

2010 International Opportunities Expo Career Discussion Panels – Panelist Biosketch

Developing and Maintaining Global Professional Networks

9:00 – 10:00 am

Main Auditorium

Thomas Mampilly, MPH

International Health Program Officer

Division of International Relations, Fogarty International Center, NIH

Mr. Thomas Mampilly joined the Fogarty International Center in March 2007 with responsibilities covering the Indian Subcontinent, Thailand, and Indonesia. In addition to his regional responsibilities, Mr. Mampilly is leading an FIC-wide Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for global health research. Prior to his work at the NIH, Mr. Mampilly was as an International Health Officer in the Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA), Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where he developed and coordinated policy and program management issues for HHS activities throughout South Asia and South East Asia. Mr. Mampilly has worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an Environmental Health Scientist, the DeKalb County Board of Health as a Research Associate, and in the private sector as an Analytical Chemist. Mr. Mampilly completed a Masters of Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and completed one year of trans-disciplinary coursework on Globalization Studies as a Graduate Fellow supported by Emory University's Center for the Study of Health, Culture and Society. He received his double-major Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences and the Individualized Major Program (India Studies/Environmental Science) from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Izabella Zandberg, PhD

Project Manager

EURAXESS Links USA

Dr. Zandberg is the Project Manager of EURAXESS Links USA – the Network of European Researchers in the United States. She is a social scientist with experience in designing and implementing all phases of research projects. Dr. Zandberg has worked in the areas of health communication, health studies, education policy, intercultural and international communication, mass media effects, cultural studies, and advertising. Her recent work for applied research companies such as Westat and Academy for Educational Development has been mostly on evaluations of federally funded programs. She has authored book chapters, published in professional journals, and presented at international and national conferences on various aspects of qualitative and mixed-method analyses. Dr. Zandberg holds a PhD in Social Science/Mass Communications from the University of Maryland, a MA degree in Mass Communications from Oklahoma State University and a MA degree in Journalism from the University of Warsaw, Poland.

Finding a Job Abroad – Europe and South America

10:10 – 11:10 am

Balcony A

Marek Konarzewski, PhD, DSc

Minister Counselor

Science & Technology Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Poland

Dr. Marek Konarzewski was born in 1961 in Bialystok. He is a native of North-Eastern Poland, where he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in biology at the University of Bialystok (formerly University of Warsaw, Bialystok branch). He pursued his PhD and D.Sc. degrees at the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Ecology, and then returned to the University of Bialystok, after postdoctoral work at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is now a Professor of Biology at the University of Bialystok's Institute of Biology, and at the Polish Academy of Sciences Mammal Research Institute in Bialowieza. In 2010, Dr. Konarzewski was elected as a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since November 2008, Dr. Konarzewski has served as a Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington D.C., where he is the head of the Public Diplomacy section.

Annika Thorsell, PhD

Staff Scientist, Laboratory of Clinical and Translational Studies

Molecular Pathophysiology Section

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH

Dr. Thorsell is currently working as a Staff Scientist within the Laboratory of Clinical and Translational Studies, NIAAA, NIH. Her employment at the NIAAA, NIH began in 2004. Prior to coming to the NIH Dr Thorsell had a post-doctoral research associate position at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, where she studied the involvement of a neuropeptide, neuropeptide Y, in alcohol intake and dependence. Dr Thorsell received her PhD from Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden in 2000 and her MSc from Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden in 1996. Her scientific background includes both molecular methods as well as behavioral pharmacology (rodents) and her research focus is on anxiety/stress-related disorders and addiction-related behaviors.

