



National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences



27th

ANNUAL

NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

On-Site Event: NIEHS Main Campus/Rall Building

NIEHS Building 101, Rodbell Auditorium
111 TW Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

**Career-Specific Discussions
Career Development Workshops
Networking Opportunities**

Wednesday April 16, 2025

9:00 a.m. – noon EDT

Virtual Event

**LinkedIn/Resume Workshop
One-on-One CV/Resume Consultations**

Organized by the NIEHS Trainees' Assembly

Sponsored by the NIEHS Office of
Fellows' Career Development

Front inside cover

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Agenda-at-a-Glance

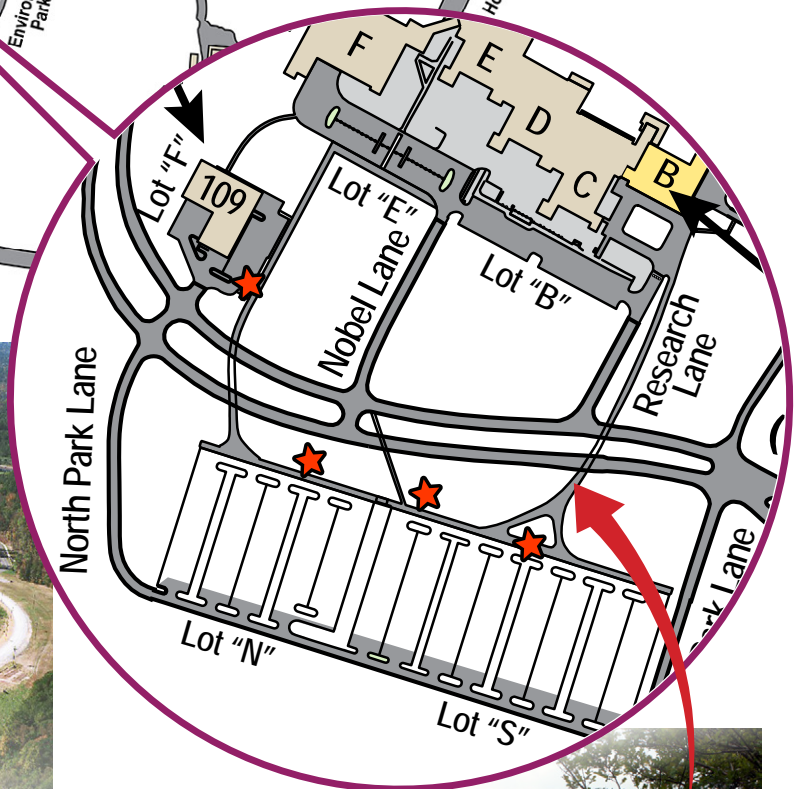
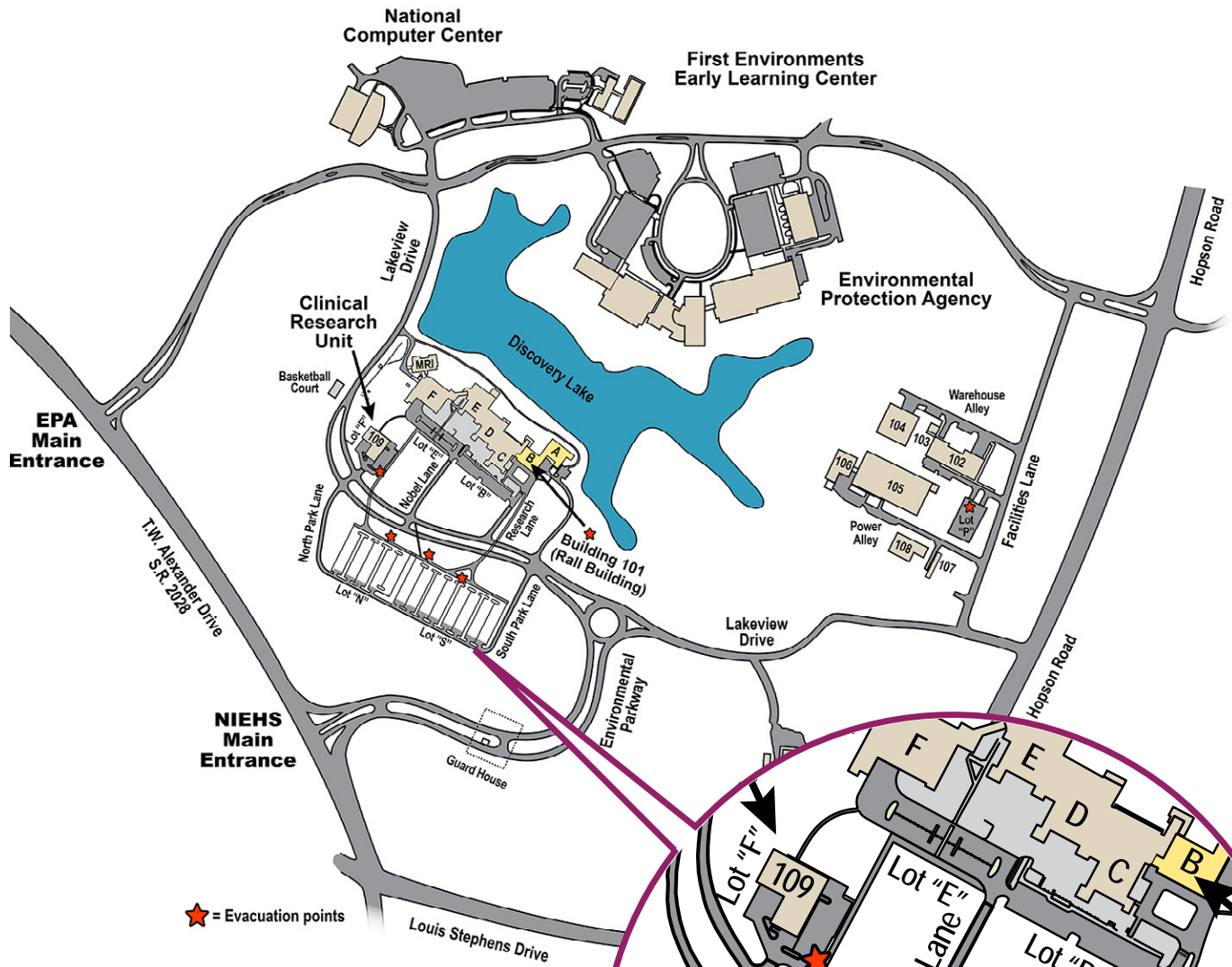
Development Workshops

Career Panels

Network Opportunities

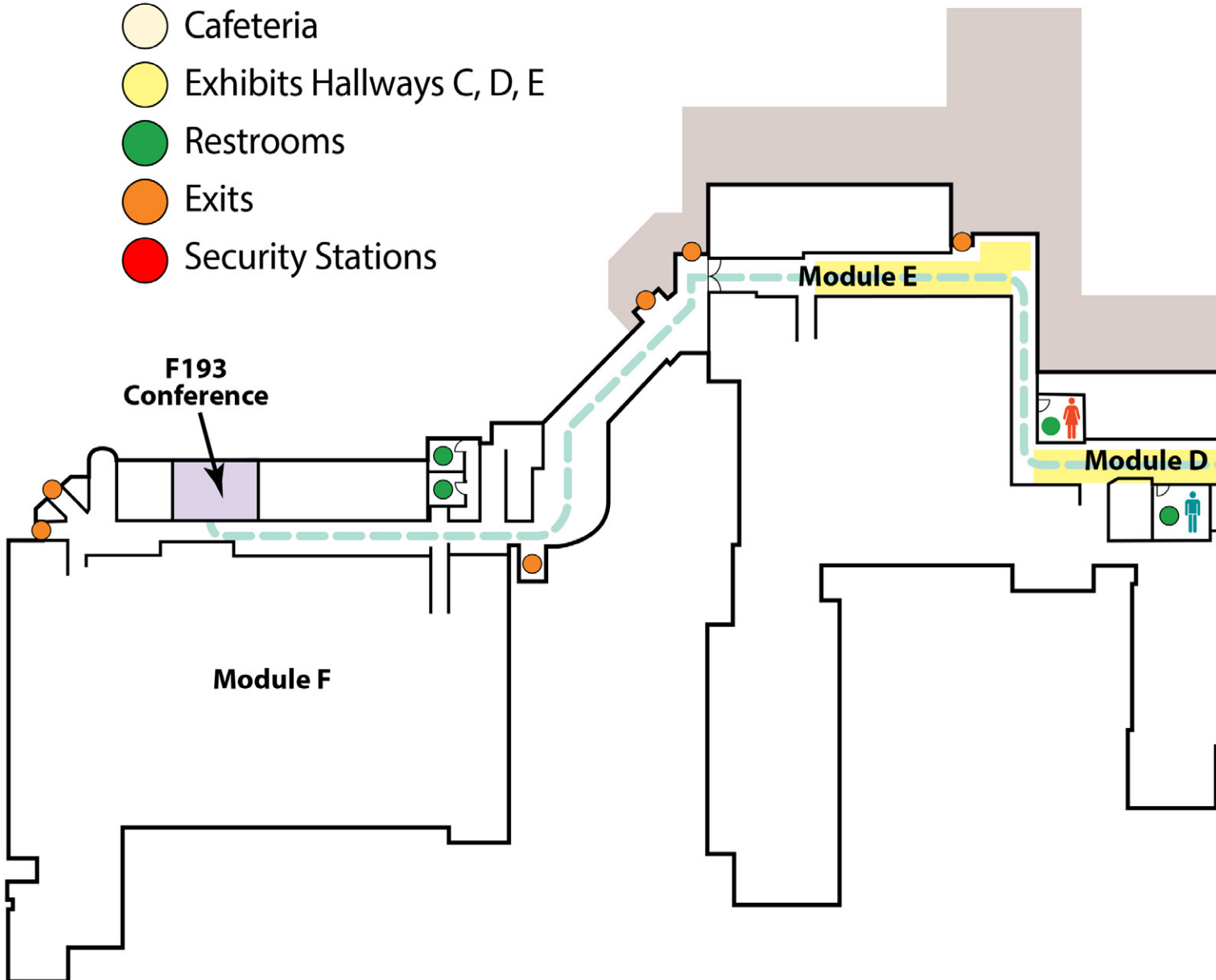
Tuesday April 15, 2025	Rodbell A	Rodbell B	Rodbell C	F193	Lakeview
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Check-in				
8:30 – 8:50 a.m.	Welcome and Opening				
Session One 8:50 – 9:50 a.m.	Panel Discussion 1: Industry			Workshop 1: Exploring Career Pathways: Finding Your Fit in Biomedical Science Lori Conlan, Ph.D.	Workshop 2: Decoding NIH Grants: A Practical Guide to Crafting Compelling Proposals Humphrey Yao, Ph.D.
9:50 – 10:10 a.m.	Break				
Session Two 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.	Workshop 3: Building Bridges: Mastering Networking Skills for Career Success Tammy Collins, Ph.D.		Workshop 4: Changing Course With Confidence: Embracing a New Identity for a New Direction Dara Wilson-Grant, M.S.Ed.	Panel Discussion 2: Academia	
11:10 – 11:30 a.m.	Break				
Keynote Address 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Robert Lefkowitz, M.D. A Tale of Two Callings				
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Networking Lunch (Cafeteria)/Company Exhibits (Modules C, D, and E Hallways)				
Session Three 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Workshop 5: Unlocking Your Leadership Potential Orit Ramler, M.Ed.		Panel Discussion 3: Epidemiology and Public Health	Panel Discussion 4: Inside the Hiring Process	
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Networking/Company Exhibits (Modules C, D, and E Hallways)				
Session Four 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.		Workshop 6: Interview and Negotiation Skills: Turning Interviews Into Job Offers Lori Conlan, Ph.D.	Panel Discussion 5: Government and NGO	Panel Discussion 6: Data-Driven Science	
Wednesday April 16, 2025	Virtual				
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Workshop 7: Building a Professional LinkedIn Profile and Resume Gail McCowan, CCSP				
10:00 a.m. – noon	One-on-One CV Review				

