

A NEW YEAR FOR THE BIOSCIENCE INDUSTRY ISSUE 5, WINTER 2006/2007

Meghan Kirksey *And Anagha Matapurkar*
ANEC President *ANEC Co-President*

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the Winter 2006/2007 edition of the Fundamentals Alumni Network Newsletter! The educational, networking, development, and social opportunities available for all alumni are growing and, together, this newsletter and newly launched Yahoo group offer us vital conduits for communication. Inside these pages, you will find career advice, news on what's hot in biotech, a firsthand account of an academia to biotech transition, and an update on recent Alumni network activities and upcoming events. In addition, please check below for important information on how to get the most from the Fundamentals Alumni Network.



The new members of the Alumni Network Executive Committee (ANEC). Top row L to R: Ethel Jolicoeur, Parag Patwardhan, Sean Boykevich, Kerstin Baer, Stepharnie Schneider. Bottom Row: Maurizio Pellegrino, Perrin Wilson, Anagha Matapurkar and Meghan Kirksey.

Many thanks to Maurizio for his hard work in putting this newsletter together and to Cliff, Mariana, and Perrin for their valuable contributions.

Best wishes to everyone in the New Year!

The Alumni Network Executive Committee

ALUMNI EVENTS



The happy crowd during the First Annual Alumni Reunion Party at Fuelray Lounge in New York City.

By Perrin Wilson
ANEC Ambassador

Our First Annual Alumni Reunion Party was held on December 7, 2006 at Fuelray Lounge in NYC. Tucked away in a cozy area by the bar we were able to catch up on all the happenings of fellow alumni including KJ Carstarphen's preparations for medical school, Meghan Kirksey's upcoming rotation in Brazil, and Sean Boykevich's new job prospects. Alumni from the 2005 and 2006 programs attended the reunion and both the Stony Brook and Manhattan classes were well represented. The event was hosted by the executive committee and organized by

Kerstin Baer, who chose a terrific lounge with great Happy Hour specials and terrific sangria.

Thanks to everyone who was able to make it and keep your eye out for the next Alumni Event!

Article Submission, Alumni Updates, Job Announcements, Questions or Comments?

E-mail: Maurizio at mpellegrini@rockefeller.edu

Join the online discussion group at: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/FBIAlumni/>

or email kate.posnanski@stonybrook.edu for an invitation.

LOST IN TRANSITION

By Marianna Savoca
Career Center — Stony Brook University

Transitioning to a new role always brings some trepidation, and moving from the familiar environment of university to a corporate setting will be a major transition for some. Will I be able to handle the new responsibilities? Will I fit in to my new workplace? Will I understand what is expected of me and achieve the success and respect that I achieved in my PhD program? How long your adjustment takes depends somewhat on the reception you receive from your employer (orientation and training, supervision and mentoring, collegial relationships), and perhaps a bit more on your attitude and response to your new environment. In this brief column I wanted to share some of the things I have learned over many years of working with students in transition to help make yours a smooth and relatively painless experience.



Marianna Savoca is the Director of the Career Center at Stony Brook University — Stony Brook. She works with students, employers, professors and staff across campus promoting career development and motivating students to create their own success.

The most important thing you can do first is to try to understand your environment. What is the company culture? How are decisions made? Who has power and respect, regardless of title or position on the organizational chart. Don't dismiss the mission and values of the organization — examine them closely and then observe how employees live the values and make the mission part of their every day work life; or not. Understanding your new work environment involves careful observation over time. Listen for clues about how information is shared, by whom, to whom, under what circumstances. What are the informal communications channels and who among your colleagues would be a source of information for you about “how things are done” in the organization?



How do various departments within your company communicate and work together? Do you notice if there is frequent and informal contact among different units or do things seem to be more silo-like?

What is your supervisor's role? It is likely that given your level of education and position, that you may be expected to work under little supervision but don't make that assumption immediately. How much communication does your supervisor expect from you? Does s/he want regular meetings? Formal? Informal? Does she prefer formal meetings or more casual updates? Does your supervisor encourage debate and disagreement among the team? Not all workplaces are like the college environment, where students are expected to challenge theories and argue different perspectives. When does your supervisor come to work? Does s/he tend to stay late or leave promptly at a certain time? What are the expectations, written or unwritten, of your work hours?

Some of you will be in supervisory roles yourself and may be inheriting a staff that knows more about the company and about the department than you do. How will you engage these people? How will you communicate your expectations and how will you involve your new staff in the planning and decision making of your organization?

I realize that these considerations represent only a few of the issues that may be faced by a newly minted PhD making the transition from university to corporation, but I hope I have given you some things to think about that will help you manage a successful transition.

“Life isn't about finding yourself, life is about creating yourself” (Unknown)



"HOT" BIOSCIENCE JOBS


By *Cliff Mintz*
CEO, *BioInsights, INC.*

The biotechnology and medical devices industries are poised for expansive growth over the next decade. Unlike previous biotechnology booms, in which R & D jobs were plentiful, there are ongoing shortages of qualified job candidates in the areas of clinical development, biomanufacturing, medical devices and medical communications.

