (1) Try to develop and publish written expositions for a more general audience, e.g., a letter to the editor or an article in a society or university newsletter;
- (2) Pay attention to current events, there is usually a science or technical aspect;
- (3) Volunteer as an active member in planning or policy committees;
- (4) Know the relevant policy positions of your elected officials;
- (5) Take some time to think about your passions (both overall and within your job area); and
- (6) Always consider the bigger picture perspective of what you are working on and be able to communicate your contribution and passion to the general public.

Kevin Jones

Assistant Professor
Howard University
kevin.jones1@howard.edu

Where is your highest degree from? Duke, Pharmacology, 2002

Other degrees: Coppin State University

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am the PI of a laboratory and a professor. It is a very rare job, in that my mix of responsibilities is almost exactly a 50/50 split of research and teaching.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Yes, being a PI is a management position. Developing management skills (both project and personnel) is vital.

How did you get your current position?

Networking. A colleague informed of the announcement. I wasn't even "on the market" at the time.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Perseverance and being open to starting over. Academic jobs can be very diverse depending on the institution. If you are not happy with your job at a particular institution, then you should either change the job, change jobs or change institutions until you find the right fit.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

If you enjoy working with students, being a professor is an amazing job. I enjoy this aspect of it immensely.

Anything else?

Work life balance is very difficult to maintain. I believe it gets better, but assistant professors are pulled in many directions at once.

Kaumudi Joshi

Consultant
Boston Consulting Group
kaumudij@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? Baylor College of Medicine, Molecular Genetics, 2010

Other degrees: Post-doc (Neuroscience) at TSRI, CA and Columbia University, NY

What is your current role/responsibility?

As a consultant, I help client organizations solve their business problems. My job is to generate actionable insights by putting together data about the client company, the market and industry best practices.

What skills make you successful in this job?

In addition to analytical horsepower, my job requires resourcefulness, an eagerness to persevere through tough situations, and a personality that thrives in intense team-work environments.

How did you get your current position?

A combination of networking and established recruiting channels that BCG supports

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Mine was a long journey to find the next career step that was right for me. In my opinion, networking helped not just with providing leads and informational interviews, but also with the added bonus of support and encouragement. It helped me keep a positive spirit when the way forward was uncertain.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Consulting can serve as a great launchpad for your career. Whether you find that you want to spend a lifetime in consulting or you choose to exit, the opportunities are numerous. It is a great way to get exposure to a variety of industries, problems, tools, environments, that help you understand your interests and strengths better.

If you decide to pursue this track, decide early, get the information you need and throw yourself into preparation.

Anything else?

My job requires a lot of travel. This can be a significant issue for most people for whom striking a balance between work and life is critical. My job also requires a large degree of comfort with uncertainty as casework can be very dynamic with little predictability as far as travel and workload is concerned. While BCG does a great job of taking into account any special needs you may have, the industry is ultimately centered on client services and necessitates agility

Richard Kim

East Coast North America Sales Manager
TTP Labtech
richard.kim@ttplabtech.com

Where is your highest degree from? University of Toronto, Biochemistry, PhD 1998

Other degrees: MBA Boston College 2006

What is your current role/responsibility?

I'm in charge of selling our entire product line to customers in the East Coast. I also manage this business in terms of hiring and developing people for sales and application positions.

What skills make you successful in this job?

I find that my scientific and industry experience allows me to interact with customers at a much deeper level. Besides my knowledge, I feel that it is important to listen to customers and ask relevant questions to understand their needs. You need to be highly level of empathy.

How did you get your current position?

I was approached by multiple vendors while at Novartis who suggested sales role for me. I never considered it until I was having lunch with my current manager who was describing his issues at work. When I asked him if I could help? He gave me a chance and I never looked back.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

I would advice to be flexible and be ready for rejection which you'll get a lot. Don't take it personally and think of all the positives that this career brings such as meeting tons of new people, be in all of the different labs, and travel (this could be positive or negative depending on people's circumstances). Importantly, you don't have to commute to work and get to make your own schedule. But you must be self motivated.

Marina Kozak

Science Policy Analyst
Friends of Cancer Research
marina.l.kozak@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? UPenn, Molecular and Cell Bio, 2010

What is your current role/responsibility?

Working with the entire cancer research and advocacy community, to pioneer innovative public-private partnerships, organizes critical policy forums, educates the public, and bring together key stakeholders to overcome the barriers standing between patients and the most promising cancer treatments.

What skills make you successful in this job?

The most essential skills have been: critical thinking and problem solving; networking and building relationships; public speaking; writing. One thing that has surprised me is how helpful my technical expertise has been to my current position.

How did you get your current position?

networking

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Finding jobs in the not-for-profit sector can be really tricky and the best advice that I have heard is to network. As frustrating as it may be, many policy jobs rely on fit so establishing the relationships is key.

Natalie Kuldell

Instructor, President & Founder
MIT, BioBuilder Educational Foundation
nkuldell@mit.edu

Where is your highest degree from? Harvard, Cell Biology, 1994

Other degrees: BA, Cornell University

What is your current role/responsibility?

Develop and teach authentic laboratory investigations for undergraduate majors in biological engineering. Executive director of non-profit educational foundation

What skills make you successful in this job?

A love of teaching, an ability to convey technical content to technical and non-technical audiences, effective strategies for organizing time and materials, an ability to say "no" to even extremely attractive opportunities

How did you get your current position?