Eric Kors Vidsiunas, PhD

Area Director for Health Sciences, Scientific Directorate

The State of São Paulo Research Foundation/FAPESP

Dr. Vidsiunas is the Area Director for Health Sciences with the Scientific Directorate at The State of São Paulo Research Foundation/FAPESP, Brazil. Between 2006 and 2007, he worked as project manager at Ybios S/A, where he coordinated multidisciplinary teams comprised of members both from academia and the private sector working in collaborative networks for the development of phytomedicines, functional foods, and cosmeceuticals. In 2005, he joined Alellyx Applied Genomics as a scientific researcher, taking part in the designing and characterization of transgenic plants for commercial purposes. Shortly after his graduation, between 2004 and 2005, Dr. Vidsiunas worked as an associate consultant for McKinsey & Company, Inc., and was involved in projects dealing with process optimization and risk management in the manufacturing and petrochemical industries. From 1998-2004, Dr. Vidsiunas conducted doctoral research at the Institute of Chemistry, University of São Paulo, Brazil, on two key proteins participating in the regulation of skeletal muscle contraction, actin and tropomyosin, with emphasis on protein structure and protein chemistry. He earned his BSc degree in Biotechnological Chemistry in 1997 from the Institute of Chemistry, University of São Paulo, Brazil.

Hot Research Topics World-Wide

10:10 – 11:10 am

Balcony B

Kenneth Bridbord, MD, MPH

Director

Division of International Training and Research (DITR),

Fogarty International Center, NIH

Following receipt of an MD degree from University of Chicago in 1969, Dr. Bridbord completed an internship in pediatrics at Bellevue Hospital/New York University followed by an MPH from Harvard School of Public Health in 1971. Dr. Bridbord has been with the U.S. Government for 39 years, the past 26 years with the Fogarty International Center (FIC), at the NIH. Dr. Bridbord has been Director of the Center's Extramural Programs for the past 16 years. In this capacity, he focused on the support of research training for scientists from developing countries to address global health threats, including HIV/AIDS. Prior to NIH, Dr. Bridbord worked 8 years for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and 4 years at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He is well known for his efforts at EPA to identify health risks from lead in gasoline and for his role in drafting the initial Federal health-based regulation to remove lead from gasoline. This, along with subsequent actions, has dramatically reduced blood-lead levels in the U.S. and many other countries. He was honored for this work with a Silver Medal from EPA in 1975. In 2000, he received the American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for International Scientific Cooperation for his tireless efforts to establish and support programs for combating HIV/AIDS in developing countries. In 2005, Dr. Bridbord was the recipient of the Gano Dunn Award for professional achievement in engineering, industry or finance awarded to a graduate of The Albert Nerken School of Engineering at The Cooper Union. In 2007, Dr. Bridbord received the NIH World AIDS Day Award for his efforts to develop innovative programs to build a cadre of international research scientists and clinicians trained to join the global fight against the AIDS pandemic.

Ben Prickril, PhD

International Programs Officer

Office of International Affairs, National Cancer Institute, NIH

Currently, Dr. Ben Prickril is an International Programs Officer in the National Cancer Institute's Office of International Affairs, working to foster international initiatives toward the fight to alleviate cancer and its attendant pain and suffering. He has served as the chief scientific officer of the World Life Sciences Forum BioVision, held every two years in Lyon, France. He has also served as a technology transfer specialist in the U. S. National Cancer Institute and has been a biotechnology patent examiner for the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office. He has conceived and implemented the Gordon Research Conference on 'Global Aspects of Technology Transfer in Biotechnology' held for the first time in 2003, and has served as a consultant with public and private institutions on technology transfer issues. Dr. Prickril holds a PhD in Bioinorganic Chemistry from the University of Georgia.

Mahendra Rao, MD, PhD
Vice President – Stem Cells
Invitrogen

Mahendra Rao received his MD from Bombay University in India and his PhD in Developmental Neurobiology from the California Institute of Technology. Mahendra Rao is internationally known for his research involving human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and other somatic stem cells and has worked in the stem cell field for more than twenty years with stints in academia, government and regulatory affairs and industry. He has an extensive background teaching medical and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows at institutions including The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, The National Centre for Biological Sciences in Bangalore, India, and the University of Utah, School of Medicine. Dr. Rao has published more than 250 papers on stem cell research and is the co-founder of a neural stem cell company Q therapeutics based in Salt Lake City (Utah). Dr. Rao serves on several editorial boards, review panels scientific advisory boards and company boards. He served as the Chair of the CBER (FDA) advisory committee (CTGTAC) and has served on advisory panels the governments of the U.S., Singapore and India on hESC policy. Dr. Rao continues to work with the FDA and other regulatory authorities on ESC related issues most recently as the CIRM and ISSCR liaison to the ISCT. Dr Rao is currently the Vice president of Research in Regenerative Medicine at Life Technologies and maintains academic and adjunct appointments at several institutes including the Buck Institute on Aging Research. He currently serves on the Board of Thermogenesis a company involved in devices for stem cell processing.