There need for clinical development personnel dates back to the late 1990s. Typically, qualifications for these jobs include some medical training, e.g. nursing, medical, etc., and a willingness to work long hours and travel frequently. Although clinical training programs have emerged over the past five years, demand for clinical employees still outstrips supply and jobs are plentiful in this area.

The biomanufacturing industry has exploded in the past five years. This is largely due to the growing numbers of biotechnology products that are gaining regulatory approval and the advent of disposable manufacturing technologies. Like the clinical development field, there are a small number of biomanufacturing training programs in the U.S. Again, qualified candidates are scarce and the numbers of jobs in this area are large.

The transection of biology, genomics and engineering has catapulted the medical devices sector to the forefront of the bioscience industry. There are ongoing shortages of qualified personnel in this field and this situation will only get worse in coming years. At present, there is a dearth of training programs in bioengineering and, unless new degree or certificate program are created, there will be ongoing shortages of bioengineering jobs candidates well into the 21st century.

 The medical communications field has undergone unprecedented growth in the past three to five years. Medical communications, which has been "flying under the radar" for years, is an amalgamation of science, writing and marketing that is used to support the regulatory approval and launch of biopharmaceutical and pharmaceutical products. Medical communication support for a product is usually accomplished through the publication of peer-reviewed journal articles, presentation of posters and talks at scientific meetings and through medical marketing and advertising campaigns. The major requirements for med com jobs include a strong background in science or medicine, a willingness to write and an ability to interact with scientific and non-scientific personnel on a daily basis. Unfortunately, there are only a couple of programs (on the East Coast) that offer formal training or degrees in medical communications. Not surprisingly, there is a severe shortage of qualified employees in the medical communication field and it will only get worse as the biotechnology and medical devices industries continue to mature.



Cliff Mintz, Ph.D., is the founder of BioInsights, Inc. and serves as its Chairman and CEO. For the past two years, Dr. Mintz has been a bioscience education consultant to a variety of colleges, education organizations, and state government agencies.

For more info on Bioscience Jobs, visit <http://www.biojobblog.com/>

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FUNDAMENTALS PROGRAM PRESENTS 5TH ANNUAL LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY CAREER CONFERENCE

On Tuesday October 3, 2006, the Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry presented the 5th Annual Life Sciences Industry Career Conference “Developing Strategic Skills for a Successful Career in Industry” at Stony Brook Manhattan.

The annual conference, held in the fall each year, provided a unique forum for graduate students and individuals already working within the life science industry with information about career opportunities and also allowed them to hear stories first hand from seasoned industry professionals.

Many Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry Course directors were in attendance as speakers and moderators on panels. Dr. Ramana Sonty presented the opening keynote “Carpe Diem! Seize the day! Success is in Your Hands”. Dr. Saied Tousi presented on “Corporate Culture” and Dr. Cliff Mintz presented on “The Do's and Don'ts of Seeking Employment in the Life Sciences Sector”. Mr. Walt Mardis moderated the closing plenary which highlighted “State, National and Global Challenges and Opportunities in the Life Sciences Industry” presented by Sara Demy of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, Joseph Scaduto of the Center for Biotechnology and Bill Fair from the New York City Economic Development Corporation.

A unique feature in the conference was the “Lunch with the Experts” session, sponsored by Psychogenics, Inc. Conference attendees were able to sit, eat and have a roundtable question and answer period with leading industry professionals. The session proved to be an invaluable experience to all who attended.

For 2007, the Center for Biotechnology will partner with both New York University and Columbia University to hold the 6th Annual Career Conference. The theme for 2007 is “What Can You Do With a Ph.D” and it will be held at Columbia on November 2, 2007 and at New York University on November 3, 2007. Save the date! If you are interested in being involved with the organization of the conference, please contact the Center for Biotechnology at 631.632.8521.

DID YOU KNOW?

Gina Conforti (Manhattan 2005) has been awarded a *Commission of Science and Technology* fellowship for a postdoctoral position at Pestka Biomedical Laboratories.

These fellowships are awarded twice a year (fall and spring). If you're interested visit their website <http://www.njtfp.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

New York Biotechnology Association (NYBA) Annual Meeting: April 10, 2007—New York, NY
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) International Convention: May 6-9, 2007—Boston, MA
Last Day of classes 2007 Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry Program: May 17, 2007
2007 Life Sciences Summit: June 14, 2007—Melville, Long Island, NY
2007 Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry Program Graduation Luncheon: June 14, 2007 at Life Sciences Summit
6th Annual Career Development Conference: November 9 & 10, 2007—New York, NY

MORE INFORMATION TO COME IN SPRING 2007 ISSUE

CREDITS

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