An individual mentioned the teaching opportunity in passing. My decision to start a non-profit was more complicated.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

My family has been incredibly supportive. My time at the NIH in high school, working with Dr. Alan Peterkofsky there, showed me just how fun authentic scientific investigations can be and that experience has inspired all of what I do.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

There is no traditional path in, though a PhD seems common, and there is no traditional path for advancement.

Anything else?

Being instructional faculty at the college level is a very hard but rewarding path. The respect that such positions carry varies widely from place to place.

Larissa Lapteva

Division Director
FDA
Larissa.Lapteva@fda.hhs.gov

Where is your highest degree from? Moscow Medical Academy, Medicine, 1997

Other degrees: Master of Health Science Degree from Duke University

What is your current role/responsibility?

In my current role of the Director of Division of Therapeutic Performance in the Office of Generic Drugs at FDA I direct the divisional activities as related to the regulatory and scientific aspects of generic drug product development and review.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Scientific and medical expertise, expertise in clinical research, administrative skills, critical thinking and analytical skills, technical and policy-related writing, public speaking, leadership, operational /organizational skills, communication skills, among others.

How did you get your current position?

I was tapped to do the job after a new law -- Generic Drug User Fee Act -- was passed in 2012 and the Office of Generic Drugs at FDA was re-organized.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

My previous experience of working as a clinical investigator and previously held positions at FDA (reviewer, team leader, division deputy director) have prepared me for my current job. Also, additional education and training in clinical research and patient and medical product safety helped me do a better job as they directly applied to the drug development field.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

To succeed in the field of drug development you would need to be more than a clinician-- you would need to understand clinical research, drug pharmacology and formulation chemistry, and also know the regulatory aspect of product development. This is a lot, but if you are interested and willing to invest time and effort, this career path would be extremely interesting and will expose you to the innovation and cutting edge technologies in the healthcare field.

Anything else?

I once was an NIH fellow too, and it was the foundational blend of science, discovery, inspiration, and hard work which NIH is so known for, that gave me the right mindset to further pursue my interests (which later became a career for me) in the pharmaceutical product field.

Luke Lavis

Group Leader
Janelia Research Campus, HHMI
lavisl@janelia.hhmi.org

Where is your highest degree from? University of Wisconsin-Madison, Organic Chemistry, 2008

What is your current role/responsibility?

A Group Leader at Janelia is similar to other Principal Investigator positions. I lead the lab, directing research efforts, managing people and collaborations, writing papers, and sharing results at conferences and seminars. The big difference is that I don't teach or write grants, freeing up time to work at the bench. This allows me to be a "postdoc" in my own lab and keeps me in tune with the research efforts of the lab.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Management. People have a bunch of problems and, as a PI, they can become your problems. You have to learn how to create an environment where people from different backgrounds and attitudes can work together and thrive.

How did you get your current position?

Like most PIs, I applied after hearing about Janelia from a colleague. I got an interview because of my network. I got the position because of my research proposal.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I worked in industry for four years before graduate school. This gave me great hands and taught me when you should kill a project (it is earlier than you think). This also gave me a unique network of industrial scientists that I continue to utilize today.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Build a network of people and use it. Ask for advice from everyone you think is smarter than you. Think creatively. Tinker. Don't be afraid to take risks and move to a new place (geographically or scientifically).

Natalie Leach Stringer

Assistant Professor

Montgomery College - Germantown

natalie.stringer@montgomerycollege.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of Iowa, Molecular and Cellular Biology; Virology, 2010

What is your current role/responsibility?

As an Assistant Professor at Montgomery College, my primary responsibility is teaching Microbiology for biology majors (sophomores) and Introduction to Biology for non-majors (freshman). I teach three courses, each with a laboratory. I design and deliver lectures, tests, homework assignments, and much more. In addition to grading, I hold office hours and attend meetings. I also have the opportunity to perform research with undergraduates albeit on a small scale.

Most of the time I work independently since I am the person responsible running the classroom and teaching laboratory.

However, as a department we work together on many projects such as redesigning labs, recruiting new faculty, and college-wide initiatives.

What skills make you successful in this job?

This job requires exceptional multitasking, time-management, and communication skills. In the teaching laboratory, I am observing the safety of 20-24 students, holding multiple conversations, and keeping track of details such as attendance. I am always planning how to best use my time inside and outside the classroom. Communication is something I do on a daily basis both with students and colleagues.

How did you get your current position?

I applied for this position after finding the posting on the college's website.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

The experiences that especially lead to obtaining this position were having one year of full time teaching experience and talking to other teaching faculty about their experiences (informational interviews).

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

The best advice I can give for someone looking for a position at a community college is get teaching experience now if you do not have any and tailor your application. Many qualified candidates apply (who we would like to hire) but many fail to submit complete applications or do not understand the ethos of a community college.

Alika Maunakea

Assistant Professor
University of Hawaii, Manoa
amaunake@hawaii.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of California, San Francisco, Biomedical Sciences, 2008

What is your current role/responsibility?