Non-Bench Career Paths Abroad I

10:10 – 11:10 am Balcony C

Sean Sanders, PhD,
Worldwide Commercial Editor & Program Director Outreach
Science/AAAS

Sean Sanders did his undergraduate training at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and his PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK, supported by the Wellcome Trust. Following postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health and Georgetown University, Dr. Sanders joined TranXenoGen, a startup biotechnology company in Massachusetts working on avian transgenics. Pursuing his parallel passion for writing and editing, Dr. Sanders joined BioTechniques as an assistant editor, before joining *Science/AAAS* in 2006. Currently Dr. Sanders is the Worldwide Commercial Editor for the journal Science and Program Director for Outreach.

Naomi Webber, PhD
Deputy Director
Research Councils UK Office in the USA

Dr. Webber is the Deputy Director of the RCUK Office in the USA, based at the British Embassy in Washington DC. The purpose of the RCUK Office in the USA is to represent the seven UK Research Councils (who are the main funders of basic research in the UK) and building research collaboration with US funding agencies. Dr Webber has been in the USA since April 2008. Prior to this, Dr Webber worked at RCUK in the UK from 2002 holding roles as University Relationship Manager, International Officer and Assistant to the Chief Executive. Dr Webber has a PhD in Physical Chemistry (Photophysics of the Chromophore of Green Fluorescent Protein) from the University of East Anglia in the UK and a BSc in Chemical Physics from the University of East Anglia and University of Texas.

Finding a Job Abroad – Asia and the South Pacific

11:20 am – 12:20 pm

Balcony A

Daofen Chen, PhD

Program Director

External Research Program

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH

As a Program Director in Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience at NINDS, Dr. Chen is responsible for identifying research issues and administering a grant portfolio related to sensorimotor functions and integration, focusing especially on basic and clinical sciences of sensorimotor control, neurorehabilitation, and related neurotechnologies. Dr. Chen began his graduate training in neurophysiology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, studied subsequently at University of Fribourg, and received his PhD in Physiology and Biophysics at University of Washington. He then spent four years as an NIH NRSA postdoctoral fellow at the Northwestern University Medical School and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and at the same time completed his clinical training in movement/rehabilitation science there. Prior to joining NINDS, Dr. Chen served on the faculty at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where much of his research has been focused on the cortical and spinal mechanisms of motor control and neural circuit plasticity. He also taught graduate courses on basic and clinical neuroscience, and research designs and methodology.

Rachel Stephen-Smith

Minister-Counsellor (Innovation, Industry, Science and Research)

Embassy of Australia

Washington, DC

Rachel Stephen-Smith represents the Australian Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research within the Embassy of Australia in Washington DC. Her office aims to promote Australia's strategic interests and capabilities in science and technology, innovation and research, with a focus on collaboration between Australia and North America. Between 2007 and 2009, Rachel was Chief of Staff to the Australian Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon Kim Carr. This followed three years as Senator Carr's Principal Adviser, working across the policy areas of industry and innovation, science and research, housing and urban development, local government and Indigenous affairs. Prior to this, Rachel worked in a number of policy roles in the public service and non-government sector. Rachel has an honors degree in economics from the Australian National University.