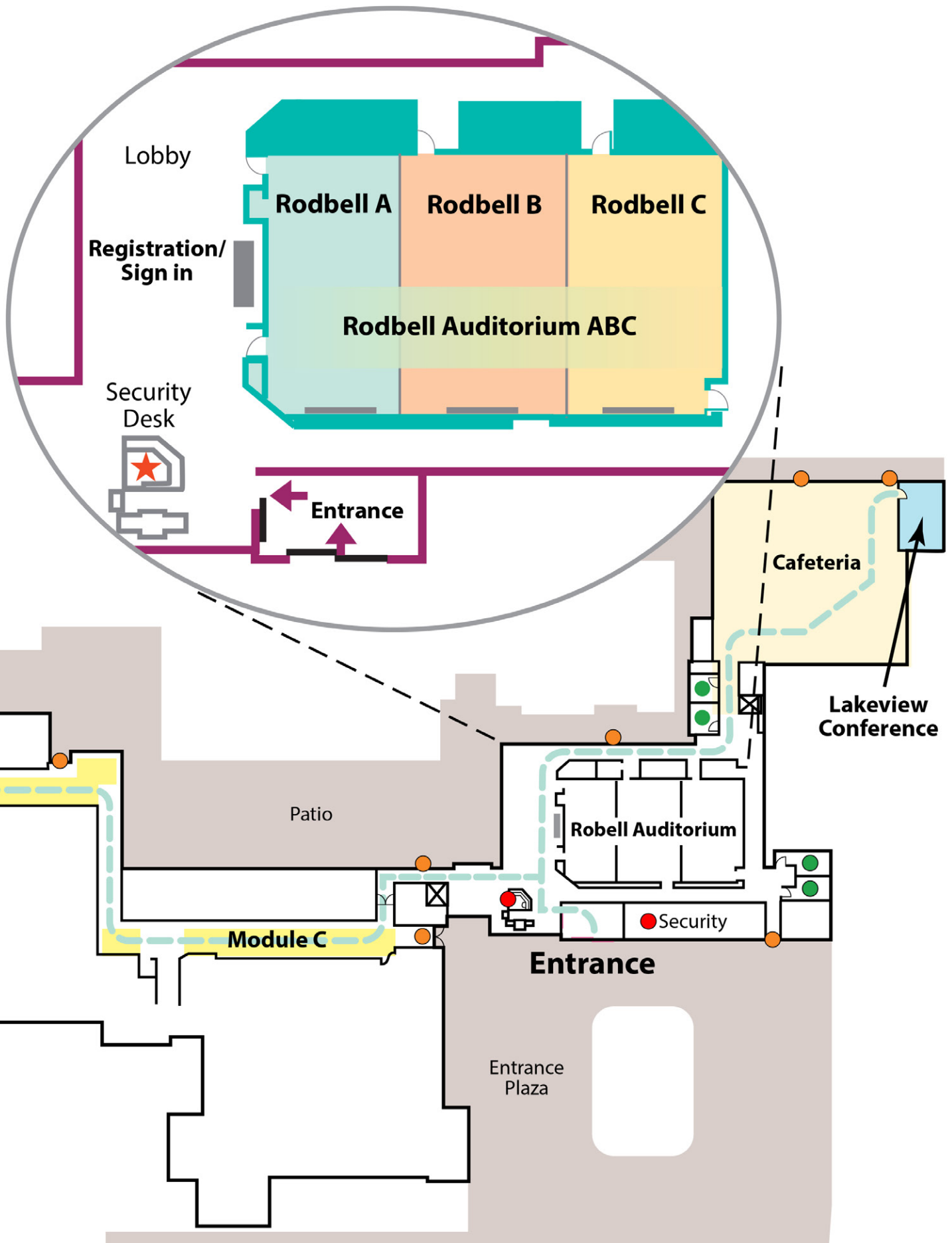
Campus Parking



NIEHS Building 101 Floorplan

- Rodbell Auditorium
- Rodbell A Conference Space
- Rodbell B Conference Space
- Rodbell C Conference Space
- Lakeview Conference Space
- F193 Conference Space
- Cafeteria
- Exhibits Hallways C, D, E
- Restrooms
- Exits
- Security Stations







National Institutes of Health
National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
P. O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Website: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov>

April 15, 2025

Dear Career Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), I welcome you to the Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. This year marks the 27th edition of this exceptional event. Organized by the NIEHS Trainees' Assembly and the NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development, the symposium is dedicated to providing trainees with invaluable career development opportunities. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed their time and effort to make this symposium a reality, especially as we proudly host it at NIEHS for the first time.

We are honored to feature Dr. Robert Lefkowitz, Nobel Prize laureate in Chemistry, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Lefkowitz's keynote address titled, "A Tale of Two Callings," will provide insights into how his career evolved and the invaluable lessons he has learned along the way. In addition, the symposium offers seven professional development workshops, six career panels, and a vibrant exhibition space. These resources are designed to help you explore diverse career options and build meaningful connections that will support you throughout your professional journey.

I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities presented at this symposium, stay motivated in your career pursuits, and strive toward your goals with determination and passion. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RWoychik", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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



April 15, 2025

National Institutes of Health
National Institute of
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Dear Career Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the NIEHS Division of Intramural Research, I welcome you to the 27th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. We are honored to host this remarkable event, which stands as one of the largest assemblies of biomedical organizations and junior scientists in North Carolina.

This year represents a significant occasion, as we host the symposium right here at NIEHS for the first time, with in-person workshops and panel discussions taking place today, followed by virtual one-on-one CV and resume review sessions tomorrow. The workshops feature leadership, networking, and negotiation skills, while panels explore career paths spanning academia, government, industry, and beyond. As a special treat, you will also get to hear from keynote speaker Dr. Robert Lefkowitz who received the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his ground-breaking discovery of the inner workings of G protein-coupled receptors.

The sessions today allow for a safe and encouraging space for learning and exploration with options in various biomedical fields. I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunity to connect with fellow attendees, panelists, speakers, and exhibitors. Developing a strong contact network is essential to a successful career in the biomedical sciences and may lead to exciting new opportunities.

It is noteworthy that this event is entirely trainee led; it is organized by postdoctoral, predoctoral, and postbaccalaureate fellows at NIEHS. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all the committee members who are fully committed to enhanced experiences and opportunities for fellow trainees. Specifically, I would like to thank the symposium co-chairs Matias Grodzielski and Yu- Ying Chen, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darryl C. Zeldin M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darryl Zeldin, M.D.
Scientific Director



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April 15, 2025

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 27th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. We are delighted to host the event at NIEHS. 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 fellows from the NIEHS! Each participant today is a beneficiary of a collective effort that spanned the planning and organization of this entire 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 2025 co-chairs of the organizing committee, Yu-Ying Chen and Matias Grodzielski 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: Kimberly Abt, Career Panel: Jiaqi Li, CV/Resume Review: Shruti Somai, and Exhibitor Committee: Rajesh Bhadwaj and Suneet Kaur. We appreciate all the committee members and day-of volunteers and the over 20 fellows 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, negotiate and more. Come ready to ask questions during career panel discussions about academia, industry, data science, NGO, public health and recruiting. Come ready to build your network with biomedical professionals and speak directly with hiring managers. You can receive virtual one-on-one advice in CV/resume review on April 16.

To each of you participating, I wish you continued success and look forward to seeing you make a positive impact in career paths and future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mercedes Arana", is written over a horizontal line.

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



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Environmental Health Sciences
P. O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Website: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov>

April 15, 2025

Dear Symposium Attendees,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to the 27th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. We are excited to have you join us for an event designed to inform, inspire, and empower your career journey.

This symposium is organized by our dedicated postdoctoral and postbaccalaureate fellows at NIEHS, with support from the Office of Fellows' Career Development and many others. It has long served as an invaluable resource for young scientists across the Research Triangle, offering a carefully structured program that introduces diverse career opportunities, connects you with professionals from various sectors, and helps you cultivate the networks essential for advancing your professional goals.

Throughout this two-day event, you will have the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops focused on exploring career pathways, mastering networking and interview strategies, leadership skills, and preparing for career pivots. You will hear from professionals representing academia, industry, government, NGO, public health, and data science, and you will have the chance to connect with potential employers at the industry exhibitions, as well as one-on-one virtual CV consultations. In addition, we are honored to welcome Dr. Robert Lefkowitz, the 2012 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, who will share his career journey in his keynote address, "A Tale of Two Callings."

This event would not be possible without the time and dedication of our organizing committee members, especially our subcommittee chairs Jiaqi, Shruti, Suneet, Rajesh, and Kimberly, and with the invaluable support of Mercy, Hong, Katy, and Donna Jeanne. We are also deeply grateful to our speakers, panelists, exhibitors, and reviewers. Most importantly, we want to thank each of you for being part of this exciting event. We hope you take full advantage of the symposium and leave with fresh insights, practical skills, and meaningful connections that will propel your career forward.

We look forward to an inspiring and productive symposium.

Warm regards,

Yu-Ying Chen, Ph.D., and Matias Grodzielski, Ph.D.
Co-Chairs, 27th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

OPENING AND WELCOME
(8:30 – 8:50 a.m.)

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

Darryl Zeldin, M.D., Scientific Director, Intramural Research Division,
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

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

Matias Grodzielski, Ph.D., and **Yu-Ying Chen, Ph.D.**, Co-Chairs, NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
(Tuesday, April 15, 2025 • 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

A Tale of Two Callings

Robert Lefkowitz, M.D.

2012 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

The Chancellor's Distinguished Professor of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center



PANEL DISCUSSIONS 1: (Rodbell ABC | 8:50 – 9:50 a.m.)

Industry

Joe Dahl, Ph.D. (Bioskryb)

Elena Dukhovlinova, Ph.D. (Alcami Corporation)

Jennifer Israel, Ph.D., PMP (Kriya Therapeutics)

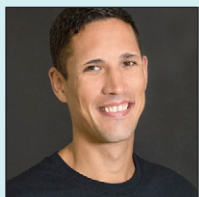
Jacob Jacobsen, Ph.D. (Evecxia Therapeutics)

Jason Kralic, Ph.D. (Tellus Therapeutics)

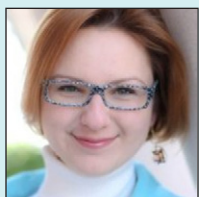
Morgan Oatley, Ph.D. (EpiCypher)

This panel will delve into the diverse career opportunities within the biomedical industry, showcasing professionals from an array of companies and roles. Panelists will offer insights into their career paths, essential skills, and industry trends across areas such as research and development, regulatory affairs, data science, consulting, and business development. Whether you're interested in working for a biotech startup, a pharmaceutical company, or a global health care organization, this discussion will provide valuable perspectives on navigating and thriving in the industry.

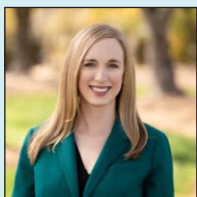
Panelists:



Joe 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 analysis. He completed postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 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 the 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



Elena Dukhovlinova, Ph.D., is a principal scientist, bioassays, leading a team of scientists at the Alcamí Durham site that focuses on analytical development for cell and gene therapies and biologics. She is a subject matter expert in molecular and cell-based assays with more than 20 years of experience from both academia and Big Pharma. Prior to Alcamí, she was a CMC leader and scientific integrator at Janssen Cell and Gene Therapy group, supporting various stages of drug development for autologous and allogeneic cell therapies and AAV assets. Her academic experience includes research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Yale University, focused on optimization of CAR T cell therapies, HIV vaccine development, and lentiviruses. Email: elena.dukhovlinova@alcami.com



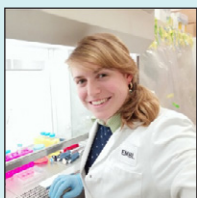
Jennifer Israel, Ph.D., PMP, is the director of genomics and data science at Kriya Therapeutics. She leads a multidisciplinary team of molecular biologists and data scientists to utilize next-generation sequencing, bioinformatics, and machine learning to advance pipeline and platform technology development. By applying her extensive expertise leveraging high-dimensional biology and multi-omics platforms, she contributes to advances in translational research across diverse therapeutic areas. Email: jisrael@kriyatx.com



Jacob Jacobsen, Ph.D., serves as CEO of Evecxia Therapeutics, a company he co-founded with the late James B. Duke Professor Marc Caron, Ph.D., at Duke University, and that is dedicated to realizing the therapeutic potential of Serotonin Synthesis Amplification, a novel pharmacology Jacobsen invented. Evecxia spun out of Duke in 2019. Until 2023, Jacobsen served as CSO. He has led the development of Evecxia's drug candidates from inception to Phase 2 ready. Prior to joining Evecxia, Jacobsen was a scientist at Duke University and Duke-National University Singapore, where he was the driver of a cross-disciplinary team executing seminal research on Serotonin Synthesis Amplification. He also executed several basic and applied neuroscience projects that resulted in multiple first and co-author publications in journals of repute. Prior to Duke, Jacobsen spent eight years in pharma-biotech in Copenhagen, Denmark, i.e., NeuroSearch and Lundbeck, where he executed drug discovery and target validation projects in preclinical models. He is well-published, including in the highest-ranking journals in the field of psychiatry, and is an inventor on all Evecxia issued and pending patents. Jacobsen received his Ph.D. in neuropharmacology and M.S. in human biology from the University of Copenhagen. Email: jacob.jacobsen@evecxia.com



Jason Kralic, Ph.D., is a neuropharmacologist and business development (BD) professional with extensive experience in technology innovation, R&D, licensing, and company creation. He co-founded Tellus Therapeutics alongside Duke University neonatologist and stem cell biologist Eric Benner, M.D., Ph.D., focusing on developing treatments for neonatal brain injury. In 2015, Kralic founded Innervate BD Solutions, an advisory firm dedicated to helping clients maximize the potential of their science and business through strategic planning and execution. His career in R&D business development spans roles across small and large pharmaceutical companies, where he has led BD strategy, managed due diligence, licensing and M&A activities, and fostered key alliances. Kralic earned his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Zurich. A passionate advocate for STEM education, entrepreneurship, and the growth of the life sciences industry in North Carolina, Kralic continues to drive innovation at the intersection of science and business. Email: jasonkralic@tellustherapeutics.com



Morgan Oatley, Ph.D., is a research scientist I at EpiCypher Inc. She is specialized in mammalian cell culture, isolation, and flow cytometry. For her Ph.D., she studied how haematopoietic stem cells emerge in mammals, working extensively with mouse embryonic stem cells, single cell transcriptomics, flow cytometry, and CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing. As a postdoc in Victoria Bautch's, Ph.D., lab at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she used mouse genetics and human pluripotent stem cells to understand epistatic relationships in cardiovascular development. Using confocal microscopy, in vivo knockout models, and in vitro cell biology assays, she tried to better understand the relationships between fluid shear stress, TGFbeta/BMP signaling, and cellular identity. Email: morgan.oatley@gmail.com

WORKSHOP 1: F Module (F193 | 8:50 – 9:50 a.m.)

Exploring Career Pathways: Finding Your Fit in Biomedical Science

Lori Conlan, Ph.D.

Deputy Director

Office of Intramural Training and Education

National Institutes of Health

Email: conlanlo@nih.gov



Description of Talk:

The workshop provides an opportunity for students and early-career fellows to explore various professional paths. Participants will examine the different career options available for those with a biomedical science background, learn how to identify opportunities that align with their unique skills and personal values, and discover effective strategies for determining whether a specific job or career path is the right fit for them. Additionally, the workshop will offer guidance on where to begin the job search once they have pinpointed their areas of interest.