As an Assistant Professor with a focus on epigenetics research, I run a lab, supervise several projects, engage in community educational activities in health sciences, participate as a lecturer for graduate level courses, and direct an Epigenomics Core facility. I developed and enhanced novel high-throughput, genome-wide technologies that survey DNA methylation and histone modifications, both central components of epigenetic processes, and have discovered novel roles for DNA methylation in regulating alternative promoter usage and in pre-mRNA splicing. My lab focuses on applying these technologies towards advancing the understanding of epigenetic mechanisms that underlie the development of diseases of health disparity, including in particular diabetes, cardiovascular disease, neurodevelopmental disorders, and cancer in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. I am playing a leading role in understanding how the environment interacts with epigenetic processes that may underlie disease predispositions in these populations. The long-term goals of this research include contributing to the development of more effective targeted diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic strategies for these underserved communities.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Having conceptual and technological experience in microbiology, immunology, neurobiology, molecular biology, genetics, bioinformatics, and epigenomics are necessary for my job. In addition, developing teaching, writing, presentation, and administrative skills are important.

How did you get your current position?

Networking and job-listing

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Identifying your interests and research focus are important, so that when you search for a job, it fits your background. Having contacts at places where you are interested in working is also very helpful. Get advice early from those who have been in the career or even has just started.

David Mire

Director, Medical Science, Strategic Development
Smith & Nephew
davemire@aggienetwork.com

Where is your highest degree from? University of Texas, Arlington, Organic Chemistry, 1999

Other degrees: Texas A&M University (BS), Lehigh University (MBA)

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am responsible for developing and advancing global strategic scientific platforms within the Advanced Wound Management division. Critical to success in this role is maintaining and ensuring appropriate dissemination of the highest level available medical and scientific knowledge throughout the organization.

Over the course of my 15 year career, I have held roles spanning multiple disciplines including Drug Discovery and Development, Medical and Clinical Affairs, New Product Commercialization and In-line Brand Marketing. I have worked in many therapeutic areas including cardiovascular medicine, diabetes and metabolic syndrome, oncology and chronic inflammatory disease.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Over the course of my career, I have found the most important skills to have are the desire and ability to continue learning. While my formal training was in organic and medicinal chemistry, I have worked primarily in areas involving other scientific disciplines and clinical aspects of medicine.

In addition, I have spent many years working as a marketer. My scientific training provided me with the ability to bring a unique insight into key business problems. In the modern workplace, it is critical to be willing and able to work cross functionally with a broad group of people from diverse educational backgrounds.

How did you get your current position?

Over the course of my career, I have worked with recruiters in order to obtain my positions.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Beyond my educational training, I spent 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. This experience helped to teach me how to work with a broad based group of individuals in order to achieve organizational goals.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

In order to be successful in the career path I have followed, you must be able to integrate science with real world clinical medicine and business needs. This is the definition of a cross functional role. You must be comfortable wearing many different hats and have the ability to move rapidly between the scientific, medical and commercial worlds.

Tim Moeller

Scientific Advisor
BioreclamationIVT
timmoeller@verizon.net

Where is your highest degree from? Johns Hopkins University, Cellular and Molecular Biology, 1996

Other degrees: Loyola University (MD)

What is your current role/responsibility?

Currently, Tim works at BioreclamationIVT (formerly Celsis-IVT and In Vitro Technologies) in the capacities of research and development, contract research, field application scientist and business development manager over a 12 year period.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Flexibility, curiosity and ability to reinvent one's self

How did you get your current position?

A job fair after a lay-off

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Worked at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Hematology for a phase III drug trial for sickle cell anemia, and in Neuroscience for basic research of cortical neurons. After which, worked at Guilford Pharmaceuticals (now part of Eisai Pharma) in drug discovery for Parkinson's disease

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

You must have an internal drive to continuously learn, take on responsibilities and complete projects.

Anything else?

A career is a evolving process and not an absolute endpoint.

Silvia Moreno

Professor
University of Georgia
smoreno@uga.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of Buenos Aires, Biochemistry, 1982

What is your current role/responsibility?

Professor of Cell Biology. Teaching 1 course per year, direct 7 graduate students and 2 post-docs and 2 technicians

What skills make you successful in this job?

Mainly knowledge of the area of cell biology and infectious diseases. Leadership of the group. Creativity and also writing skills. Yes, it is very important to know how to lead people

How did you get your current position?

networking and job-listings

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

People need to love science because there is a lot frustrating experiences that will have to handled. The love and passion for science makes these experiences a lot easier to overcome.

Anything else?

It is very hard but re-warding

Robert Noveck

Associate Professor of Medicine
Duke University School of Medicine, Dept. of Medicine
robert.noveck@duke.edu

Where is your highest degree from? MD, LSU School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA, Pharmacology, 1982

Other degrees: PhD, Dept. Pharmacology, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA

What is your current role/responsibility?

Medical Director, Duke Clinical Research Unit (DCRU), an early first-in-man Proof-of-Concept & Phase 1 Clinical Research Unit.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Emergency Physician training
Residency in Internal Medicine
Basic & Clinical Trial training and experience in the conduct of clinical trials
Experience in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Training in Scientific Methodology, Biostatistics and Regulatory Sciences

How did you get your current position?

Writing Letters to Pharmaceutical Sponsors,
Networking with colleagues
Professional Recruitment Services
Job Opportunity Listing in major Medical Journals

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Luck - Right Place at Right Time

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Specialize in area of medicine first;

If possible, combine clinical Pharmacology training program with fellowship.

