26th ANNUAL

NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

On-Site Event: EPA Campus, Building C

3799 Hopson Road, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Friday, April 5, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT

One-on-One Consultations

Organized by the NIEHS Trainees' Assembly

Sponsored by the NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development

NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

National Institutes of Health • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Table of Contents

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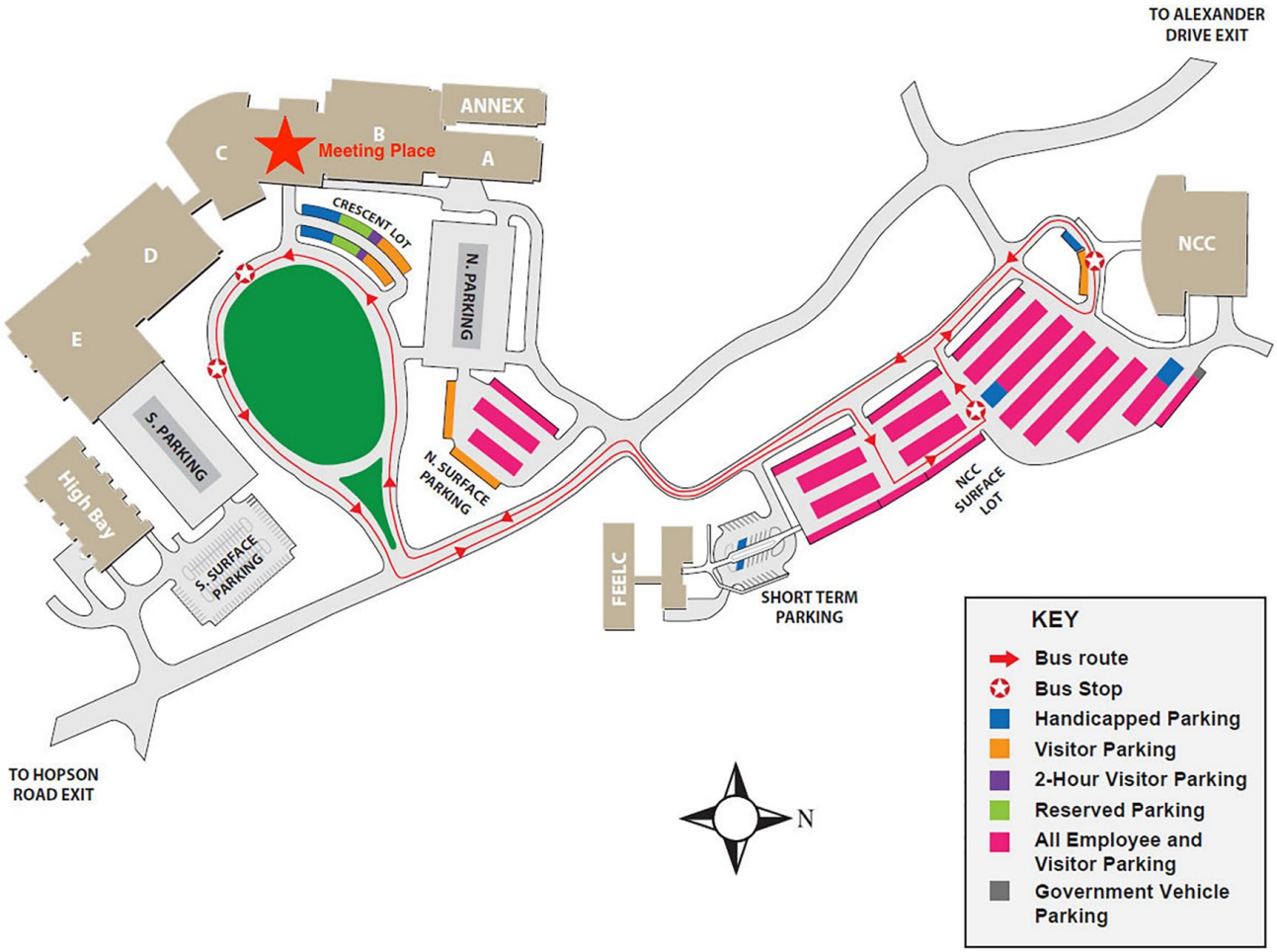
NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

Agenda-at-a-Glance

Development Workshops | **Career Panels** | **Network Opportunities**

	C111A	C111B	C111C	C112	C113	C114	B Atrium	Cafeteria
7:45 – 8:45 a.m.	Check-in							
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	**Welcome and Opening**							
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	**Keynote Address: Rob Dunn, Ph.D. Imagining Success That Spans Disciplines: Lessons from Belly Buttons, Climate Change, Sourdough Bread, and Face Mites**							
10:00 – 10:20 a.m.	Break							**CV/ Resume Review Consultation**
Session One 10:20 – 11:20 a.m.	**Negotiation Skills: How to Negotiate a Job Offer** Lori Conlan, Ph.D.			**Positions in Academia**	**Thriving in Turbulence: A StressProof Workshop** Ryan McCann	**Alternative Career Pathways**	**Exhibit Browsing**	
11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch							**Networking Lunch**
Session Two 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	**Taking Your Science to Court: A Forensic Practitioner's Journey and Career Perspective** Max Noureddine, Ph.D.			**Industry**	**Building a Professional Image: Your Online Footprint** Rebekah Layton, Ph.D.	**Careers in Science Communica-tion**	**Exhibit Browsing**	**CV/ Resume Review Consultation**
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Break							
Session Three 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	**What Does It Take to Land a Government Job?** J'Ingrid Mathis			**Risk Assessment and Science Advisory**	**Unexpected Outcomes in Forensic Casework** Max Noureddine, Ph.D.	**Data Science, Biostatistics, and Bioinformatics**		
2:45 – 3:50 p.m.	Break							
Session Four 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	**Career Planning for International Scientists (covering both industry and academic transitions)** Lori Conlan, Ph.D.			**Opportuni-ties in the Federal Government**	**Sagacious Seminars: Embracing Storytelling in the Sciences** Briana Foley	**Clinical Research**		


TO ALEXANDER DRIVE EXIT
ANNEX
B
Meeting Place
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CRESCENT LOT
N. PARKING
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S. PARKING
High Bay
S. SURFACE PARKING
N. SURFACE PARKING
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SHORT TERM PARKING
TO HOPSON ROAD EXIT
N
KEY
Bus route
Bus Stop
Handicapped Parking
Visitor Parking
2-Hour Visitor Parking
Reserved Parking
All Employee and Visitor Parking
Government Vehicle Parking


Auditorium
(C111)
C
(Seats 100)
B
(Seats 100)
A
(Seats 100)
Classroom C
(C112) Seats 45
Classroom B
(C114) Seats 45
Classroom A
(C113) Seats 55
Audio Visual Main Office
Restrooms
Telephones/ ATMs
Elevators
Stairs from Main Entrance on 2nd Floor
Main Entrance to Lakeside Café
For more details, call the Conference Center Manager 919.541.4114
For more information about EPA's RTP campus, please visit our web site:
www.epa.gov/rtp
Lakeside Café
Patio

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National Institute of
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Website: https://www.niehs.nih.gov

April 5, 2024

Dear Career Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, I welcome you to the 26th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium! The events provide postdoctoral fellows, postbaccalaureate fellows, and graduate students a unique opportunity to explore numerous career paths, including academia, industry, science communication, data science, business development, consulting, and more.

With the event returning to an in-person venue, this is a unique opportunity to make connections and continue to pave your path toward professional success. Today, take advantage and build your network, which is essential for any career pathway in the biomedical sciences. As we welcome you back in person, this event is an excellent opportunity to gain important contacts to assist you in your pursuit of a career in the biomedical sciences.

I encourage you to take full advantage of today's events, including development workshops, career panels, the exhibition space, and the multitude of experiences available to you. Use these networking opportunities to establish new connections that will serve you well on your professional journey.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the co-chairs, the many volunteers, and the Office of Fellows' Career Development for making today's event possible!

Enjoy the experiences you have today, and I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Rick Woychik, Ph.D.
Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
and National Toxicology Program

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April 5, 2024

Dear Career Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the NIEHS Division of Intramural Research, I welcome you to the 26th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. We are proud to host this event, which is one of the largest assemblies of biomedical organizations and junior scientists in North Carolina.

Today's event offers participants an opportunity to learn about numerous career pathways, including academic, government, and industry-based careers. In addition, the return to an in-person event offers participants a chance to connect with other fellows, panelists, speakers, and exhibitors. The event also offers an outstanding opportunity to build your professional network. Building your network will help you find new opportunities and is essential to anyone wishing to pursue a career in the biomedical sciences.

I suggest that you take full advantage of the panels and workshops today, as these connections may lead to job opportunities and professional development. The Career Symposium offers a diverse range of career panels, one-on-one CV/resume reviews with professionals, exhibitor sessions, and career-guiding workshops. The sessions today allow for a safe and encouraging space for networking, learning, and exploration with options in various biomedical fields.

It is noteworthy that the event is entirely trainee-led; it is organized by postdoctoral, predoctoral, and postbaccalaureate fellows at the NIEHS and the EPA. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all the committee members who are fully committed to experiences and opportunities for fellow trainees. Specifically, I would like to thank the 2024 NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium Co-Chairs Victoria Ledbetter and Puja Sohal, and the many committee members and volunteers. Additionally, I would like to thank the numerous NIEHS staff members who were involved in making the event a success, including staff in the NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development and staff/contractors in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison.

Enjoy the day, profit from your time here, and best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Darryl C. Zeldin MD

Darryl Zeldin, M.D.
Scientific Director

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Dear Participants of the 2024 Career Symposium,

It is once again my honor to include the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) to the list of sponsors for the Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium! DERT is the 'grantmaking' arm of NIEHS, overseeing our research portfolio of more than $500 million in grant awards to institutions around the country, and, indeed, around the globe. This research portfolio covers all aspects of the environmental health sciences landscape from fundamental technology and methods development to mechanistic research to epidemiology, as well as dissemination and implementation research. We include research on nearly every human disease and the effects of the environment on every organ system.

It is, indeed, a very broad portfolio. None of our programs, however, are as important as our commitment to supporting individuals as they progress through their professional pathway. We support programs that encourage environmental health sciences in high schools, undergraduate, graduate, postdoc, and early career stages. We support short-term training to encourage established researchers to gain new skills, and we support programs like the RIVER program to encourage well-established investigators to follow their research in new and unexpected areas, emphasizing risk over incremental advances.

I was heartened when our leadership team had discussions about how we would prepare for what promises to be a challenging funding year this year; we unanimously agreed that we would maintain our investment in our trainees and career development programs while making reductions in other areas we support.

My colleagues in DERT and I are all eager to get to know you all, to learn about your research, and to discuss opportunities to support you as you grow and establish yourselves as the future of the environmental health sciences!

Regards,
David Balshaw, Ph.D.
Acting Director, Division of Extramural Research and Training

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Colleagues,

Congratulations for taking an active role in managing your career progression. You are at an exciting time in your life, and I encourage you to engage it fully. Attending this important event is one way to engage it, which will pay dividends long past the dates you attend. Most of us have experienced careers that we couldn't have predicted or imagined when we were in your shoes. That uncertainty can be a bit unnerving, but it can also be exciting. Embrace the excitement!

The world of biomedical research is rapidly evolving with evermore opportunities to explore and contributions to make. We now live in a country where professionals from around the world can collaborate to achieve amazing results that cannot be achieved alone, and which will have the greatest impact. Take the time to meet as many people as possible who have shared interests with your career wishes and stay engaged and have fun along the way.

Consider this event your chance to learn more about the many opportunities available, learn from the experiences of others, and build your professional network. A large part of your future success will be predicated on your active investment in growing your career.

Good luck to you. I'm looking forward to watching and benefiting from the contributions you'll make!

Robert,

Robert C. Sills, D.V.M, Ph.D., D.A.C.V.P., Fellow IATP
Acting Scientific Director, Division of Translational Toxicology

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April 5, 2024

Dear Career Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development, I am very pleased to welcome each of you to the 26th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. We are delighted to host the event in person, a first for many of our attendees. We are excited to continue bringing forth opportunities for postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and postbaccalaureate fellows to explore a diverse range of career pathways. Today, it is the moment to start building new connections and expanding your professional network.

This annual event would not be possible without the direction, commitment, and leadership of trainees from NIEHS! Each participant today is a beneficiary of a collective effort that spanned the planning and organization of this entire online event. We are very grateful and would like to acknowledge the dedication, tireless efforts, and collaborative spirit that was on full display by the NIEHS fellows leading up to this symposium. I would like to acknowledge the 2024 co-chairs of the organizing committee, Victoria Ledbetter and Puja Sohal, for their leadership and guidance, and for continuing the rich tradition of the NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium! I would also like to extend my gratitude to committee chairs: Arts, Photography, and Booklet: Meklit Tesfaye and Alanna Stewart, Career Panel: Haesoo Kim, CV/Resume Review: Molly Rogers, and Exhibitor Committee: Dongwon Lee. We appreciate all the committee members, day-of volunteers, and the more than 20 fellows from NIEHS and EPA for their diligent efforts in organizing this event! I also would like to thank the OFCD team (Hong Xu, Katherine Hamilton, and Edith Lee) for their support. A big thank you to Office of Communications and Public Liaison for their contributions.

