



National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences

25th Annual



# NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

FREE Virtual Event



**Thursday, December 8, and  
Friday, December 9, 2022**

**9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST**

All sessions will take place on Zoom

**Monday, December 12, and  
Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

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

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

# NIEHS BIOMEDICAL CAREER SYMPOSIUM

## Agenda-at-a-Glance

Development Workshops	Career Panels	Exhibitors Sessions	CV/Resume Review
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Thursday, December 8, 2022 (All Times EST)			
8:30 – 8:55 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks		
9:00 – 9:50 a.m.	<b>KEYNOTE: Josh Henkin, Ph.D. – The Universe of Careers Waiting for You – Plan Now for Your Success</b>		
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	Workshop #1	Using LinkedIn Effectively for Career Exploration, Networking, and Job Hunting	
11:00 – 11:50 a.m.	Career Panel #1	Opportunities in the Federal Government	
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break		
1:00 – 1:50 p.m.	Career Panel #2	Careers in Nonprofits and NGOs	
2:00 – 2:50 p.m.	Career Panel #3	Careers in Consulting	
3:00 – 3:50 p.m.	Workshop #2	Interview Preparation for Biomedical Scientists	
3:50 – 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks		
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Session #1		

Friday, December 9, 2022 (All Times EST)			
8:30 – 8:55 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks		
9:00 – 9:50 a.m.	Workshop #3	Overview of the Industry Career Landscape	
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	Career Panel #4	Teaching Positions in Academia	
11:00 – 11:50 a.m.	Career Panel #5	Careers in Data Science and Informatics	
Noon – 1:50 p.m.	Workshop #4	A Step-by-Step Approach to Negotiating Non-Academic Job Offers With Confidence	
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break		
2:00 – 2:50 p.m.	Career Panel #6	Entrepreneurship for Biomedical Scientists	
3:00 – 3:50 p.m.	Career Panel #7	Bench Science in Research and Development	
3:50 – 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks		
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Session #2		

December 12, 2022
<b>CV/Resume Review</b>

December 13, 2022
<b>CV/Resume Review</b>



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December 8, 2022

Dear Career Symposium Participants:

This year's NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium marks the 25th edition of this exceptional event aimed at providing trainees with career development opportunities, brought to you by NIEHS Trainees' Assembly and the NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development. I would like to thank everyone for all of their hard work to make today's symposium possible, especially in this virtual environment.

On behalf of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, I welcome you to today's symposium! In addition, I challenge you to take full advantage of all of the workshops and career panels throughout the two days. I hope you use these networking opportunities to establish connections that may lead to exciting and challenging new opportunities. Developing a strong contact network is essential to a successful career in the biomedical sciences.

Featured at this year's symposium, Josh Henkin, Ph.D., will provide a keynote titled, "The Universe of Careers Waiting for You – Plan Now for Your Success," with strategies to personalize career exploration and the importance of networking. Over the next two days, you will have access to seven career panels showcasing a wide range of career paths in science, as well as four workshops to prepare you for the next step.

Now, more than ever, is the perfect time to network virtually with scientists across the world.

I encourage you to stay motivated in your career search, enjoy the experiences you have over the next two days, and to keep pursuing all of your goals. I wish you the best of luck; NIEHS is here to support your career development along the way.

Sincerely,

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



December 8, 2022

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Dear Career Symposium Participants:

On behalf of the NIEHS Division of Intramural Research, I welcome you to the 25th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium.

The NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium is not only a major annual regional event for the Triangle area, but has recently expanded beyond regional boundaries and reaches audiences all over the world. Last year we had more than 500 attendees tuning in from 22 states and 8 countries.

This event provides postdoctoral fellows, post baccalaureate fellows, and graduate students with an outstanding opportunity to explore traditional and non traditional career paths, and to begin to develop their contact networks. The event offers a diverse range of career panels, one-on-one CV/resume reviews with professionals, exhibitor sessions, and career-guiding workshops that are helpful for anyone wishing to pursue a career in the biomedical sciences.

In 2022, the NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium was planned as an exclusively virtual event. It is of note that the event is entirely trainee led; it is organized by postdoctoral, predoctoral, and postbaccalaureate trainees at NIEHS and the EPA. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all the committee members who persisted to promote meaningful experiences and opportunities for fellow trainees despite all the challenges that COVID-19 has presented. Specifically, I would like to thank the 2022 NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium Co-Chairs Kathryn Headley and Rachel Dee, the Committee Chairs Jennifer Woo, Nishanth Anandanadarajah, Kathryn Dalton and Adriana Alexander, and the many committee members and volunteers. Overall, there were more than 30 trainees involved with planning and execution of this event. Additionally, I would like to thank the numerous NIEHS staff members who were involved in working on the event, including staff in the Office of Fellows' Career Development (Mercedes Arana, Xu Hong, and Tammy Collins), and staff and contractors in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison (web team, Zoom team, and booklet creation team, especially Donna Jeanne Corcoran).

The pandemic has forced all of us to acclimate to different ways of working and connecting with each other. Virtual events such as the NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium allow for a safe and encouraging space for networking, learning, and exploration with options in various biomedical fields. I suggest that everyone take full advantage of the panels and workshops today as these connections may lead to job opportunities and professional development.

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

Sincerely,

Darryl Zeldin, M.D.  
Scientific Director



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December 8, 2022

Colleagues,

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

The world of biomedical research is rapidly evolving with evermore opportunities to explore and contributions to make. Consider this event your chance to learn more about those opportunities, learn from the experiences of others, and build your professional network. A large part of your future success will be predicated on your active investment in growing your career.

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

Brian

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Berridge".

Brian Berridge, D.V.M., Ph.D., D.A.C.V.P  
Scientific Director, Division of the National Toxicology Program  
Associate Director, National Toxicology Program



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December 8, 2022

Dear Participants in the 2022 Career Symposium,

It is my honor and privilege to add the Division of Extramural Research and Training to the list of cosponsors for the 25th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium! DERT oversees the NIEHS portfolio of extramural grants, more than \$400M annually to support all aspects of research in environmental health from environmental science and engineering to methods for exposure assessment to mechanistic insights to epidemiological research, community-engaged research and environmental justice, to dissemination and implementation research to assess strategies to improve the health of people around the world and at home. Of course, we also support training and career development for biomedical scientists across career stages!

I, and my colleagues in DERT, are eager to interact with you, learn about your research, and discuss future opportunities. We also look forward to welcoming many or all of you as future grantees of NIEHS.

Regards,

David Balshaw, Ph.D.

Acting Director, Division of Extramural Research and Training



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December 8, 2022

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 NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary. We are excited to continue bringing forth opportunities for postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and postbaccalaureate fellows to explore both traditional and nontraditional career paths. We strongly encourage you to build connections and to expand your professional network.

This annual event would not be possible without the incredible dedication, sustained effort, and collaborative spirit of many NIEHS trainees! I would like to acknowledge the 2022 Co-Chairs of the organizing committee, Kathryn Headley and Rachel Dee, 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 the Committee Chairs: Arts, Photography, and Booklet: Jennifer Woo, Career Panel: Nishanth Anandanadarajah, CV/Resume Review: Kathryn Dalton, and Exhibitor Committee: Adriana Alexander. We appreciate all the committee members and day-of volunteers and the more than 30 trainees from NIEHS and EPA for their combined efforts in organizing this event!

While this event is taking place during a period of time when connecting with one another has proven challenging, we are very lucky that this venue provides participants with opportunities to connect 'live' with others. Come ready to participate in workshops to learn and ask questions about various career paths like academia, industry, and government, how to network, and more. Come ready to speak directly with hiring managers, and to receive one-on-one advice in CV/resume review.

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

Sincerely,

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





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December 8, 2022

Dear Attendees,

On behalf of the entire planning committee, we welcome you to the 25th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium. We both attended this symposium when we were graduate students, and it had a strong impact on our career trajectories. It has been our honor to give back and lead the planning of the event this year.

This symposium is planned entirely by NIEHS and EPA trainees and is celebrating its silver anniversary. This symposium has a longstanding tradition of providing trainees the opportunity to explore diverse career options in the biomedical sciences, as well as providing education on the tools required to meet trainees' professional goals. It also provides trainees with direct connection to biomedical professionals, facilitating the creation of support networks that are vital to securing positions and long-term career success.

Over the next two days, there will be several interactive career panel discussions, workshops, and exhibition sessions. Biomedical professionals will share their stories on how they have successfully navigated into their chosen professions. We encourage you to take an active role in these discussions. Ask pointed questions to gain insight into career path options and how to be successful in each chosen path. Participate and take notes on each workshop session. The advice learned on how to choose between different job opportunities, how to interview, and how to negotiate your job offer, will help in whatever future you decide to pursue. Please also take advantage of the one-on-one CV/resume consultations that are being offered on Monday, December 12 and Tuesday, December 13. These consultations by professionals will support the construction of a CV/resume that will help you attract the attention of hiring managers.

We are excited for your participation in this year's symposium. We hope you benefit from the valuable advice and information given to you. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rachel Dee in blue ink.

Handwritten signature of Kathryn Headley in black ink.

Rachel Dee, Ph.D., and Kathryn Headley, Ph.D.  
Co-Chairs, 25th Annual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium

# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Thursday, December 8, 2022 (9:00 –9:50 a.m.)**

## **The Universe of Careers Waiting for You – Plan Now for Your Success**



### **Josh Henkin, Ph.D.**

*Founder/Career Coach | STEM Career Services, LLC*

*Email: [josh@stemcareerservices.com](mailto:josh@stemcareerservices.com)*

*Personal LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joshhenkin>*

*STEM Career Services LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/stemcareerservices>*

### **Keynote Abstract**

The universe of careers available to STEM graduates outside of academia is widespread and exciting. Oftentimes, STEM graduates have limited knowledge of the types of careers they can pursue upon completion of their education and training. This workshop describes strategies to explore career opportunities based on a variety of factors (e.g., personal interests, industry trends, desired geography). Attendees will also be introduced to tools they can use to identify potential careers of interest and to gain skills that will enable them to be strong candidates for the positions they seek when they are ready to start applying for jobs.