Nico Pannacciulli

Clinical Research Medical Director, Global Development
Amgen Inc.
nicopannacciulli@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? University of Naples "Federico II", Naples, Italy, PhD in Endocrinology and Metabolic Sciences,

Other degrees: MD, Specialty Degree in Endocrinology

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am the medical lead for multiple clinical trials in the adult and pediatric osteoporosis space, driving protocol design, study implementation, medical monitoring, and data interpretation and presentation. I chair the committee reviewing investigator-sponsored clinical study proposals and am the clinical development reviewer for external non-clinical study proposals within the program I work on. I provide medical/scientific contribution to in-person and written interactions with regulatory authorities world-wide and support relationships with regulatory affairs, biometrics, and multiple other departments within the company.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Technical competence (i.e., solid scientific and medical knowledge), communication skills (i.e., ability to communicate complex scientific concepts to scientists and non-scientists alike), prioritization skills (i.e., ability to coordinate multiple activities with different stakeholders in an efficient manner), critical thinking and flexibility (i.e., openness to disproving your hypothesis and changing your mind), interpersonal skills (i.e., ability to work and interact with many people in a constructive way, including at times of conflict.)

How did you get your current position?

Through a recruiter.

Any other experiences that led to your success?**What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?**

Having a solid scientific background is paramount, but communication, flexibility, and desire to work in teams are mandatory. Try to work with a few, trustworthy recruiters and establish a network. Getting the foot in the door may be difficult; but, after getting some experience, opportunities will come to you much more easily. Help your team succeed and establish genuine relationships while networking.

Olga Pavlova

Regulatory and Scientific Analyst
Amarex Clinical Research
olgap@amarexcro.com

Where is your highest degree from? Russian Academy of Sciences, Biochemistry, 2010

Other degrees: Moscow State University, MA

What is your current role/responsibility?

Develop regulatory strategies; work on all aspects of Investigational New Drug and New Drug Applications. I am further involved in clinical study protocol development, clinical trial monitoring and Auditing.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Project management and team working skills are extremely important and are the ones where a lot of applicants/new hires fall short.

How did you get your current position?

Email from HR through the NIH group list serve.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I have done a lot of informational interviews to familiarize myself with the field, expectations and typical workload. Furthermore, I attended an FDA course of Drug Development offered by FAES. I also completed an internship in a strategy consulting/technology transfer company. While that work did not directly relate to the work I currently do it served to me as an introduction to a biotechnology industry job and prepared me client interactions and other aspect of my current position.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

I believe it is advantageous to not limit yourself in your search to one particular job position or one narrow field. No matter how well you research the new field, you will not know whether you like it until you actually try it.

Nina Peel

assistant professor
The College of New Jersey
peeln@tcnj.edu

Where is your highest degree from? The University of Cambridge, UK, genetics, 2007

What is your current role/responsibility?

TCNJ is a public liberal arts college. It is a primarily undergraduate institute (PUI) and we do not have any graduate students. I teach genetics/cell bio to classes of

What skills make you successful in this job?

For teaching communication skills are key: explaining complicated concepts to novices is my day job. In addition, being organized is crucial. I have to juggle, class prep, grading, meeting with students, class/lab time, committee work, meetings, lab meetings, working with my lab students and my own research.

How did you get your current position?

I set up automatic searches at Chronicles, inside Higher Ed and Higherjobs.com and applied to these ads.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

PUI's want to recruit people who are passionate about teaching and having teaching experience is key.

When I was at the NIH I took advantage of training opportunities like the 'Scientists teaching science' course, I taught an FAES course, I ran a journal club for summer students, I helped out in science outreach programs and I supervised and published with a postbac. I think all of these things helped me to develop crucial skills.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Get classroom teaching experience and work with junior collaborators in the lab. Both of these things are key parts of the job at a PUI.

Chris Pickett

Policy Analyst
American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
cpickett@asbmb.org

Where is your highest degree from? University of Utah, Oncological Sciences, 2006

Other degrees: Postdoc - Washington University in St. Louis

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am a policy analyst for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. I focus on science-policy topics that are of interest to the Society's members. This means I regularly conduct research into the state of regulations and legislation that affect our members. I write about these issues in a variety of outlets including blog posts, news releases, position statements, white papers and others. I also spend time in meetings with members of Congress, officials at federal agencies and other science advocates.

What skills make you successful in this job?

I knew that writing would be an important part of working in science policy. What surprised me was all of the audiences that I would need to write for. Blog posts about current affairs are written to inform scientists of policy issues. News releases inform the press of the Society's position on a specific topic. Position statements are written for federal officials in response to proposed regulations or legislation. And I may need to write all of these in one day. I find rapidly shifting between the variety of audiences I write for to be a challenge. But it's one that I enjoy.

In addition to writing, being organized and managing my time appropriately to accomplish all of my tasks by their deadline is an important component of science policy. Of course, we also work with and speak to members of Congress, federal agencies and other science advocacy organizations so being able to network and build relationships is also important.

How did you get your current position?

I found out about the ASBMB science policy fellowship as it was advertised on the ASBMB Advocacy website. I applied to this and several other fellowships, and I was eventually offered a fellowship with the ASBMB. I was highly successful during my time as a policy fellow, and my boss suggested that the Society create a Policy Analyst position that I could move into once the fellowship ended. They created the position, and I accepted it.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I was a postdoc at Washington University in St. Louis, and I became very active in science policy. I participated in two Capitol Hill Days where I travelled to Washington D.C. to discuss the importance of federally funded research with my elected representatives. I also visited their offices in St. Louis to send the same messages. I tried my hand at policy writing by writing a few letters to the editor of the local St. Louis newspaper. These were never published, but the exercise of writing about science policy within the length restrictions of the newspaper was a valuable experience.