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.

WORKSHOP 2: (Lakeview Conference Room | 8:50 – 9:50 a.m.)

Decoding NIH Grants: A Practical Guide to Crafting Compelling Proposals

Humphrey Yao, Ph.D.

Senior Investigator

Reproductive Developmental Biology Group

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Email: humphrey.yao@nih.gov



Description of Talk:

This workshop is designed to equip attendees with an understanding of different NIH grant mechanisms while offering practical strategies for crafting compelling grant proposals. Participants will explore the various funding opportunities available through NIH, learn key elements that make a proposal persuasive, and the process of writing and submitting a successful grant application. This workshop is targeted for students and fellows interested in an academic career path, providing the essential tools and actionable insights needed to navigate the competitive landscape of research funding with confidence.

Speaker Bio

Humphrey Yao, Ph.D., leads the reproductive developmental biology group at the reproductive and developmental biology laboratory (RDBL) at NIEHS. Before he joined NIEHS in 2010, he was an associate professor in the Department of Comparative Biosciences at University of Illinois, where he was the PI or preceptor of two NIH R01, one R20, and two T32 grants. Yao served on numerous study sessions for NIH and other international funding agencies. He was the mentor of 2 NIH K99/R00 pathway to independence awards and 2 NIGMS post-doctoral research associate program awards. Yao is particularly passionate about helping junior fellows develop skills on grant writing, manuscript preparation, and public presentation by conducting workshops at NIH and other extramural institutes.

WORKSHOP 3: (Rodbell A | 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.)

Building Bridges: Mastering Networking Skills for Career Success

Tammy Collins, Ph.D.

Program Officer

Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Email: tcollins@bwfund.org



Description of Talk:

This workshop is designed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in networking for career-building across academia, industry, and beyond. Attendees will learn how to effectively leverage both online and offline networking strategies, refine their professional communication techniques, and learn the step-by-step process of constructing a robust professional network. Whether you are just beginning to network or looking to enhance your existing connections, this session offers practical insights and actionable tips for fostering meaningful and lasting relationships that can propel your career forward.

Speaker Bio:

Tammy Collins, Ph.D., joined the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) in the fall of 2022, a nonprofit philanthropic organization whose mission is to nurture a diverse group of leaders in biomedical sciences to improve human health. At BWF, Collins serves as a program officer where she directs the Career Awards at the Scientific Interface (CASI) program and the Innovations in Regulatory Science Awards (IRSA). Prior to joining BWF, Collins was the director of the Office of Fellows' Career Development at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). In this role, she created and organized professional career development opportunities for the fellows' community. Collins is focused on making career outcomes of graduate and postdoctoral scholars transparent. To this end, she has published on the career outcomes of NIEHS postdoctoral scholars and has led a national collaboration as part of the Graduate Career Consortium to review career outcome classification and visualization methodologies in North America. She hopes the tools and resources developed will advance national and international efforts to report on graduate-level career outcomes, which will also help the community better understand factors that influence career decisions. Collins received her bachelor's in chemistry from Appalachian State University (ASU), where she became ASU's first Goldwater Scholar, and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Duke University. After a brief postdoc at Duke, she joined NIEHS as a postdoc in 2009, where she developed her passion for helping foster scientific leaders.

WORKSHOP 4: (Rodbell C | 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.)

Changing Course With Confidence: Embracing a New Identity for a New Direction

Dara Wilson-Grant, M.S.Ed.

Director, Postdoctoral Career and Professional Development

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Email: dwgrant@email.unc.edu



Description of Talk:

This workshop is designed for individuals considering a pivot away from academia. Our self-identity and how we are perceived often hinges on our Ph.D. or professional roles, but what happens when we consider a career change? This transition can be both emotionally and logistically challenging. In this workshop, you will learn the emotional obstacles that might be causing you to feel stuck or afraid to pivot. You will discover strategies to reimagine your professional identity beyond academia, and learn how to build a strong foundation for exploring career options and making well-informed decisions about your future.

Speaker Bio:

Dara Wilson-Grant, M.S.Ed., is the director of postdoctoral career and professional development at UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and a licensed professional counselor. She is dedicated to helping individuals choose meaningful career paths and develop the skills needed for lifelong success. With more than 20 years of coaching experience working with diverse professionals — from postdoctoral scholars to MBA candidates across STEM, humanities, and social sciences — Wilson-Grant excels at guiding career transitions and overcoming professional impasses. As a seasoned freelance consultant and speaker, she designs dynamic programs and workshops that empower participants to navigate transitions, build robust networks, and master job negotiations in an ever-changing work environment.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS 2: F Module (F193 | 10:10 – 11:10 a.m.)

Academia

Rajula Elango Alleva, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Maria Blasi, Ph.D. (Duke University)

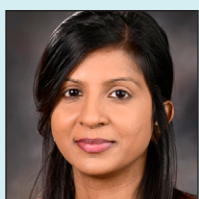
Mandy Goldberg, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Shuo Han, Ph.D. (Duke University)

Javier Lopez Soto, Ph.D. (North Carolina State University)

Applying for jobs in academia can be intriguing and often scary because the processes are not explicitly known, and they may vary. This panel will delve into questions regarding searching for available positions in any research area/institutions and the level of preparedness beforehand that an applicant should have. This session will also highlight the interview process, writing the first research focus for your laboratory, negotiating a startup package, writing research grants, mentoring, teaching, and understanding how to think and predict the next steps in one's career progression, whether in research and/or teaching. The panelists will also discuss how to know what projects to work on and how to correctly extrapolate whether these projects will provide never-ending questions that keeps a laboratory going.

Panelists:



Rajula Elango Alleva, Ph.D., is a tenure-track investigator in the Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Her research focuses on understanding the intricate interplay between various DNA lesions and associated repair pathways in mammals. In particular, her group is interested in understanding how DNA-protein crosslinks (DPCs), a highly deleterious DNA lesion, is recognized, processed, and repaired in mammalian cells. Her group adapts state-of-the-art high-throughput sequencing techniques and genetic engineering technologies to track the molecular intermediates formed during the repair of DPCs. Since DPCs are routinely formed from exposure to chemical and environmental stressors, unraveling the mechanism of repair of DPCs can have a global impact on human health..

Email: rajula.elango@nih.gov

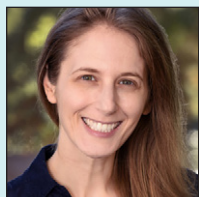


Maria Blasi, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, and a member of the Duke Human Vaccine Institute (DHVI) at the Duke University School of Medicine. Blasi completed her undergraduate and Ph.D. studies in Italy at the Sapienza University in Rome. She moved to Duke in 2012 for a postdoctoral position in Mary Klotman's laboratory at the DHVI. She joined the faculty at Duke in 2017.

The Blasi laboratory has two main areas of research: 1) understanding the mechanisms and implications of viral infections in the kidney, including HIV and SARS-CoV-2 and 2) development of vaccines and therapeutics against a variety of infectious diseases.

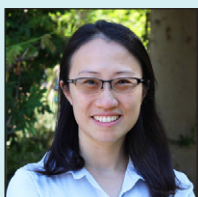
Blasi is also the co-director of the DHVI training mentoring program (DTMP). The DTMP is committed to providing an outstanding training environment and research experiences that will enhance trainees' careers and provide avenues to incorporate education, expertise, initiative, and dedication to the success of the studies.

Email: maria.blasi@duke.edu

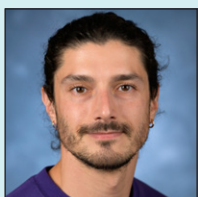


Mandy Goldberg, Ph.D., M.P.H., is an independent research scholar in the NIEHS epidemiology branch, where she leads the puberty and cancer epidemiology group. She earned an M.P.H. from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine in 2011, and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from Columbia University in 2019. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the chronic disease epidemiology group in the NIEHS epidemiology branch. Her research focuses on understanding the hormonal pathways that influence breast development in early life and identifying modifiable factors that disrupt these pathways to influence the timing of puberty and breast cancer risk. She received a 2023 pathway to independence award from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for her work investigating the potential importance of minipuberty of infancy as a critical period for growth and development in girls.

Email: mandy.goldberg@nih.gov



Shuo Han, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of biochemistry and focuses on the fundamental mechanisms of how human gut bacteria and their bioactive metabolites contribute to host aging physiology. Her long-term objective is to translate this knowledge into therapeutic opportunities to promote healthy aging. While fecal microbiome transplantation has been shown rescue age-associated decline in several host animal models, how gut bacteria and their metabolites impact host physiology represent a new frontier to be fully explored. Leveraging chemical biology and molecular genetics, the Han Lab aims to identify intra-organismal pathways that define bacteria-host signaling in aging and longevity. Email: shuo.han@duke.edu



Javier Lopez Soto, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Neurobiology at NC State University. He is studying the molecular mechanisms of chronic pain, a major public health priority and an acute need for effective and non-addictive treatments. His goal is to identify key epigenetic mechanisms that control transcript identity in nociceptors of dorsal root ganglia; nociceptors are neurons that undergo abnormal changes in activity following nerve damage and these changes are associated with the pathophysiology of neuropathic pain.

Email: ejlopezs@ncsu.edu



NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rodbell ABC (11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

A Tale of Two Callings

Robert Lefkowitz, M.D.

2012 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Chancellor's Distinguished Professor of Medicine

Duke University Medical Center



Keynote Abstract

Robert Lefkowitz's, M.D., research began in the late 1960s, when the existence of drug and hormone receptors were controversial. His team spent many years developing methods to label and purify adrenergic receptors for adrenaline. In 1986, Lefkowitz's group cloned the beta2-adrenergic receptor gene and established the G protein-coupled receptors family (GPCRs). The discovery transformed our understanding of how the receptors signal through G proteins, as well as the mechanism of receptor desensitization. Today, more than half of prescription drugs, including beta blockers, angiotensin receptor blockers, and antihistamines target either directly or indirectly the receptors discovered by Lefkowitz's team. In 2022, Lefkowitz co-founded Septerna, a biotech company that specializes in developing GPCR drugs. Lefkowitz was trained as a physician; however, his time working as a research associate at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which started as a means to fulfill his draft obligation, turned into his lifelong passion for basic research. Lefkowitz's memoir, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm," recounts his early career as a cardiologist and his transition to biochemistry, which led to his Nobel Prize win.

Speaker Bio

Robert Lefkowitz, M.D., is the Chancellor's Distinguished Professor of Medicine and professor of medicine, chemistry, pathology, and biochemistry at Duke University Medical Center. He is also a member of the Duke Cancer Institute. He obtained his M.D. from Columbia University in 1966. Following his residency training in internal medicine at Columbia University, he served as a clinical and research associate at the NIH from 1968 to 1970. Lefkowitz joined Duke University in 1973, and has been a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator since 1976. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the National Medal of Science, the Shaw Prize, the Albany Prize, and the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1988, the Institute of Medicine in 1994, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1988.

Networking Lunch (Cafeteria | 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.)

Exhibit Browsing (Modules C, D, and E Hallways)

WORKSHOP 5: (Rodbell A | 2:00–3:00 p.m.)

Unlocking Your Leadership Potential

Orit Ramler, M.Ed.

Best-Selling Author, Executive Coach

Email: orit@oritrabler.com



Description of Talk:

Through an interactive conversation, we will explore what it means to be a leader today, essential leadership traits, and how to effectively influence and inspire others. This session is designed to empower you and unlock your leadership potential.

Speaker Bio:

Orit Ramler, M.Ed. is an experienced executive coach and leadership development expert with a global perspective rooted in a life journey across multiple countries and cultures. Born in Israel, raised across South America, and currently based in North Carolina, Ramler has dedicated her career to helping leaders unlock their potential and create meaningful, lasting impact in their organizations.

Ramler holds a master's degree in educational psychology and began her professional journey by founding a successful educational toy company in Argentina. After moving to North Carolina, Ramler transitioned her focus to leadership coaching. Certified by the Newfield Network and as a Marshall Goldsmith Stakeholder Centered Coach, she founded Make it a Good One® Coaching and Consulting to guide executives, emerging leaders, and organizations in transforming their internal narratives to drive positive outcomes.

Today, Ramler is the director of coaching for DELTA Leadership Inc. She partners with leaders across industries, helping them to set clear objectives, enhance their strategic vision, and lead with purpose. Her coaching approach blends empathy with actionable insight, supporting clients to realize both personal and professional growth while maximizing their effectiveness as leaders.

Ramler is also the author of "The Box of Life: A Guide to Living with Purpose and Preserving What Matters Most," a book that inspires individuals to reflect on their values, legacy, and life purpose. Through her Box of Life Project, she offers workshops and coaching services that encourage people to curate their own stories and preserve what truly matters, enhancing their impact both within and beyond their organizations.

For more information, please visit <https://www.oritrabler.com>

PANEL DISCUSSIONS 3: (Rodbell C | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Epidemiology and Public Health

Taylor Breeyear, M.P.H., BSN, RN, CIC (North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services)

Sarah Gray, Ph.D. (SAGE Therapeutics)

Quaker Harmon, M.D., Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Brett Phillips, M.A., PMP, CCRP (UNC Blood Research Center)

Join us for a thought-provoking panel discussion on careers in epidemiology and public health, featuring accomplished professionals from a wide range of backgrounds. Panelists will share their unique career paths, practical experiences, and valuable insights into this dynamic and impactful field. This session presents an exceptional opportunity to delve into the critical roles that epidemiologists and public health experts play in promoting community health, preventing disease, and addressing complex global health challenges. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the diverse career opportunities available within public health, from research to field work and leadership roles. Whether you are advancing your studies, embarking on your professional journey, or considering a career transition, this panel will provide practical advice and inspiration to guide your next steps.