### **Speaker Bio**

After years of successfully mentoring science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) job seekers, in 2014, Henkin founded STEM Career Services, a career coaching company aimed at helping STEM graduates start and sustain careers outside of academia. Henkin speaks and conducts workshops at conferences, universities, and institutes across the country and provides career coaching to STEM graduates at all career levels. These efforts earned Henkin the role as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship, and AAAS Science Careers and Career Development Center (CDC) Subject Matter Expert and Career Coach. He has created several online courses for the CDC and is invited to deliver workshops and panel discussions at AAAS events. In addition, Henkin was elected to two terms on the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Board of Directors where he sat on the executive committee and served as the nonprofit's treasurer for seven years.

Concurrent with his work at STEM Career Services, Henkin is a senior program and portfolio manager with Tunnell Consulting, a science and technology consulting company. Henkin provides technical and programmatic support to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and Department of Defense (DoD) vaccine and therapeutic development programs. Currently, Henkin is working on developing numerous COVID-19 vaccines under the Countermeasures Acceleration Group (formerly known as Operation Warp Speed).

Prior to these roles, Henkin worked at Medtronic as a principal field scientist in its cardiac rhythm disease management division, where he managed a portfolio of investigator-initiated clinical trials to promote innovative research with implantable cardiac devices. And before this as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, Josh Henkin worked with the DoD as a scientific advisor for the Undersecretary of Defense for Laboratories and Basic Sciences, creating policies and managing basic science research programs.

A lifelong athlete, Henkin played rugby for 20 years at the collegiate, national, and international levels. He has authored research articles on muscle, exercise physiology, and fitness, is a certified strength and conditioning coach, and has started several companies in the exercise and fitness space. He holds a B.S. in business administration, an M.S. in nutritional sciences, and a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology – all from the University of Vermont.

**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

**WELCOME (8:30 – 8:55 a.m.)**

**Rick Woychik, Ph.D.**

Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program

**Darryl Zeldin, M.D.**

Scientific Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

**Mercedes Arana, Ph.D.**

Acting Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Josh Henkin, Ph.D. (9:00 – 9:50 a.m.)**

***The Universe of Careers Waiting for You – Plan Now for Your Success***

**WORKSHOP #1 (10:00 – 10:50 a.m.)**

**Using LinkedIn Effectively for Career Exploration, Networking, and Job Hunting**



***Patrick Brandt, Ph.D.***

*Director, Career Development and Outreach*

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

*Email: [pdb@unc.edu](mailto:pdb@unc.edu)*

In this hands-on workshop (please feel free to bring your own laptop), Brandt will demonstrate ways that trainees can use LinkedIn to search for career opportunities, network with professionals in careers of interest, and prepare for interviews.

Specific topics include:

1. Simple ways to move from a mediocre LinkedIn profile to a polished and professional one.
2. How to grow your network before you need it.
3. Ways to use LinkedIn to gather valuable information about potential employers and career options.
4. How to use LinkedIn when preparing and tailoring job documents.
5. Using the Alumni feature in LinkedIn.
6. Using the advanced search options effectively.
7. Various LinkedIn dos and don'ts.
8. LinkedIn job searching.

**Speaker Bio**

Patrick Brandt, Ph.D., is director of career development and outreach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He leads career development initiatives for biomedical Ph.D. students, including the ImPACT internship program for senior trainees, career advising, and alumni career placement tracking. Brandt also co-directs the NIGMS-funded Translational Medicine Training program for students interested in clinically relevant research. As science outreach director, Brandt oversees North Carolina DNA Day and other efforts aimed at connecting scientists to the public.

Brandt grew up in Upstate New York and earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Rochester School of Medicine where he studied the enzymes involved in lagging strand DNA replication and a related DNA repair pathway. After a postdoc at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Brandt joined the Office of Graduate Education in 2008.

## CAREER PANEL #1 – Opportunities in the Federal Government (11:00 – 11:50 a.m.)

**Anna Barry Cope, Ph.D. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)**

**Laural English, Ph.D. (U.S. Department of Agriculture)**

**Michael Santillo, Ph.D. (U.S. Food and Drug Administration)**

**Cavin Ward-Caviness, Ph.D. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)**

Researchers often land jobs within the federal government where they may be directly involved in research or working in science-based positions that involve the funding of science, science policy, public health, clinical research protocols, science communication, training and education, and much more. Many diverse positions are available within federal agencies that provide opportunities for researchers to apply their research knowledge and experience in unique and rewarding ways. Panelists who currently work for federal agencies will discuss the duties and responsibilities of their positions and share how their career journey led them to seek a position within the federal government.

### Panelists:

**Anna Barry Cope, Ph.D.**, is an epidemiologist in the Field Epidemiology Unit of the Division of STD Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and is permanently assigned to the North Carolina Division of Public Health in Raleigh, N.C. Cope has more than a decade of experience working with and analyzing HIV and STD surveillance data. She has conducted multiple studies assessing the effectiveness of STD partner services and electronic options for partner notification. Prior to joining the Field Epi Unit, Cope received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she studied transmission dynamics among persons diagnosed with acute HIV in North Carolina. *Email: [LNU4@cdc.gov](mailto:LNU4@cdc.gov)*

**Laural English, Ph.D.**, has worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion's Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR) branch for six years. For the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months Project, she facilitated systematic reviews that examined complementary feeding and health outcomes. For the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, English managed systematic reviews that examined dietary patterns and health outcomes across the lifespan. She serves on the Leadership Council for USDA Women in Agriculture and coordinates the Evidence Synthesis interest group. English has been in the nutrition field for 14 years, earning a Doctor of Philosophy in nutritional sciences from Penn State University, a Master of Science in human nutrition with a Didactic Program in Dietetics verification from Meredith College, and a Bachelor of Science in neuroscience from Allegheny College. English has an extensive background in presenting at scientific meetings and publishing peer-reviewed articles in the fields of nutrition, neuroscience, obesity, and systematic review methods. She has prior experience managing implementation of USDA-funded nutrition education programming, translating the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to develop nutrition communications for low-income audiences, facilitating collaborations among federal- and state-level program partners, and working as adjunct faculty in obesity and weight management. *Email: [laural.english@usda.gov](mailto:laural.english@usda.gov)*

**Michael Santillo, Ph.D.**, is a research chemist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For the past decade, Santillo has worked in this position, which is within the FDA's Division of Toxicology, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Santillo applies cellular and biochemical assays (in vitro methods), along with computational tools (in silico methods) to predict toxicity of chemicals related to foods and dietary supplements. Aside from his role as a lab researcher, Santillo also reviewed the safety of food contact substances and new dietary ingredients in premarket notifications, and he served on peer review committees for promoting research scientists at FDA. Before his current position, Santillo was a postdoctoral fellow at the FDA for three years, and received a Ph.D. in chemistry from The Pennsylvania State University. *Email: [michael.santillo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:michael.santillo@fda.hhs.gov)*

**Cavin Ward-Caviness, Ph.D.**, is a principal investigator (PI) in the Public Health and Integrated Toxicology Division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. With a background in computational biology and environmental epidemiology, Ward-Caviness seeks to understand the environmental factors which influence health in vulnerable populations and the molecular mechanisms that influence environmental health risks. Ward-Caviness is the PI of the EPA CARES research resource, which allows researchers to study environmental health effects in vulnerable patient populations, using large electronic health record databases. Ward-Caviness also leads the Environmental Health Domain Team for the National COVID Cohort Collaborative. Ward-Caviness is also interested in how epigenetics and metabolomics can serve as an early indicator of adverse health effects from chemical and social environmental exposures and, in particular, how molecular biomarkers can give us insight into how the environment may accelerate the aging process and thus contribute to chronic disease. *Email: [ward-caviness.cavin@epa.gov](mailto:ward-caviness.cavin@epa.gov)*

## CAREER PANEL #2 – Careers in Nonprofits and NGOs (1:00-1:50 p.m.)

**Jessica Fernandez, Ph.D. (National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health)**

**Gina Hilton, Ph.D. (PETA Science Consortium International e.V.)**

**Jessica Hollenbach, Ph.D. (Asthma Center at Connecticut Children's)**

**Klara Matouskova, M.D., Ph.D. (Environmental Defense Fund)**

Are you interested in doing research while contributing to a good cause? Are you interested in pursuing a career in research through a nontraditional pathway? Do you want to apply your research skills in pursuing a career which leads to development of strategies and policies to improve public health? There are several such opportunities available in nonprofit and non-governmental organizations for scientists across disciplines to achieve their career goals. These positions can focus on several areas including public health, public policy, development and implementation of interventions, epidemiology, and data science. Please join this panel to hear from professionals who have transitioned from a position as an independent scientist and leveraged their technical skills to advance science in different settings. This panel will discuss the different types of roles you can pursue in nonprofit and non-governmental organizations. The panelists will share their experiences of working in the nonprofit industry and offer career advice for identifying and applying to similar positions.

### Panelists:

**Jessica Fernandez, Ph.D.**, is a postdoctoral research fellow at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). Her research focuses on the impact of race-related stressors, such as racial discrimination and other physical and psychological threats, on the physical health of minoritized racial and ethnic populations. In addition, she examines the role of race-related stressors in shaping individuals' thoughts about health and disease and how these psychosocial processes contribute to racial and ethnic disparities in health. Prior to working at NIMHD, Fernandez received her B.A. in sociology from Gettysburg College and her M.S. and Ph.D. in psychology from the Social, Decision, and Organizational Sciences program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She previously worked as a research associate at the American Institutes for Research in the Health and Social Development program focusing on engaging patients and underrepresented voices in health care research and decision-making.