Ultimately, science policy work is all about communication. Find whatever mechanisms you can to improve your communication skills when talking about policy issues.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

The best way to begin a career in science policy is to get involved. You can advocate on your behalf simply by picking up the phone and calling your representatives and senators to tell them why federally funded research is important to your district and state. You can write letters to your elected representatives or to the editors of the local newspaper explaining the importance of specific policy issues. This also means you need to stay abreast of current events to make sure that your comments are timely. If you enjoy these experiences and want to do more, this is a good sign that a career in policy might be right for you.

Additionally, when applying for a policy position, whether it's a fellowship or another policy job, you must demonstrate your commitment to this career path. Fellowships are not something you do to determine if a career in science policy is right for you. The strongest applicants are those that are committed to policy, and they are looking for a way to launch this phase of their career.

Megha Rajaram

Technical Sales Rep, Life Sciences
Thermo Fisher Scientific
megharajaram@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? Cold Spring Harbor Lab/Stony Brook University, Tumor microenvironment genomics, 2012

Other degrees:**What is your current role/responsibility?**

In my current role, i work for the distribution side of Thermo Fisher, namely Fisher Scientific. I work with a team of 10-12 Fisher generalists on various government, university and biotech campuses and provide expertise on life science products as well as consult on technical sales. i also work independently with large customers to learn about their research and identify solutions for current issues or new projects.

What skills make you successful in this job?

There are two sides to doing this job: technical and people skills. It is very important to be up to date on the science and literature so customers can trust that i understand their work. Interpersonal and communication skills are of utmost importance while selling, especially in this tricky budgetary climate. Organizational skills are the backbone of my everyday operations with so many accounts and customers.

one of the skills that i didn't expect that would be useful but is extremely useful is to be able to take a deep dive into data to make targeted efforts. Luckily, i crunched a lot of data in my postdoc and my programming/excel skills come in handy!

How did you get your current position?

I started networking on campus with the Thermo Fisher reps and reps of some other companies as well. when this position opened up, they recommended me.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Having a solid background in science really helps; being able to communicate effectively is key. we have a large presence on campus so working in a team is critical to synergize success. Being organized and proactive has helped me a lot.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Step 1: Talk to Brad about your resume and cover letter!

Step 2: Talk to me and others like me to get an idea of the different kinds of sales positions.

Step 3: Try it out, if you dont like it, you can ALWAYS do something else.

Step 4: No matter what, this experience will open doors to marketing, business development, consulting and other related careers.

Amy Rawls

HR Director

Research Square

amy.rawls@researchsquare.com

Where is your highest degree from? Washington University in St. Louis, Molecular Genetics, 2003

What is your current role/responsibility?

I oversee recruiting, onboarding, and learning & development strategies for a \$20 million business that exists to help researchers succeed. In addition, I am the strategic HR partner for our two largest departments: operations and engineering.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Communication and collaboration are key to my role, and more generally, to all leadership roles at Research Square. In a business (in contrast to academia), the importance of working toward a common goal, sharing information, and being humble but excellent are so much more critical. Personal successes don't mean a whole lot if the team or company is not successful.

How did you get your current position?

I took an entry-level job in editing operations as a managing editor in 2010 at Research Square (then American Journal Experts). This was my first position after completing my postdoc and doing some freelance writing/editing on my own, and it allowed me to apply my scientific and technical training to help international researchers overcome the English language barrier to publication. From there, I moved into a management role and then was recruited internally to HR as a manager of talent development and recruitment before taking on the HR director role.

I found American Journal Experts through a local job posting.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Loving what I do and aligning at a personal level with the mission of the business.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Think about what you absolutely love doing and find a way to do it/do more of it. Think about the kind of company or academic culture where you thrive and prioritize place over other tangibles like money or prestige. Flexibility and fulfillment are worth a lot!

Gene-Errol Ringpis

Research & Development Scientist
Calimmune
generrol@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? University of California, Irvine, Biological Sciences (Microbiology & Molecular Genetics),

Other degrees: Postdoc - University of California, Los Angeles

What is your current role/responsibility?

Our company develops innovative cell-based therapies for HIV. My tasks include assay development, patient sample analysis, manufacturing of cellular products, SOP authoring, and LIMS development.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Effective communication across departments and with collaborators.
Time/project management.
Technical expertise and the ability to quickly troubleshoot.

How did you get your current position?

During my postdoctoral training, I worked in close collaboration with my current employer in translational studies, establishing a good working relationship with employees at several levels in the company, from bench to board room. Wanting to make the jump to industry research, I applied for a scientist position in the company.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Build your network. Be flexible - you'll need to wear many hats (technical and organizational, team member and leader, etc). Establish yourself as a "go-to" colleague.

Mercedes Rubio

Program Director
NIGMS
rubio@mail.nih.gov

Where is your highest degree from? University of Michigan, Sociology, 2001

What is your current role/responsibility?

I am the Program Director for the Diversity Supplements at NIGMS. Prior to my current position, I was a program official at NIMH who hadled various training grants, the Loan Repayment Program, and the psychiatric epidemiology portfolio.

What skills make you successful in this job?

scientific expertise, excellent data management skills, interpersonal skills, an effective oral and written communicator, sound management skills, current knowledge of various NIH policies, and working knowledge of governing policies that impact the biomedical workforce.

How did you get your current position?

Networking

Any other experiences that led to your success?