We are very lucky that this venue provides participants with opportunities to connect with others. Come ready to participate in workshops to learn about various career paths, how to network, and more. Come ready to participate and ask questions during career panel discussions about academia, industry, clinical research, data science, and science communication. Come ready to build your network with biomedical professionals, speak directly with hiring managers, and receive one-on-one advice in a CV/resume review.

To each of you participating over the next few days, I wish you continued success and look forward to seeing you make a positive impact in career paths that are as diverse as you.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Arana, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

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April 5, 2024

Dear Symposium Attendees,

On behalf of the planning committee, we extend our warmest welcome to you as we kick off the (in-person) 26th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium! We are thrilled to have you join us for what promises to be an inspiring and informative event regarding career pathways.

Every year, this symposium is planned by NIEHS and EPA fellows, but we could not hold this event without the support of the Office of Fellows' Career Development and the NIEHS web team. This symposium provides a platform for fellows to learn and explore the diverse career options in the biomedical sciences. It also provides an opportunity for fellows at all educational levels to directly interact with biomedical professionals. This kind of networking is important for securing positions in different professional pathways, like academia or industry.

During the symposium, and in addition to our introductory keynote speaker, there will be workshops in which biomedical professionals will share their stories about startups, industry careers, and government jobs. Other workshops will offer advice on job offer negotiation skills, career planning for international fellows, and wellness and stress reduction. There will be interactive career panel discussions, industry exhibitions, and one-on-one CV/resume consultations. We encourage you to take an active role in these activities. Ask questions to learn about your career path options. Take advantage of CV/resume consultations with professionals, which will help you construct your CV/resume to attract the attention of hiring managers.

We encourage you to take the opportunity to connect with new people and to broaden your personal and professional network in this Career Symposium throughout the day. We hope you will feel inspired by this event and the different career options it introduces. We wish you best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Victoria Puja

Victoria Ledbetter, B.S., Puja Sohal, Ph.D.
Co-Chairs, 26th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium

Friday, April 5, 2024

WELCOME (8:45 – 9:00 a.m.)

Trevor Archer, Ph.D., Deputy Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Mercedes Arana, Ph.D., Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Victoria Ledbetter and **Puja Sohal, Ph.D.**, Co-Chairs, NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Robert Dunn, Ph.D. (9:00 –10:00 a.m.)

Imagining Success That Spans Disciplines: Lessons From Belly Buttons, Climate Change, Sourdough Bread, and Face Mites

NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Friday, April 5, 2024 (9:00 – 10:00 a.m.)

Imagining Success That Spans Disciplines: Lessons From Belly Buttons, Climate Change, Sourdough Bread, and Face Mites

Robert Dunn, Ph.D.

Senior Vice Provost

University Interdisciplinary Program

North Carolina State University

Keynote Abstract

Rob Dunn is an ecologist and evolutionary biologist by training. He was trained disciplinarily to study the essential rules of the living world. Initially, the focus of his research was on those rules as they applied to tropical insect communities. But as he embarked on his career, he iteratively and clumsily began to realize that his professional strengths lie not in narrow disciplinary work, but instead in making connections across disciplines. This would eventually lead him to begin to study insects in cities, with the public, then microbes in cities, then, when he finally began to listen to the public, the life in foods, such as beers, sourdough bread, yogurt, and kimchi. In a wide-ranging talk, Dunn shares 10 lessons from these experiences. Some of these lessons come from successes, but most of them come from failures. Dunn is now the senior vice provost of University Interdisciplinary Programs at NC State, where he has a chance to help others work in ways that don't fit into the narrow disciplines of academia.

Speaker Bio

Robert Dunn, Ph.D., is the senior vice provost of University Interdisciplinary Programs and a Reynolds Professor in Applied Ecology at North Carolina State University. As senior vice provost, he oversees efforts to spur interdisciplinary scholarship, education, and public engagement at NC State. As a scholar, he studies the ecology and evolution of societies and the species with which they interact. This has included projects on the global ecology of sourdough bread, the evolution of sour taste, and the origin of yogurt microbes, among many others. Dunn has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and more than a hundred magazine and newspaper articles. He has published seven books, including, most recently, "A Natural History of the Future" and, with Monica Sanchez, "Delicious: The Evolution of Flavor and How It Made Us Human."

Session One (10:20 –11:20 a.m.)

In this session, the "How to Negotiate a Job Offer" workshop equips individuals with essential negotiation skills for securing favorable employment terms. The "Thriving in Turbulence: A StressProof Workshop" focuses on maintaining mental and physical health in the professional sphere. Career panel discussions, "Positions in Academia" and "Alternative Career Pathways" provide insights on traditional academic roles and diverse career trajectories beyond academia, guiding attendees in shaping their professional journeys.

WORKSHOP #1 (Room C111– ABC | 10:20 – 11:20 a.m.)

Negotiation Skills: How to Negotiate a Job Offer

Lori Conlan, Ph.D.

Deputy Director,

Office of Intramural Training and Education

National Institutes of Health

Email: conlanlo@nih.gov

This session will cover the basics of what to look for in a job offer and how to negotiate the offer (if you should even negotiate). We will also cover how to make the transition to your new job easier by planning ahead. Topics will include salary ranges, what to look for in the benefits package, and surviving your first 90 days

Speaker Bio

Lori Conlan, Ph.D., is deputy director of the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education. Conlan is passionate about career, professional, and wellness/resilience development for biomedical trainees. As deputy director, she takes a comprehensive lens to policies and programs for all 6,000 NIH intramural trainees, including summer interns, postbacs, graduate students, postdocs, and fellows. She speaks on leadership, management, and career development topics for young scientists and principal investigators to improve the culture of science for all. Conlan started her career as a biochemist, receiving her B.S. in biochemistry from Michigan State University, her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Texas A&M University, and completed a postdoc at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health.

CAREER PANEL #1 (Room C112 | 10:20 – 11:20 a.m.)

Positions in Academia

Stephanie Padilla, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Silvio Antoniak, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Sharonda LeBlanc, Ph.D. (North Carolina State University)

Robert Poage, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina at Pembroke)

Are you interested in guiding and mentoring the next generation of science communicators, researchers, and doctors? Often, the first steps of a young scientist start in the classroom, which is why teaching is considered to be one of the most personally fulfilling careers out there. However, it may be mystifying to both early and late career scientists as to how to infiltrate the landscape of academia when one doesn't know the full scope of positions available. This session will highlight the possible career progression of scientists interested in academia — preparing for the role, the job search, interviewing, and negotiating a startup package. The panelists will also discuss the ins and outs of teaching.

Panelists:

Stephanie Padilla, Ph.D., is a research toxicologist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and an Adjunct Professor at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research focuses on the use of zebrafish as a model for developmental neurotoxicity screening, with an emphasis on assessing the effects of chemicals on the developing nervous system. Padilla has contributed significantly to the field, with publications addressing methodologies for rapid screening of chemical libraries, inconsistencies in behavioral assays, and the utility of alternative models in toxicology. Her work aims to advance high-throughput testing strategies and improve our understanding of chemical impacts on neurodevelopment. *Email: padilla.stephanie@epa.gov*

Silvio Antoniak, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of pathology at the UNC Blood Research Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology from the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg in Halle, Germany. He obtained his Master of Science in biology at the Humboldt University of Berlin, and his Ph.D. in biological sciences at the Free University of Berlin. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the UNC McAllister Heart Institute in Chapel Hill. His research is aimed to understand the role of the blood coagulation cascade and platelets in heart failure, lung injury, and immune responses to viral and bacterial infections. *Email: silvio_antoniak@med.unc.edu*

Sharonda LeBlanc, Ph.D., earned her Ph.D. in nanoscale science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2012, where she explored the effects of proximal electric fields on single quantum dot fluorescence using time-resolved confocal microscopy. She moved on to a postdoc at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2014 – 2020), where she used single molecule Förster/fluorescence resonance energy transfer (smFRET) to study protein–nucleic acid interactions involved in DNA repair. As a postdoc, she spent half of her time working at North Carolina State University with Professor Keith Weninger, Ph.D. LeBlanc joined the NC State physics faculty as an assistant professor in fall 2020. *Email: sleblan@ncsu.edu*

Robert Poage, Ph.D., is a professor and the RISE co-director at UNC-Pembroke. After completing doctoral training at the University of Florida and a pretty standard postdoctoral stint (University of Pittsburgh), he did not have a handle on what to do next, so he stayed at Pitt and evolved into a super-postdoc. The science was interesting, the area was cool, the family had grown, yet the path forward remained hazy. An ad in the back of a magazine (Science) brought Poage's attention to a small state system school that was looking for an unusual faculty position with responsibilities split between research, teaching, and distance education using active learning. (It was 2003. Zoom was a twinkle in someone's Pentium 3 processor). Since then, he has enjoyed small classes, a way diverse student body, and research on a smaller scale at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Poage's work uses spatially and temporally accurate computational models of presynaptic nerve terminal physiology. Ask him about: running an NIH training grant as a new assistant professor; doing electrophysiology next door to train tracks, and ideas from underserved rural communities that can improve the world.

WORKSHOP #2 (Room C113 | 10:20 – 11:20 a.m.)

Thriving in Turbulence: A StressProof Workshop

Ryan McCann, B.S.

Lead Instructor

STRESSPROOF

Email: ryan@stressproof-online.com

This StressProof workshop is an introduction to an alternative approach to stress management, focusing on rapid physical intervention and empowering attendees with an increased sense of awareness, control, and agency over their own stress response. You will walk away with actionable strategies and skills that have an immediate impact on how you respond to stress.

Speaker Bio

Ryan McCann, B.S., the lead instructor of STRESSPROOF, has dedicated more than a decade of his study experience to connecting the mind and body for the purpose of stress inoculation. He earned a B.S. in engineering from North Carolina State University and has enjoyed a rich and varied career in leadership, sales, quality engineering, and project management across a range of technical industries. In parallel to this, he spent 11 years studying martial arts and the last six years studying conflict, conditioning, and combat with elite military trainers. This diverse range of experiences has equipped him with a deep understanding of the challenges that individuals face in high-stress jobs and the importance of stress resilience.

CAREER PANEL #2 (Room C114 | 10:20 – 11:20 a.m.)

Alternative Career Pathways

Ashley Yeager, M.Sc. (Science News)

Mandeep (Muno) Sekhon, M.P.H. (Burroughs Wellcome Fund)

Tamara Poles, M.Ed. (SciCom Consulting LLC)

Toccara Chamberlain, M.A. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Join this engaging career panel on alternative career pathways in the biomedical field. The panelists will illuminate diverse roles beyond traditional research and clinical positions. Discover how your skills can align with careers in grant administration, regulatory affairs, medical writing, and more. This session is perfect for those looking to explore unconventional roles that drive innovation and impact biomedical research and health care. Gain insights, ask questions, and network with professionals who have carved unique paths in the biomedical landscape.

Panelists:

Ashley Yeager, M.Sc., is an associate news editor at Science News. Previously, she worked at The Scientist, where she was an associate editor for nearly three years. She has also worked as a freelance editor and writer and as a writer at the Simons Foundation, Duke University, and the W. M. Keck Observatory. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a master's degree in science writing from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her book, "Bright Galaxies, Dark Matter, and Beyond," which is based on the life of astronomer Vera Rubin, was published by MIT Press in August 2021. *Email: ashleyjeanyeager@gmail.com*

Mandeep (Muno) Sekhon, M.P.H., is the associate communications and special projects officer at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF), specializing in strategic planning, project management, and communication. She has a Master of Public Health in organizational leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Arts in biology and Spanish from Washington University in St. Louis. With more than six years of experience at BWF, Sekhon's extensive background also includes roles at IQVIA, GSK, and Washington University, showcasing her expertise in project coordination, clinical feasibility, and laboratory management. Her multifaceted skill set encompasses strategic partnerships, writing, and program administration. *Email: msekhon@bwfund.org*

Tamara Poles, M.Ed., the founder and CEO of SciCom Consulting LLC. She also serves as the accessibility director for the Association of Science Communicators and is on the Artistic Advisory Board for Story Collider. Previously, she was the director of programs at Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society. Poles discovered her passion at Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, where she implemented IMPACTS, the first statewide science communication training program. Her work has changed the lives of more than 500 scientists. Thanks to her, in less than four years, IMPACTS scientists engaged more than 48,000 North Carolinians, 17,000 of whom were schoolchildren. Her work has attracted national and international recognition, in addition to a $1 million grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. Her most recent peer-reviewed publication, "Beads and Biomes: A Hands-On Classroom Activity for Understanding the Effects of Antibiotics on the Microbiome," is in the December 2021 volume of The American Biology Teacher. *Email: tamarapoles@scicomconsultingllc.com*

Toccara Chamberlain, M.A., is a health specialist in the Population Health Branch at NIEHS. She provides evaluative support to multiple programs, including the Powering Research Through Innovative Methods for Mixtures in Epidemiology (PRIME) and the Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers programs. In addition to evaluation activities, Chamberlain manages the Keystone Science Lecture Seminar Series and is the new program manager for the R13/U13 Conference Grant and Time-Sensitive Research programs. She also performs other ad hoc analysis for PHB and DERT and is involved with several internal committees and working groups. Prior to coming to NIEHS, Chamberlain completed the Presidential Management Fellows program at NIH and worked at the National Institute on Aging in their Office of Legislation, Policy, and International Activities. She completed her M.A. in clinical mental health counseling from Webster University and has a certificate in Clinical Addictions Counseling from East Carolina University. Chamberlain also served in the United States Army on active duty and as a reservist for12 years. *Email: toccara.chamberlain@nih.gov*

EXHIBIT BROWSING (B Atrium | 10:00 – 11:20 a.m.)