Email: [jessica.fernandez@nih.gov](mailto:jessica.fernandez@nih.gov)

**Gina Hilton, Ph.D.**, is a toxicologist and science adviser to PETA Science Consortium International e.V. She received her M.S. in chemistry from Wake Forest University in 2013, and her Ph.D. in the toxicology program at North Carolina State University in 2017. She then joined the Science Consortium, where she advises on the development and implementation of new approach and non-animal testing for regulatory chemical risk assessment. Hilton serves in positions of leadership for multinational workgroups to facilitate fit-for-purpose use of new approaches to improve risk management. She has published award-winning posters and manuscripts – some of which have been directly cited in EPA regulatory policy. Hilton also plays an active role in science communication and early career outreach by giving interviews, as well as guest lectures and career counseling to undergraduate and graduate students on a volunteer basis. Email: [ginah@thepsci.eu](mailto:ginah@thepsci.eu)

**Jessica Hollenbach, Ph.D.**, is co-director of the Asthma Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Hollenbach received her doctorate in biomedical science from the University of Connecticut and is a certified asthma educator. Her research interests include understanding the sociologic, behavioral, and environmental factors that explain more than 80% of the risk for developing pediatric asthma – the most common chronic disease of childhood. Her long-term career goal is to improve the health and quality of life of children with asthma through the implementation of effective outpatient (clinic and school-based) asthma interventions. Email: [jhollenbach@connecticutchildrens.org](mailto:jhollenbach@connecticutchildrens.org)

**Klara Matouskova** is an M.D. and a 2022 Ph.D. graduate from Vandenberg lab at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Matouskova specializes in environmental health ethics, namely ethics and regulation of anthropogenic chemicals. Currently, she works as a consultant for a Safer Chemicals branch of Environmental Defense Fund, a wide-ranging, nonprofit organization. Besides standing each foot in a distinct field – life science and humanities, Matouskova's professional activities develop in two countries – the U.S., where she resides, and the Czech Republic where she originates and strives to return. Matouskova also enjoys playing classical guitar, climbing, Nordic skiing, and wandering through open landscapes that exhibit sustainable human-nature coexistence. Email: [matouskova.klara@icloud.com](mailto:matouskova.klara@icloud.com)

## CAREER PANEL #3 – Careers in Consulting (2:00 – 2:50 p.m.)

**Janet Anderson, Ph.D., DABT (GSI Environmental Inc.)**

**Madelyn “Mimi” Huang, Ph.D. (Premier Consulting)**

**Annette Santamaria, Ph.D., M.P.H., DABT (CardnoChemrisk at Stantec)**

**Melanie Wasserman, Ph.D., MPA, PMP (IQVIA)**

Are you a problem solver and an out-of-the-box thinker? Are you interested in utilizing your skills to interact with a wide variety of stakeholders? The field of biomedical consulting covers a broad range of industries, organizations, clients, and topics. Whether you want to work independently or as part of a consulting firm, biomedical consulting can include product development, regulatory strategy, and pharmacology/toxicology. In this panel, we will discuss exciting opportunities in the field of consulting including how to transition from other fields to consulting and what skills are needed to find yourself in a successful consulting position.

### Panelists:

**Janet Anderson, Ph.D., DABT**, is a principal toxicologist with more than 15 years of experience providing toxicology, risk assessment, and risk management strategies for emerging and unregulated contaminants to federal agencies, private industry, and municipal clients. Building off her academic doctoral training in cancer and molecular biology and post-doctoral fellowship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she specializes in the translation of human health toxicology data into state and federal regulatory policy decisions. She also provides litigation consulting and expert services and is a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. She has broad experience assessing the toxic characteristics of chemicals associated with a wide range of environmental scenarios to support scientifically sound decision making. Anderson has extensive experience developing strategies to track and mitigate human health risks and address environmental liability associated with emerging chemicals for both private and public sector clients.

Email: [jkanderson@gsienv.com](mailto:jkanderson@gsienv.com)

**Madelyn “Mimi” Huang, Ph.D.**, is a toxicologist at Premier Consulting, a strategic product development and global regulatory consulting company dedicated to supporting the specialized needs of emerging biotech and specialty pharma companies. At Premier, she provides input on nonclinical aspects of therapeutic product development, such as designing nonclinical programs to support clinical studies, reviewing regulatory submissions (e.g., IND, NDA, EU MAA), and crafting regulatory strategies. Previously, Huang was a postdoctoral fellow at the Division of Translational Toxicology at the National Toxicology Program, where she designed and managed the conduct of regulatory toxicology studies evaluating various environmental chemicals. She obtained a Ph.D. in toxicology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Notre Dame. Email: [madelyn.huang@premierconsulting.com](mailto:madelyn.huang@premierconsulting.com)

**Annette Santamaria, Ph.D., M.P.H., DABT**, is a board-certified toxicologist with more than 30 years of multidisciplinary consulting experience critically evaluating a broad range of toxicological, epidemiological, and clinical studies, conducting exposure and human health risk assessments, and communicating results to clients and governmental agencies. Santamaria has conducted safety assessments for a variety of consumer products to determine their compliance with U.S., European, and Canadian regulations and/or California’s Proposition 65 regulations. Santamaria has addressed product liability and/or regulatory matters regarding exposure to chemicals in consumer products (e.g., cosmetics, personal care products, toys, tobacco, foods, food additives, dietary supplements, food packaging, nanomaterials, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, cleaning products, paints), or in the workplace or the environment. She has critically evaluated the human health risks associated with consumer, occupational, and/or environmental exposures to a wide variety of chemicals (e.g., manganese, benzene, talc, arsenic, asbestos, trichloroethylene, chlorine, PCBs, flame retardants, solvents, phthalates). Email: [annette.santamaria@cardno.com](mailto:annette.santamaria@cardno.com)

**Melanie Wasserman, Ph.D., MPA, PMP**, is a principal at IQVIA Government Solutions. She is a researcher and technical assistance provider with expertise in health equity, access to care, and quality improvement. Wasserman has more than 15 years of leadership experience in the health and human services government contracting space, has taught health policy and program evaluation at the masters’ level at Brown University, holds a Ph.D. in health policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, and is a certified project management professional. Wasserman’s role at IQVIA is to help government agencies excel in accomplishing their mission by leveraging IQVIA’s extensive data assets, domain expertise, technologies, and analytic capabilities.

## WORKSHOP #2 – Interview Preparation for Biomedical Scientists (3:00 – 3:50 p.m.)

### Interview Preparation for Biomedical Scientists



***Stevie Eberle, M.Ed.***

*Executive Director and Assistant Dean*

*BioSci Careers*

*Stanford University*

This workshop explores how to identify and communicate your value across myriad sectors within the biomedical sciences. We will explore how to respond to any question, whether standard or unexpected, by understanding hiring managers' intent behind them. Finally, we will finish with recommendations for managing anxiety.

#### **Speaker Bio**

Stevie Eberle is executive director and assistant dean of BioSci Careers at Stanford University where they support the holistic needs of STEM M.S./M.D./Ph.D. students and postdoctoral trainees. They were adjunct faculty at the University of San Francisco and Stanford's Graduate School of Education, serving interdisciplinary students. Stevie wrote for Inside Higher Education, is an internationally known presenter, and co-wrote book chapters. They are chair of the Board for the National Postdoctoral Association and the previous co-chair of the National Association for Colleges and Employers' Diversity/Womxn in STEM committee. Stevie holds an M.Ed. in counseling from Ohio University.

## CLOSING REMARKS (3:50 – 4:00 p.m.)

***Kathryn Headley, Ph.D., and Rachel Dee, Ph.D.***

*2022 NIEHS Biomedical Symposium Co-chairs*

## EXIBITOR SESSION #1 (4:00 – 4:50 p.m.)

**Friday, December 9, 2022**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (8:30-8:55 a.m.)**

**Brian Berridge, D.V.M., Ph.D.**

Scientific Director Division of Translational Toxicology (DTT), Associate Director National Toxicology Program (NTP), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIEHS)

**David Balshaw, Ph.D.**

Acting Director, Division of Extramural Research and Training, NIH, NIEHS

**WORKSHOP #3 – Overview of the Industry Career Landscape (9:00 – 9:50 a.m.)**



***Lori Conlan, Ph.D.***

*Deputy Director*

*Office of Intramural Training and Education, NIH*

A key difference between industry and academia is that in industry you are expected to produce something of value to your company and the shareholders – this is the business side of science. A scientist with a doctorate degree can assume numerous roles in an industry setting, including technology management, business development, project management, marketing, technical sales, regulatory affairs, quality control, quality assurance, technical support, patents, financial analysis, human resource recruitment, medical science relationship building, clinical research management, and corporate communications. This session will highlight these career opportunities and provide insight into how to position yourself to be competitive for these jobs.

**Speaker Bio**

Lori Conlan, Ph.D., is the 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, grad 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, NYS Department of Health.



## CAREER PANEL #4 – Teaching Positions in Academia (10:00 – 10:50 a.m.)

**Yendelela Cuffee, Ph.D. (University of Delaware)**

**Derek W. Laux, Ph.D. (Eastern Connecticut State University)**

**Gidi Shemer, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Biology Department)**

**Sofija Zagarins, Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)**

Are you interested in guiding and instructing the next generation of science communicators, researchers, and doctors? Often, the first steps of a young scientist start in the classroom which is why teaching is considered to be one of the most personally fulfilling careers out there. However, it may be mystifying to both early and late career scientists as to how to infiltrate the landscape of teaching in academia when one doesn't know the full scope of positions available. This session will highlight the possible career progression of a scientist in academic teaching and provide insight into diversity of teaching positions in academia.