I was a Program Director/PI of a T32 grant. I had working knowledge of the grant making world prior to my hire at NIH.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Reach out to Program Staff you know and learn about the various aspects of their jobs. For example, given PI's bad news is not easy, but it is part of the job. Learning how to give bad news is a skill that has to be gained.

Anything else?

I really enjoy what I do. I get to interact with a host of scientists and trainees. I feel like I play a role, albeit small, in the research/training enterprise.

Beth Ruedi

Director of Education and Professional Development
Genetics Society of America
eruedi@genetics-gsa.org

Where is your highest degree from? University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Biology (behavioral genetics), 2007

Other degrees:

What is your current role/responsibility?

I develop, promote, coordinate, and maintain all education- and professional development-related activities for my 5000-member scientific society. This includes the creation and upkeep of an educational resource portal; coordination of all Society awards; writing grant proposals for new programs in mentoring, professional development and education; creation and implementation of education and professional development programming at our conferences; and much more (one of the benefits of being a part of a small support staff for a professional society is that you are involved in many things, and can wear many different hats).

What skills make you successful in this job?

The critical skills I learned while earning my PhD--persistence, perseverance, tenacity, time management, organization, interpersonal interactions, quick thinking, problem solving, and oral/written communication--are all things that I use in my current position. My teaching and research skills also come in handy when it comes to spreading the word about good pedagogical practices. 95% of my work can be done online, and I am surprised at the amount of emailing necessary to do this job (or any job!).

How did you get your current position?

I found out about a part-time position with GSA from my postdoc advisor and mentor, who happened to be on the Board. I applied for the position and was a good fit, in part because I was strategic about adding non-research components to my graduate and postdoc positions (specifically for me this was education; but this can be anything that you're passionate about).

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Get to know the staff of the professional societies in your area! If you're based in DC, you're in luck, as most life sciences societies are located there.

Rachel Schowalter

Scientist I

Illumina

rschowalter@illumina.com

Where is your highest degree from? University of Kentucky, Biochemistry, 2008

What is your current role/responsibility?

I'm part of a large team working on early stage development of a new sequencing platform. The majority of my time is spent in lab performing experiments designed to optimize biochemistry and test new parts. Communication with other team members is also a vital and time-consuming part of my job.

What skills make you successful in this job?

The ability to communicate effectively and efficiently is more important than I ever imagined. I work with people in different cities and countries and staying on track with each other is a major challenge. Being a "team player" is absolutely necessary to our success.

How did you get your current position?

I applied to a job I found advertised on the company's web page. I didn't have any connections there.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

It wasn't my first interview and I learned from those in which I wasn't offered a job. Finding a job was really hard work. In the end, my efforts toward networking didn't get me my job, but it was good practice and I learned from it.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Make sure you have something to show for your work. Publish papers or patents. You need real substance in your CV. Also, enthusiasm and energy definitely count, but you need to balance that with professionalism when you interview.

Anything else?

I didn't think I'd enjoy the D in R&D, but it's actually challenging and fun.

Dale Schwab

Senior Scientific Director, Infectious Disease
Focus Diagnostics/Quest Diagnostics
dale.a.schwab@questdiagnostics.com

Where is your highest degree from? PhD, Univ. of California, Irvine, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, 1977

Other degrees: Clinical PostDoc Program at UCLA Med Cntr

What is your current role/responsibility?

Responsible for the quality and technical aspects of infectious disease (ID) testing; Responsible for the oversight of ID R&D and the supervision of scientists; Chair companywide ID Subspecialty Team and Chair several ID Best Practice Teams; R&D Liaison for ID and Women's Health Marketing Franchises.

What skills make you successful in this job?

PhD; clinical training through ASM CPEP program or other similar; D(ABMM) board certification; Understanding of Federal (CLIA) and State laboratory regulations; Good verbal and written communication skills; Good management skills. When I started my career, I had little business knowledge. Through the years I have realized that this is a very important skill set. One has to understand the relationship of test demand, test costs, coding, and reimbursement to generating test revenue. For example, you may have a great idea for a new test, but if insurance companies see it as investigational, they will not pay you for it.

How did you get your current position?

My present position came to my attention through the networking I had done during my many years of committee participation and board positions in SCASM (ASM branch) and ASM.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

There are many but in general my willingness to accept a new challenge is most important. Through these opportunities I've expanded my knowledge base and met many interesting people who have had a role in my career development. For example, for several years I was CEO of a small GLP Laboratory. By accepting the opportunity to start and develop this business, I developed business and management skills that I may not otherwise have.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Talk to people in the field; Get clinical experience either through an ASM CPEP program or from working with an established D(ABMM) Director; Become D(ABMM) certified; Polish your communication skills; Network through your local ASM and ASM meetings.

Kimberly Shafer-Weaver

Program Director, Immunology, Oncology and Metabolic Disease
Health Analytics, LLC
kimshafer-weaver@healthanalytic.com

Where is your highest degree from? The George Washington University, Immunology, 2009

Other degrees: BS and MS from Penn State, currently working on a MBA

What is your current role/responsibility?

Business Development and serving as the Principle Investigator on projects to provide primary scientific oversight of study design. I am involved at all stages of project execution and works closely with the CO-I and the Project Oversight Team (POT) and the Project Management Team (PMT). As the, PI I provide scientific insight and a critical knowledge base with regards to specific disease states, their underlying biological drivers and current and investigational treatments that are essential for design and interpretation of the final results of the study. This new position has moved from me from being a bench and translational scientist to collaborating with scientific and business leadership to transition research into medical and business objectives within the healthcare industry.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Scientific background/knowledge
Critical thinking
Strong ability to write
Ability to talk with different groups of people and present data
Networking skills
Tenacity
Ability to learn new things quickly

How did you get your current position?