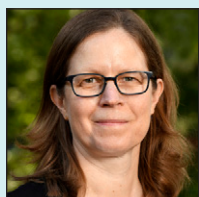
Panelists:



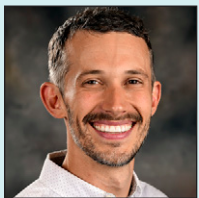
Taylor Breeyear, M.P.H., BSN, RN, CIC, is the lead public health infection preventionist with the North Carolina Division of Public Health, Communicable Disease Branch. She received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Appalachian State University and worked as a critical care nurse before obtaining a Master of Public Health degree from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Breeyear worked as an infection preventionist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and obtained her certification in infection control in 2021. At the Division of Public Health, she works with various organizations to prevent health care-associated infections and contain emerging and targeted pathogens. *Email: taylor.breeyear@dhhs.nc.gov*



Sarah Gray, Ph.D., is an associate director in fluid biomarkers at Sage Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company focused on delivering life-changing brain health medicines. She obtained her B.S. and M.S. in animal science (Michigan State University and Penn State University, respectively) and her Ph.D. in pharmacology at the University of Virginia. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University, where she conducted preclinical and phase 1 diabetes research prior to working at Sage Therapeutics. In her current role, she leads efforts to establish and implement biomarker approaches across preclinical and clinical teams, works in cross-functional teams to create and execute translational science strategies, and communicates findings to a wide array of audiences. *Email: sarah.m.gray@gmail.com*



Quaker Harmon, M.D., Ph.D., is a staff scientist in the Fertility and Reproductive Health Group, Epidemiology Branch, at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Her primary research focuses on identifying risk factors for fibroid development and growth and factors influencing menstrual cycle characteristics, with a particular interest in contraception and vitamin D. Harmon also conducts research examining risk factor for pre-eclampsia, fetal death, and long-term maternal health following pregnancy complications. Harmon has an M.D. from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in epidemiology from the Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health. *Email: quaker.harmon@nih.gov*



Brett Phillips, M.A., PMP, CCRP, is the clinical research program manager for the UNC Blood Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Serving previously for seven years as a clinical research coordinator in oncology and hematology and with expertise in clinical research operations and project management, Phillips oversees the coordination and execution of a portfolio of clinical trials focused on hematologic disorders, ensuring studies progress efficiently from feasibility assessment through completion. In addition to managing research portfolios, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement, Brett leads a team of coordinators and student interns, fostering the next generation of clinical research professionals. Passionate about workforce development and research education, Phillips actively engages in initiatives that connect students with hands-on clinical research experiences while driving process improvements to enhance research efficiency and impact.

Email: brett_phillips@med.unc.edu | LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brett-phillips-ma-pmp-ccrp-85955648>

PANEL DISCUSSIONS 4: Module F (F193 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Inside the Hiring Process

Tim Hudson (Eva Garland Consulting)

Oswaldo Lozoya, Ph.D., MSME (RTI International)

Michael Maciekowich (Astron Solutions)

Thomas Phillips, MBA (McLaren Search)

Matthew Shearin (Actalent)

The hiring process can be daunting for job candidates, and knowledge about this process can help candidates with their expectations through the application and interview process. This panel will focus on parsing out qualities that the hiring committee is looking for in a job candidate and how it differs across different roles. Also, we are interested in knowing what an interviewee can obtain from this process, which includes feedback after the interview and being a successful candidate with an offer letter.

Specifically, we are seeking for insightful details spanning application for a job opening by fine-tuning your CV to best fit your abilities and the job description. We are also interested in understanding the interview process in details and salary negotiation following a job offer. This panel will also ask questions on deciding if a job is a good fit for a candidate and how to relate with interviewers across the different levels in the process.

Panelists:



Tim Hudson, is a seasoned talent acquisition leader with more than 17 years of experience in recruiting and human resources. Hudson, a U.S. Army veteran, has dedicated his career to helping individuals navigate the job market and secure meaningful employment opportunities. He is passionate about career development and is committed to guiding job seekers toward success by sharing practical insights on job searching, interviewing, and professional growth. Hudson serves as the talent acquisition manager at EGC, where he leads recruitment strategies to attract top talent in the scientific consulting and accounting industries.

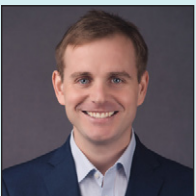


Oswaldo Lozoya, Ph.D., MSME, is a principal scientist for applied transdisciplinary research at RTI International in the center for data modernization solutions. Lozoya is a seasoned biomedical engineer with more than 20 years of professional experience, and a subject matter expert on integrative multi-omics methods, bioinformatics workflows, single-cell sequencing technologies, biomarker discovery, and high-dimensional multi-modal data mining. His current work in the public health and life sciences domains is focused on advancing novel FAIR platforms that democratize access to scientific data and analytical workspaces. Previously, he was staff

scientist and genomics lead in the translational science and innovation laboratory at IQVIA Laboratories (formerly Q² Solutions). Before then, Lozoya held research fellow and special volunteer appointments at NIEHS, earning the 2021 NIH Director's Award in the scientific/medical category for his research and leadership in securing funding from the NIH RADx-rad initiative to advance novel COVID-19 diagnostic methods. Through that work, he invented COVID-19 diagnostics and prognostics technologies that were patented by the U.S. government and licensed to least developed countries in 2021 through a royalty-free model to enhance global pandemic preparedness. Email: olozoya@rti.org



Michael Maciekowich, is a national director for Astron Solutions. His areas of expertise include the development, design, and implementation of executive, physician, and employee base pay systems, short- and long-term incentive programs, sales incentive programs, and performance management systems in all industries. Maciekowich has more than 40 years of consulting and industry compensation experience. Prior to Astron, he worked for numerous consulting firms, such as The Hay Group, Towers Watson, Adams, Nash & Haskell, and the Omni Group. He began his career in 1978 at Zenith Electronics, continuing his career at Honeywell and the American Hospital Association before moving into consulting. Maciekowich is a sought-after speaker in total rewards program design. He has presented at national American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA) and WorldatWork conferences, as well as numerous local ASHHRA and Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapters. His topics include current trends in compensation program design, design and utilization of gamification strategies in employee engagement, creative performance management program design, customer satisfaction driven rewards systems, and Compensation 101 for Beginners. Maciekowich is an active member of WorldatWork, ASHHRA, and SHRM. He is also a member of various local and state human resource associations across the country. Maciekowich received a lifetime achievement award from WorldatWork. He received bachelor's degrees in political science and philosophy from Loyola University of Chicago and a master's degree in industrial relations from the Loyola University Chicago Quinlan School of Business. He can be followed on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelmaciekowichastron>.



Thomas Phillips, MBA, is the founder and manager of McLaren Search, a retained executive search and leadership consulting firm in North Carolina. He has successfully placed more than 10,000 executives and career professionals into new roles at global companies across industries and sectors. Phillips' informed approach to leadership solutions stems from a 15-year managerial career, during which he held senior positions at ZS Associates (health care and technology management consulting), Edwards Lifesciences (cardiovascular medical devices), GLG (hedge funds and private equity), and Egon Zehnder (executive and board search). He also provided expertise to higher education students as a core member of Vanderbilt's Admissions, Career Center, and Peer Advisory teams. Phillips has lived and worked in seven cities, and has traveled to six of the seven continents. He received his MBA from Vanderbilt University and his B.A. from Middlebury College. Email: thomas@mclarensrchllc.com | Website: mclarensrchllc.com
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomasmphillips>



Matthew Shearin, is an account executive at Actalent Services, supporting quality and laboratory operations in manufacturing and engineering. His team has worked on projects in biotech and pharmaceutical manufacturing, inclusive of Greenfield and Yellowfield projects, global LIMS implementation, CQV, and business as usual functions for business continuity. As a native North Carolinian, Shearin is committed to organically growing the local STEM footprint and actively participates in local networking groups, as well as regional and national organizations such as PDA Southeast and ISPE. He also engages with the local STEM community through university career fairs, pharma conferences, and speaking at community college events, driven by his passion as a former teacher to make a positive impact on the world around him. Email: mshearin@actalentservices.com

Networking (Rodbell ABC | 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

Exhibit Browsing (Modules C, D, and E Hallways)

Session Four

WORKSHOP 6: (Rodbell B | 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.)

Interview and Negotiation Skills: Turning Interviews Into Job Offers

Lori Conlan, Ph.D.

Deputy Director

Office of Intramural Training and Education

National Institutes of Health

Email: conlanlo@nih.gov



Description of Talk:

This workshop will cover the basics of evaluating a job offer and strategies for negotiating it — if negotiation is even warranted. We will also explore how to ease your transition into a new job by planning ahead. Topics include understanding salary ranges, identifying key components of a benefits package, and tips for successfully navigating your first 90 days. This workshop is designed to support individuals entering the workforce in academia, industry, and beyond.

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.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS 5: (Rodbell C | 4:00–5:00 p.m.)

Government and NGO

Tammy Collins, Ph.D. (Burroughs Wellcome Fund)

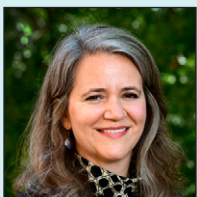
Michelle Heacock, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

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

Melissa Wells, Ph.D. (National Institute of General Medical Sciences)

This panel features distinguished professionals from government agencies and nonprofit organizations who work in diverse roles within the biomedical field, specifically outside of traditional research positions. Panelists will share valuable insights into career paths in policy, program management, science communication, regulatory affairs, and other impactful areas. They will discuss the key skills required for these positions and offer guidance on how to transition into these roles successfully. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about various career options that leverage a biomedical background without being directly involved in research. The panelists will also touch upon the challenges and rewards of their respective fields, providing a well-rounded perspective for those considering alternative career paths in the biomedical sector.

Panelists:



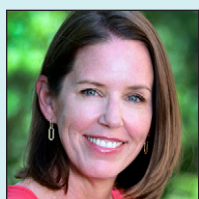
Tammy Collins, Ph.D., joined the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) in the fall of 2022, a nonprofit philanthropic organization whose mission is to nurture a diverse group of leaders in biomedical sciences to improve human health. At BWF, Collins serves as a program officer where she directs the Career Awards at the Scientific Interface (CASI) program and the Innovations in Regulatory Science Awards (IRSA). Prior to joining BWF, Collins was the director of the Office of Fellows' Career Development at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). In this role, she created and organized professional career development opportunities for the fellows' community. Collins is focused on making career outcomes of graduate and postdoctoral scholars transparent. To this end, she has published on the career outcomes of NIEHS postdoctoral scholars and has led a national collaboration as part of the Graduate Career Consortium to review career outcome classification and visualization methodologies in North America. She hopes the tools and resources developed will advance national and international efforts to report on graduate-level career outcomes, which will also help the community better understand factors that influence career decisions. Collins received her bachelor's in chemistry from Appalachian State University (ASU), where she became ASU's first Goldwater Scholar, and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Duke University. After a brief postdoc at Duke, she joined NIEHS as a postdoc in 2009, where she developed her passion for helping foster scientific leaders. Email: tcollins@bwfund.org



Michelle Heacock, Ph.D., is the branch chief of the Hazardous Substances Research Branch, and is a health science administrator where she oversees Superfund Research Program grants that span basic molecular mechanisms of biological responses from exposures to hazardous substances, movement of hazardous substances through environmental media, detection technologies, and remediation approaches. She received her doctorate from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, for her work on the interplay between DNA repair proteins and telomeres. Her postdoctoral work was conducted at NIEHS where she studied the DNA repair pathway, base excision repair. Her research focused on understanding the causes of cellular toxicity caused by DNA damaging agents. *Email:* heacockm@niehs.nih.gov



Robby Robinson, M.S., is 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 his former role, he led and directed a variety of administrative management programs and initiatives. Robinson holds a Master of Science degree 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



Melissa Wells, Ph.D., is a program director in the Division of Genetics and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, where she oversees research grants on developmental genetics. Before joining the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Wells was a biologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She examined the role of RNA regulation during development utilizing non-mammalian research organisms. Wells earned her B.S. in microbiology and cell science from the University of Florida and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular genetics from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She conducted postdoctoral research at the Environmental Protection Agency with the Department of Homeland Security. *Email:* melissa.wells@nih.gov

PANEL DISCUSSIONS 6: Module F (F193 | 4:00–5:00 p.m.)

Data-Driven Science

Aaron Oliver, MBA (Collaborations Pharmaceuticals)

Oswaldo Lozoya, Ph.D. MSME (RTI International)

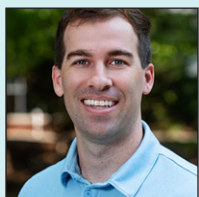
Anupama Reddy, Ph.D. (Vindhya Data Science)

Charles Schmitt, Ph.D. (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)

Joe Webb, Ph.D. (Vitality Robotics)

In today's rapidly evolving technology landscape, the convergence of bioinformatics, artificial intelligence, and big data is redefining just about every field — from drug discovery and regenerative medicine to engineering and robotics. With such a broad spectrum, however, it can be challenging to navigate the realm of data-driven careers. This panel will give you the opportunity to connect with data science experts from various sectors and backgrounds. Join us to explore how AI and data-driven methods are shaping new roles, tackling complex challenges, and transforming the way we work — and discover which avenue is the perfect fit for you to make your mark in this high-impact field

Panelists:



Aaron Oliver, MBA, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in biology. He went on to receive his MBA, with a concentration in marketing, from the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to joining Collaborations Pharmaceuticals, Oliver worked as a scientist at BASF Plant Science for nine years, where he designed, developed, and carried out high-throughput agricultural research experiments with a wide range of objectives. Oliver is our business development manager who is responsible for growing our software user base and fee-for service offerings. Oliver is big Tar Heels and tennis fan.