### Panelists:

**Yendelela Cuffee, Ph.D.**, is an assistant professor of epidemiology and the associate director of scholarship and research for the Partnership for Healthy Communities at the University of Delaware. Cuffee obtained her M.P.H. in epidemiology at New York Medical College, a Ph.D. in clinical and population health research from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and was a postdoctoral fellow at New York University School of Medicine. Her research program includes examining the psychosocial and behavioral correlates of cardiovascular disease and medication adherence among Blacks and Latinos with hypertension. She also designs and implements community-based participatory research projects, which use narrative-based approaches to promote lifestyle change among Blacks with hypertension. *Email: [ylcuffee@udel.edu](mailto:ylcuffee@udel.edu)*

**Derek Laux, Ph.D.**, is an assistant professor of biology at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), where he instructs courses in cell biology and immunology. In his research laboratory, Laux works with undergraduate researchers to examine the interaction between innate immune cells and preneoplastic cells in the early tumor microenvironment using a zebrafish model. Before his time at ECSU, Laux served as a visiting assistant professor of Biology, first at Washington College and then at Bates College. Laux received a bachelor's degree in biology from Case Western Reserve University, a Ph.D. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from the University of Pittsburgh, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Centre for Inflammation Research at the University of Edinburgh. *Email: [lauxd@easternct.edu](mailto:lauxd@easternct.edu)*

**Gidi Shemer, Ph.D.**, is a teaching professor in the biology department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He started his academic career in Israel with the traditional research-oriented track: a bachelor's degree, Master of Science, and a Ph.D., focusing on developmental biology studies and exploring the molecular and cellular mechanisms of cell-cell fusion. He stayed in the same lab for three years as a postdoctoral fellow before moving to North Carolina to pursue a second postdoc fellowship, studying cell adhesion in early embryogenesis. During that period, he changed his path to join the biology department as a teaching professor at UNC. He has been serving in this role for the last 13 years. In addition to teaching classes in various fields (human physiology, molecular biology, and cancer biology), he serves as the faculty academic adviser of the 2,800 biology majors, as well as organizing the undergraduate research in the department. *Email: [bishemer@email.unc.edu](mailto:bishemer@email.unc.edu)*

**Sofija Zagarins, Ph.D.**, is a lecturer and graduate program director in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Zagarins has 15 years of undergraduate and graduate teaching experience and was an associate professor of public health at Springfield College in Massachusetts prior to taking her current position at the University of Massachusetts. Zagarins has taught up to six courses per semester and has experience teaching in traditional, hybrid, and online formats. Zagarins has also been involved with a range of academic service roles, especially related to curriculum development and review. In addition to her academic work, Zagarins has more than 20 years of professional health research experience, including managing large behavioral and pharmaceutical clinical trials, as well as collaborating on grant development and manuscript preparation for a range of health-related research projects. Zagarins is currently involved with research aimed at quantifying overall diet and determining how diet quality affects health outcomes including bone density and reproductive outcomes. *Email: [zagarins@umass.edu](mailto:zagarins@umass.edu)*

## CAREER PANEL #5 – Careers in Data Science and Informatics (11:00 – 11:50 a.m.)

**Rasiah Loganantharaj, Ph.D. (Rasbro Technology)**

**Sydney Willis, Ph.D. (IQVIA)**

**Clemens Wittwehr, M.Sc. (European Commission's Joint Research Centre)**

In a rapidly growing data-driven world, there are many new job opportunities for individuals interested in data analysis through programming, algorithm development, and bioinformatics. These opportunities are in various sectors, and it could be challenging to figure out which will be best for you: academia, government, nonprofit, or industry. Even within the private sector, would working for a contract research organization be a good fit for you? How much intellectual freedom does one really have in all these, anyway? This panel discussion will give you the opportunity to speak with data scientists from these different sectors and a variety of career backgrounds to learn about career possibilities and challenges within the broad realm of data science and informatics.

### Panelists:

**Rasiah Loganantharaj, Ph.D.**, joined RasbroTechnology as a chief technology officer in August 2018, and had initiated and provided the leadership for few projects capitalizing the knowledge and the working experience of data science. The definition of data science has broadened to the extent of accommodating traditional and modern artificial intelligence that includes deep learning. He is involved in the design and development of a prototype of software tool that identifies and annotates cracks in concrete pipelines using transfer learning. There are a large number of interesting problems in medical and engineering domains to be effectively solved. In the process of solving interesting and challenging problems in an institution or at a private industry, the young scientist will come up with a completely different algorithm which otherwise was not possible in the past. While he worked at i2 Technology in Boston, he developed maximally satisfying suboptimal solutions by incorporating genetic and interval-based propagation algorithms.

**Sydney Willis, Ph.D.**, is a lead epidemiologist on the Real World Solutions team at IQVIA. She has more than six years of experience in reproductive epidemiology and in the analysis and interpretation of prospective observational studies. At IQVIA, she is responsible for providing epidemiologic and outcomes research leadership for observational research and for designing methodologically sound studies to meet project objectives and regulatory requirements. Previously, she studied dietary and other modifiable lifestyle factors and pregnancy outcomes in two web-based prospective cohorts of male and female pregnancy planners in the United States, Canada, and Denmark. Willis received her MSPH from the University of Utah, and her Ph.D. in epidemiology from Boston University. *Email: [sydney.willis@iqvia.com](mailto:sydney.willis@iqvia.com)*

**Clemens Wittwehr, M.Sc.**, is the competence group leader for knowledge sharing in the Chemical Safety and Alternative Methods Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). In his work, he explores innovative ways to increase relevant stakeholders' awareness of the facts and information they need to increase the uptake of non-animal approaches in regulatory and biomedical domains. By combining the global application of the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) Framework, the publication of standardised reporting templates at OECD level, the facilitation of international collaboration, and analysing the potential for further global harmonisation of regulatory approaches, his group aims at creating an environment that is open to the next paradigm shift in toxicology: the non-animal test revolution. Earlier in his JRC career, Wittwehr was manager of the IUCLID project, which delivered the standard software now used by chemical industry to submit their registration dossiers under REACH, the EU chemicals legislation, and now increasingly also under other international jurisdictions.

## WORKSHOP #4 (Noon – 12:50 p.m.)

### A Step-by-Step Approach to Negotiating Non-Academic Job Offers With Confidence



**Tammy Collins, Ph.D.**

*Program Officer*

*Burroughs Wellcome Fund*

You've landed several interviews and now you have a job offer—congratulations! Your excitement may cause you to want to accept the new offer on the spot. However, taking time to catch your breath, evaluate the offer wholistically, and assess what is most important to you will set you up for success in negotiating a better deal. In this presentation, you will learn about how to manage your emotions during the negotiation process while exploring strategies for fully evaluating the offer's value. Having this information in hand will help you to decide where you need to negotiate based on what is most important to you personally. Is the salary simply too low? Do you need the ability to work remotely? How much will this new employer contribute to your retirement? Next, you will learn how to make the 'ask' based on knowing what you need, as well as knowing what value you bring to the new organization. You should walk away from this presentation with tools in hand to enter job offer negotiations with confidence.

#### **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.

## CAREER PANEL #6 – Entrepreneurship for Biomedical Scientists (2:00-2:50 p.m.)

**Elias Jeyarajah, Ph.D. (LipoScience)**

**Thomas Ray, Ph.D. (MapLight Therapeutics)**

**R. Lea Sanford, Ph.D. (Cornell Tech)**

Are you interested in translating your expertise to a scientific product, but unsure of how to bring your invention to market? Do you want to learn more about what life is like as part of a startup? In this session, you can learn about the resources available to scientists interested in developing their own biomedical ventures. The panelists will discuss their experiences as entrepreneurs and share insights on how to recruit a team, participate in a team and secure funding, and create a sustainable business.

### Panelists:

**Elias Jeyarajah, Ph.D.**, (recently retired) is an analytical chemist specialized in the field of lipoproteins using NMR spectroscopy. He started as a research assistant in the Department of Biochemistry at North Carolina State University (NCSU) while simultaneously pursuing a Ph.D. in the chemistry department. His pioneering research along with his mentor Jim Otvos, Ph.D., led to the quantification of lipoprotein particles using NMR spectroscopy. His research established the LDL particle number quantified by NMR to be a better risk factor for coronary heart disease than the traditional LDL cholesterol levels. The research led to the formation of LipoScience, a medical diagnostic company in the Triangle area. Jeyarajah served as the director of research for LipoScience for 15 years, and worked as the director of NMR Applications after LabCorp acquired LipoScience. Jeyarajah received his B.Sc. from the University of Jaffna, M.S. in biophysical chemistry from SUNY at Stony Brook, and Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from NCSU.

**Thomas Ray, Ph.D.**, is head of molecular biology at MapLight Therapeutics, a company that designs novel therapeutics for brain disorders such as autism, Parkinson's, and schizophrenia. He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Louisville in the laboratory of Ron Gregg, Ph.D., where he identified novel functions of G protein-coupled receptors. He is a molecular biologist with a broad skillset and expertise in transcriptomics. In addition, he has extensive experience with Illumina and PacBio platforms for gene expression profiling, isoform discovery, and emerging spatial transcriptomics techniques. He currently uses these tools to determine the cause of, and develop, a therapeutic strategy for diseases of the nervous system. He has valuable insight into making the transition from academia to industry, as well as enlightening experience in the startup phase of biotech companies.

*Email: [tray@maplightrx.com](mailto:tray@maplightrx.com)*

**Lea Sanford, Ph.D.**, is a Runway postdoc at Cornell Tech and the founder of Providentia Technologies. She received her Ph.D. in biophysics from Weill Cornell Medicine. Sanford has more than a decade of experience in membrane biophysics. During her doctoral work in the laboratory of Olaf Andersen, M.D., she uncovered a connection between cell membrane damage, specifically changes in the physical properties of the lipid bilayer, and drug cytotoxicity. In short, significant lipid bilayer perturbation is strongly correlated with and predictive of small molecule cytotoxicity. Sanford founded Providentia Technologies with the aim of commercializing this technology to help accelerate drug discovery and improve early-stage toxicity prediction of drug leads. She is currently working to grow the company and its partnerships, as well as developing the machine learning complement to this screening technology, which both identifies the molecular features that drive this membrane-mediated cytotoxicity and provides structural modifications to remedy it. *Email: [rls463@cornell.edu](mailto:rls463@cornell.edu)*

## CAREER PANEL #7 – Bench Science in Research and Development (3:00-3:50 p.m.)

**Briana Foley, B.S. (Biomolecular and Computational Toxicology Division, Environmental Protection Agency)**

**Robert Kirkton, Ph.D. (Humacyte)**

**Laura Rank, Ph.D. (PassageBio)**

**Alex Wall, B.S. (North Carolina State University)**

Not everyone wants to be a professor or primary investigator who teaches or writes grants and funding proposals. Alternatively, maybe you are interested in gaining more experience and confidence before taking on the responsibility of calling all the shots. Luckily, for those who wish to focus on their passion for bench-top research, these career routes are not the only options. There is a variety of opportunities in academia, industry, and government for people from the baccalaureate level all the way through postdoctoral training to stay at the bench. This career panel will discuss what such jobs look like on a day-to-day basis, and compare and contrast the lifestyles between academia, industry, and government. It will approach the range of opportunities, explore how to develop the necessary skills to obtain the right position, and discuss advice on how to pursue this career path.