Representatives from several companies and professional organizations in the area can be found in the B Atrium. Be sure to ask them about their work and the types of jobs available for masters- and Ph.D.-level scientists. HR representatives and exhibitors are not conducting interviews or accepting applications during the career symposium, but knowing someone on the inside can be very valuable when it is time to apply for a position. See our list of exhibitors starting on page 34.

NETWORKING LUNCH (Cafeteria | 11:20 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.)

Lunch is a great opportunity for informal networking! Panelists, workshop presenters, and exhibitors will be attending, so feel free to introduce yourself to them and learn more about their careers, experiences, and organizations.

Session Two (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

In session includes enlightening workshops such as "Taking Your Science to Court" and "LinkedIn: Do's and Don'ts Post-Pandemic." Additionally, thought-provoking panel discussions on "Industry Career" and "Careers in Science Communication" provided diverse perspectives, empowering participants with valuable insights into various career paths and effective professional strategies.

WORKSHOP #3 (Room C111– ABC | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Taking Your Science to Court: A Forensic Practitioner's Journey and Career Perspective

Maher "Max" Noureddine, Ph.D., M.S., D-ABC

President

ForensiGen LL

Email: mnoureddine@forensigen.com

If you are a classically trained scientist, contemplating work independence and getting involved in an alternate career path are both exciting and daunting. This workshop will offer a perspective on coupling education and experience with unmet needs to build an offering or practice, even in an unfamiliar discipline. You will hear more about how the presenter detoured from basic research to offer services to the legal system in areas of forensic science and criminal investigations.

Speaker Bio

Max Noureddine earned his Ph.D. in molecular genetics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Duke University Center for Human Genetics, where he focused on modeling Parkinson's disease and other human genetic disorders. In 2005, Noureddine was a research fellow at NIEHS, where he studied the tumor suppressor gene p53 and genomic variations that confer cancer susceptibility in humans. Between 2007 and 2011, he served as chief science officer at Thought Leader Select LLC, where he led consulting projects for the top global pharmaceutical companies in various therapeutic areas. In 2011, he established ForensiGen LLC, a consulting company that specializes in forensic DNA and serology evidence evaluation, interpretation, evidence testing, and research, as well as developing education for law professionals. Noureddine has served as an expert witness on numerous criminal and civil cases involving DNA and serology evidence in state and federal courts. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Criminalistics and a member of the International Society of Forensic Genetics, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the American Society of Human Genetics, and the International Association for Identification. He is also an adjunct teaching faculty in the Department of Forensic Science at Radford University in Virginia.

CAREER PANEL #3 | *Industry* (Room C112 | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Sarah Thacker, Ph.D. (SpringWorks Therapeutics)
Heeren Gordhan, Ph.D. (SpringWorks Therapeutics)
Janardhan Marupalli, M.Tech. (IQVIA)
Joseph Dahl, Ph.D. (BioSkryb Genomics Inc.)
Kirsten Hoff, Ph.D. (FUJIFILM Diosynth Biotechnologies)

This career panel will explore the dynamic world of biomedical industry positions. The panel will feature industry professionals who will share insights on their roles, how they got there, the skills required, and the latest trends shaping the field. Whether you are interested in research and development, regulatory affairs, or sales and marketing within the biomedical sector, this panel will provide valuable information and networking opportunities. Learn about the challenges and rewards of a career in this innovative field and discover how you can contribute to advancements in the biomedical industry.

Panelists:

Sarah Thacker, Ph.D., is an in vitro pharmacology senior scientist II at SpringWorks Therapeutics in Durham, N.C. She earned her Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from the Eshelman School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Washington College. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Drug Safety Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill (formerly a part of the Hamner Institutes) and has worked previously in industry at a small startup biotech, Vitrisa Therapeutics, and a large global biotech, Lonza. Currently at SpringWorks Therapeutics, Thacker is part of the drug discovery team that develops and screens novel molecules for their therapeutic potential against cancers and rare diseases. She utilizes her experience with biochemical and cell-based assay development to help build this screening funnel and to enable the advancement of promising drug candidates. *Email: sarah.thacker@springworkstx.com*

Heeren Gordhan, Ph.D., is a senior scientist at SpringWorks Therapeutics. He obtained a B.S./M.S. in chemistry at Furman University and a Ph.D. in organic/medicinal chemistry at Clemson University, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Notre Dame. In 2018, he joined Aerie Pharmaceuticals (formerly Alcon), an eye care company, focusing on small molecule drug design leading to a development candidate. He joined SpringWorks at the end of 2023, working on small molecule design and synthesis of anti-cancer agents. *Email: heeren.gordhan@springworkstherapeutics.com*

Janardhan Marupalli, M.Tech., excels as an engineering lead, adept at building and leading global cross-functional teams of 60+ professionals. He specializes in data engineering, data science, cloud infrastructure, and full-stack development, particularly within the regulated pharma domain (GxP). With 22+ years of experience, Marupalli has successfully managed complex product deliveries with budgets up to $8 million. Over the past 18+ years, he has spearheaded transformative initiatives at IQVIA and GSK, shaping foundational applications, such as clinical analytics and Artificial Intelligence as a Service. His leadership extends to driving engineering best practices, conducting technology evaluations and migrations, managing data architecture, cost estimations, and resourcing to ensure ROI for multiple products. Marupalli holds an M.Tech./M.S. in computer science and technology, a B.E./B.S. in electronics and communication, and certifications in project management, AWS, Azure, and leadership.
Email: marupalli.janardhan@gmail.com | LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/janardhan-marupalli

Joseph Dahl, Ph.D., began his scientific pursuits at Cabrillo Community College, in Aptos, California. He completed both his bachelor's and doctoral studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. This provided his foundation in DNA sequence analysis, single molecule biophysics, structural biology, and traditional biochemical analyses. He completed postdoctoral training at NIEHS, where he combined his molecular biology tool set with yeast genetics to study the inter-play between DNA replication and disease. Dahl was recruited into the private sector in 2021, and now leads an advanced R&D program at BioSkryb Genomics. His current professional passion is innovating custom tools to enable collaborators and clients to probe tissue heterogeneity at the single-cell level. *Email: joe.dahl@BioSkryb.com*

Kirsten (Kiri) Hoff, Ph.D., is currently a senior scientist, Microbial Process Characterization Group Leader at Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies. She has worked at Fujifilm for four years, starting as a scientist II in the Upstream Process Development Group. Prior to that, Hoff was a postdoc at NIEHS after receiving a Ph.D. from Duke University. In her current role, she interacts with clients to perform the final studies necessary to characterize ranges for fermentation prior to applying for their commercial license. To do this, she works with clients to identify where risk resides, designs studies to understand those risks, and determines mitigations for those risks. She then inputs that information into the control strategy for the manufacturing process. Hoff manages a team to perform the benchwork, and also coordinates a Cross-Shadowing program that she has built during her tenure at Fujifilm. In her free time, she enjoys caring for her two daughters, two dogs, one cat, and orchid collections, as well as reading and traveling. *Email: kirsten.hoff@fujifilm.com*

WORKSHOP #4 (Room C111 – ABC | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Building a Professional Image: Your Online Footprint

Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC
Director of Professional Development Programs
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: rlayton@med.unc.edu

How do you synchronize your academic and professional experiences with your aspirational future professional goals to form a streamlined narrative to build a strong personal brand? Join Rebekah Layton, director of Professional Development Programs in the UNC Office of Graduate Education, for an interact ive workshop on building a professional image in the digital age. For this interactive workshop, bring a device of your choice (laptop, tablet, or smart device) to work on tailoring your personal profile on LinkedIn (your online business card!) to tell YOUR professional story on YOUR terms. Use intentional and thoughtful presentation of your skills, achievements, and accomplishments to enhance your professional career. Don't have a profile yet? No problem. Already have a net presence, but want to polish it up? This workshop is for you, too. Create effective bullet points, headlines, bios, and more that will showcase the skills and experiences YOU want people to notice, whichever platforms you choose. Use the I3 Method — Introspection, Inspiration, (Re)Imagination — to build a personal brand that authentically represents YOU. Level-up your personal brand, liven up your LinkedIn, and leverage your network to build a professional community and network you love.

Speaker Bio

Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC, develops and directs innovative professional development programs for 1,000+ biomedical graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, provides individual professional career coaching and leadership mentoring for trainees, develops curricula, and oversees academic certificates. Layton analyzes data and shares program and career outcomes with local and national training communities through scholarly publications and presentations at conferences and other institutions. Her contributions to the field are represented through multiple peer-reviewed publications and book chapters on graduate career and professional development, as well as authorship of graduate career advice columns, such as Inside Higher Ed's Carpe Careers. She is an active research collaborator on national research projects in graduate education, including four multi-institution NIH Broadening Experience in Science Training (NIH BEST) collaborations. She also serves as the PI for an NIH/NSF SCISIPBIO Award examining biomedical workforce development and training. Layton earned her Ph.D. and M.A. at the University at Albany, State University of New York and completed postdoctoral training at the UNC School of Medicine. She also completed International Coach Certification (ICF) Professional Coach Certification (PCC) and Certified Mentor Coach (CMC) training through the MentorCoach program and is co-founder of a Higher Education Coaching group for peer-led professional development. Layton's disciplinary research on self-control, goal-setting, and decision-making centers on how individuals commit to and achieve goals. Her current research in graduate education focuses on graduate training and career outcomes. She is particularly interested in applying lessons from self-regulatory research, positive psychology, and coaching philosophy to improve scientists' lives and help them reach their goals. Layton is passionate about coaching doctoral and postdoctoral trainees in search of fulfilling careers and seeking professional development opportunities. She firmly believes that exciting career options await each trainee and strives to help individuals identify and capitalize on their strengths to prepare for the next steps in their respective career pathways.

CAREER PANEL #4 (Room C114 | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Careers in Science Communication

Russ Campbell, M.L.A. (Burroughs Wellcome Fund)

Jory Weintraub, Ph.D. (North Carolina State University)

Marla Broadfoot, Ph.D. (Freelance Science Writer)

Lauren Pharr, Ph.D. Candidate (North Carolina State University)

Briana Foley, B.S. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

While the implications of scientific discovery begin in the lab, much of the lives they take on are guided by how clearly they are communicated to non-experts. Science communicators are at the leading edge of public-facing science that can lead to bettering daily life, more effective regulations, technological innovation, inspiring wonder, and so much more. Do you find yourself passionate about learning and sharing- even across disciplines? Did you know science communication is a science itself? Join our panel to meet experts who continue to master their field by bridging the knowledge gap between experts and the general public (including experts in other scientific fields). At this panel we'll explore the role of scientists as science communicators, the importance of communicating effectively, and how our panelists have fostered a career imbuing greater meaning to scientific research pursuits.

Panelists:

Russ Campbell, M.L.A., is the senior communications officer for the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a private foundation in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Since 2005, Campbell has been responsible for the communication activities of the Fund, and now manages a $2 million grant portfolio in science communications. He is a founding member of the Science and Society Funder Collaborative, an organization dedicated to civic science. Campbell received a B.A. in English from Penn State University and an M.L.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the founding president of County House Research and has worked in the news offices of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an advocate for effective science communication, he co-founded the Science Communicators of North Carolina. He served on the board of directors for the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers and is a strategic advisor for EducationNC. *Email: rcampbell@bwfund.org*

Jory Weintraub, Ph.D., is director of science engagement in the Office of University Interdisciplinary Programs and an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Communication. Previous positions have included co-PI and director of professional development and training for the National Science Foundation-funded Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society, science communication director and senior lecturing fellow with Duke University's Initiative for Science and Society, and assistant director of education and outreach at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center. He serves on the advisory board of the Triangle Center for Evolutionary Medicine and previously served on the board of directors of Science Communicators of North Carolina. Weintraub has a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry/cell biology from the University of California, San Diego, and a Ph.D. in immunology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also received an NSF postdoctoral fellowship in STEM Education. His professional interests include STEM outreach; science communication; societal impacts of research; and diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM. *Email: jpweintr@ncsu.edu*

Marla Broadfoot, Ph.D., is a freelance science writer and editor based in Wendell, N.C. Her work has appeared in Scientific American, Smithsonian, Knowable, Science, STAT, The Scientist, Discover, Nature News, and Science News, among others. As a 2022-2023 Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellow, Broadfoot has been investigating the mental health of parents of LGBTQ+ youth. She is a board member of the National Association of Science Writers, past president of the Science Communicators of North Carolina, a contributing editor at American Scientist, and an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). Before shifting to journalism, she earned a Ph.D. in genetics and molecular biology from UNC and did a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. You can learn more about her, or reach out via her contact page, at *www.marlabroadfoot.com*.