Email: aaron@collaborationspharma.com



Oswaldo Lozoya, Ph.D., MSME, is a principal scientist for applied transdisciplinary research at RTI International in the center for data modernization solutions. Lozoya is a seasoned biomedical engineer with more than 20 years of professional experience, and a subject matter expert on integrative multi-omics methods, bioinformatics workflows, single-cell sequencing technologies, biomarker discovery, and high-dimensional multi-modal data mining. His current work in the public health and life sciences domains is focused on advancing novel FAIR platforms that democratize access to scientific data and analytical workspaces. Previously, he was staff scientist and genomics lead in the translational science and innovation laboratory at IQVIA Laboratories (formerly Q² Solutions). Before then, Lozoya held research fellow and special volunteer appointments at NIEHS, earning the 2021 NIH Director's Award in the scientific/medical category for his research and leadership in securing funding from the NIH RADx-rad initiative to advance novel COVID-19 diagnostic methods. Through that work, he invented COVID-19 diagnostics and prognostics technologies that were patented by the U.S. government and licensed to least developed countries in 2021 through a royalty-free model to enhance global pandemic preparedness. Email: olozoya@rti.org



Anupama Reddy, Ph.D., is the co-founder and chief operating officer of Vindhya Data Science a startup with a focus on machine learning and computational biology. Reddy's interests are computational biology, genomics, machine learning, statistical modeling, and translational research. She enjoys being at the intersection of biology, data science, and drug discovery and is passionate about precision medicine approaches for patients. Previously, Reddy has worked at Duke University in the Center for Genomics and Computational Biology as a group leader, and at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research as an investigator and lab head. Reddy has published more than 50 peer reviewed articles and has two patents in computational biology. Email: anupama@vindhyadatascience.com



Charles Schmitt, Ph.D., is Office of Data Science and Special Advisor to the Scientific Director, Division of Translational Toxicology, NIEHS. He received a B.S. degree in physics in 1989, and a Ph.D. in computer science in 1999, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work career has been split in three parts. His early career was in industry where he worked for several companies with a focus on software engineering, data analysis, and data mining in multiple domain areas prior to joining BD Technologies where his work shifted to developing biomedical data management and analysis platforms in support of stem cell research. He later joined the Renaissance Computing Institute where he created and led their biomedical informatics group and their data science group, served as PI, investigator, or key personnel on multiple NIH, NSF, and DHS grants, and served as chief technology officer. He joined NIEHS in 2017. Email: charles.schmitt@nih.gov



Joe Webb, Ph.D., is the CEO and founder of Vitality Robotics. His research focuses on applied machine learning and robotics for automating surgical procedures for animal health applications. Specifically, he is investigating how combining state-of-the-art computer vision tools with precision robotics can improve surgical outcomes and enhance reproducibility in biomedical surgical applications such as necropsies and tissue collections. Webb's long-term research goals include adapting his preliminary studies to expand from rodent surgical applications to companion animals, automating traditional manual surgeries such as spaying and neutering. His research team is also overseeing the development of Labtools.AI, a no-code platform for scientists to train custom machine learning models on laboratory data and provide access to proprietary AI tools digital image-based flow cytometry expression analysis. Email: joe.webb@vitalityrobotics.com



NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 (Virtual Workshop | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.)

WORKSHOP 7:

Building a Professional LinkedIn Profile and Resume

Gail McCowan, CCSP

Career Coach and Job Search Consultant

Gail McCowan Career Services

Email: mccowangail@gmail.com



Description of Talk:

This virtual workshop offers practical tips and actionable strategies for those pursuing industry positions to enhance their LinkedIn profiles and effectively showcase their professional identities. Participants will also learn tips on crafting compelling resumes, making a memorable and professional impression both online and on paper.

Speaker Bio:

Gail McCowan, CCSP, is a career coach and educator who combines 14+ years of career advising and training with a background as an engineer at IBM and a human resources generalist at GE to offer clients straightforward, step-by-step strategies for moving forward in their careers. She is a Certified Career Services Provider through NCDA and has experience with clients from a wide range of backgrounds and industries. In addition to coaching, McCowan stays up-to-date on the latest job-seeking techniques through leading classes on LinkedIn, resumes, and interviewing at Wake Tech Community College. She holds an MBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill and a BS degree from Northwestern University. She can be reached at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gailmccowan>

CV/RESUME REVIEW

Session 1: 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Session 3: 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Session 4: 11:30 a.m. - noon

All times are EDT.

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

Sign up in advance for a 25-minute time slot.

ACADEMIC REVIEWERS



Melissa Bostrom, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional Development
Duke University

Email: melissa.bostrom@duke.edu

Bostrom provides strategic direction and leadership in graduate student professional development for 3500 Ph.D. and research master's students in 80+ programs at Duke. She directs the Emerging Leaders Institute and Professional Development Series, manages the Professional Development Grant and Professional Development Blog, and served as co-PI on the team that built Duke OPTIONS, an online professional development planning tool for Ph.D. students. She serves on the Administrative Oversight Team for the University Center for Exemplary Mentoring, a campus initiative funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for Ph.D. students in the physical sciences and engineering.



Patrick Brandt, Ph.D.

Director, Career Development and Outreach
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Email: pdb@unc.edu

Brandt is the 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.



Delores Grant, Ph.D.

Leroy "Pop" Endowed Professor
North Carolina Central University
Email: dgrant@nccu.edu

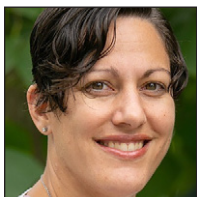
Grant's research program has primarily focused on the study of the roles that detoxifying enzymes from the human UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) gene family have in the development of prostate and ovarian cancer, and to expand our understanding to include underlying factors contributing to that of minoritized individuals. Her laboratory has employed approaches in genomics, epidemiological and functional analysis with collaborators and research teams at area institutions to show the impact of aberrant DNA sequence variation and methylation on specific UGT subtypes and their association with the risk of and tumor progression in prostate, ovarian, and hepatocellular cancer.



Allyn Howlett, Ph.D.

Professor of Physiology and Pharmacology
Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Education
Wake Forest University
Email: ahowlett@wakehealth.edu

Howlett is a professor of physiology and pharmacology at the Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Medicine, assistant dean of the WFU Graduate School, and director of the Office of Postdoctoral Education. She is an expert on CB1 cannabinoid receptor signal transduction, pursuing research on cannabinoid receptor regulators funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She is active in the International Cannabinoid Research Society and American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and is currently an associate editor of Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research.



Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC

Director of Professional Development Programs
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Email: rlayton@med.unc.edu

Layton is the director of professional development programs at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Layton 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, and develops curricula and oversees academic certificates. Layton analyzes data and shares program and career outcomes with the 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, and authorship of graduate career advice columns including 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 collaborations and 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 UNC

School of Medicine. She completed her International Coach Certification Professional Coach Certification and Certified Mentor Coach 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, and her current research in graduate education centers around graduate training and career outcomes. Layton is particularly interested in applying lessons from self-regulatory research, positive psychology, and a coaching philosophy to improve scientists' lives and help them reach their goals. Layton is passionate about coaching doctoral and postdoctoral trainees who are in search of fulfilling careers and seeking professional development opportunities. She firmly believes that exciting career options await each trainee, and helps individuals to identify and capitalize on their strengths to prepare for the next steps on their respective career pathways.



Spencer Muse, Ph.D.

Professor

Director of Statistics Undergraduate Program

Director of Bioinformatics Graduate Program

North Carolina State University

Email: muse@ncsu.edu

Muse's 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 North Carolina State University. Muse spent three years as a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Biological Sciences at Penn State University (1993-96), and then two years on the faculty of the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri before returning to the NC State Department of Statistics in 1998. He is the 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 Muse and his former student Sergei Kosakovsky Pond at Temple University focuses on the development of the HyPhy software language and ecosystem. His former graduate students now hold positions in academia, as well as leadership positions in government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry.



Molly Starback, MSLS

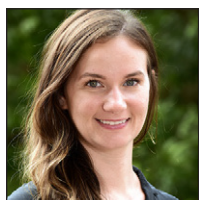
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services

Duke University

Email: molly.starback@duke.edu

Starback is the founding director of the Duke Office of Postdoctoral Services. As director, Starback oversees postdoctoral policy and serves as the career advisor for more than 700 postdoctoral appointees in the life sciences, natural sciences, engineering, humanities, and social sciences. She develops and co-facilitates programs including the Postdoc Mentoring and Communication Series, Academic Job Search Series, and Careers Beyond Academia Series. In 2006, Starback created Postdoctoberfest, an annual appreciation event at which awards are presented to Duke's Outstanding Postdoc and Outstanding Postdoc Mentor. In 2008, she received the Duke Meritorious Service Presidential Award in recognition of her work on behalf of postdocs.

GOVERNMENT REVIEWERS



Sharon Soucek, Ph.D.

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

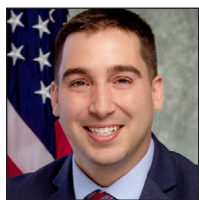
Soucek is the director in the Office of Technology Transfer at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). Soucek earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Northeastern University and her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Emory University. Her career in technology 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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.



Steven Tuyishime, Ph.D.

Assistant Scientific Director
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: steven.tuyishime@nih.gov

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 focused on developing a novel adenovirus-based vaccine platform in Gundi Ertl's, M.D., lab. Prior to joining NIEHS, Tuyishime completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in the lab of Drew Weissman, M.D., Ph.D. where his research focused on developing and optimizing delivery of mRNA-based therapeutics. He joined the NIEHS Program Analysis Branch as a Presidential Management Fellow in 2016. In 2021, he joined the Division of Intramural Research at NIEHS as assistant scientific director.



Troy Hubbard, Ph.D.

Toxicologist
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Hubbard has served as a toxicologist at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Human Foods Program (HFP), Office of Pre-Market Additive Safety, Division of Food Ingredients since 2020. As a review scientist, he evaluates the safety of food additives and ingredients (food additive petitions, color additive petitions, and generally recognized as safe (GRAS) notifications). Additionally, he serves as a toxicology subject matter expert to support the review of food derived from new plant varieties (Plant Biotechnology Consultation Program) and HFP Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation network to support efforts to find, stop, and prevent foodborne illness outbreaks and provide subject matter expertise related to food ingredient safety. Furthermore, he supports agency compliance and enforcement efforts via post-market evaluations/determinations that the use of a substance in conventional foods is not GRAS. Prior to his employment at the FDA, Hubbard completed his Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University in 2017. After his graduate training, he was an intramural research training award fellow in the toxicology branch of the division of the National Toxicology Program at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (2017-2020). As a postdoctoral study scientist, he worked in cross-functional teams to evaluate the potential toxicity and carcinogenicity of chemical agents nominated to the NTP testing program, such as pharmaceuticals, food chemicals, botanicals, and environmental contaminants.

**Brian Chorley, Ph.D.**

Research Biologist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Email: chorley.brian@epa.gov

Chorley is a research biologist in the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure at the Environmental Protection Agency. Chorley earned his bachelor's degree in animal science and his Ph.D. in comparative biomedical sciences from North Carolina State University. Chorley worked as a research assistant at North Carolina State University, a consultant at BioMarck Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences before transitioning into his current position as a principal investigator.

**Robin Evans Stanley, Ph.D.**

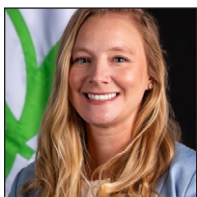
Senior Investigator

Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Email: robin.stanley@nih.gov

Stanley 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.

**Katelyn Stocksdales, Ph.D.**

Toxicologist

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Email: stocksdales.katelyn@epa.gov

Stocksdales is a toxicologist and risk assessor supporting the implementation and enforcement of multiple environmental laws across Region 8 (Colo., Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming). She assesses the potential risk to human and ecological health from exposure to hazardous wastes, toxic substances, and pesticides in the environment. Stocksdales has supported the ongoing investigation and cleanup efforts of more than 15 sites under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (i.e., CERCLA or Superfund). She helps design field sampling studies, analyzes environmental data, and prepares presentations for both technical audiences and the public.

**Randy Bledsoe, M.S.**

Biologist

Protein Expression Facility

Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Email: randy.bledsoe@nih.gov

Bledsoe is a biologist within the Protein Expression Facility within the NIEHS Genome Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory. He joined the group in 2023 after having spent more than 23 years at GSK in the Gene Expression and Protein Biochemistry department as an investigator where he designed, expressed, and purified bacterial, viral, and mammalian protein constructs for screening and structural biology efforts in various drug discovery programs including HIV, Alzheimer's, and asthma. He also worked briefly for the Duke Human Vaccine Institute where he worked in the Downstream Process Development group for vaccine production.



Denise Saunders, Ph.D.

Career Counselor
Office of Intramural Training and Education
National Institutes of Health
Email: denise.saunders@nih.gov

Saunders is a career counselor for the Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) at the NIH providing career and professional development services to trainees at NIEHS and across NIH Institutes. She enjoys helping postbacs, graduate students, postdocs, and early-career professionals with their career planning and job search strategies. In addition to her work with OITE, she maintains an independent practice in Chapel Hill, N.C., where she offers career development, consultation, and counseling services to her clientele. She is a licensed psychologist and National Certified Counselor who holds 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
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Littlefield, a management analyst at NIEHS in the Office of Management's Administrative Services and Analysis Branch, 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 more than 10 years in local government with the City of Raleigh 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 on 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 insight gained during that time, as it helped to affirm her passion for public service and drove her to pursue a career in it. She encourages those starting in their careers, no matter the sector/industry they choose, to maintain a growth mindset and challenge themselves personally and professionally to diversify their skills and abilities in areas outside of their realm of expertise.