Networking - I was approached with the position. I did not actively seek it out or apply.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Being active outside the lab - memberships in scientific societies, volunteering in those societies, volunteering in my divisions and departments
Networking
Taken on leadership roles
Taking in house NIH training - management, leadership
Reviewing manuscripts
Interacting with top scientists

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

You can't just work for the thrill of the chase. You need to produce great work in a timely fashion once you get the project. You need to learn how to effectively blend client satisfaction with high scientific ethics. Sometimes this means telling the client "no". Don't promise what you can't deliver. This way you become a trusted adviser and a preferred vendor. You need to like to talk to people and really learn to listen to the verbal and non verbal communications.

Anything else?

I thought I would really miss being away from the bench. Although I do miss it at times, now I get to see all the new breakthroughs without the long nights and weekends and help get them directly to the patients.

Aubrey Smith

Associate Professor
Montgomery College-Rockville
aubrey.smith@montgomerycollege.edu

Where is your highest degree from? Howard University, Biochemistry, 2005

Other degrees: York College-CUNY B.S. in Chemistry

What is your current role/responsibility?

I teach a biology course for biology majors as well as a course for non-majors. I also serve as the course coordinator for the general biology course. I am also an undergraduate research PI/mentor.

What skills make you successful in this job?

My job requires a genuine interest in undergraduate science education, and the desire to mentor future scientists and health care providers.

How did you get your current position?

I got my job by responding to a job announcement that was posted on the college's web site.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Teaching as a TA

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Be flexible and consider a career where education is the main responsibility. A career as a professor in a 2-year institution (or another PUI) allows for a very good work/life balance and there may be opportunities to pursue research projects. Hone your skills by working as an adjunct instructor.

Andrew Smith

Scientific Grants Manager
Susan G. Komen
alsmith310@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? Vanderbilt University, Cancer Biology, 2011

Other degrees: Loyola University in Maryland, 2004

What is your current role/responsibility? My primary responsibilities can be divided into "pre-award" and "post-award." In "pre-award" I manage the peer review of new grant applications. This includes identifying the appropriate scientists and patient advocates to peer review applications, administratively reviewing applications and assigning the appropriate reviewers, and ensuring all reviewers submit their critiques in a timely manner. In addition, I organize and manage a peer review meeting (either in person or via teleconference) during which the strongest applications are discussed, and final funding recommendations are made. All of this is done in collaboration with a senior breast cancer expert serving as chair of the review committee. In "post-award" I manage a portfolio of between 60-80 active breast cancer research grants, including post-doctoral fellowship awards, early career awards, and R01-scale awards. In this capacity, my responsibilities include reviewing annual scientific progress reports and financial reports to ensure the research projects are staying on track. I also review any requests for changes in grant status (e.g. a grantee moves institutions, changes their research plan, etc).

What skills make you successful in this job? Communication and personal skills are critical for this position, as you work with a variety of people and personalities both within your team and your grantees. Multi-tasking is a must, as you will have multiple projects and responsibilities at any given time. Along those lines, you need to be able to work independently to make sure you are meeting deadlines for your projects. A strong scientific background is needed. In particular, you will need to be comfortable reviewing science that is outside of your graduate/postdoc training. You will also need to be able to communicate science in lay language.

How did you get your current position? I found this position through a combination of networking, job listings, and persistence. As a graduate student I knew a couple of postdocs who had taken jobs with Komen. Years later, as I started leaning towards leaving the bench, I reached out to them to learn more about their position, although I was not really looking (and they were not hiring). Several months later, I found an ad for a position at Komen posted on the OITE website, and I applied. I was able to get a screening interview with the recruiter, but did not get the position. However, I kept in touch with the recruiter and my colleagues. A month or 2 later, the recruiter reached out to me regarding another opening, which led to a more in depth phone interview with current staff. I was eventually invited for an in-person interview, and was hired soon after. Throughout the process, I kept contacting the recruiter to see where I was in the process, and kept in touch with my former colleagues to continue to ask questions and make sure I was prepared for the next step.

Any other experiences that led to your success? I was an active member of the NIH Fellows Editorial Board (eventually serving as an Associate Editor), and also did some freelance scientific editing during my postdoc. This proved to be very helpful in getting this job for a number of reasons. It showed I was serious about leaving the bench, demonstrated I could meet hard deadlines, and showed a comfort level with a broad range of scientific topics and documents. As an Associate Editor for the FEB, I was able to demonstrate leadership and experience leading peer review. These skills generated as much interest as my scientific accomplishments. Having applied for a grant in some capacity (including internal NIH awards) is very helpful, as it shows some familiarity with the grant making process.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path? Branch out from the lab. You need to demonstrate that you are serious about leaving the bench, because once you do, there really is no going back. You also need demonstrate the ability to handle administrative tasks and meet hard deadlines. NIH offers a lot of opportunities to do this on campus, through different activities, committees, and details. Make sure you take advantage of these opportunities. Also make sure you talk to as many people as possible about career options. Don't just rely on your mentor and other PIs for advice. Seek out former colleagues, connect with people in positions of interest on LinkedIn, take advantage of OITE. The more you talk to people, the more you will learn about what it takes to be successful in a wide range of jobs.