### Panelists:

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

**Robert Kirton, Ph.D.**, is the director of new product development at Humacyte Inc., and has more than 15 years of research experience in the regenerative medicine field. At Humacyte, Kirton has served in multiple technical and leadership roles to advance the development of tissue engineered blood vessels from concept through preclinical evaluation. He currently leads a team of scientists and engineers responsible for pipeline development, product characterization, nonclinical studies, and technical writing of manuscripts and regulatory documents. After receiving a B.S. in biology from Denison University, he worked as a research scientist at a startup biotech company (Cogent Neuroscience) and then a global corporation (BASF) for four years prior to graduate school. Kirton earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at Duke University where his doctoral and postdoctoral research focused on the creation and use of genetically engineered excitable cells and tissues for regenerative medicine and basic research applications.

**Laura Rank, Ph.D.**, is a scientist at Passage Bio. Rank received her bachelor's degree in microbiology from Purdue University and her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, studying protein complexes in bacteria. After completing an internship at Collaborations Pharmaceuticals, Rank accepted an offer from Passage Bio, which is a midsize (~100 employees) gene therapy startup company that focuses on rare neurological diseases in children. Rank works in the bioassay team of the Analytical Development Department where she works on designing assays to test the biological activity of their products. Rank's day-to-day is still largely at the bench, but she also spends her time writing qualification strategies, reports, and writing Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) protocols for assays that are transferred to the Quality Control Department. Rank loves the current work she is doing, as well as the opportunity that working at a midsize company provides. *Email: [lrnk@passagebio.com](mailto:lrnk@passagebio.com)*

**Alex Wall, B.S.**, is a research assistant in the Planchart Lab at North Carolina State University (NCSU) and has nearly seven years of research experience. As the lab manager, they maintain the Planchart lab's zebrafish facility, place orders, and ensure regulatory compliance in addition to working on their own project and assisting with other lab members' experiments. They currently study the structure and function of an enzyme involved in amino acid biosynthesis. Wall graduated from NCSU in 2019 with a bachelor's in biological sciences, after which they studied salamander regeneration under a Fulbright Student Grant in Germany. They moved back to the United States at the beginning of COVID and have been working in the Planchart lab as the lab manager since October 2020.

## CLOSING REMARKS (3:50 – 4:00 p.m.)

**Kathryn Headley, Ph.D. and Rachel Dee, Ph.D.**

2022 NIEHS Biomedical Symposium Co-Chairs

## EXIBITOR SESSION #2 (4:00 – 4:50 p.m.)

## LIST OF EXHIBITORS

### COMPANIES



**EpiCypher** is a world-leading provider and developer of innovative research technologies to advance the science of chromatin biology and improve human health ([www.epicypher.com](http://www.epicypher.com)). At the 25th Annual Virtual NIEHS Biomedical Career Symposium, two EpiCypher representatives can provide insights into various industry roles on- and off-the-bench, life in the industry including work/life balance, landing an industry position, long-term career trajectories, and other issues.

#### **Exhibitors:**

**Bryan Venters, Ph.D.**, Director of Genomic Technologies

Bryan Venters, Ph.D. is the director of genomic technologies at EpiCypher. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Penn State University. Prior to joining EpiCypher in 2019, he was a tenure-track professor at Vanderbilt University, where his laboratory studied the relationship between hormone signaling pathways and epigenetic reprogramming. In his current role at EpiCypher, he leads the genomics research and development efforts that focus on bringing new and exciting reagents, kits, and technologies to market through rigorous testing and protocol optimization.

**Andrea Johnstone, Ph.D.**, Senior Director of Product Development

Email: [ajohnstone@epicypher.com](mailto:ajohnstone@epicypher.com)

Andrea Johnstone, Ph.D. is the senior director of product development at EpiCypher. She earned her Ph.D. in neuroscience at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. After her post-doctoral studies in epigenetics, she joined EpiCypher in 2016 as a research scientist and quickly moved into her current role overseeing commercial development of new chromatin research technologies. In her role, she leads a team of product managers and content developers to bring new products and services to market and expand into new research and clinical applications.



**KBI Biopharma** is a biopharmaceutical contract development and manufacturing organization that accelerates the development of innovative discoveries into life-changing biological products and expands global access of medicines to patients in need. From early-stage biotech to academic and nonprofit organizations to many of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, KBI has served 500+ clients globally to accelerate and optimize their drug development programs.

KBI was founded in 1996 and operates eight facilities: Durham and two locations in Research Triangle Park (N.C.), Boulder and Louisville (Colo.), The Woodlands (Texas), Leuven, Belgium, and Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **Exhibitor:**

**Janell Toliver, PHR**, Senior Manager, Talent Acquisition

Email: [jtoliver@kbibiopharma.com](mailto:jtoliver@kbibiopharma.com)



**Proteintech Group** provides high-quality and reliable reagents, including antibodies, proteins, ELISA kits, and nanobody-based research tools. As a company founded by scientists, we recognize the tireless efforts and sacrifices made by researchers to advance scientific discovery. That's why we manufacture all our own products in-house, leading to superior reproducibility and lot-to-lot consistency. With more than two-thirds target coverage of proteins encoded by the human genome, Proteintech's 15,000+ antibodies are used every day by scientists in a wide range of research areas.

**Exhibitor:**

**Afrida Rahman-Enyart, Ph.D.**, Scientific Liaison and Product Manager

Email: [afrida@ptglab.com](mailto:afrida@ptglab.com)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/afrida-rahman-enyart-4aa93758](http://www.linkedin.com/in/afrida-rahman-enyart-4aa93758)

Afrida Rahman-Enyart, Ph.D., joined Proteintech in March 2022 as a scientific liaison and product manager. Prior to working at Proteintech, Rahman-Enyart was trained as a developmental neurobiologist. She received dual Ph.D.s from Indiana University in neuroscience and psychology, and continued doing postdoctoral work in the Department of Urology at Northwestern University. As a scientific liaison at Proteintech, Rahman-Enyart is responsible for organizing and running technical webinars and careers workshops, staying up to date with science and creating scientific content, managing collaborations with researchers, and providing a platform for scientists to share their work. As a product manager, she analyzes product performance of her portfolio to understand the market demands. She also works closely with the research and development, sales, and marketing teams for new product launches and advising on product focuses.



**RTI International** is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Our vision is to address the world's most critical problems with science-based solutions in pursuit of a better future. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world.

**Exhibitors:**

**Michelle Engle, Ph.D.**, Bioinformatics Specialist

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/michelle-engle-683688126](http://www.linkedin.com/in/michelle-engle-683688126)

Industry-savvy genomics scientist with a demonstrated history of bioinformatics skills in both academic and industry settings. Skilled in writing and communication, data analysis, bioinformatic analysis, gene expression profiling, and documentation. Experience with developing educational and custom training programs, genomics data analysis and interpretation, and lung disease research. Strong genomics professional with a Ph.D. in genetics and molecular biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Engle likes breakfast burritos; playing with her dog, Sombra; and trying to keep her garden from taking over the neighborhood.

**Katie Wong, M.P.H.**, Talent Acquisition Partner

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/katie-m-wong](http://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-m-wong)

Strategic and mission-driven talent acquisition professional focused on DEI in the workplace. Combining her experience in human resources and science, her goal is to assist the future of scientific researchers beginning their careers. Wong likes DIYing home decor, reading historical fiction novels, and is an avid foodie who loves to find new amazing local spots to try.



**Syner-G BioPharma Group** is a trusted development partner applying innovative and scientifically driven approaches to drug development. The entire Syner-G organization is built around the premise of guiding small molecule, biologics, and cell and gene therapy innovators through drug development, from preapproval through post-approval, via the application of our integrated services including CMC support, medical writing, regulatory strategy, and regulatory operations. Our industry leading solution, CMC 360™, is a fully integrated suite of CMC solutions that encompasses pharmaceutical development, regulatory services, quality/cGxP compliance, and IT systems. To learn more, please visit <https://synergbiopharma.com>

**Exhibitor:**

**Julia Difiore, Ph.D.**, Clinical Research Scientist  
Email: [julia.difiore@synergbiopharma.com](mailto:julia.difiore@synergbiopharma.com)



**United Therapeutics** is a biotechnology company focused on the development and commercialization of unique products to address the unmet medical needs of patients with chronic and life-threatening conditions. We currently have five approved products on the market, and a long-term mission of providing an unlimited supply of transplantable organs for those who need them! Our employees can be found collaborating across the United States, Europe and Asia. As a group, we are relentless in our pursuit of “medicines for life” and continue to research and develop treatments for cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, pediatric cancers, and other orphan diseases.

**Exhibitors:**

**Bryan Fioret, Ph.D.**, Senior Scientist  
Email: [bfioret@unither.com](mailto:bfioret@unither.com)

**Alison Ridenhour, MSHR**, Talent Acquisition Partner  
Email: [aridenhour@unither.com](mailto:aridenhour@unither.com)

## ORGANIZATIONS



**Triangle Biotech Tuesday** (or TBT) is a not-for-profit monthly networking event started in May 2012 to connect scientific professionals, facilitate collaborations, and foster communications throughout RTP and the greater Research Triangle area. There is no set agenda, so we invite you to simply enjoy food, drinks, and to converse with local professionals. This is a great opportunity to expand your professional network and reach across industries. We aim for continuous growth through participation of all major pharmaceutical, biotech, government, and academic institutions within and around RTP.