Yesenia Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Staff Scientist
Eukaryotic Transcriptional Regulation Group
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Email: yesenia.rodriguez@nih.gov

Rodriguez is a staff scientist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the Eukaryotic Transcriptional Regulation Group. Her research integrates structural biology, biochemistry, and molecular biology to explore how chromatin architecture and dynamics regulate DNA repair and transcription, particularly by pioneer transcription factors. Since joining NIEHS in 2015, Rodriguez has held various positions, including Postdoctoral IRTA Fellow and Research Fellow, supported by her NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00), under the

mentorship of Samuel Wilson, M.D. In addition to her research, Rodriguez is a strong advocate for mentorship and community outreach. She actively participates in academic and science education initiatives, such as North Carolina DNA Day and the NC Science Festival. This is her second year serving as a CV/resume consultant at the NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium, where she hopes to make a positive contribution in the career development of the next generation of scientists.

INDUSTRY REVIEWERS



Katie Glenn, Ph.D.

Clinical Research Scientist

Syner-G Biopharma Group

Email: katie.glenn@synergbioharma.com

Glenn is a clinical research scientist at Syner-G Biopharma Group. Glenn has more than six years of medical writing experience in both regulatory and scientific writing. At Syner-G, she has served as lead author on various clinical documents, including early- and late-phase CSRs, protocols, NDA and BLA summary sections, and briefing documents in support of clinical programs from multiple pharmaceutical clients. Prior to joining Syner-G, Glenn was a medical writer in the Consulting Business Unit at Allucent, a contract research organization, supporting clients in the development of various regulatory documents and journal manuscripts. Prior to joining Allucent, she served as project leader and senior medical writer at Education and Training Systems International supporting clients from pharmaceutical companies in the development of training materials for their pharmaceutical sales representatives, medical science liaisons, and marketing teams.



Rohan Parekh, Ph.D., M.S., BCMAS

Senior Manager, Global Medical Affairs

Merz Aesthetics

Email: rparekh936@gmail.com

Parekh is an accomplished medical affairs leader with a passion for translating scientific insights into impactful strategies. In his current role, he orchestrates launch excellence initiatives and champions scientific advocacy to support a diverse portfolio of aesthetic innovations. With a deep-rooted expertise in chemistry, pharmacology, and toxicology, Parekh combines the analytical rigor cultivated during his doctoral training with a keen understanding of medical strategy to drive evidence-based decision-making. His work is anchored in a commitment to advancing patient outcomes by bridging cutting-edge science and real-world application, fostering collaboration, and engaging stakeholders across the health care ecosystem.



Mohammed Dorgham, Ph.D.

Associate Process Scientist

Biomerieux

Email: mgdorgha@gmail.com

Dorgham is an associate process scientist in the industrialization lab at Biomerieux at the Durham site where the BacT/Alert blood culture media bottles are manufactured. His focus is on securitizing different raw materials used in the manufacturing process, as well as assisting investigations and internal/external audits as a subject matter expert in chemistry and biochemistry. He also authors technical assessments, SOPs, job aids, and presents to a change review board. His role includes working with several different stakeholders across the company, which makes being able to work cross-functionally imperative.

**Rajesh Kasiviswanathan, Ph.D.**

Director, Downstream Process Development

Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies

Email: rajesh.kasiviswanathan@gmail.com

Rajesh's group at Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies is focused on developing, optimizing, and transferring purification processes for a range of biotherapeutics like vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, recombinant proteins, etc. from process development into cGMP manufacturing for client projects to supply material for their clinical and commercial needs. In his current role, he also supports other functions, like commercial sales, program design, program management, process characterization, manufacturing, and quality. Previously, he managed the technical sales operations team for the Viral Vector Services and Advanced Therapies CDMO services at Thermo Fisher Scientific to generate competitive proposals for clients and win strategic business.

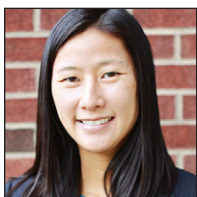
**Jeffrey Stumpf, Ph.D., CMPP**

Executive Vice President

MedVal/ PharmaWrite

Email: jeff.stumpf@medvalsci.com

Stumpf is an executive vice president at MedVal/PharmaWrite with more than a decade of experience leading teams that create medical communications for pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and device companies for both physician and nonexpert audiences. Stumpf has written for, and provided scientific direction in, various fields including HIV; breast cancer; rare ophthalmologic, inflammatory, pituitary, and metabolic diseases; osteoporosis; and bone metastases. Stumpf has given presentations for the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals about publication enhancers, scientific platforms, patient engagement, and communication plans tailored for rare disease companies. He earned a Ph.D. in genetics from Indiana University Bloomington and worked as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Mitochondrial DNA Replication Group at NIEHS from 2006-2012.

**Kristin Gabor, Ph.D., RAC**

Senior Clinical Scientist

Krystal Biotech, Inc.

Email: kgabor@krystalbio.com

Gabor is a senior clinical scientist at Krystal Biotech Inc., where she focuses on clinical development for the biotech's oncology program. Prior to her joining Krystal Biotech, she worked at a CRO focusing on regulatory affairs. As a clinical scientist, she provides scientific expertise to produce clinical development plans and study designs, leads protocol development and content, and authors clinical content of regulatory documents for submission. In her role, Gabor also reviews both patient level and cumulative data for study level review, interpreting and presenting study results.

**Joe Dahl, Ph.D.**

Advance R&D Manager

BioSkryb Genomics

Email: joe.dahl@bioskryp.com

Dahl 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 analysis. He completed postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 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 the 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.



Tara Moening, Ph.D.

Associate Technical Project Lead
Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies

Email: tara.moening@fujifilm.com

Moening is currently an associate technical project lead at Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies (FDB). Moening has been with FDB for three years. She joined the company as a senior scientist in analytical development and moved to the Technical Project Lead group in April 2024. Moening leads the technical aspects of a project at FDB, from new product introduction through manufacturing. FDB is a biopharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization that manufactures active ingredients for pharmaceutical companies. She is the clients' liaison for technical questions about upstream development, downstream development, analytical development, and manufacturing. With her education and career experience, Moening has developed the skills to collaborate cross-functionally within FDB and be able to communicate the science effectively back to the client.

GENERAL CAREER REVIEWER



Tammy Collins, Ph.D.

Program Officer
Burroughs Wellcome Fund

Email: tcollins@bwfund.org

Collins joined the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) in the fall of 2022, a nonprofit philanthropic organization whose mission is to nurture a diverse group of leaders in biomedical sciences to improve human health. At BWF, Collins serves as a program officer where she directs the Career Awards at the Scientific Interface (CASI) program and the Innovations in Regulatory Science Awards (IRSA). Prior to joining BWF, Collins was the director of the Office of Fellows' Career Development at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). In this role, she created and organized professional career development opportunities for the fellows' community. Collins is focused on making career outcomes of graduate and postdoctoral scholars transparent. To this end, she has published on the career outcomes of NIEHS postdoctoral scholars and has led a national collaboration as part of the Graduate Career Consortium to review career outcome classification and visualization methodologies in North America. She hopes the tools and resources developed will advance national and international efforts to report on graduate-level career outcomes, which will also help the community better understand factors that influence career decisions. Collins received her bachelor's in chemistry from Appalachian State University (ASU), where she became ASU's first Goldwater Scholar, and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Duke University. After a brief postdoc at Duke, she joined NIEHS as a postdoc in 2009, where she developed her passion for helping foster scientific leaders.

LIST OF EXHIBITORS



Alcami is a U.S.-based contract development and manufacturing organization headquartered in North Carolina with 45+ years of experience advancing pharmaceuticals and biologics from development to delivery. The company provides fully integrated lab services, drug product manufacturing, and cGMP pharma storage and support services including environmental monitoring, calibration, and validation. Alcamy provides comprehensive drug product manufacturing and support services, spanning from preclinical to commercialization, as well as wide-ranging analytical lab services for pharma and biotech companies. Alcamy's Durham site is a GMP laboratory that employs bench scientists specializing in bioseparation (HPLC, mass spectrometry, etc.) and bioassay (cell culture, ELISA, etc.) method establishment and testing.

Exhibitor:

Elena Dukhovlinova, Ph.D., Senior Principal Scientist

Email: elena.dukhovlinova@alcami.com

Dukhovlinova is a principal scientist, bioassays, leading a team of scientists at the Alcamy Durham site that focuses on analytical development for cell and gene therapies and biologics. She is a subject matter expert in molecular and cell-based assays with 20+ years of experience from both academia and Big Pharma. Prior to Alcamy, she was a CMC Leader and scientific integrator at Janssen Cell and Gene Therapy group supporting various stages of drug development for autologous and allogeneic cell therapies and AAV assets. Her academic experience includes research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Yale University focused on optimization of CART cell therapies, HIV vaccine development, and lentiviruses.



Altis Biosystems is a biotechnology company based in Durham, N.C., specializing in advanced cell-based assays for preclinical drug discovery. Our flagship product, RepliGut®, uses human intestinal stem cells to create in vitro models that accurately replicate human intestinal physiology. These innovative models help pharmaceutical companies identify effective compounds earlier, reduce animal testing, and accelerate the drug development process. We aim to transform therapeutic development by providing reliable and predictive tools that bridge the gap between preclinical research and clinical translation.

Exhibitor:

Jimmy Smedley, Ph.D., President and COO

Email: jimmy@altisbiosystems.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jimmy-smedley-a302326>

Smedley is the president and COO at Altis Biosystems. After earning his Ph.D. in molecular virology and microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, he served as an IRTA at NIEHS in the Tomer Mass Spec Group in the Laboratory of Structural Biology, where he attended and benefited from several NIEHS Career Symposia. Before joining Altis, he was the vice president of analytical development at KBI Biopharma. At Altis, Smedley leads operations and business functions with a keen focus on communication, accountability, and team member career development.



Bio Pharma Networking Group (BPNG) is a not-for-profit, all-inclusive life and health science professional community that actively promotes the “real power” of networking. We serve people in various disciplines and organizational cultures who value key-relationship building at all stages of careers. BPNG encourages a crossover effect for valuable lead and resource sharing. At our casual monthly events, you can exchange information, trends, and ideas in a comfortable social environment.

As an all-volunteer organization, our goal is to support, serve, and educate life and health sciences professionals through the “real power” of networking.

We are collaborators, peers, and mentors looking to support each other and our regional hubs in the spirit of innovation and growth. Our unique casual contact network of academic and business pros encourage an exchange of valuable career advice and resource sharing. At BPNG monthly events attendees can share information, trends, and ideas.

Vision Statement

Expand future opportunities for local professionals by creating a forum for networking across the health and life sciences universe.

Chapters

BPNG was founded in 2012 as an all-volunteer organization. We now support nine regional chapters include Ind.; Lehigh Valley, Pa.; Mass.; N.C.; N.J.; Pa.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Toronto. With more than 20,000 members, our programs include speed networking events, sponsorships opportunities, industry speaker engagements, and more.

Exhibitor:

Andrew Buckley, Ph.D.

Email: ncbpng01@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/abuckley2>

Buckley heads the NCBPNG Steering Committee, and has been involved with the group since 2017. He is a research scientist at CoreBioPathways.



Collaborations Pharmaceuticals Inc.® is a privately owned company that performs research and development on innovative therapeutics for multiple rare and neglected infectious diseases. We develop and apply our artificial intelligence software to aid in drug discovery and toxicology assessment, as well as to identify and translate early preclinical to clinical stage assets. Our software can also be used to design new molecules with desired properties. This software can be used by pharmaceutical, consumer product, as well as other companies that require chemistry expertise. Our lead product is an enzyme replacement therapy for Batten disease CLN1.

Exhibitor:

Aaron Oliver, MBA, Business Development Manager

Email: aaron@collaborationspharma.com

Oliver graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in biology. He went on to receive his MBA, with a concentration in marketing, from the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to joining Collaborations Pharmaceuticals, Oliver worked as a scientist at BASF Plant Science for nine years, where he designed, developed, and carried out high-throughput agricultural research experiments with a wide range of objectives. Oliver is our business development manager who is responsible for growing our software user base and fee-for-service offerings. Oliver is big Tar Heels and tennis fan.



Eva Garland Consulting (EGC), founded in 2013 with a mission of advancing science, is a global leader in securing non-dilutive funding and providing comprehensive accounting and compliance services. We have worked with 3,000+ clients from 50 states and five continents, including universities, startups, big pharma, and government agencies. We have successfully assisted our clients in securing and managing hundreds of grants and contracts, totaling over \$2 billion, that represent critical funding to accelerate development of innovative technologies from concept to commercialization, contributing new tools to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. We have been honored by Inc. 5000 as one of the fastest-growing companies in the nation for six consecutive years, a distinction achieved by fewer than 1 in 10,000,000 companies. The company is headquartered in Raleigh, N.C. Visit evagarland.com for more information.

Exhibitor:

Tim Hudson, Talent Acquisition Manager

Hudson is a seasoned talent acquisition leader with more than 17 years of experience in recruiting and human resources. Hudson, a U.S. Army veteran, has dedicated his career to helping individuals navigate the job market and secure meaningful employment opportunities. He is passionate about career development and is committed to guiding job seekers toward success by sharing practical insights on job searching, interviewing, and professional growth. Hudson serves as the talent acquisition manager at EGC, where he leads recruitment strategies to attract top talent in the scientific consulting and accounting industries.



EpiCypher

EpiCypher is a world-leading provider and developer of novel research technologies to advance the science of chromatin biology and improve human health. EpiCypher's innovative development pipeline has produced their flagship genomic mapping technologies, CUTANA™ CUT&RUN and CUT&Tag. These platforms have been adopted in thousands of labs worldwide, enabling chromatin profiling to be applied to previously intractable applications including cell identity fingerprinting, high-throughput drug development, biomarker discovery, plant and agricultural research, and more. At the 27th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium, an EpiCypher representative can provide insights into various industry roles on- and off-the-bench, life in industry including work/life balance, landing an industry position, long-term career trajectories, and other issues.