Lauren Pharr is an avian ecologist and Ph.D. candidate at North Carolina State University, pursuing her degree in isheries, wildlife, and conservation biology. Her current research focuses on studying the effects of climate change on nestling success among the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Aside from her research, Pharr is an engaged and award-winning science communicator, who has served as a contributing editor for North Carolina Sea Grant and on The Wildlife Society's Editorial Advisory Board. She has given more than 40 talks for multiple organizations and societies and has written and contributed pieces to a variety of outlets, including National Geographic, eBird, and The Nature Conservancy as a freelance science writer. Her research has also been featured on many outlets, such as PBS SCI NC, Ologies, and WUNC. *Email: lpharr@ncsu.edu*

Briana Foley, B.S., is a biologist in the Advanced Experimental Toxicology Models Branch of the Biomolecular and Computational Toxicology Division in EPA's Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure. She currently supports efforts to develop and apply novel organotypic in vitro assays for evaluating the effects of chemicals on the endocrine system. Prior to joining the EPA in 2020, Foley held positions in pharmaceutical preclinical research and development, a nonprofit toxicology organization, and a contract research organization focused on human cell products and support reagents. She has robust technical experience in developing and executing in vitro assays to assess activities of pharmaceutical and environmental chemicals on mammalian cells. Foley earned a B.S. in plant science from North Carolina State University in 2004. She used undergraduate internships and early career positions to develop technical skills that enabled her to pivot her career away from plant science, though gardening endures as her favorite hobby.
Email: foley.briana@epa.gov

EXHIBIT BROWSING (B Atrium | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Representatives from several companies and professional organizations in the area can be found in the B Atrium. Be sure to ask them about their work and the types of jobs available for masters- and Ph.D.-level scientists. HR representatives and exhibitors are not conducting interviews or accepting applications during the career symposium, but knowing someone on the inside can be very valuable when it is time to apply for a position. See our list of exhibitors starting on page 34.

Session Three (1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

Master the art of securing a government job, crafting a stellar resume, and acing interviews in the "What Does It Take to Land a Government Job?" workshop. Gain insights into the critical fields of risk assessment and science advisory in the "Risk Assessment and Science Advisory" career panel. Explore the challenges of forensic casework focusing on unexpected outcomes in DNA evidence in the "Tales From the Archive" talk. Dive into the booming world of data science, biostatistics, and bioinformatics in the namesake career panel to discover different opportunities in these fields.

WORKSHOP #5 (Room C111– ABC | 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

What Does It Take to Land a Government Job?

J'Ingrid Mathis, M.S.

Associate Director

Management/Executive Officer

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Email: j'ingrid.mathis@nih.gov

The federal government offers diverse and exciting opportunities for both scientists and non-science majors at various stages of their careers. Effectively navigating the application and hiring process is critical to landing a government job. This workshop will describe strategies to help you identify federal job opportunities, develop a strong federal resume, and prepare for your federal job interview. Attendees will also be introduced to the federal salary setting process.

Speaker Bio

J'Ingrid Mathis is the associate director for management and executive officer at NIEHS. As associate director for management, she oversees an annual budget of approximately $1 billion and a workforce of nearly 1,700 scientific, administrative, and infrastructure support personnel. Additionally, she oversees all operational and administrative management activities, including financial, personnel and contract management, health and safety, ethics, operations and security, supply and property management, and facilities management. Mathis is an avid believer in diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and civility (DEIAC), utilizing the DEIAC framework to provide executive leadership and direction to the administrative, managerial, professional, and technical workforce at NIEHS. She has more than 20 years of experience in administrative management leadership and has previously served in senior management capacities across federal and academic research settings, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families, Yale University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received a Master of Science in social work from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Yale University.

CAREER PANEL #5 (Room C112 | 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

Risk Assessment and Science Advisory

Scott Jenkins, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Katie Paul Friedman, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Collin Beachum, Ph.D. (US Environmental Protection Agency)

Samantha Snow, Ph.D. (ICF International Inc.)

David Reif, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

This panel will delve into the critical fields of risk assessment and science advisory. It is a must-attend event for anyone intrigued by the intersection of science, policy, and decision-making. The panelists will share their experiences, shedding light on essential skills, the challenges faced in their roles, and the impact of their work on shaping policies and ensuring public safety.

Panelists:

Scott Jenkins, Ph.D., has worked at the U.S. EPA for more than 20 years. He currently manages the Integrated Health Assessment Branch in the ORD's Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA). Jenkins' branch includes epidemiologists, toxicologists, and exposure scientists charged with developing Integrated Science Assessments to support the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards program. Prior to the EPA, Jenkins received his Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and worked as a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Cell Biology at Duke University. *Email: jenkins.scott@epa.gov*

Katie Paul Friedman, Ph.D., is a supervisory toxicologist for the Computational Toxicology and Bioinformatics Branch in the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure in the Office of Research and Development at the U.S. EPA. Her research focuses on application of new approach methods to chemical safety assessment with additional interests in variability in traditional toxicity information, endocrine bioactivity, and in vitro kinetics. She is a subject matter expert and lead for the ToxCast Program. Previously, Paul Friedman was a regulatory toxicologist at Bayer. She actively engages in multi-stakeholder projects to develop alternatives and their acceptance by participating in technical leadership at Federal Advisory Committee reviews and in the consortium Accelerating the Pace of Chemical Risk Assessment. Her laboratory background includes development of high-throughput screening assays and combined use of in vitro and in vivo approaches. Paul Friedman received a Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has authored more than 55 peer-reviewed publications and mentored more than 18 early career trainees. *Email: paul-friedman.katie@epa.gov*

Collin Beachum, Ph.D., is a Supervisory Biologist Branch Chief with the USEPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics leading an interdisciplinary team of scientists and engineers to complete risk evaluations of existing chemistries under revised Toxic Substances Control Act. *Email: beachum.collin@epa.gov*

Samantha Snow, Ph.D., is director of toxicology at ICF, specializing in risk assessment projects, toxicological and epidemiological study summaries and reviews, systematic literature reviews, technical writing, hazard assessments, and health and risk communication. She came to ICF after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the U.S. EPA Cardiopulmonary Immunology Branch, where her research interests were wide and included examining neuroendocrine regulation of ozone-induced cardiopulmonary, systemic, and metabolic responses. Snow has a Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. *Email: samantha.snow@icf.com*

David Reif, Ph.D., is the chief of the Predictive Toxicology Branch (PTB) in the Division of Translational Toxicology (DTT) at NIEHS. He leverages multi-disciplinary expertise in artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML), toxicogenomics, spatiotemporal exposures and toxicology, computational methods development, and new approach methods (NAMs)

to advance predictive toxicology applications. Prior to joining NIEHS, Reif was a professor of bioinformatics at North Carolina State University and a principal investigator with the U.S. EPA's National Center for Computational Toxicology. He has won several awards, including the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), and has been selected for expert committees, including the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC). *Email: david.reif@nih.gov*

WORKSHOP #6 (Room C113 | 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

Tales From the Archive: Unexpected Outcomes in Forensic Casework

Maher "Max" Noureddine, Ph.D., M.S., D-ABC

President

ForensiGen LL

Email: mnoureddine@forensigen.com

DNA evidence is the gold standard in forensic investigations, identification, and crime solving. Advances in testing methods have contributed significantly to the utility and validity of such evidence. However, many challenges remain in educating practitioners, legal professionals, and the public about the limitations of DNA evidence. This talk will provide examples of the frequent challenges and anomalies encountered in that field.

Speaker Bio

Max Noureddine earned his Ph.D. in molecular genetics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2002. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Duke University Center for Human Genetics, where he focused on modeling Parkinson's disease and other human genetic disorders. In 2005, Noureddine was a research fellow at NIEHS, where he studied the tumor suppressor gene p53 and genomic variations that confer cancer susceptibility in humans. Between 2007 and 2011, he served as chief science officer at Thought Leader Select LLC, where he led consulting projects for the top global pharmaceutical companies in various therapeutic areas. In 2011, he established ForensiGen LLC, a consulting company that specializes in forensic DNA and serology evidence evaluation, interpretation, evidence testing, and research, as well as developing education for law professionals. Noureddine has served as an expert witness on numerous criminal and civil cases involving DNA and serology evidence in state and federal courts. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Criminalistics and a member of the International Society of Forensic Genetics, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the American Society of Human Genetics, and the International Association for Identification. He is also an adjunct teaching faculty in the Department of Forensic Science at Radford University in Virginia.

CAREER PANEL #6 (Room C114 | 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

Data Science, Biostatistics, and Bioinformatics

Logan Everett, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Laurel Coons, Ph.D. (BioSkryb Genomics Inc.)

Benedict Anchang, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Sara Grimm, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

In an increasingly data driven and "big data" world, job opportunities for individuals interested in data analysis through programming, bioinformatics, algorithm development, and everything in between are booming! With such an increase, though, it can be challenging to figure out which will be best for you: academia, government, nonprofit, industry? This panel discussion will give you the opportunity to speak with data scientists, computational scientists, and biostatisticians from different sectors and job backgrounds to learn about career possibilities and challenges within the broad realm of data science, biostatistics, and bioinformatics.

Panelists:

Logan Everett, Ph.D., is a principal investigator specializing in bioinformatics at the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure within the US EPA. He received a B.S. in computer science from Binghamton University and a Ph.D. in genomics and computational biology from the University of Pennsylvania, followed by extensive postdoctoral training in various applications of next-generation sequencing data analysis. His current research program is focused on advancing the application of high-throughput transcriptomics in chemical safety evaluation. Prior to working at the EPA, Everett worked as a senior bioinformatics scientist at Sciome LLC and helped support similar research under the National Toxicology Program. *Email: everett.logan@epa.gov*

Laurel Coons, Ph.D., is a bioinformatics analyst at BioSkryb Genomics, specializing in computational genomics. She earned her Ph.D. in pharmacology and cancer biology from Duke University, with a significant portion of her research conducted through the NIH Graduate Partnerships Program. Additionally, she holds a P.S.M. in biotechnology and a B.S. in biology from the University of South Carolina. During her tenure at NIH, Coons contributed to pioneering research in genomic analysis, particularly in transcription factor dynamics and microfluidic technologies for single-cell studies. Her scholarly work, enriched with numerous publications and book chapters, showcase her research on molecular genetics. Her scientific achievements have been recognized with multiple fellowships and scholastic awards, underscoring her profound impact on academic and clinical research landscapes. Beyond her research, Coons is a fervent science communicator, utilizing her platform to simplify complex scientific concepts for broader audiences, which has garnered her recognition as an invited speaker at various scientific forums. *Email: laurel.coons@alumni.duke.edu*

Benedict Anchang, Ph.D., is a Stadtman Tenure-Track Investigator in the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch at NIEHS. He also holds a joint appointment at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Computational biology brings order to our understanding of life, ensures the rigor and testability of biological concepts, and provides a reference map for individual insights. Anchang's Computational and Systems Biology Group performs multi-scale modeling, visualization, and integration of dynamic perturbation effects of complex biological processes, such as cancer, drug response, and toxicity with personalized and precision health as a desired goal. *Email: benedict.anchang@nih.gov*

Sara Grimm, Ph.D., is deputy director of the Integrative Bioinformatics Support Group at NIEHS. This group supports the management and analysis of large genomic and epigenomic datasets, with collaboration options ranging from one-time assistance with basic bioinformatics tasks to an embedded support model in which staff provide in-depth longitudinal support. Currently, Grimm works primarily with next-generation sequencing data of various types. Her experience in the workforce includes positions in industry at GlaxoSmithKline, academia at UNC-Chapel Hill, and government at NIEHS. She received a B.S. in biology from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in computational biology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. *Email: sara.grimm@nih.gov*

EXHIBIT BROWSING (B Atrium | 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.)

Representatives from several companies and professional organizations in the area can be found in the B Atrium. See our list of exhibitors starting on page 34.

Session Four (4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Embark on a global science career journey with the "Career Planning for International Scientists" workshop, which offers insights on smooth transitions between industry and academia. Explore diverse federal government roles, from research to science policy, in the "Opportunities in the Federal Government" panel. Master impactful storytelling in scientific communication with tailored data stories in the "Sagacious Seminars" workshop. Gain insights into clinical research through experiences shared by clinicians and scientists in academia and industry on the "Clinical Research" panel.

WORKSHOP #7 (Room C111– ABC | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Career Planning for International Scientists (covering both industry and academic transitions)

Lori Conlan, Ph.D.

Deputy Director,

Office of Intramural Training and Education

National Institutes of Health

Email: conlanlo@nih.gov

This event will highlight information visiting fellows need to succeed in the job hunt — either abroad or in the U.S.

Speaker Bio

Lori Conlan, Ph.D., is deputy director of the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education. Conlan is passionate about career, professional, and wellness/resilience development for biomedical trainees. As deputy director, she takes a comprehensive lens to policies and programs for all 6,000 NIH intramural trainees, including summer interns, postbacs, graduate students, postdocs, and fellows. She speaks on leadership, management, and career development topics for young scientists and principal investigators to improve the culture of science for all. Conlan started her career as a biochemist, receiving her B.S. in biochemistry from Michigan State University, her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Texas A&M University, and completed a postdoc at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health.

CAREER PANEL #7 (Room C112 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Opportunities in the Federal Government

Colette Miller, Ph.D., M.S. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

David Herr, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Brian Chorley, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Michelle Campbell, M.B. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Robby Robinson, M.S. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Researchers often land jobs within the federal government in which they may be engaged with research, management, or working in science-based positions that involve the funding of science, science policy, public health, clinical research protocols, science communication, training and education, and much more. Many diverse positions are available within federal agencies, providing researchers opportunities to apply their scientific knowledge and experiences in unique and rewarding ways. This panel includes individuals currently working for federal agencies. They will discuss the duties and responsibilities of their positions and how their career journeys led them to seek a role within the federal government.