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/groups/4428200](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/4428200)

**Exhibitors:**

**Anne Ballou, Ph.D.**, Lead Lead Scientist in Research and Development, Iluma Alliance; Vice President, Triangle Biotech Tuesday  
LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/anneballou](http://www.linkedin.com/in/anneballou)

Anne Ballou, Ph.D., works to support sustainable and safe food animal production by improving gastrointestinal health and function in swine and poultry. She received her bachelor’s and master’s in animal science from the University of Kentucky, and her Ph.D. in functional genomics from North Carolina State University, where she studied the relationships between gastrointestinal bacteria and host immune function. Ballou overlays nutrition, genetics, and immunology in her research to understand and promote microbiomes that contribute to host health and function. In addition to her research efforts, she works to be a part of the cross-disciplinary cooperation that goes into developing and implementing effective outreach, and science and agriculture policy.



**Ali Ghiassi**, Global Talent Acquisition, Labcorp Drug Discovery, Triangle Biotech Tuesday

Ali Ghiassi earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with degrees in international business, economics, and Spanish. With more than a decade of experience in the life sciences industry, Ghiassi has had the opportunity to support a wide range of innovative pharma, biotech, medical device, and service organizations (CRO, CDMO) across the globe to provide recruitment solutions specifically tailored to each of their respective needs. He has a history of creating strategic partnerships while implementing effective and efficient programs for talent acquisition, talent management, contractor on-boarding, and customer employee retention. He's a fan of traveling, cooking, camping, hiking, skiing, exercise, and lending time to a few great nonprofit organizations.



**Women In Bio (WIB)** is a nonprofit organization of professionals committed to promoting mentorship, careers, and leadership of all women in the life sciences ranging from entry level through C-level positions. WIB's primary focus is to provide mentorship and leadership support through all stages of career development: from bench to boardroom, from academia to industry, from idea to entrepreneur. The WIB RTP Chapter offers monthly workshops, networking events, book clubs, and career advancement events to anyone in the RTP community that brings hundreds of attendees every year. The development of a special initiative of Young Women In Bio (YWIB) was also designed to introduce school-age girls to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). We have also launched a very successful mentoring program called Mentors Advisors and Peers (MAPs) that offers mentoring opportunities in smaller groups. With 14 chapters across the country, WIB is growing exponentially and is one of the fastest-growing mentoring science organizations. In addition, the RTP Chapter offers Executive Women In Bio (EWIB), a life science community and resource for executive women, which offers the signature Boardroom Ready development platform.

#### **Exhibitors:**

**Ronna Dornsife, M.S.**, Instructional Technology Specialist,  
BRITE, North Carolina Central University  
*Email: [ronna.dornsife@nccu.edu](mailto:ronna.dornsife@nccu.edu)*

**Shirley Paddock**, Chair of the WIB-RTP Chapter and Senior Vice President of Clinical Development-Project Management at Syneos Health  
*Email: [shirley.paddock@syneoshealth.com](mailto:shirley.paddock@syneoshealth.com)*

## **ADDITIONAL EXHIBITORS**

**Adriana Bankston, Ph.D.**, Principal Legislative Analyst, University of California;  
CEO and Managing Publisher, Journal of Science Policy and Governance

Adriana Bankston is a principal legislative analyst at the University of California (UC) Office of Federal Governmental Relations in Washington, D.C., where she serves as an advocate for the university with Congress, the administration, and federal agencies. Prior to this position, Bankston was a Policy and Advocacy Fellow at the Society for Neuroscience, where she provided staff support for special and ongoing projects, including the society's annual lobby event and the annual meeting. In addition to working at UC, Bankston is the chief executive officer and managing publisher of the Journal of Science Policy and Governance, a Fellow with Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS), and a Biomedical Workforce and Policy Research Investigator at the STEM Advocacy Institute. Bankston earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry, cell, and developmental biology from Emory University. Adriana is on Twitter at @AdrianaBankston.



**Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)** provides innovative scientific and technical solutions to advance research and education, protect public health and the environment, and strengthen national security. Through specialized teams of experts, unique laboratory capabilities, and access to a consortium of more than 100 major Ph.D.-granting institutions, ORAU works with federal, state, local, and commercial customers to advance national priorities and serve the public interest. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and federal contractor, ORAU manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Learn more about ORAU at <http://www.orau.org>.

**Exhibitor:**

**Karen Cleveland, Recruiter**, Project Manager Scientific Assessment and Workforce Development  
*Email:* [karen.cleveland@orau.org](mailto:karen.cleveland@orau.org)



**Office of Fellows' Career Development (OFCD) at NIEHS**

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

**Exhibitor :**

**Mercedes Arana, Ph.D.**, Acting Director, Office of Fellows' Career Development  
*E-mail:* [arana@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:arana@niehs.nih.gov)

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

## CV/Resume Review

Monday, December 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

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

## GENERAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEWERS

**Melissa Bostrom, Ph.D.**, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional Development  
Duke University  
Email: [melissa.bostrom@duke.edu](mailto:melissa.bostrom@duke.edu)

As assistant dean for graduate student professional development at Duke University, Melissa Bostrom, Ph.D., provides strategic direction and leadership for graduate student professional development; her charge includes assembling a comprehensive program that addresses broad and discipline-specific professional development opportunities designed to help graduate students in diverse fields prepare for professional life beyond the graduate degree. She directs the Professional Development Series, Emerging Leaders Institute, and Senior Leadership Insights 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 is part of the Administrative Oversight Team for the University Center for Exemplary Mentoring, and a past member of the Advisory Board for Versatile Humanists at Duke. She has been invited to speak on graduate student professional development both nationally and internationally, and serves as the Professional Development Officer for the Graduate Career Consortium. Prior to beginning her role at Duke in 2013, Bostrom was director of graduate academic and professional development at North Carolina State University (NCSU), taught management and corporate communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's (UNC) Kenan-Flagler Business School, and taught in the English departments at NCSU and UNC. She received her master's and Ph.D. in English from UNC, and her B.A. in English (writing) and psychology from Denison University.

**Patrick Brandt, Ph.D.**, Director, Career Development and Training; Director, Science Outreach, Biological, and Biomedical Sciences Program  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Email: [pdb@unc.edu](mailto:pdb@unc.edu)

Patrick Brandt, Ph.D., leads career development initiatives for biomedical Ph.D. students, including the ImPACT internship program for senior trainees, career advising, and alumni career placement tracking. Brandt also coordinates the Translational Medicine Training program for students interested in clinically relevant research. As science outreach director, he oversees North Carolina DNA Day and other efforts aimed at connecting scientists to the public.

**Christiann Gaines, Ph.D.**, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Office of Graduate Education  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Email: [hatalya@email.unc.edu](mailto:hatalya@email.unc.edu)

Christiann Gaines, Ph.D., is a post-doctoral research fellow in the Office of Graduate Education at the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Medicine. Prior to this role, Gaines received her B.S. degree in biochemistry from Claflin University, then went on to complete a joint two-year postbaccalaureate program at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research and Harvard University. She then went on to receive her Ph.D. in neuroscience at UNC in June 2021. Throughout her academic career, Gaines has been actively involved in student success and has experience assisting graduate students with their graduate school application packages. Gaines has also mentored and trained dozens of undergraduate and graduate students. In her current role, she focuses on understanding mentor-mentee relationships, mental health and wellness, and the professional development of graduate students. Additionally, Gaines is involved in the professional development of graduate students, works to increase diversity in STEM programs, and supports international students with their transition into graduate education in the U.S.

**Erin Hopper, Ph.D.**, Director, Programs and Grants  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Email: [hoppere@email.unc.edu](mailto:hoppere@email.unc.edu)

Erin Hopper, Ph.D., is the director for programs and grants at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) Institute for Convergent Science (ICS). The mission of the ICS is to support the journey from innovative idea to transformational product, technology, or solution through a problem-centered approach that addresses real-world issues. Hopper designs and launches programs that promote interdisciplinary research and team science at UNC. She develops strategies for improving UNC's translational pipeline and pursues funding for these initiatives through collaborative proposal development projects. Hopper has a diverse background in higher education research administration, program development, and graduate education. Her past roles have involved developing and implementing innovation strategies and advancing interdisciplinary research as innovation special projects lead for Innovate Carolina and the UNC College of Arts and Sciences, helping to build a new UNC department by serving as associate chair of Departmental Initiatives for the Department of Applied Physical Sciences; directing statewide funding programs and supporting collaborative research initiatives throughout the UNC System as director of research at the UNC System office; and advancing talent development and career preparedness of biomedical graduate students as director of Training Initiatives in Biomedical and Biological Sciences (TIBBS) in the UNC School of Medicine. Erin received her B.S. in chemistry from UNC, earned her Ph.D. in chemistry from Duke University, and completed her postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC**, Director, Professional Development Programs, Office of Graduate Education  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Email: [rlayton@med.unc.edu](mailto:rlayton@med.unc.edu)

Rebekah Layton, Ph.D., CMC, PCC, develops and directs innovative professional development programs for 1,000+ biomedical graduate students and postdoctoral trainees; provides individual professional career coaching and leadership mentoring for trainees; 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 (NIH BEST) collaborations, and serves as the PI for an NIH/NSF SCISIP-BIO Award examining biomedical workforce development and training. Rebekah earned her Ph.D. and M.A. at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and completed postdoctoral training at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. She completed her International Coach Certification (ICF) Professional Coach Certification (PCC) and Certified Mentor Coach (CMC) training through the MentorCoach program, and is co-founder of a Higher Education Coaching group for peer-led professional development. Layton's disciplinary research on self-control, goal-setting, and decision-making centers on how individuals commit to and achieve goals, 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.