Exhibitor:

Andrea Johnstone, Ph.D., Senior Director of Product Management

Email: ajohnstone@epicypher.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-johnstone-neurophd

Johnstone leads EpiCypher's fast-paced commercial launch pipelines by overseeing product life cycle functions and coordinating across interdisciplinary groups including R&D, production, operations, marketing, and sales teams. Johnstone earned her Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. After her postdoctoral studies in epigenetics, she joined EpiCypher in 2016 as a research scientist, eventually growing into her current role overseeing commercial development of new chromatin research technologies.



The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) 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.



Kriya Therapeutics is a biopharmaceutical company developing gene therapies to address common diseases affecting millions of people around the world. Our mission is to revolutionize medicine, with the goal of eliminating human suffering and enabling people to live without the burden of disease. With operations in Palo Alto, California, and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, Kriya has raised more than \$600 million, which will be used to advance a broad pipeline of gene therapies for ophthalmology, metabolic disease, and neurology. For more information, please visit www.kriyatx.com.

Exhibitor:

Jennifer Israel, Ph.D., PMP, Director of Genomics and Data Science

Email: jisrael@kriyatx.com

Israel is the Director of Genomics and Data Science at Kriya Therapeutics. She leads a multidisciplinary team of molecular biologists and data scientists to utilize next-generation sequencing (NGS), bioinformatics, and machine learning to advance pipeline and platform technology development. By applying her extensive expertise leveraging high-dimensional biology and multi-omics platforms, she contributes to advances in translational research across diverse therapeutic areas.



McLaren Search LLC, is a retained executive search and leadership consulting firm based in North Carolina. The firm partners with professionals and corporations in the life sciences, financial services, management consulting, and social enterprise sectors.

McLaren Search and its founder have placed more than 10,000 executives and professionals worldwide, including the board and C-suite. The firm partners with clients based in key North Carolina markets, including Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Research Triangle Park, and Charlotte. Its strategic approach, research methodologies, and leading compliance systems are major differentiators and key components of its culture. For more information, visit <https://www.mclarensrchllc.com>.

Exhibitor:

Thomas Phillips, MBA, Founder and Manager

Email: thomas@mclarensrchllc.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomasmphillips>

Phillips is the founder and manager of McLaren Search LLC. Over a 15-year managerial career, he has held senior roles in corporate strategy, management consulting, and finance. He received his MBA from Vanderbilt University and his B.A. from Middlebury College.

Outside of work, Phillips enjoys running the Big Sur Marathon, completing the Empire State Building race, meeting new people, and exploring new places.



MuriPhys is a cutting-edge preclinical contract research organization (CRO) specializing in rodent preclinical development for the biotech and pharmaceutical industries. With expertise in state-of-the-art drug delivery techniques, in-life behavioral assays, in vivo imaging, and in vivo electrophysiology, MuriPhys delivers high-quality, translational research solutions to accelerate drug discovery and development. By combining advanced technologies with rigorous scientific methodologies, MuriPhys provides actionable insights that drive breakthroughs in neuroscience, pharmacology, and disease modeling. Whether optimizing drug efficacy, assessing behavioral outcomes, or capturing real-time neural activity, MuriPhys is committed to precision, innovation, and scientific excellence in preclinical research. MuriPhys aims to redefine the conventional CRO concept by focusing on the distinct needs of small and mid-sized biotech companies. MuriPhys has one purpose – helping our sponsors succeed across the drug development journey. With experienced professionals who collaborate with you every step of the way, we offer preclinical development, pharmacology, toxicology, protocol development, experiment design, and data analysis solutions designed to support your specialized needs.

Exhibitors:

Ariel Vitenzon, Ph.D., Founder and CSO

Email: avitenzon@muriphys.com

Vitenzon is the co-founder and chief scientific officer at MuriPhys LLC. Prior to establishing MuriPhys, Vitenzon held a significant role at LifeEdit Therapeutics, an Elevatebio portfolio company. There, he was instrumental in setting up a state-of-the-art facility for conducting in vivo CNS and systemic studies and led numerous CNS-related projects. Notably, through his adept cross-functional collaboration with the LifeEdit Therapeutics and Elevatebio teams, Vitenzon propelled the company's Huntington's disease program from its nascent stages to preclinical NHP studies within a remarkable timeframe of under two years.

With more than 15 years of hands-on experience in in vivo preclinical drug development using rodent models, Vitenzon stands as a distinguished figure in his field.

Vitenzon's scholarly contributions include several papers published in peer-reviewed journals, underscoring his commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and therapeutic practices. Through MuriPhys, Vitenzon continues to drive forward the frontiers of preclinical research, aiming to deliver tangible advancements for the future of therapeutic interventions.

Mikhael Vitenson, Founder and CEO

Email: mvitenson@muriphys.com

Vitenson, the co-founder and CEO of MuriPhys, brings more than 25 years of extensive experience in corporate law, having worked with several prominent law firms and multinational corporations. Vitenson shares a passion for a greener, more sustainable planet and dedicated the bulk of his career to environmental sustainability and renewable energy. In addition to his legal career, Vitenson has successfully established and managed numerous businesses across diverse industries, including food, real estate, and pet grooming. His multifaceted background combines legal acumen, passion for sustainability, and entrepreneurial insight, driving MuriPhys forward in its mission to deliver quality and operational excellence in the preclinical research landscape.



Pairwise is a health-focused technology company working to improve global agriculture. Our Fulcrum Technology platform consists of custom CRISPR gene editing tools with the power to create products with enhanced nutrition, quality, convenience, environmental adaptability, and sustainability features. With more than 80 patents demonstrating innovation across a diverse set of crops and traits, Pairwise is already introducing innovative products aimed at transforming how we produce and consume food.

Exhibitors:

Pradeep Marri, Ph.D., Associate Director, Controlled Environments and Trait Testing

Email: pmarri@pairwise.com

Marri is passionate about translational research. He has broad expertise in genetics, molecular breeding, and genomics that he utilizes to creatively solve problems across the product pipeline. With a Ph.D. in plant sciences from University of Hyderabad, India, and more than 15 years of experience in agricultural biotechnology industry, he significantly contributes his expertise in enabling the development of gene edited products to help Pairwise's mission to build a healthier world.

Nathaniel Wesley, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Biochemistry

Email: nwesley@pairwise.com

Wesley is a research scientist at Pairwise Plants. Wesley joined the biochemistry team in 2023 and is focused on discovering and engineering genome editing enzymes, which will ultimately be used to create better, healthier plants. Before transitioning to industry, Wesley earned his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2022 where he studied the structure and function of epigenetic proteins. He is a native of Ohio and an alum of The Ohio State University where he began his research career studying the molecular basis of a rare metabolic disease. Outside of the lab, Wesley is involved in scientific outreach activities like NC DNA Day and can be found at Triangle area networking events like TBT and NCBPNG. In his free time, Wesley stays active as a member of the Triangle Rock Club and a run club hosted by Fount Coffee shop, plays piano, and bakes rustic sourdough bread.



SmaBio Labs is a rapidly growing contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) specializing in drug discovery, formulation development, and analytical services. Located in Research Triangle Park, N.C., our 9,000-square-foot facility features kilogram-scale API manufacturing, cGMP synthesis capabilities, stability storage, and advanced bioanalytical solutions to support pharmaceutical and biotech innovators. From early-stage research to pilot-scale production, we provide seamless concept-to-commercialization support, including custom formulation strategies, process optimization, and regulatory-driven analytical development. With a commitment to scientific excellence, cutting-edge infrastructure, and a client-focused approach, SmaBio Labs ensures agility, precision, and reliability, driving the next generation of life-changing therapies.

Exhibitors:

LakshmiDevi Ethirajan, Ph.D., Co-Founder and CEO

Email: lethirajan@smabiolabs.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lakshmidewi-ethirajan>

Ethirajan is a visionary leader in pharmaceutical research and contract development, combining scientific expertise with strategic business acumen. As co-founder and CEO of SmaBio Labs, she has led the company's growth as a trusted CDMO, offering end-to-end drug development solutions from early-stage discovery to pilot-scale production. With a

Ph.D. in business administration specializing in project management and credentials as a project management professional, she brings a rare blend of technical insight and operational excellence. Passionate about advancing pharmaceutical innovation, Ethirajan continues to drive cutting-edge research, industry collaborations, and streamlined development pathways to accelerate life-changing therapies.

Sucharitha Murugu, Manager, Marketing and Communications

Email: smurugu@smabiolabs.com

LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/in/sucharithamurugu>

Murugu is a strategic marketing and communications leader with a unique blend of health care expertise and brand storytelling. As marketing and communications manager at SmaBio Labs, she drives engagement, brand positioning, and scientific messaging, ensuring the company's innovations resonate across the pharmaceutical industry. With a bachelor's in nursing from Campbell University and six years of experience in health care, she brings deep industry insight into patient care, pharmaceutical advancements, and regulatory landscapes. Certified in product management, she translates complex scientific developments into compelling, market-driven narratives. Passionate about bridging science and strategy, she plays a key role in expanding SmaBio Lab's industry presence, fostering partnerships, and driving recognition as a trusted leader in pharmaceutical innovation.



Spectrum Chemical Manufacturing Corporation leverages more than 50 years of expertise in sourcing, QC testing, and repackaging of chemicals provided by other manufacturers to meet the needs of organizations in highly regulated industries. Spectrum Chemical is a certified women's business enterprise.

Over 200 Spectrum Chemical employees work together across three worldwide locations. We offer more than 45,000 chemicals in laboratory, scale-up, and bulk quantities, as well as more than 60,000 supplies, equipment, consumables, and PPE. In all, we represent 250 manufacturers and serve 120 industries in 70 countries.

We conduct in-house QC testing by lot to safeguard quality at each of our facilities and provide extensive regulatory and scientific documentation to ensure compliance. We also offer change control, lot traceability, and supply chain transparency to eliminate unpredictability. Our products are packaged and stored under cGMP in FDA-registered and inspected facilities.

With our diverse product portfolio and relentless focus on quality, we deliver security of supply to minimize risk and raw material variability, as well as offer highly personalized service and practical consultations to earn your trust and exceed expectations.

Exhibitor:

Stephanie Luther, B.S., Account Manager

Email: sluther@spectrumchemical.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/0120b455>

Luther has 20+ years of sales experience partnering with pharma, biotech, academic, and industrial companies within RTP and all of N.C. Luther has worked for VWR, Millipore Sigma, Thermo Fisher, and now Spectrum Chemical covering both life science and chemical product portfolios. These commercial roles have provided the opportunity to support both research and production groups while enabling science across many industries.

Thermo Fisher Scientific is a global leader in serving science, providing innovative solutions for scientific research, health care, and applied markets. The company offers a comprehensive range of products and services, including reagents, instruments, software, and consumables. With a strong commitment to enabling customers to make the world healthier, cleaner, and safer, Thermo Fisher supports advancements in life sciences, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostics. Their extensive portfolio is designed to accelerate research and improve laboratory productivity. The company operates globally, ensuring accessibility and support for scientists and professionals worldwide.

For molecular biology, this includes DNA/RNA Purification: Kits and reagents for high-yield, high-purity extraction. PCR/qPCR: Enzymes, master mixes, and thermal cyclers for nucleic acid amplification and quantification. Cloning/Expression: Vectors, competent cells, and reagents for genetic manipulation. Gene Editing: CRISPR-Cas9 and other precise gene modification tools. Within molecular, the Genetic Sciences Division supports a continuum of genetic analysis instrumentation and reagents including Applied Biosystems real-time PCR systems, Taqman and SYBR-based detection chemistries, thermal cyclers, digital PCR, and Sanger Sequencing, as well as Ion Torrent Next-Gen sequencing and Affymetrix Microarrays. Many of these technologies are frequently utilized at NIEHS across various research focuses.



Fisher Scientific is a part of Thermo Fisher Scientific. As a key division, Fisher Scientific supplies laboratory equipment, chemicals, and services to support scientific research and innovation. It caters to academic, government, health care, and industrial markets with a wide array of high-quality products. Through its integration with Thermo Fisher, Fisher Scientific benefits from a robust global network and resources, enhancing its ability to meet the diverse needs of the scientific community. This relationship ensures that customers receive comprehensive solutions to advance their research and productivity.

Exhibitors:

Deanna Chapline, Account Manager – Genetic Analysis

Email: deanna.chapline@thermofisher.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/deanna-r-chapline>

Chapline is the account manager for Thermo Fisher Scientific's Genetic Analysis division, overseeing academic, government, biopharma, CRO, and health care accounts in Georgia and North Carolina. With nearly a decade of field sales experience in the region, she has built extensive expertise, particularly in managing CDC and other government accounts. Chapline's career also includes valuable roles at Agilent Technologies and Advanced Analytical Technologies Incorporated. Her passion for science drives her commitment to serving the scientific community. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys CrossFit, any physical challenge, and spending quality time with her animals, family, and friends.

Patricia Ousley, Senior Inside Sales Account Manager – Life Sciences

Email: patricia.ousley@thermofisher.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ousleypatricia>

Ousley is a senior key account manager covering the CDC, NIEHS, various other federal accounts, and public health labs in the southeast. With a solid background in biotechnology and extensive experience in lab techniques and consulting, she expertly supports the biosciences sector. With 10 years of industry experience and having been with Thermo Fisher for one year, she brings a wealth of knowledge to the role. Outside of work, she enjoys crafting and playing video games, bringing creativity and strategic thinking to both professional and personal pursuits.