Panelists:

Colette Miller, Ph.D., is a biologist in the Cardiopulmonary Immunotoxicology Branch in the Office of Research and Development at the U.S. EPA. She obtained her M.S. in nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of Georgia, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. EPA in Research Triangle Park, N.C. As a principal investigator, Miller's research program investigates the effects of air pollutants on maternal, paternal, and intergenerational health outcomes. Utilizing both in vivo and in vitro approaches, her lab seeks to establish the molecular bases of environmentally mediated diseases throughout the lifespan. *Email: miller.colette@epa.gov*

David Herr, Ph.D., is a senior advisor for neurotoxicity at the U.S. EPA and is an adjunct faculty in the UNC Curriculum in Toxicology and Environmental Medicine. He received his B.S. in biology from Pennsylvania State University, his M.S. in zoology from North Carolina State University, and his Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Herr was a co-author for the EPA's Test Guidelines "Neurophysiology: Sensory Evoked Potentials; OPPTS 870.6855" and currently serves on the Risk Assessment Forum's Cumulative Risk Assessment Technical Panel and the HESI Subcommittee on Translational Safety Biomarker Assessment of Neurotoxicity. His research assesses the impact of environmental chemicals on the nervous system, using physiological, behavioral, and biochemical measures of function to determine the onset, progression, duration, and reversibility of neurotoxic injury. Identification of changes in key events for these processes helps assess the suitability of in vitro test models to predict neurotoxicity. *Email: herr.david@epa.gov*

Brian Chorley, Ph.D., is a research biologist in the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure (CCTE) at the U.S. EPA, where his primary research interests are identification of genomic and epigenomic biomarkers to inform chemical risk assessment and prioritization. He also leads a task group within the EPA Research Action Plan (RAP) focused on assessing the impact of extrinsic and intrinsic susceptibilities to environmental exposures and adverse outcomes using in vitro and in silico models. Before joining the EPA, Chorley completed his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University in 2005 and a postdoctoral fellowship at NIEHS. E*mail: chorley.brian@epa.gov*

Michelle Campbell, M.B., is a health specialist in the Population Health Branch within the Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) at NIEHS. She specializes in NIH inclusion monitoring and clinical trials, reporting, policies, and regulations for human subjects. Prior to transitioning to DERT, she was a senior research assistant in the Environmental Epigenetics and Disease Group within the Division of Intramural Research. Her laboratory research focused on the biological and epigenetic effects of immune cells from environmental exposures, such as tobacco smoke, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and dioxins in adult and newborn population health studies. Campbell completed her master's in biotechnology from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied the mechanistic link between skeletal development and blood cell differentiation in bone marrow. *Email: campbel5@niehs.nih.gov*

Robby Robinson, M.S., is the NIEHS deputy executive officer and deputy associate director for management. As deputy associate director for the Office of Management (OM), Robinson helps lead the institute's administrative management operations. OM supports the NIEHS scientific mission by providing management services, logistics, and infrastructure support. Prior to his current position, he served as the acting deputy associate director for operations at the National Center for Toxicological Research, Food and Drug Administration. In this former role, he led and directed a variety of administrative management programs and initiatives. Robinson holds a Master of Science in interdisciplinary social science and a Bachelor of Science in international affairs. He is also a graduate of the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Executive Institute. *Email: robby.robinson@nih.gov*

WORKSHOP #8 (Room C113 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Sagacious Seminars: Embracing Storytelling in the Sciences

Briana Foley, B.S.

Biologist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Email: foley.briana@epa.gov

The use of specialist language and acronyms in research communication often falls short in effectively sharing the critical information that can be drawn from research programs. Optimizing what is included in scientific presentations and how to best convey those key points can vastly improve the quality and impact of your message. This workshop dives into the art of shaping a talk or poster into a tailored data story for improved impact and engagement with your audience.

Speaker Bio

Briana Foley, B.S., is a biologist in the Advanced Experimental Toxicology Models Branch of the Biomolecular and Computational Toxicology Division in the EPA's Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure. She currently supports efforts to develop and apply novel organotypic in vitro assays for evaluating the effects of chemicals on the endocrine system. Prior to joining the EPA in 2020, Foley held positions in pharmaceutical preclinical research and development, a nonprofit toxicology organization, and a contract research organization focused on human cell products and support reagents. She has robust technical experience in developing and executing in vitro assays to assess activities of pharmaceutical and environmental chemicals on mammalian cells. Foley earned a B.S. in plant science from North Carolina State University in 2004. She used undergraduate internships and early career positions to develop technical skills that enabled her to pivot her career away from plant science, though gardening endures as her favorite hobby. *Email: foley.briana@epa.gov*

CAREER PANEL #8 (Room C114 | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Clinical Research

Mohana Pajaniappan, M.S., CCRP, PMP (Servier Pharmaceuticals)
Senyene Hunter, M.D., Ph.D. (UNC School of Medicine)
Natalie Shaw, M.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)
Johanna Wilson, MSHS (GlaxoSmithKline)

Are you interested in applying genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics to investigate the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease? Clinical research incorporates participants' genetic variability into the discovery of novel diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic approaches. This panel features clinicians, scientists in academia, and scientists in industry explaining what research looks like in this rapidly expanding, translational field.

Panelists:

Mohana Pajaniappan, M.S., CCRP, PMP, is a senior clinical trial manager at Servier Pharmaceutical. She completed her master's in microbiology at the University of Periyar in India. She then completed a research fellowship program in biotechnology at the University of Pondicherry and was a research associate at the Medical College of Georgia. Pajaniappan's translation research experience allowed her to join oncology clinical research at Hollings Cancer Center and US Oncology. She also worked as a trial manager for oncology at IQVIA and ICON Clinical Research Organization in direct collaboration with investigator centers. Her bench-to-bedside research experience and engagement in multiple clinical trials have led to non-small cell lung cancer oral drug, Chimeric antigen receptor T cells therapy for acute myeloid leukemia and IDH mutation targeted leukemia oral drug global approvals. *Email: mohana.pajaniappan@servier.com*
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/mohana-pajaniappan-3b92a126

Senyene Hunter, M.D., Ph.D., is an assistant professor of pediatric neurology at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill and co-founder and Research Core Leader of the UNC Epilepsy Neurogenetics Initiative. She gained expertise in pediatric genetic epilepsies through a Ph.D. in biological chemistry from UNC, postdoctoral research at Yale University, and a fellowship at NIEHS, as well as an M.D. and pediatric neurology residency training at UNC and a clinical neurophysiology fellowship at Duke University. Hunter's research focuses on increasing understanding and improving the treatment of pediatric genetic epilepsies. Her research prioritizes the inclusion of ancestrally diverse and medically underrepresented individuals in neurogenetic studies. In her free time, she enjoys weightlifting, exploring the beautiful North Carolina trails, and spending time with her husband and 19-year-old son. *Email: senyene_hunter@med.unc.edu*

Natalie Shaw, M.D., is a Lasker Clinical Research Scholar and head of the Pediatric Neuroendocrinology Group in the Clinical Research Branch at NIEHS. She earned her medical degree from the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and a master's in medical sciences from Harvard Medical School. She completed her pediatrics residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, a pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, and a clinical research fellowship in the Reproductive Endocrine Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. She was an attending physician at Boston Children's Hospital until she was recruited to NIH in 2015. As a pediatric endocrinologist, Shaw studies the environmental and genetic control of pubertal development. She conducts studies among healthy pediatric volunteers complemented by genotypic and deep phenotypic studies among patients with rare, syndromic forms of hypogonadism. She also carries out research in patient-derived neural stem cells. *Email: natalie.shaw@nih.gov*

Johanna Wilson, MSHS, is an associate director in regulatory inspections and investigations, clinical quality assurance at GSK. She coordinates and manages regulatory inspection activities for GCP inspections. She is the main point of contact for inspection preparation, partnering with risk managers to ensure business functions are prepared for both national and local inspections (FDA, EMA, MHRA, etc.). Wilson leads efforts to identify and mitigate quality issues and potential GCP compliance risks prior to inspections, and she leads root cause analysis and response development activities for any inspection findings identified. Prior to her role in inspections and investigations, she was an auditor in the Computer Systems Quality Assurance Group. Before that, Wilson worked in the Department of Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics within the Systems Support and Sample Management Group. She completed her M.S.H.S. in health care administration at George Washington University. *Email: johanna.m.wilson@gsk.com*

CV/Resume Review

Session 1: 10:00 – 11:20 a.m. | Session 2: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. | Session 3: 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. | Session 4: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The CV/Resume Review sessions connect trainees with individuals who have knowledge in a particular field of work to discuss how to improve their CVs and resumes.

Sign up in advance for a 15-minute time slot.

ACADEMIC REVIEWERS

Meghan Rebuli, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma, and Lung Biology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: meradfor@email.unc.edu

Meghan Rebuli's, Ph.D., research focuses on investigating sex-specific effects of air pollutants and new and emerging tobacco products on pulmonary health. Specifically, she is interested in how the interaction of sex (genetic and hormonal) and respiratory toxicants can alter respiratory health at the individual and population levels. Rebuli investigates these questions using in vivo prospective and observational clinical studies and translational cell culture models. She also regularly collaborates with epidemiologists to study the effects of inhaled pollutants in larger populations. By utilizing noninvasive nasal sampling methods, biomarkers of respiratory immune health are integrated with other qualitative (e.g., surveys) and quantitative (e.g., levels of exposure) data to inform examined outcomes.

Patrick Brandt, Ph.D.
Director, Career Development and Outreach
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: pdb@unc.edu

Patrick Brandt, Ph.D. is director of career development and outreach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He leads career development initiatives for biomedical Ph.D. students, including the ImPACT internship program, career advising, and alumni career placement tracking. He also coordinates the Translational Medicine Training program for students interested in clinically relevant research. As outreach director, Brandt oversees NC DNA Day and other efforts aimed at connecting scientists to the public. He has a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Rochester (he is a native Upstate New Yorker) and did postdoctoral training at NIEHS.

Allyn Howlett, Ph.D.
Professor, Physiology and Pharmacology
Wake Forest University
Email: ahowlett@wakehealth.edu

Allyn Howlett, Ph.D., is is a professor of physiology and pharmacology at the Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Medicine, assistant dean of WFU Graduate School Biomedical Programs, and director of the Office of Postdoctoral Education. Howlett is an expert on CB1 cannabinoid receptor signal transduction. Her research on the cellular signaling by cannabinoid, aminoalkylindole, and aryl pyrazole ligands as cannabinoid receptor regulators has been continuously funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She is active in the International Cannabinoid Research

Society (president, 2009-2010) and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (Molecular Pharmacology Division Chair, 2019-2020). Howlett has reviewed for numerous NIH study sections and journals and is currently an associate editor of Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research.

Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC
Director, Professional Development Programs
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: rlayton@unc.edu

Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC, develops and directs innovative professional development programs for 1,000+ biomedical graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, provides individual professional career coaching and leadership mentoring for trainees, develops curricula, and oversees academic certificates. Layton analyzes data and shares program and career outcomes with local and national training communities through scholarly publications and presentations at conferences and other institutions. Her contributions to the field are represented through multiple peer-reviewed publications and book chapters on graduate career and professional development, as well as authorship of graduate career advice columns, such as Inside Higher Ed's Carpe Careers. She is an active research collaborator on national research projects in graduate education, including four multi-institution NIH Broadening Experience in Science Training (NIH BEST) collaborations. She also serves as the PI for an NIH/NSF SCISIPBIO Award examining biomedical workforce development and training. Layton earned her Ph.D. and M.A. at the University at Albany, State University of New York and completed postdoctoral training at the UNC School of Medicine. She also completed International Coach Certification (ICF) Professional Coach Certification (PCC) and Certified Mentor Coach (CMC) training through the MentorCoach program and is co-founder of a Higher Education Coaching group for peer-led professional development. Layton's disciplinary research on self-control, goal-setting, and decision-making centers on how individuals commit to and achieve goals. Her current research in graduate education focuses on graduate training and career outcomes. She is particularly interested in applying lessons from self-regulatory research, positive psychology, and coaching philosophy to improve scientists' lives and help them reach their goals. Layton is passionate about coaching doctoral and postdoctoral trainees in search of fulfilling careers and seeking professional development opportunities. She firmly believes that exciting career options await each trainee and strives to help individuals identify and capitalize on their strengths to prepare for the next steps in their respective career pathways.

Spencer Muse, Ph.D.
Director, Undergraduate Statistics and Graduate Bioinformatics
North Carolina State University
Email: muse@ncsu.edu

Spencer Muse's, Ph.D. training and research are highly interdisciplinary, combining elements of statistics, genetics, and computer science. He completed a B.S. in statistics and a Ph.D. co-major in statistics and genetics, all at NC State. He then spent three years as a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Biological Sciences at Penn State University (1993-1996) and two years on the faculty of the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri before returning to the Department of Statistics in 1998. At NC State, Muse is director of undergraduate programs for the Department of Statistics and director of graduate programs for NC State's interdepartmental graduate program in bioinformatics. His research centers on the development of statistical methods and software for molecular evolutionary analysis of gene and genome sequences. A major long-running research project led by him and his former student, Sergei Kosakovsky Pond at Temple University, focuses on the development of the HyPhy software language and ecosystem. Muse's former graduate students now hold positions in academia, as well as leadership positions in government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry.