**Pat Phelps, Ph.D.**, Associate Director, Professional Development and Career Office  
Johns Hopkins University  
Email: [pphelps4@jhmi.edu](mailto:pphelps4@jhmi.edu)

Pat Phelps, Ph.D., has more than 15 years of experience providing career coaching to Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows. Phelps began her career in the biotech industry where she held leadership positions in research and development, technology transfer and global product development, and marketing. After 20 years in the biotech industry, Phelps transitioned into science education administration and outreach. She founded the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Office of Science, Training, and Diversity and North Carolina DNA Day. Phelps then accepted the graduate partnerships director position at the National Institutes of Health where she founded the Translational Science Training Bootcamp. Prior to Johns Hopkins University, Phelps was the educator for the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's "Genome: Unlocking Life's Code" exhibit.

**Denise Saunders, Ph.D.**, Career Counselor  
NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education  
Email: [denise.saunders@nih.gov](mailto:denise.saunders@nih.gov)

Denise Saunders, Ph.D., serves as career counselor and wellness adviser for the Office of Intramural Training and Education at the NIH, providing career and professional development services to trainees across NIH Institutes. She is a licensed psychologist and National Certified Counselor. She enjoys helping postbaccalaureate trainees, graduate students, 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. Saunders holds an M.S. in counseling and Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the Florida State University. Her experiences have included work in higher education, independent practice, for-profit business, and government.

**Chris Smith, Ph.D.**, Postdoctoral Affairs Program Administrator  
Virginia Tech  
Email: [ctsmit23@ncsu.edu](mailto:ctsmit23@ncsu.edu)

Chris Smith, Ph.D., is the postdoctoral affairs program administrator within the Office of Research and Innovation at Virginia Tech, where he seeks to build support and resources for the postdoctoral community and assist them in navigating the next steps in their career progression. He previously was a postdoctoral affairs program manager in the graduate school at North Carolina State University, a role he assumed after postdoctoral training at Vanderbilt University. Currently, Smith's main research interests lie in Ph.D. career pathways and understanding the scientific workforce. Previously, he spent 10 years studying the neurobiological and cognitive processes associated with human decision-making, reward, and valuation processes as a graduate student and postdoc. He received his undergraduate degree in neuroscience from Furman University and his Ph.D. in neurobiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Raquel Ybanez Salinas, Ph.D.**, Director, Student Affairs and Career Development  
MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
Email: [raquel.y.salinas@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:raquel.y.salinas@uth.tmc.edu)

Raquel Ybanez Salinas, Ph.D., earned her B.S. in chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin, an M.S. in Biochemistry at Texas State University, and her Ph.D. in pharmacology at Duke University. She is currently the director for student affairs and career development for the MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. In this role, she oversees career development activities for students, including career advising across various biomedical career sectors, professional development workshops and events, internships, individual development planning, and external fellowship navigation. As a first-generation college student, she is passionate about graduate education and making the pathways to careers in science more accessible, inclusive, and transparent for her students to navigate.

## ACADEMIC REVIEWERS

**Allyn Howlett, Ph.D.**, Professor, Assistant Dean, Director of Postdoctoral Education  
Wake Forest University  
Email: [ahowlett@wakehealth.edu](mailto:ahowlett@wakehealth.edu)

Allyn Howlett, Ph.D., is a professor of physiology and pharmacology at the Wake Forest University (WFU) School of Medicine, assistant dean of the WFU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (Biomedical Programs), and director of the Office of Postdoctoral Education. She was formerly program director of the Postdoctoral Research, Instruction, and Mentoring Experience (PRIME) program (2013-2020), co-chair of the Maya Angelou Center's Health Equity Research Opportunity Program (2014-2018), and director of the Integrative Physiology and Pharmacology Graduate Program (2010 to 2016). Howlett is an expert on CB1 cannabinoid receptor signal transduction, noted for her discovery of the receptors for cannabinoid agonists. Her research on the cellular signaling by cannabinoid, aminoalkylindole and aryl pyrazole ligands as cannabinoid receptor regulators has been continuously funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. She is active in the International Cannabinoid Research Society (president, 2009-2010) and the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (Molecular Pharmacology Division chair, 2019-2020). She has reviewed for numerous NIH study sections and journals, and is currently an associate editor of Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research.

**Virginie Papadopoulou, Ph.D.**, Research Assistant Professor – Biomedical Engineering  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Email: [papadopoulou@unc.edu](mailto:papadopoulou@unc.edu)

Virginie Papadopoulou, Ph.D., is a physicist by background and received her Ph.D. in bioengineering in 2016 from Imperial College London. She became a research assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in 2017, where her research aims to bridge the different areas dealing with bubbles and ultrasound. Her current interests lie in: a) refining the imaging and analysis of ultrasonically detected decompression emboli in the context of decompression sickness; b) using oxygen micro-bubbles to modulate tumor hypoxia and improve radiotherapy; and c) enhancing topical drug-delivery using phase-change contrast agents, most recently in the context of chronic wound biofilm infections. Her work has resulted in 30 journal papers, more than 80 conference presentations, and 15 invited presentations to date. She has been awarded the 2017 Divers Alert Network/Bill Hamilton Memorial Grant by the Women Divers Hall of Fame, the 2020 Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Young Scientist Award, as well as the title of Divers Alert Network Scholar since 2018, for her ongoing work creating a dynamic ultrasonic assessment of decompression bubbles. She serves as the principal investigator for a three-year DOD Office of Naval Research (ONR) grant and five-year research foundation grant from the Divers Alert Network, currently mentoring one postdoctoral student, two graduate students, and five undergraduates. She is also co-investigator and lead scientist with PI Prof. Dayton of a five-year NIH R01 assessing oxygen microbubbles for radiotherapy sensitization, and UNC PI for a new industrial-academic collaboration funded by the ONR.

**John Parks, Ph.D.**, Professor and Section Chief, Molecular Medicine  
Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Email: [jparks@wakehealth.edu](mailto:jparks@wakehealth.edu)

John Parks, Ph.D., received his M.S. (1976) and Ph.D. (1979) degrees from Wake Forest University in pathology and biochemistry, and performed postdoctoral studies (1979-81) at Boston University School of Medicine's Biophysics Institute. His 40-plus year career has been spent studying the role of lipid metabolism in the pathogenesis of chronic diseases, including atherosclerosis, type 2 diabetes, hepatosteatosis, and cancer. Currently funded studies (R01 HL119962) focus on the role of hepatocyte Abca1 in hepatic free cholesterol trafficking, lipogenesis, and mitochondrial respiration. He also has extensive experience training graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Since becoming a faculty member at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1981, he has supervised the training of 19 graduate students (15 Ph.D. and four M.S.) and 12 postdoctoral fellows. Nine were successful in obtaining independent fellowship support from the American Heart Association or the NIH. On 26 separate occasions, students and postdoctoral fellows in his lab obtained competitive awards at national and international meetings. Thirteen of his former trainees have independent research careers in academia (7) or industry (6 biotech/pharma) and continue to advance in rank. He was also the PI on a T32 training grant (Integrative Lipid Sciences, Inflammation, and Chronic Diseases) from 2008-2018. Since 2019, Parks has been a core faculty member in the Wake Forest University School of Medicine CTSI Translational Research Academy. Recently, in this role as section chief of molecular medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, he has mentored two former postdoctoral fellows in his lab to independent tenure-track faculty positions. He also directed a grant writing course in the Molecular Medicine and Translational Science Ph.D. graduate program for the past 10 years that includes a mock study section review of NIH R01 proposals written by Ph.D. students.

**Heather Patisaul, Ph.D.**, Professor, Associate Dean for Research  
North Carolina State University (NCSU)  
Email: [hbpatisa@ncsu.edu](mailto:hbpatisa@ncsu.edu)

Heather Patisaul, Ph.D., is professor and associate dean for research in the College of Sciences and the Center for Human Health and the Environment at North Carolina State University. Her research explores the sex-specific mechanisms by which chemical exposures affect brain development and behavior. Compounds of specific interest include endocrine disrupting chemicals such as Bisphenol A (BPA), phytoestrogens, and fire retardants. Her most recent work uses a variety of animal and other experimental models to examine how endocrine disruption at the level of the placenta impacts fetal neurodevelopment. Patisaul has published more than 100 papers and served on numerous national and international expert panels and working groups, including multiple National Academy of Sciences panels, related to determining and reducing health effects associated with developmental neurotoxicants and endocrine disruptors. Patisaul also co-authored the 2017 book "Endocrine Disruptors, Brain, and Behavior." She is a member of Project TENDR, chair of the Endocrine Society's Advocacy and Public Outreach Core Committee, and recipient of the 2022 Society of Toxicology Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology Specialty Section Mid-Career Award.

**Ruth Pobee, Ph.D.**, Senior Research Specialist  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Email: [rapobee@gmail.com](mailto:rapobee@gmail.com)

Ruth Pobee, Ph.D., is a senior research specialist in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pobee earned her bachelor's degree in food science and nutrition and her master's degree in nutrition from the University of Ghana. She earned her Ph.D. in nutritional sciences with a minor in statistics from Pennsylvania State University. Upon graduation, Pobee worked as a postdoctoral scholar at Michigan State University before transitioning into her current position. She has extensive research experience in nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, food security, and food fortification, and has completed research studies in Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda, and the United States. Currently, her work focuses on clinical research and managing responsibilities including conceptualizing, initiating, and executing research goals for various projects in the emergency medicine department, including race and ethnic disparity research, social determinant of health, as well as hypertension and diabetes screening in the emergency department.

**Kathryn Verbanac, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Surgery  
East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine  
Email: [verbanack@ecu.edu](mailto:verbanack@ecu.edu)

Kathryn Verbanac, Ph.D., joined the Department of Surgery at East Carolina University (ECU) in 1989, was engaged in teaching medical and graduate students, research, mentoring and leadership activities, and promoted to full professor in 2005. Focused on clinical translational research, she led a practice-changing multicenter breast cancer sentinel node trial that identified molecular markers of nodal metastases. Current ACS-funded research is centered on the tissue microenvironment, and molecular and immune signatures at metastatic sites. She has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications with translational impact in the fields of development and disease, and has received more than \$7 million dollars in grant funding. Verbanac served in research administration at ECU from 2013-2022, initially as director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and also as assistant vice chancellor for research, after serving in an interim capacity. Prior to joining ECU, Verbanac was project leader of cancer radio-immunotherapy in the bioproducts laboratory at the Dow Chemical Company. She earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Iowa and an M.S. in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology from Iowa State University.