Clay Corey, Sales Representative – Fisher Scientific

Email: clay.corey@thermofisher.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/clay-corey-a14187185>

Corey is a Fisher Scientific sales representative, covering NIEHS, along with other N.C. accounts. He is native to North Carolina, has a background in fermentation science, and has been with Fisher for almost three years.

Cara Soyars Iwan, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Email: cara.iwan@thermofisher.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/caraiwan>

Iwan is the account manager for Thermo Fisher Scientific's Bioprocessing Division. She provides biotechnology and biopharmaceutical customers in North Carolina with integrated solutions across the entire bioprocessing workflow including cell culture, production chemicals, chromatography, pharma analytics, and single-use hardware and consumables. Iwan has worked with Thermo Fisher since 2019 in various roles, including technical specialist, cell and gene therapy subject matter expert, and most recently senior account management. She received her doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



The UNC Blood Research Center Clinical Research Program serves the bleeding and clotting disorder community through the facilitation and execution of a diverse portfolio of high-impact clinical research studies. Sponsors include both federal partners as well as the private biopharmaceutical companies. We aim to connect study sponsors, investigators, and eligible patient populations with innovative clinical research opportunities, which further the institution's commitment to advancing human health through education, research, and patient care — with an emphasis on improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians. Recently investigators within our program have authored three NEJM publications and served as principal investigators phase III clinical trials that resulted in the first two hemophilia gene therapies to become FDA approved and commercialized. This program is headquartered in Chapel Hill, N.C. For more information, visit <https://www.med.unc.edu/bloodresearchcenter/clinical-trials>.

Exhibitor:

Brett Phillips, M.A., PMP, CCRP

Email: brett_phillips@med.unc.edu

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brett-phillips-ma-pmp-ccrp-85955648>

Phillips is the clinical research program manager for the UNC Blood Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Serving previously for seven years as a clinical research coordinator in oncology and hematology and with expertise in clinical research operations and project management, Phillips oversees the coordination and execution of a portfolio of clinical trials focused on hematologic disorders, ensuring studies progress efficiently from feasibility assessment through completion. In addition to managing research portfolios, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement, Phillips leads a team of coordinators and student interns, fostering the next generation of clinical research professionals. Passionate about workforce development and research education, Phillips actively engages in initiatives that connect students with hands-on clinical research experiences while driving process improvements to enhance research efficiency and impact.

United Therapeutics (Nasdaq: UTHR) is the first publicly traded biotech or pharmaceutical company to take the form of a public benefit corporation. Our public benefit purpose is to provide a brighter future for patients through the development of novel pharmaceutical therapies, and technologies that expand the availability of transplantable organs.

United Therapeutics seeks to travel down the corridors of indifference to develop treatments for rare, deadly diseases. We were founded in 1996 by a family seeking a cure for their daughter's pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Today, we have six FDA-approved therapies that treat PAH, pulmonary hypertension associated with interstitial lung disease (PH-ILD) and neuroblastoma, a rare pediatric cancer. Our near-term pipeline seeks to develop additional therapies for PAH and pulmonary fibrosis (PF).

The cure for end-stage life-threatening diseases like PAH, PH-ILD, PF, and many others is an organ transplant, but only a small percentage of donated organs are available to address the vast need. For this reason, we are working to create manufactured organs to address the shortage of kidneys, hearts, lungs, and livers available for transplant. We believe an unlimited supply of tolerable, transplantable organs will eliminate the transplant waiting list and cure end-stage organ diseases for which transplant is not currently an option.

Exhibitors:

Stephanie Devereaux

Devereaux is the lead talent acquisition partner for United Therapeutics with more than 20 years of experience in recruiting, with the last 10 years focused on CRO/pharma/biotech. Passionate about strategically partnering with the business to understand the uniqueness of each open position while also being focused on ensuring a positive and engaging candidate experience.

Manisit Das, Ph.D., Senior Medical Communications Manager

Email: mdas@unither.com | LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/manisitdas>

Das is a senior medical communications manager at Global Medical Affairs, United Therapeutics Corporation, based in Durham, N.C. He holds a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences with 10 years of cumulative experience in clinical evidence dissemination and preclinical drug development, fostering cross-functional collaboration in industrial and academic pharmaceutical research settings ensuring tactical success. Currently, Das is leading medical communications and PH-ILD KOL insight generation for inhaled pulmonary hypertension therapies at United Therapeutics and building a pipeline medical affairs social media strategy while ensuring cross-functional alignment. He led the launch of one of the first pharma social media presences from U.S. rare disease medical affairs.

Stephanie Hwang, Pharm.D., R.Ph., Associate Medical Communications Manager

Email: shwang@unither.com | LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stph-hwng>

Hwang is an associate medical communications manager in the Global Medical Affairs Department at United Therapeutics Corporation with a special interest in research, global health, and interprofessional collaboration. Originally from Richmond, Virginia, she studied biology and music at the University of Virginia and received her doctorate in pharmacy at the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy, where she gained experience in ambulatory and community settings. As a member of the medical communications team at United Therapeutics, she leads the strategic dissemination of data for an oral therapy indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension, a rare disease that affects the arteries in the lungs. She facilitates the development and creation of manuscripts, symposia, infographics, presentations, among other deliverables, to deliver up-to-date information to HCPs.



Vindhya Data Science is a cutting-edge data science company that excels in leveraging state-of-the-art technologies, including artificial intelligence and machine learning to convert raw data into actionable insights that can significantly impact decision-making processes. Our dedicated team shares a passion for delving into vast amounts of data and resolving complex issues, no matter how sizable or intricate. Specializing in a range of fields, including evidence-based medicine, epidemiology, bioinformatics, genomics, as well as artificial intelligence and data engineering, Vindhya is at the forefront of innovation in data-driven solutions. With established partnerships in place with prominent entities such as the federal government, leading academic medical institutions, and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, Vindhya constantly seeks to collaborate and contribute to groundbreaking research and development initiatives.

Exhibitors:

Anupama Reddy, Ph.D., Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer

Email: anupama@vindyadatascience.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anupama-reddy-500a2628>

Reddy is the co-founder and chief operating officer of Vindhya Data Science, a startup with a focus on machine learning and computational biology. Her interests are computational biology, genomics, machine learning, statistical modeling, and translational research. She enjoys being at the intersection of biology, data science, and drug discovery and is passionate about precision medicine approaches for patients. Previously, Reddy has worked at Duke University in the Center for Genomics and Computational Biology as a group leader, and at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research as an Investigator, and lab head. She has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and has two patents in computational biology.

Prakash Narayan, Ph.D., Strategy and Business Development Consultant

Email: prakash@vindyadatascience.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/prakash-narayan-phd-8b768610>

Narayan is a strategy and business development consultant for Vindhya Data Science, a startup with a focus on machine learning and computational biology. He brings approximately 25 years of concept-to-clinical trial experience across indications of unmet medical need including liver, kidney, heart, and lung diseases. He has led, IND-, BLA- and NDA-enabling studies with small molecules and biologics and has been leveraging precision medicine to stratify clinical trial inclusion criteria. Narayan has been principal investigator on NIH, NSF, DoD and BARDA awards, has published scientific approximately 50 papers, and is an inventor. He is on the advisory board, NKF serving the Carolinas and is an advocate for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.



Vitality Robotics automates scientific workflows by integrating AI with robotics and their headquarters is in Durham. From benchtop surgical robotics for automated necropsies to AI-driven laboratory management, we are redefining how science is conducted in the era of AI agents. Labtools.AI, our software platform purpose built for scientists, provides AI powered tools for different tasks around the lab with a unified API to integrate more than 100 of the top scientific software systems. LabInCytes, our image-based flow cytometry tool, runs custom AI models to analyze and predict single cell protein expression, eliminating manual labeling and offering the first high throughput protein expression platform. LabTrackerz, our AI-powered inventory forecasting system, saves laboratories time and money by using our tap-to-track LabTrackerz tags to log instrument runs and update inventory systems in real time. Vitality's benchtop instruments automate rodent surgical workflows such as necropsies, biopsies, and injections. Vitality provides scientists with AI tools to automate workflows and we are actively growing our partnerships across the RTP, Boston, and California. For more information please visit www.labtools.ai or www.vitalityrobotics.com.

Exhibitor:

Joe Webb, Ph.D., CEO and Founder

Email: joe.webb@vitalityrobotics.com

Webb's research focuses on applied machine learning and robotics for automating surgical procedures for animal health applications. Specifically, he is investigating how combining state-of-the-art computer vision tools with precision robotics can improve surgical outcomes and enhance reproducibility in biomedical surgical applications such as necropsies and tissue collections. Webb's long term research goals include adapting his preliminary studies to expand from rodent surgical applications to companion animals, automating traditional manual surgeries such as spaying and neutering. His research team is also overseeing the development of Labtools.AI, a no-code platform for scientists to train custom machine learning models on laboratory data and provide access to proprietary AI tools digital image-based flow cytometry expression analysis.



Ward and Smith has provided comprehensive legal services across North Carolina for more than 125 years, with 114 attorneys based in Asheville, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, and Wilmington. The firm's unique team-based approach ensures clients benefit from collective expertise across 30+ areas of law, including business, intellectual property, environmental, and healthcare law.

Ward and Smith acts as strategic partners, focusing on proactive solutions to help clients avoid challenges and seize opportunities. We prioritize building lasting relationships through efficient service and a client-centric culture. The "Ward and Smith Way" emphasizes technical excellence, practical business sense, and integrity, aiming to be the first choice for legal services in the state.

Exhibitors:

Mayukh Sircar

Email: msircar@wardandsmith.com

Sircar is a certified information privacy professional (CIPP/US) who helps clients manage cybersecurity risks and turn them into business opportunities. He advises various industries on privacy protection practices, including legal requirements and risks related to data handling and disposal. Sircar also guides clients in establishing privacy compliance programs, data breach responses, contract management, and technology transactions. He offers extensive knowledge of local, state, federal, and international privacy laws, including HIPAA, GDPR, GLBA, CCPA, and CPRA.

Amy Fitzhugh

Email: agfitzhugh@wardandsmith.com

Fitzhugh represents professionals with licensing issues related to initial licensure, renewal, reinstatement, and complaints to occupational licensing boards. She appears before various regulatory boards, including the medical board, board of nursing, psychology board, and others. Additionally, Fitzhugh assists with credentialing, privileging, and national practitioner data bank issues.

For nearly a decade, Fitzhugh was the North Carolina Board of Nursing's first in-house attorney, leading its legal department and serving as chief legal officer and legislative liaison. Prior to her career at the North Carolina Board of Nursing, Fitzhugh was an assistant district attorney, where she gained vast litigation experience.



The NIEHS 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 Lee, M.P.A.

Program Specialist, Office of Fellows'
Career Development, NIEHS
leeem@niehs.nih.gov

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

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Office of Fellows' Career Development

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

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

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

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

NIEHS Leadership

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

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

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

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

Robby Robinson, M.S., Deputy Associate Director for Management, NIEHS

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

Heather Patisaul, Ph.D., Scientific Director, Division of Translational Toxicology, NIEHS

Multimedia, Websites, and Support Services

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

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

Donna Jeanne Corcoran, Senior Art Director, Brand Illustrator and Designer, Contractor to NIEHS

Lois Wyrick, Graphics, Office of Communications and Public Liaison, Contractor to NIEHS

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

Charles Lipford, Conference Room Manager, Contractor to NIEHS

Nathan Getz, Audio Visual Conference Support Technician, Contractor to NIEHS

Justin Branch, Audio Visual Conference Support Technician, Contractor to NIEHS

Nathan Mitchiner, AV Production Team Lead, Contractor to NIEHS, NTT Data (NTT) Corporation

Chris Schnur, Multimedia Specialist, Contractor to NIEHS, NTT Data (NTT) Corporation

Steve McCaw, Lead Photographer, Image Associates, Contractor to NIEHS Multimedia Services

Cyndi Arizona, Chief Administrative Officer, DTT, NIEHS

Vince Guerrero, Administrative Officer, NIEHS

Carolyn Emerson, Budget Lead, Administrative and Research Services Branch, NIEHS

Rhonda Carroll, Support Services Specialist, NIEHS

Fran Wagstaff, Intramural Program Specialist, NIEHS

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

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

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

The 2025 27th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium Planning Committee

Matias Grodzielski, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Postdoctoral Fellow, Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Yu-Ying Chen, Ph.D., Co-Chair, Postdoctoral Fellow, Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Jiaqi Li, Ph.D., Career Panels Subcommittee Chair, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch, NIEHS

Shruti Somai, Ph.D., CV Review Subcommittee Chair, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Suneet Kaur, Ph.D., Exhibitors Subcommittee Co-Chair, Research Fellow, Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Rajesh Bhardwaj, Ph.D., Exhibitors Subcommittee Co-Chair, Research Fellow, Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

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Chioma H. Aloh, Ph.D., Career Panels Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Meklit Daniel, M.Phil., Art, Photography, and Booklet Subcommittee, Predoctoral Fellow, Epidemiology Branch, NIEHS

Anand Jaguva Vasudevan, Ph.D., Career Panels Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Dongwon Lee, Career Panels Subcommittee, Postbaccalaureate Fellow, Reproductive and Developmental Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Sarah Marks, Ph.D., CV Review Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Mahina Monsur, Ph.D., Art, Photography, Booklet, and Exhibitors Subcommittees, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Anuradha Nair, Ph.D., CV Review Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Anastasia Robinson, Ph.D., Exhibitors Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

Kaizong Ye, Ph.D., Career Panels Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch, NIEHS

Akbar Zainu, Ph.D., Career Panels Subcommittee, Postdoctoral Fellow, Genomic Integrity and Structural Biology Laboratory, NIEHS

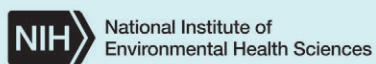
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