Amita N. Vyas, PhD, MHS

Assistant Professor, Department of Prevention and Community Health

Director, Maternal and Child Health Program

President and Founder, Global India Fund

George Washington University School of Public Health & Health Services

Dr. Vyas is an Assistant Professor & Director of the Maternal & Child Health masters in public health program in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, and holds an adjunct appointment with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Vyas is a public health scientist whose primary research focuses on reproductive and sexual health. Dr. Vyas received both her Masters in Demography and a Doctorate in Population and Family Health from Johns Hopkins University where she earned awards for outstanding academic achievement and scholarship. At George Washington University, Dr. Vyas teaches Reproductive Health: US and Global Perspectives, Adolescent Health & Development, Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health, and Management Approaches to Public Health. Currently, Dr. Vyas is conducting research on neighborhood, family, and individual-level influences on reproductive health among urban adolescents and young adults; coping and risk behaviors among HIV positive urban youth; and health care access and behaviors among South Asians living in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Dr. Vyas has given lectures and speeches around the country including Capitol Hill and was the Chair for "Partnerships in Health," an advocacy briefing and event on Capitol Hill aimed at promoting public-private partnerships to address HIV/AIDS in India. Dr. Vyas served as President of the Network of South Asian Professionals-Washington D.C., an organization of over 1000 members committed to providing networking, professional development, political education, and community service opportunities to those interested in South Asian related affairs; Dr. Vyas was a founding board member of the South Asian Public Health Association, where she edited the first ever "Brown Paper"--a literature review on the state of South Asian American health issues with the purpose of establishing an agenda for future research and policy; and currently serves on the Board for DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. In 2007, Dr. Vyas founded the Global India Fund, a non-profit organization committed to inspiring global philanthropy by providing secure and transparent giving options to individual and corporate donors. GIF showcases the work of credible non-profit organizations in India and empowers donors to choose which organizations to support.

Non-Bench Career Paths Abroad II

11:20 am – 12:20 pm

Balcony C

Walderez Dutra, PhD

Professor

Department of Morphology, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

NIH Alumni Association – Brazil, Regulatory Affairs

Dr. Walderez O. Dutra is a Full Professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) in the Department of Morphology in Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil, where she runs her national and internationally funded laboratory. She is a research fellow for the Brazilian government scientific funding agency, CNPq, and holds a position as Adjunct Senior Researcher at SRI International in Menlo Park, CA. She has been working in human infectious and parasitic diseases for 15 years and obtained her PhD at UFMG, with Drs. Juçara Parra and Giovanni Gazzinelli. Part of her training was performed at DNAX Research Institute in Palo Alto, CA with Dr. Robert Coffman working on Th1 and

Th2 cells in human Chagas disease. She also was a Visiting Associate Professor at Stanford University in 2006–2007, with Drs. Len and Lee Herzenberg, where she worked on intracellular signaling via flow cytometry in human Chagas disease. Dr. Dutra's work has focused on deciphering cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease development focusing on the role of cytokines and leukocyte subpopulation in Chagas disease, leishmaniasis and periodontal disease, with a special emphasis on identifying markers for disease progression. Dr. Walderez is a member of the NIH Alumni Association – Brazil Chapter in regulatory affairs.

Astrid-Christina Koch, PhD
Counselor

Delegation of the European Union to the USA

Dr. Koch is currently Counselor for the *Science, Technology & Education* section at the Delegation of the European Union to the USA in Washington, D.C. Prior to this assignment, Dr. Koch worked as Program Officer for Advanced Materials in the Research Directorate of the European Commission, which resulted in EC-NSF coordinated actions in Material Sciences. Before joining the European Commission, she worked as Senior Managing Scientific Officer in the German Ministry of Finance in Bonn; and as Customs Chemist and lecturer at the German Science & Training Center in Hamburg. Dr. Koch holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from Kiel University, Germany.

Xiaoping Wang, PhD
Senior Energy Specialist
The World Bank

Dr. Wang's professional interests include efficient supply and use of energy, urban and rural energy access, renewable energy and energy sector policies. She has been working in the energy sector for 15 years, including the Chinese government, UNDP and The World Bank. Her operational experience includes managing projects in Asian and Latin American countries to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy markets, enhance power utility efficiency, and increase rural access to energy services. Her research includes quantifying environmental impacts of different energy technologies and making policy recommendations for embarking on a more sustainable, cleaner energy path. Xiaoping holds a BA in chemistry from Nanjing University, China; a Masters Degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University, USA, and a PhD in Public Policy from Princeton University, USA.