Laura Coutts, M.Ed.
Associate Director of Career Development, Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Duke University School of Medicine
Email: laura.coutts@duke.edu

Laura Coutts, M.Ed., is associate director of career development in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at the Duke School of Medicine. Prior to joining the department in 2022, she spent five years working with master's and doctoral students across all academic disciplines in the central Duke Career Center. Coutts also has experience working with undergraduate liberal arts students at Loyola University New Orleans, and engineers at the University of Virginia, where she completed her graduate education. She attended the University of Richmond for undergraduate and has pieced together a 15-year career helping, training, and teaching people from diverse backgrounds. Outside of work, she enjoys puzzles, cooking, podcasts, and hikes along the Eno with Lily (her dog) and Kevin (her human).

INDUSTRY REVIEWERS

Crystal Lee Pow Jackson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma, and Lung Biology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: cleepowjackson@rti.org

Crystal Lee Pow Jackson, Ph.D., is a research environmental scientist with RTI's Center for Environmental Health Risk and Sustainability, where she focuses on issues of drinking water quality, environmental contamination, and human health. Using her expertise in toxicology, exposure science, environmental health, water quality, risk assessment, risk communication, environmental justice, and public health, Lee Pow Jackson strives to identify, test, and implement practical solutions to environmental health challenges. With her interdisciplinary education and experience, she has developed a strong ability to conduct and synthesize scientific research into public health guidance, communicate scientific findings and guidance to a broad range of audiences, and work in a collaborative team to address environmental health challenges.

Ryan Bonvillain, Ph.D.
Director, Tissue Engineering Research
United Therapeutics Corporation
Email: rbonvillain@unither.com

Ryan Bonvillain, Ph.D., is the current director of tissue engineering research at United Therapeutics Corporation. He is a biotechnology industry scientist, manager, and director, as well as an expert in pulmonary biology, tissue engineering, and surgical model development. He is a research professional with a Ph.D. in human and molecular genetics focused on pulmonary disease. He has 22 years of research experience including comparative endocrinology to understand glucose homeostasis and molt-interfering xenobiotics in crustaceans; viral gene therapy for cystic fibrosis; elucidating the role of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) in innate host defense; characterizing cystic fibrosis infection pathology as a spectrum of microbial sensitivity to biological oxidants; treatment of pulmonary Pseudomonas and Streptococcal pneumonias with mesenchymal stromal cells; harvesting and characterizing lung-resident mesenchymal stromal cells in Rhesus macaque; and development of large-animal lung decellularization and re-cellularization (humanization) techniques for clinical tissue and organ replacement.

Joseph Dahl, Ph.D.
Team Lead R&D Program
BioSkyrb Genomics
Email: joe.dahl@BioSkryb.com

Joseph Dahl, Ph.D., began his scientific pursuits at Cabrillo Community College in Aptos, California. He completed both his bachelor's and doctoral studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. This provided his foundation in DNA sequence analysis, single molecule biophysics, structural biology, and traditional biochemical analyses. He completed postdoctoral training at NIEHS, where he combined his molecular biology tool set with yeast genetics to study the interplay between DNA replication and disease. Dahl was recruited into the private sector in 2021, and now leads an advanced R&D program at BioSkryb Genomics. His current professional passion is innovating custom tools to enable collaborators and clients to probe tissue heterogeneity at the single-cell level.

Mohana Pajaniappan, M.S.
Senior Clinical Trial Manager
Servier Pharmaceuticals
Email: mohana.pajaniappan@servier.com

Mohana Pajaniappan, M.S., CCRP, PMP, is a senior clinical trial manager at Servier Pharmaceutical. She completed her master's in microbiology at the University of Periyar in India. She then completed a research fellowship program in biotechnology at the University of Pondicherry and was a research associate at the Medical College of Georgia. Pajaniappan's translation research experience allowed her to join oncology clinical research at Hollings Cancer Center and US Oncology. She also worked as a trial manager for oncology at IQVIA and ICON Clinical Research Organization in direct collaboration with investigator centers. Her bench-to-bedside research experience and engagement in multiple clinical trials have led to non-small cell lung cancer oral drug, Chimeric antigen receptor T cells therapy for acute myeloid leukemia and IDH mutation targeted leukemia oral drug global approval.

GOVERNMENT REVIEWERS

Robin Evans Stanley, Ph.D.
Senior Investigator
Signal Transduction Laboratory
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: robin.stanley@nih.gov

Robin Evans Stanley, Ph.D., leads the Nucleolar Integrity Group and holds a secondary appointment in the NIEHS Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory. The Nucleolar Integrity Group investigates molecular machines involved in critical RNA processing pathways through a multidisciplinary approach combining structural, molecular, and cellular biology. Currently, the lab is focused on three major research areas, including ribosome assembly, tRNA processing, and viral RNA processing.

Sharon Soucek, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Technology Transfer
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: sharon.soucek@nih.gov

Sharon Soucek, Ph.D., is director of the NIEHS Office of Technology Transfer, where she oversees the development of discoveries made by NIEHS researchers to further improve human health. Prior to her post at NIEHS, she was a technol-

ogy transfer specialist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she established research collaborations, managed patent portfolio strategy, and assisted in licensing infectious disease technologies. Soucek received her Ph.D. from Emory University, where she studied how gene expression is regulated by RNA-binding proteins at the post-transcriptional level.

Steven Tuyishime, Ph.D.
Assistant Scientific Director
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: steven.tuyishime@nih.gov

Steven Tuyishime received his B.S. in biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where he was a Meyerhoff Scholar. He went on to receive his Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from the University of Pennsylvania, conducting research on developing a novel adenovirus-based vaccine platform in Gundi Ertl's, M.D., lab. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at UPenn in Drew Weissman's, M.D., Ph.D., lab, conducting research on developing and optimizing delivery of mRNA-based therapeutics. Tuyishime joined the NIEHS Program Analysis Branch as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2016. In 2021, he joined the NIEHS Division of Intramural Research as assistant scientific director.

Yesenia Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Staff Scientist, DNA Repair and Nucleic Acid Enzymology Group
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: yesenia.rodriguez@nih.gov

Yesenia Rodriguez, Ph.D., was initially introduced to research as an undergraduate student at Washington State University (WSU). She was involved in several undergraduate research projects, ranging from mathematical modeling and organic chemistry to cancer research using positron emission tomography. After obtaining a B.S. in bioengineering (magna cum laude), she joined Michael Smerdon's, Ph.D., group at WSU, where she studied the role of chromatin architecture in regulating DNA repair processes. Rodriguez had the privilege of working with the late Samuel Wilson, M.D., at NIEHS as a postdoctoral IRTA Fellow, expanding her chromatin and DNA repair work to detailed enzyme kinetics and structural studies of nucleosomal substrates with DNA repair enzymes. During this time, she received the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award that allowed her to learn cryogenic electron microscopy (cryoEM). Because Rodriguez values the unique collaborative work environment and resources NIEHS has to offer, she chose to stay at NIEHS as a staff scientist in Paul Wade's, Ph.D., lab to continue using her technical skills and knowledge to understand how pioneer transcription factors shape the chromatin landscape to regulate transcription.

Katie Paul Friedman, Ph.D.
Supervisory Toxicologist, Computational Toxicology and Bioinformatics Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: paul-friedman.katie@epa.gov

Katie Paul Friedman, Ph.D., is a supervisory toxicologist for the Computational Toxicology and Bioinformatics Branch in the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure in the Office of Research and Development at the U.S. EPA. Her research focuses on application of new approach methods to chemical safety assessment with additional interests in variability in traditional toxicity information, endocrine bioactivity, and in vitro kinetics. She is a subject matter expert and lead for the ToxCast Program. Previously, Paul Friedman was a regulatory toxicologist at Bayer. She actively engages in multi-stakeholder projects to develop alternatives and their acceptance by participating in technical leadership at Federal Advisory Committee reviews and in the consortium Accelerating the Pace of Chemical Risk Assessment. Her laboratory background includes development of high-throughput screening assays and combined use of in vitro and in vivo approaches. Paul Friedman received a Ph.D. in toxicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has authored more than 55 peer-reviewed publications and mentored more than 18 early career trainees.

Brian Chorley, Ph.D.
Research Scientist, Computational Toxicology and Exposure
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: chorley.brian@epa.gov

Brian Chorley, Ph.D., is a research biologist in the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure (CCTE) at the U.S. EPA, where his primary research interests are identification of genomic and epigenomic biomarkers to inform chemical risk assessment and prioritization. He also leads a task group within the EPA Research Action Plan (RAP) focused on assessing the impact of extrinsic and intrinsic susceptibilities to environmental exposures and adverse outcomes using in vitro and in silico models. Before joining the EPA, Chorley completed his Ph.D. at North Carolina State University in 2005 and a post-doctoral fellowship at NIEHS.

Collin Beachum, Ph.D.
Branch Chief, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: beachum.collin@epa.gov

Collin Beachum, Ph.D., is a Supervisory Biologist Branch Chief with the USEPA Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics leading an interdisciplinary team of scientists and engineers to complete risk evaluations of existing chemistries under revised Toxic Substances Control Act.

Colette Miller, Ph.D., M.S.
Biologist, Cardiopulmonary Immunotoxicology Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: miller.colette@epa.gov

Colette Miller, Ph.D., is a biologist in the Cardiopulmonary Immunotoxicology Branch in the Office of Research and Development at the U.S. EPA. She obtained her M.S. in nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Ph.D. in nutrition from the University of Georgia, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. EPA in Research Triangle Park, N.C. As a principal investigator, Miller's research program investigates the effects of air pollutants on maternal, paternal, and intergenerational health outcomes. Utilizing both in vivo and in vitro approaches, her lab seeks to establish the molecular bases of environmentally mediated diseases throughout the lifespan.

Briana Foley, B.S.
Biologist, Advanced Experimental Toxicology Models Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Email: foley.briana@epa.gov

Briana Foley, B.S., is a biologist in the Advanced Experimental Toxicology Models Branch of the Biomolecular and Computational Toxicology Division in EPA's Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure. She currently supports efforts to develop and apply novel organotypic in vitro assays for evaluating the effects of chemicals on the endocrine system. Prior to joining the EPA in 2020, Foley held positions in pharmaceutical preclinical research and development, a nonprofit toxicology organization, and a contract research organization focused on human cell products and support reagents. She has robust technical experience in developing and executing in vitro assays to assess activities of pharmaceutical and environmental chemicals on mammalian cells. Foley earned a B.S. in plant science from North Carolina State University in 2004. She used undergraduate internships and early career positions to develop technical skills that enabled her to pivot her career away from plant science, though gardening endures as her favorite hobby.

GENERAL CAREER REVIEWERS

Lori Conlan, Ph.D.
Career Counselor, Office of Intramural Training and Education
National Institutes of Health
Email: denise.saunders@nih.gov

Lori Conlan, Ph.D., deputy director of the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education. Conlan is passionate about career, professional, and wellness/resilience development for biomedical trainees. As deputy director, she takes a comprehensive lens to policies and programs for all 6,000 NIH intramural trainees, including summer interns, postbacs, graduate students, postdocs, and fellows. She speaks on leadership, management, and career development topics for young scientists and principal investigators to improve the culture of science for all. Conlan started her career as a biochemist, receiving her B.S. in biochemistry from Michigan State University, her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from Texas A&M University, and completed a postdoc at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health.

Denise Saunders, Ph.D., M.S.
Career Counselor, Office of Intramural Training and Education
National Institutes of Health
Email: denise.saunders@nih.gov

Denise Saunders, Ph.D., M.S., is a career counselor and consultant for the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) at NIH. She provides career services to trainees across all NIH sites, but primarily at NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, N.C. She enjoys helping graduate students, postdocs, and early career professionals with their career planning and job search strategies. In addition to her work with OITE, she maintains a private practice in Chapel Hill, N.C., where she provides counseling and consultation to her clients. Saunders is a licensed psychologist and National Certified Counselor, holding an M.S. in counseling and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Florida State University. She has worked in higher education, independent practice, for-profit business, and government.

Crystal Littlefield, B.S.
Management Analyst, Office of Management, Administrative Services and Analysis Branch
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: crystal.littlefield@nih.gov

Crystal Littlefield, B.S. is a management analyst at NIEHS in the Office of Management's Administrative Services and Analysis Branch. She works on the Employee Services team, which provides a variety of programs and services to NIEHS employees, including wellness, performance management, work/life matters, awards and recognition, workplace flexibilities, payroll and leave, training, workforce development, policy administration, administrative analysis, and other management services. Littlefield joined the federal workforce in 2018 by way of the Pathways Program while completing a master's degree and graduate certificate. Before 2018, she worked in local government with the City of Raleigh for more than 10 years in both support and leadership roles related to project management, construction administration, facilities and operations, contract and budget administration, strategic planning, and parks and recreation programming. Early in her career, Littlefield also gained vital experience and skills in the private sector while working in the staffing and recruitment industry. She appreciates the insights she has gained during that time, as it helped affirm her passion for public service and drove her to pursue a career in it. She encourages those starting their careers — no matter the sector/industry they choose — to maintain a growth mindset and to challenge themselves personally and professionally to diversify their skills and abilities in areas outside of their realm of expertise.

LIST OF EXHIBITORS

COMPANIES

BASF Corporation, headquartered in Florham Park, New Jersey, is the North American affiliate of BASF SE in Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has approximately 16,000 employees in North America and had sales of $25.7 billion in 2022. For more information about BASF's North American operations, visit https://www.basf.com/us/en.html.