Anything else? Since I work in a non-profit, I tend to have other duties that are outside my standard job description. For example, I help our communications team write blogs and articles on research, and I am asked to help out at local fundraisers.

Erin Strovel

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics; Director Clinical Biochemical Genetics Laboratory
University of Maryland, Baltimore
estrovel@peds.umaryland.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of Maryland, Baltimore, Human Genetics, 1999

Other degrees: Clinical Genetics Fellowship at NIH 1999-2002

What is your current role/responsibility?

Acts as a Director for a CAP-certified clinical laboratory performing over 2000 tests per year for the diagnosis and management of inborn errors of metabolism, including amino and organic acids, lysosomal storage disorders, galactosemia, and Tay-Sachs carrier detection. Provide interpretation for all test results, with recommendations for follow-up testing and management, when appropriate. Also involved with training of fellows and rotating students, as well as teaching medical students and Masters in genetic counseling students.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Board certification by ABMGG in clinical biochemical genetics. Familiarity with quality control, state and federal regulations. Communication skills (both written and oral) are a must.

How did you get your current position?

I was recruited for my current position.

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Attending National conferences in my field of interest. Getting involved with committees both locally and nationally.

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Be certain to apply for the fellowship positions in advance, as they fill the spots quickly. Teaching is a large component of academic centers. If possible, get teaching experience during graduate school or during your post-doc.

Jeremy Teissere

Stanley Road Professor of Neuroscience
Muhlenberg College
teissere@muhlenberg.edu

Where is your highest degree from? University of Wisconsin - Madison, Neuroscience, 2001

Other degrees: BA, English, Willamette University; Postdoctoral study, Department of Pharmacology, Emory University

What is your current role/responsibility?

Teach ~5 classes per year; Direct an active research laboratory with ~5 students/year; Chair the rapidly growing neuroscience program; Serve on college committees (IACUC, Center for Ethics, Curriculum Task Force); Provide academic advising to neuroscience majors and nonmajors; Serve as an adviser to student clubs

What skills make you successful in this job?

Confidence, creativity, a fierce commitment to the mission and goals of higher education, wearing multiple hats and undergoing lots of costume changes in a single day, restless innovation, broadminded support for educating the whole person, respect for non-science disciplines, ability to draw boundaries, access to decent coffee

How did you get your current position?

Responded to a job posting

Any other experiences that led to your success?

NRSA NIH predoctoral and postdoctoral funding; substantial, independent teaching experience during my graduate and postdoctoral training; peer mentoring at primarily undergraduate institutions (PUI); AAC&U workshops; Society for Neuroscience professional workshops and socials; finding a tenure-track position that trusted my intuition and gave me space in which to innovate

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Think beyond the most literal and superficial definition of what is meant by 'science education' to consider the most innovative, cross-disciplinary, whole-student, high-impact work that you can do in the classroom, the research lab, and in service to the larger goals of the liberal arts; seek out independent teaching experience and demand opportunities to challenge and complicate your ideas about education and build your confidence in mentoring undergraduates

Darshini Trivedi

Medical Writer
MedImmune
darshinibtrivedi@gmail.com

Where is your highest degree from? University of Kentucky, Pharmacology,

What is your current role/responsibility?

Medical writing and regulatory affairs activities relating to the clinical development of biologics for MedImmune's Respiratory, Inflammatory, and Autoimmune Diseases Division.

What skills make you successful in this job?

Writing and editing, communication skills, ability to work in teams, flexibility, ability to deliver documents within tight deadlines, ability to analyze complex data sets.

How did you get your current position?

Networking and job-listing

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Network as much as possible. Ask a lot of questions

Yanbao Yu

Staff Scientist

J. Craig Venter Institute

yayu@jcvl.org

Where is your highest degree from? Fudan University, China, Chemical Biology, 2009

Other degrees: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

What is your current role/responsibility?

1. Develop novel mass spectrometry-based techniques for efficient and high throughput proteome identification and quantification;
2. Study microbiomes and their participation in human physiology with metaproteomic approaches

What skills make you successful in this job?

1. Knowledge of operating, maintaining and troubleshooting of instrumentation.
2. Knowledge of bioinformatics tool for large scale data analysis.
3. Capability of sensing possibility of developing novel techniques.

How did you get your current position?

naturejobs.com

Any other experiences that led to your success?

Knowledge of your field. Nothing else!

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

1. Get ready (very important; knowledge of your field, presentation skill, communication skill);
2. Good luck (secondary important)!

Anything else?

1. No pre-set restriction/limitations; anything that can give you a change is worth trying;
2. God helps those who help themselves!

LEYNA ZHAO

Global Marketing Manager
ACEA Biosciences, Inc.
lzhao@aceabio.com

Where is your highest degree from? The Ohio State University, Chemistry, 2003

Other degrees: The Scripps Research Institute

What is your current role/responsibility?

Global Marketing Manager

1. Setting strategic marketing strategy
2. Design/execute detailed marketing tactics
3. New product design and launch strategy
4. Business development

What skills make you successful in this job?

Scientific knowledge/scope

Problem Solving

Time management

Personal Management

Communication skills

Interpersonal relationships

How did you get your current position?

Job-listing

Any other experiences that led to your success?

What advice would you give to someone who was interested in your career path?

Be flexible, be willing to take on challenges and learn on the job