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. More than 111,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio comprises six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition and Care, and Agricultural Solutions. BASF's Agricultural Solutions division works with partners and agricultural experts. We integrate sustainability criteria into all business decisions to help farmers create a positive impact on sustainable agriculture. That's why we invest in a strong R&D pipeline, connecting innovative thinking with practical action in the field. Our portfolio comprises seeds and specifically selected plant traits, chemical and biological crop protection, solutions for soil management, plant health, pest control, and digital farming. With expert teams in the lab, field, office, and in production, we strive to find the right balance for success — for farmers, agriculture, and future generations. In 2022, our division generated sales of €10.3 billion. For more information, please visit https://agriculture.basf.com/us/en.html or any of our social media channels.

Exhibitors:

Catherine Aimone, Ph.D., Ph.D. Leadership Development Program – Sustainability Strategist
Email: catherine.aimone@basf.com | *LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/cdaimone*

Catherine Aimone, Ph.D., received a B.S. in biology from Davidson College, focusing on genomics, and then received a Ph.D. in plant biology from North Carolina State University. She joined the Ph.D. Leadership Development Program at BASF and has been a computational biologist, product and supply manager, and sustainability strategist. On the personal front, Aimone is married and has a 2-year-old son.

Jessie Garcia, Ph.D., Ph.D. Leadership Development Program – Strategic Account Manager
Email: jessie.garcia@basf.com | *LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessie-garcia*

Jessie Garcia, Ph.D., is currently in a rotation with BASF's Leadership Development Program in Charlotte, N.C., as a strategic account manager. With a Ph.D. in chemical biology, she has a technical background in enzyme engineering, molecular biology and organic chemistry. Her first rotations as an enzymologist (San Diego, Calif.) and Sustainability Lead (Monheim, Germany) have leveraged her strengths in leading bioenergy product development and effectively communicating emerging sustainability regulations/trends to internal colleagues. Garcia has experience in leadership positions and the ability to motivate others by leading a new Latin American Employee Resource Group chapter and by managing a project with a strategic customer for the resins and dispersions business.

Sierra Riegl, Ph.D., Ph.D. Leadership Development Program
Regulatory Affairs Technical Communications Manager
Email: sierra.riegl@basf.com | LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sierramoorefield

Sierra Riegl earned her Ph.D. in toxicology from North Carolina State University in 2022. She joined BASF as a research scientist for her first rotation in the Ph.D. Leadership Development Program, where she made automotive paint using new pigment technology and helped BASF reach its sustainability goals by repurposing out-of-spec materials. Her second rotation was with Seeds & Traits as a product development lead, where she led a canola variety launch in Australia, provided strategic recommendations for the biofuel market, and performed a competitor analysis. Her final role in the program is with regulatory affairs in crop protection, where she is supporting the team as a technical communications manager. Outside of BASF, Riegl is an active member of the toxicology community and serves on the executive committee for the N.C. Society of Toxicology. In her free time, she enjoys going back to the beach, working out with her husband, and spoiling her two American Akitas.

BioSkryb GENOMICS

BioSkryb Genomics is a rapidly growing organization that is transforming single-cell molecular discovery and analysis. Through its single cell whole genome and whole transcriptome amplification tools, scientists and clinicians can gain an unprecedented view of the genome, transcriptome, and proteome within a single cell to better understand the drivers, mechanisms, and management of complex disease. Our technology has been used in approximately 44 publications and has been awarded four key patents in key markets across the globe. Our growth is being driven by adoption in some of the largest sequencing and research centers in the world, biopharma collaborations, and commercial partnerships. The company is headquartered in Durham, N.C. For more information, visit www.bioskryb.com.

Exhibitor:
Joseph Dahl, Ph.D., Innovation Team Lead
Email: joe.dahl@bioskryb.com | LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/joeydahl

Joseph Dahl, Ph.D., leads groundbreaking initiatives in single-cell genomics as an Innovation Team lead at BioSkryb Genomics. His expertise in nucleic acid metabolism, hazardous materials management, and DNA replication fidelity fuels his passion for empowering researchers. With a Ph.D. in chemistry and a focus on mechanistic and structural chemical biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dahl significantly contributes to advancing genomics and molecular biology through diverse techniques like single-molecule approaches, enzymology, NGS, and RNA-seq.

Laura Williams, Strategist, Marketing and Events
Email: laura.williams@bioskryb.com | LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-c-williams

Motivated and ambitious professional with both genomics research and commercial development experience, looking to leverage strategic business, scientific, and regulatory experience to help bring novel biotech products to market. Laura joined BioSkryb in 2023.

Grifols is a leading global health care company that develops plasma-derived medicines and other innovative biopharmaceutical solutions that enable millions of patients around the world to lead more productive lives. Since our founding in 1909, we have applied our ever-growing mastery of plasma, life sciences ethical leadership, and industry-leading quality and safety standards to contribute to a healthier and more sustainable society. Website: https://grifols.jobs.

Exhibitor:
Paulina Segura Oñate, Employer Branding Manager
Email: paulina.segura@grifols.com | *LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/paulinaso1*

Paulina Segura Oñate is the Global Employer Branding Manager at Grifols.

Camilla Bomar, Senior Manager, Recruitment at Grifols
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/camillahinton

Camilla Bomar is from Louisburg, NC (currently residing in Durham, NC) and is a Sr. Manager, Recruitment at Grifols. She's been with Grifols since 2017 and leads a team that manages industrial, corporate and commercial recruiting for the Eastern US and Canada. Camilla has 12+ years' experience in recruiting for global organizations in the healthcare, Automation & IT industries and she's got expertise in global strategic sourcing, team development, cross-functional collaboration, business coaching, etc. As a Centennial Scholar at NCSU's College of Textiles, she studied fashion design and loves the creativity involved with talent acquisition and the communication/ collaboration with various types of people and personalities across the globe. A connector by nature, Camilla is a passionate coach to her team and enjoys acting as a career counselor to skilled professionals and a strategic partner to business leaders to develop talent strategies that help propel Grifols forward in a mission to improve patient lives!

At **Labcorp**, we believe in the power of science to change lives. We are a global leader of innovative and comprehensive laboratory services that helps doctors, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, researchers, and patients make clear and confident decisions. We provide insights and advance science to improve health and to improve lives through our unparalleled diagnostics and drug development laboratory capabilities. Here, you can join our more than 60,000 employees, serving clients in more than 100 countries, as we work together to make a real impact on people's lives. Join us in our pursuit of answers.

Exhibitor:
Renee Freeland Smith, B.S. Ch.E., Senior Talent Partner
Email: freelar@labcorp.com

Renee Freeland Smith, B.S., Ch.E., is passionate about health care and people. She is the former president of Alamance Pharmaceutical Society (75 pharmacists and technicians); a pre-PharmD student who is a Certified Pharmacy Technician and a Certified Mental Health First Aid Responder. Smith enjoys spending time with her family, championing underrepresented and disenfranchised populations via volunteering, especially on medical mission trips to Africa, and being an advocate whenever possible.

SBM Company, a French family-owned group established nearly 30 years ago, operates in more than 31 countries across Europe and North America. SBM Life Science North America, headquartered in Cary, N.C., is a leading provider of gardening and pest control solutions, prioritizing sustainability. Offering a diverse range of products such as fertilizers, plant care items, and eco-friendly pest control options, SBM aids homeowners in achieving vibrant gardens. Their home pest control line targets common household pests with safe and efficient methods, ensuring a pest-free environment. Globally, SBM employs 1,000 individuals with an annual turnover of €320 million. With a commitment to excellence and sustainability, SBM continues to innovate and expand, solidifying its position as a key player in the U.S. garden care market.

Exhibitors:

Ashwini Kulkarni, M.B.A., M.A.C. (Risk Management), Associate Director
Regulatory Affairs North America
Email: ashwini.kulkarni@sbm-company.com | *LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashwini2020*

Ashwini Kulkarni, M.B.A., M.A.C., manages and leads projects for state and federal regulatory activities necessary to support and maintain the business.

Laura Parks, Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Email: laura.parks@sbm-company.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-parks-4b5322272

Laura Parks manages pesticide and fertilizer registrations and adverse effects reports to the U.S. EPA and state.

Alan Stephenson, B.A., Facility Manager and Biologist
Email: alan.stephenson@sbm-company.com

As an accomplished agricultural researcher, Stephenson excels in planning, scheduling, and executing trials for insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in both field and greenhouse settings. Leveraging ARM, he ensures meticulous data collection, storage, and analysis to inform decision-making. Additionally, he develops and implements comprehensive lab safety plans; coordinates lab setup, organization, and maintenance; and oversees greenhouse and nursery maintenance. Stephenson also provides supervision and training to part-time staff, manages colonies of insect pests and natural enemies, and propagates plants for trials. Conducting bioassays with insects and mites, he adheres to strict experimental protocols to evaluate efficacy. His expertise lies in seamlessly managing diverse tasks to drive successful agricultural research outcomes.

Elizabeth Thomas, Ph.D., Analytical Chemist
Email: elizabeth.thomas@sbm-company.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabeth-thomas-b3156722b

Elizabeth Thomas, Ph.D., is currently an analytical chemist at SBM Life Science and leads the analysis of pesticide solutions to confirm stability of new formulations using HPLC analysis. She also works closely with manufacturing facilities to validate pesticide technical stability, confirm concentrations of final products as they're produced, and address concerns over analytical methodologies. Prior to beginning her current position at SBM Life Science, Thomas focused on research opportunities investigating anthropogenic effects on soil. In 2017, SBM Company, a French family-owned group established nearly 30 years ago, operates in more than 31 countries across Europe and North America. SBM Life Science North America, headquartered in Cary, N.C., is a leading provider of gardening and pest control solutions, prioritizing sustainability. Offering a diverse range of products such as

fertilizers, plant care items, and eco-friendly pest control options, SBM aids homeowners in achieving vibrant gardens. Their home pest control line targets common household pests with safe and efficient methods, ensuring a pest-free environment. Globally, SBM employs 1,000 individuals with an annual turnover of €320 million. With a commitment to excellence and sustainability, SBM continues to innovate and expand, solidifying its position as a key player in the U.S. garden care market.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Burroughs Wellcome Fund is an American nonprofit medical research organization that provides funding for biomedical research, STEM education, and areas of career development for scientists. Since 1970, it has been headquartered in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park.

Exhibitor:
Russ Campbell, M.L.A., Senior Communications Officer
Regulatory Affairs North America
Email: rcampbell@bwfund.org | *LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/rcc3nc*

Russ Campbell, M.L.A., is the senior communications officer for the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a private foundation in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Since 2005, Campbell has been responsible for the communication activities of the Fund and now manages a $2 million grant portfolio in science communications. He is a founding member of the Science and Society Funder Collaborative, an organization dedicated to civic science. Campbell received a B.A. in English from Penn State University and a M.L.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the founding president of County House Research and has worked in the news offices of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an advocate for effective science communication, he co-founded the Science Communicators of North Carolina. He served on the board of directors for the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers and is a strategic advisor for EducationNC.

NC Bio Pharma Networking Group is a pharmaceutical, biotechnology and life sciences professionals' group. Launched in September 2017, it connects communities across various disciplines and corporate cultures that value relationship building at all stages of industry careers. Meetings are open to professionals in biotech, pharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostic, and nutraceutical companies, as well as those at nonprofits, research foundations, and academic institutions. Members of angel, seed, or venture capital financing institutions, as well as members of the BioPharma covering media are also welcome.

In addition, we accept and encourage BioPharma-related service providers, sales firms, and business development professionals. Service providers include recruiting, law firms, real estate, public relations, and marketing, consulting, and accounting firms. Sales firms include companies that provide instrumentation, software/IT, and reagents to the life science community. We promote effective leads and resource sharing at our events, where people with common backgrounds and interests can exchange information, trends, and ideas in a relaxed setting. Our focus is on finding and developing real career and business connections by meeting and conversing face-to-face with other professionals in the pharma/biotech/med device industries across PA/NJ/MA/NY/NC/TO/STL/IN/PALV on a monthly basis in a casual happy hour setting.

Exhibitors:
Andrew Buckley, Ph.D., NCBPNG Steering Committee Member
Regulatory Affairs North America
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/abuckley2

Andrew Buckley, Ph.D., joined the NCBPNG Steering Committee in 2017. He is a cancer research scientist at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dhananjaya (DJ) Nayak, Ph.D.
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/dhananjaya-dj-nayak-ph-d-752a2a16

Dhananjaya (DJ) Nayak, Ph.D., is a program and alliance manager for cell and gene therapy at Charles Rivers Laboratories.

Triangle Biotech Tuesday is a not-for-profit monthly networking event started in May 2012 to connect scientific professionals, facilitate collaborations, and foster communications throughout RTP and the greater Research Triangle area. There is no set agenda, so we invite you to simply enjoy food, drinks, and to converse with local professionals. This is a great opportunity to expand your professional network and reach across industries.

Exhibitors:
Ali Ghiassi, Associate Director, People Experience
Regulatory Affairs North America
Email: ali.ghiassi@fortrea.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/alighiassi

With degrees from UNC-Greensboro in International business, economics, and Spanish, and more than a decade of experience in the life sciences industry, Ghiassi has had the opportunity to support a wide range of innovative pharma, biotech, medical device, and service organizations (CRO, CDMO) across the globe. He has helped establish strategic partnerships while implementing effective and efficient programs for talent acquisition, talent management, employee engagement, and employer branding.

Leveraging his language skills in English, Spanish (C2), French (A1), and German (A1), he's had the great opportunity to work with organizations, such as Catalent Pharma Solutions, Novartis, Clarivate Analytics, and dozens of other life sciences companies during his time with Aerotek. After moving to an in-house role leading talent acquisition for a rare disease biotech, then leading global commercial recruitment for Labcorp, Ghiassi is now focused on building a newly formed spinoff from Labcorp called Fortrea, a standalone global clinical research organization. In his free time, Ghiassi is a fan of traveling, cooking, camping, hiking, skiing, painting, and lending time to a few great nonprofit organizations.

Oswaldo Lozoya, Ph.D., M.S., Scientific Computing Principal Investigator
Email: olozoya@rti.org | *LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/oalozoya*

Oswaldo "Ozzy" Lozoya, Ph.D., M.S., is a scientific computing principal investigator in the Center for Data Modernization Solutions (CDMS) at RTI International. A seasoned biomedical engineer with more than 20 years of professional experience across industry, academic, and government sectors, Lozoya performs the role of scientific computing champion for the NHLBI BioData Catalyst Data Management Center and is an active member of the EHLC from NIEHS. He is a subject matter expert on integrative multi-omics research, development, and data science for high-dimensional biology studies and biomarker discovery. Lozoya's mission is to amalgamate biological insight from "Big Data" by deploying new analytical paradigms and emerging technologies for the benefit of public health. He has received multiple honors for his scientific service and achievement throughout his career, including recognition as lead inventor of a virus-and-host surveillance technology licensed in 2022 by the U.S. government to least developed countries under royalty-free access and development agreements through the WHO C-TAP Initiative for global pandemic preparedness against COVID-19 and future emerging pathogens. Before joining RTI, Lozoya was a staff scientist and genomics lead in the Translational Science and Innovation Laboratory at Q2 Solutions and a research fellow at NIEHS. He is also a full member of the Society of Toxicology.

Lozoya was born and raised in México and moved to the U.S. for college. He has lived in the Triangle area since 2006 with his partner Kristin (married since 2009). They are the parents of a beautiful, neurodivergent, almost 13-year-old girl named Sofie, and a kind, outspoken 12-year-old Timneh African Grey parrot by the name of Nemi. To the untrained eye, Lozoya's home life is reminiscent of a quirky sitcom.

Caroline Wake, B.S., Account Manager III, Actalent Services
Email: cwake@actalentservices.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/caroline-wake-69596a159

Caroline Wake, B.S., graduated from James Madison University with a degree in biology with the hopes of going into the nursing profession. Upon graduation, she realized that there is more that you can do with a life sciences degree than just health care. For the past six years, Wake has worked at Actalent Sciences, where she supports the top pharmaceutical and biotech organizations globally and in RTP to get their work done through our customizable solutions to achieve business goals. She also sits on the board of Triangle Biotech Tuesday. Outside of the life sciences field, Wake enjoys exercising, being outside, cooking, and spending time with her yellow lab, Scottie.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

FAES
FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION IN THE SCIENCES

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences is pleased to support the **NIEHS Annual Biomedical Career Symposium**. FAES programs complement the work of NIH in accomplishing its mission of seeking and applying fundamental knowledge about the biomedical sciences. FAES is committed to supporting the academic and professional advancement of our community of learners through a constantly evolving curriculum and award-winning, learner-centered approach to faculty development. Our Academic Programs department offers high-quality, innovative, and flexible online continuing education, and training, and we support our faculty in delivering impactful learning experiences through courses and workshops designed and taught according to research-based best practices. To learn more and to register, visit www.education.faes.org.

NIH
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Office of Fellows' Career Development

The mission of the **NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development (OFCD)** is to provide fellows in training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) with the professional skills and career development opportunities needed to excel in their future careers, regardless of their scientific field of study. The OFCD's goal is to ensure that all NIEHS fellows have an outstanding training experience that allows fellows to successfully transition to independence in their career of choice with confidence. If you are interested in a summer internship, postbaccalaureate program, or postdoctoral opportunities, stop by to learn about these opportunities.

Exhibitor:
Mercedes Arana, Ph.D., Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development
Email: arana@niehs.nih.gov

Mercedes Arana earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. She moved to North Carolina to pursue postdoctoral training at NIEHS, where she later transitioned into a permanent role. As a former IRTA fellow, Arana's journey has come full circle. In her current role, she works across stakeholders' aisles to foster a collaborative spirit and to contribute to the myriad of opportunities for fellows' career advancements. She relishes opportunities to mentor and guide, to advocate for, and support the professional development of all fellows and students at NIEHS. The OFCD team is here to ensure that we provide each of you with training experiences that will confidently catapult you to your career of choice.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Office of Technology Transfer

Discover Develop Deliver

The mission of the **NIEHS Office of Technology Transfer (OTT)** is to facilitate partnerships that lead to the discovery of innovative technologies that improve human health. To this end, OTT negotiates a variety of agreements that allow potential partners to leverage our unique and wide-ranging resources. The OTT acts as the contact point within NIEHS for all new inventions made by intramural researchers and is charged with protecting the institute's intellectual property interests. Our office advises on issues relating to copyrights, patents, and intellectual property.

Exhibitor:
Sharon Soucek, Ph.D., Director, Office of Technology Transfer
Email: souceks2@nih.gov | LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharonsoucek

Sharon Soucek, Ph.D., is the director in the Office of Technology Transfer at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Soucek earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Northeastern University and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Emory University. Her career in technology transfer began in graduate school with an internship in Emory University's Office of Technology Transfer. After graduating, she worked as a technology transfer specialist at the CDC before moving to her current position at NIEHS. Soucek's responsibilities include providing support for NIEHS investigators wishing to collaborate with other researchers, as well as advising on issues related to copyrights, patents, and intellectual property.

North Carolina NCSOT
REGIONAL CHAPTER of the SOCIETY of TOXICOLOGY

The **North Carolina Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (NCSOT)**, serving as a local focal point, provides opportunities for toxicologists in the state to meet, present research, discuss topics in the field, and foster collaborations. Additionally, NCSOT supports toxicology education at all levels from K-12 to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and recognizes and provides awards for research at the graduate and postdoctoral levels.

Exhibitor:
AtLee Watson, Ph.D., Toxicology Study Director, Inotiv
Email: atlee.watson@inotivco.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/atleewatson

AtLee Watson, Ph.D., is a toxicology study director at Inotiv. After he earned his Ph.D. in toxicology from North Carolina State University in 2017, he completed his postdoctoral training at the NIEHS National Toxicology Program from 2018-2020.

ORAU
Further. Together.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) provides innovative scientific and technical solutions to advance research and education, protect public health and the environment, and strengthen national security. Through specialized teams of experts, unique laboratory capabilities, and access to a consortium of more than 150 major Ph.D.-granting institutions, ORAU works with federal, state, local, and commercial customers to advance national priorities and serve the public interest. A 501©(3) nonprofit corporation and federal contractor, ORAU manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Learn more about ORAU at www.orau.org.

ORAU also manages and administers the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Student Services Contract (NSSC). The NSSC addresses the EPA's need to increase the supply of promising scientists, engineers, and administrative personnel in disciplines related to the EPA's mission. This program provides long-term temporary contractor opportunities for exceptional

undergraduate and graduate students and recent bachelor's, master's, and postdoctoral graduates to work on the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) research and administrative projects at multiple EPA laboratories and research centers. For a full list of opportunities, please visit: www.orau.org/epa.

Exhibitor
Karen Cleveland, PMP, Recruiter and Project Manager, EPA
National Student Services Contract, ORAU Workforce Solutions
Email: karen.cleveland@orau.org

When the **Science Communicators of North Carolina (SCONC)** held its first meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2007, the purpose was to gauge people's interest in getting together informally and talking about science. The gathering of about 50 people that evening reflected the diverse community of science lovers living in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area of North Carolina, also known as the "Research Triangle." Science writers, teachers, university staff, science museum curators, scientists, and everyone else interested in communicating science mingled and talked shop. SCONC members and the public can take part in activities, such as American Scientist's Science by the Slice series and professional development events that discuss everything from how to make quality videos on your smartphone to how to write a book. SCONC membership also offers benefits like networking opportunities, job postings, discounts on space-limited events, travel awards to attend conferences, and entry to our annual science communication contest and awards gala, the SCONCies. While SCONC continues to evolve, offering functions that benefit participants and the region, it never forgot its origins and reason for being.

Exhibitor:
Russ Campbell, M.L.A., Senior Communications Officer
Regulatory Affairs North America
Email: rcampbell@bwfund.org
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/rcc3nc

Russ Campbell, M.L.A. is the senior communications officer for the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a private foundation in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Since 2005, Campbell has been responsible for the communication activities of the Fund and now manages a $2 million grant portfolio in science communications. He is a founding member of the Science and Society Funder Collaborative, an organization dedicated to civic science. Campbell received a B.A. in English from Penn State University and a M.L.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the founding president of County House Research and has worked in the news offices of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an advocate for effective science communication, he co-founded the Science Communicators of North Carolina. He served on the board of directors for the North Carolina Network of Grantmakers and is a strategic advisor for EducationNC.

The NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Office of Fellows' Career Development

The Office of Fellows' Career Development (OFCD) provides intramural fellows in training at NIEHS with the professional skills and career development opportunities needed to excel in their future careers, regardless of their scientific field of study. The OFCD accomplishes this goal by working closely with the various divisions of NIEHS to provide NIEHS fellows with the resources, support, and network they need to succeed, and by collaborating with the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) to ensure that NIEHS fellows have an outstanding training experience and are prepared for the transition to independence in their chosen career path.

Contact:

Mercedes Arana, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development, NIEHS
arana@niehs.nih.gov

Hong Xu
Program Manager and Data Analyst
Office of Fellows' Career Development, NIEHS
xuh2@niehs.nih.gov

Katherine Hamilton
Summer Internship and Postbaccalaureate Program Manager, Office of Fellows' Career Development, NIEHS
hansen2@niehs.nih.gov

Edith M. Lee, M.P.A.
Program Specialist, Office of Fellows' Career Development, NIEHS
leeem@niehs.nih.gov

www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/research/fellows

Acknowledgments

Today's career symposium is organized by fellows at NIEHS and the EPA, who volunteered their time and efforts. This event would not be possible without the support of the organizations and companies acknowledged in this booklet. We also very much appreciate and depend on the goodwill and support of many people working behind the scenes, and we would like to thank the following:

Mercedes Arana, Ph.D., Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development, NIH, NIEHS

Hong Xu, Program Manager, Office of Fellows' Career Development, NIH, NIEHS

Katherine Hamilton, Science Education Coordinator, Office of Fellows' Career Development NIH, NIEHS

Edith Lee, M.P.A., Program Specialist, Office of Fellows' Career Development NIH, NIEHS

Michelle Campbell, M.B., Health Scientist, DERT, NIH, NIEHS

Rick Woychik, Ph.D., Director, NIEHS and NTP

Trevor Archer, Ph.D., Deputy Director, NIEHS

Darryl Zeldin, M.D., Scientific Director, NIH, NIEHS

Paul Doetsch, Ph.D., Deputy Scientific Director, NIH, NIEHS

David Balshaw, Ph.D., Director, Division of Extramural Research and Training, NIH, NIEHS

Robert Sills, D.V.M., Ph.D., Acting Scientific Director, Division of Translational Toxicology, NIH, NIEHS

J'Ingrid Mathis, M.S., Associate Director for Management, NIH, NIEHS

Lori Conlan, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Office of Intramural Training and Education, NIH, NIEHS

Charles Lipford, Conference Room Manager, Contractor to NIEHS, Support Services

Russ Campbell, M.L.A., Director of Science Communication, Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Cyndi Arizona, Deputy Chief of Business Services, Admin and Research Services, NIH, NIEHS

Fran Wagstaff, Intramural Program Specialist, NIH, NIEHS

Carlton Taylor, Office of the Director, NIH, NIEHS

Sanya Jackson, M.B.A., Contract Specialist, Office of Management, NIH, NIEHS

Donna Jeanne Corcoran, Senior Art Director, Designer, Contractor to NIEHS, Multimedia Services

Ian Thomas, M.S., Public Affairs Specialist, NIH, NIEHS

Jesse Saffron, J.D., Deputy Director, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, NIH, NIEHS

Steven McCaw, Photographer, Contractor to NIEHS, Multimedia Services

Claus Jensen, Web Development Team Lead, Contractor to NIEHS, NTT Data (NTT) Corporation

David Gardner, Senior Developer, NIEHS Websites, Contractor to NIEHS, NTT Data (NTT) Corporation

Qasim Rasheed, Program Manager, NIEHS WDDMS, Contractor to NIEHS, NTT Data (NTT) Corporation

Joseph Poccia, Digital Design Manager, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, NIH, NIEHS

Christine Flowers, M.A., Director, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, NIH, NIEHS

Dan Holt, Project Manager, Contractor to U.S. EPA

Christian Wallace, Conference Center Support, Contractor to U.S. EPA

The 2024 Career Symposium Planning Committee

Victoria Ledbetter, and **Puja Sohal, Ph.D.**, Co-Chairs

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Emily Pitzer, Ph.D.
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Notes

Organized by the NIEHS Trainees' Assembly
Sponsored by the NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development

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