## GOVERNMENT REVIEWERS

**Brian Chorley, Ph.D.**, Research Scientist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Email: [chorley.brian@epa.gov](mailto:chorley.brian@epa.gov)

Brian Chorley, Ph.D., is a research scientist in the Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure at the Environmental Protection Agency. Chorley earned his bachelor's in animal science and his Ph.D. in comparative biomedical sciences from North Carolina State University (NCSU). He worked as a research assistant at NCSU, 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.

**Jonathan Hollander, Ph.D.**, Health Scientist Administrator  
NIEHS  
Email: [jonathan.hollander@nih.gov](mailto:jonathan.hollander@nih.gov)

Jonathan Hollander, Ph.D., is a program director in the Genes, Environment, and Health Branch at NIEHS. Hollander received his doctorate from the Behavioral Neuroscience Program (formerly Biological Program) in the psychology department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006. Prior to joining the Division of Extramural Research and Training of the NIEHS, he was a staff scientist in the Molecular Therapeutics and Neuroscience Departments at The Scripps Research Institute – Florida. His research background includes the use of genetic, behavioral, electrophysiological, and pharmacological methods to study drug addiction, neurodevelopmental toxicology, and obesity. During his tenure at UNC-Chapel Hill and Scripps Florida, he was successful in obtaining an NIH fellowship and early career awards, and played a key role in developing and implementing new research programs in the aforementioned areas. In his current position at NIEHS, Hollander is responsible for managing basic mechanistic grants that focus on neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental diseases.

**Andrew Hotchkiss, Ph.D.**, Supervisory Biologist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Email: [hotchkiss.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:hotchkiss.andrew@epa.gov)

Dr. Andrew Hotchkiss is the Branch Chief for the Hazardous Pollutants Assessment Branch in the Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment at the EPA. Members of the branch support the development of influential human health hazard and dose-response assessments for environmental pollutants and provide training in risk assessment methodologies and advancements. In addition, branch scientists are active members of numerous EPA scientific workgroups, provide scientific support for other EPA offices, and are engaged in human health risk assessment research. Dr. Hotchkiss received a BS in Biology from Davidson College and a Ph.D. in Zoology from North Carolina State University.

**Michael Santillo, Ph.D.**, Research Chemist  
Division of Toxicology, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN),  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)  
Email: [michael.santillo@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:michael.santillo@fda.hhs.gov)

For the past decade, Michael Santillo, Ph.D., has worked as a research chemist within the Division of Toxicology, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Santillo applies cellular and biochemical assays (in vitro methods), along with computational tools (in silico methods) to predict toxicity of chemicals related to foods and dietary supplements. Aside from his role as a lab researcher, Santillo also reviewed the safety of food contact substances and new dietary ingredients in premarket notifications, and he served on peer review committees for promoting research scientists at FDA. Before his current position, Santillo was a postdoctoral fellow at FDA for three years, and he received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Penn State University.

**Paul Schlosser, Ph.D.**, Biologist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Email: [Schlosser.Paul@epa.gov](mailto:Schlosser.Paul@epa.gov)

Paul Schlosser, Ph.D., received his Bachelor of Science (1982) and Ph.D. (1988) from the University of Rochester, with a Master of Applied Science (1984) from the University of Toronto, all in chemical engineering. He then conducted three years of postdoctoral research in biochemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, developing methods to identify limiting factors in biochemical pathways used in industrial fermentation and cell cultures. In 1991, he joined the Chemical Industry Institute of Toxicology (later the CIIT Centers for Health Research) and conducted research on the modeling of xenobiotic metabolism and dosimetry, with applications in risk assessment. He came to the U.S. EPA in 2004 as an environmental health scientist, but his official title is now biologist. Schlosser co-chairs EPA's Pharmacokinetics Workgroup (PKWG) and is tasked with evaluating and guiding or conducting the application of PBPK and PK models in risk assessment. In this role, he has reviewed, revised, and applied a wide variety of PBPK models.

**Kelly Shipkowski, Ph.D.**, Health Science Evaluator  
Division of Translational Toxicology, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)  
Email: [kelly.shipkowski@nih.gov](mailto:kelly.shipkowski@nih.gov)

Kelly Shipkowski, Ph.D., DABT, is a health science evaluator in the Division of Translational Toxicology's (DTT's) Office of Program Operations. She is also a contract officer's representative and assists with the administration and monitoring of contracts for scientific literature evaluations and toxicology and carcinogenesis studies. She supports the design, conduct, interpretation, and reporting of studies evaluating the toxicity and carcinogenicity of chemicals of human health concern, and, in addition, she serves as a project leader for studies of metals and other potentially hazardous environmental exposures. Prior to joining DTT, she worked as a lead toxicologist at ICF, where she served as the technical lead for ICF's development of technical and toxicity reports for NTP and also provided toxicology support for systematic review projects assessing the human health effects of chemicals of concern. She completed an IRTA postdoctoral fellowship with DTT and received her Ph.D. in toxicology from North Carolina State University, where her doctoral research focused on respiratory toxicology and nanotoxicology. Shipkowski is also currently serving as vice president-elect on the NCSOT Executive Committee.



**Amy Skinner, Ph.D.**, Pharmacology and Toxicology (Nonclinical) Reviewer  
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Amy Skinner, Ph.D., is a senior toxicologist in the Division of Hematology and Oncology Toxicology at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She reviews nonclinical pharmacology and toxicology data submitted to drug applications and investigational new drug trials to establish whether the results are adequate to evaluate the risk to humans, and whether they support the proposed clinical studies at the recommended dose. Skinner earned a doctorate in environmental and molecular toxicology at Oregon State University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in stem cell biology at the Papé Family Pediatric Research Institute, served as a junior faculty member in the Department of Surgery, and then worked as a research associate in the Cytogenetics Research Core Laboratory at Oregon Health & Science University. Prior to joining the FDA, Skinner was a visiting chemistry professor at Concordia University in Portland, Ore., (where she received her bachelor's degree in biology) and also worked as an independent toxicology consultant. She joined the FDA nonclinical review team in December 2018.

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

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**Jeffrey Ambroso, Ph.D.**, Senior Scientist  
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Jeffrey Ambroso, Ph.D., is a board-certified toxicologist with 25 years of experience in the industry, including 23 years in pharmaceutical development and two years in petrochemicals. He has expertise designing, conducting, interpreting, and reporting toxicology studies, including investigational studies on mechanism of action. He has experience as a nonclinical safety assessment representative on drug development project teams for early and late-stage assets including successful interactions with global regulatory agencies. He also has experience in predictive toxicology assay development, including a leadership role in a worldwide hepatotoxicity effort. Ambroso has worked with a number of diverse business groups developing treatments in multiple therapeutic areas. A recent project is characterizing the toxicity of PFAS chemicals, which are environmental pollutants. He has a broad background in biomedical science, with more than 10 years of experience as a medical technologist and training in public health.

**Adriana Bankston, Ph.D.**  
Science Policy-Principal Legislative Analyst  
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Adriana Bankston, Ph.D., is a principal legislative analyst at the University of California (UC) Office of Federal Governmental Relations in Washington, D.C., where she serves as an advocate for the university with Congress, the administration, and federal agencies. Prior to this position, Bankston was a policy and advocacy fellow at the Society for Neuroscience, where she provided staff support for special and ongoing projects, including the society's annual lobby event and the annual meeting. In addition to working at UC, Bankston is the CEO and managing publisher of the Journal of Science Policy & Governance, a fellow with Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS), a biomedical workforce and policy research investigator at the STEM Advocacy Institute, and co-chair of the Education Taskforce with Women in Government Relations (WGR). In recognition of her contributions to science policy and connecting science and society, Bankston was named among the Top 50 Women Leaders of DC for 2022, and was awarded the inaugural 2022 ARIS Emerging Broader Impacts Leader Award. She earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry, cell, and developmental biology from Emory University.

**Paul Burke, III**, Director, Human Resources  
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Paul Burke has contributed to talent acquisition and corporate culture building within the biopharmaceutical industry for more than 10 years. Burke's expertise lies in talent acquisition, performance management, total rewards, legal compliance, risk management, business management and strategy, employee relations, policy development, and employee development and engagement. Burke is currently the director of human resources of KBI Biopharma. Before that, he started his career in financial planning and as the vice president of operations at a nonprofit organization. As a results-oriented leader, Burke continues to proactively contribute to building our rapidly growing talent pool and creating a clear career trajectory for our staff. Burke holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a PHR certification.

**Susan Coggins, PHR**, Human Resource Manager  
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Susan Coggins is currently the Raleigh HR manager for Eisai Inc., a Japanese pharmaceutical company. She has a PHR (Professional in Human Resources) certification from HRCI. Coggins loves working in human resources. During the eight years she has been in this field, she has truly enjoyed opportunities to help find creative ways to engage and enable the teams she works with. In her opinion, the best part of the role, though, is the day you make a job offer – there is nothing so exciting as to tell someone that they have a new career opportunity. Coggins' own career has changed paths several times. Prior to working in human resources, she taught elementary school, was a stay-at-home parent, and worked as a software developer. Each of her roles has helped her discover and hone her talents – some that she didn't even know she had. Coggins thinks it is important to be willing to try new things, expand your horizons, and grow you. As author Martha Grimes said, "We don't know who we are until we see what we can do."

**Jason Cramer, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, Clinical Study Strategist and Proposal Writer  
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Jason Cramer, Ph.D., works as a clinical study strategist and proposal strategy writer at Icon PLC, a health care intelligence and clinical research organization. He brings 20-plus years of experience in research, project management, and education. In the past 12 years, he completed 200-plus communication projects, including 160-plus proposals and operational and proposal strategy development for 70-plus Phase I-IV clinical studies across 15 therapeutic areas for large pharma and biotech/biopharma sponsors. Cramer previously worked in director roles for the graduate schools at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, and as a scientific consultant. He earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine, as well as Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from VCU.

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Tracey du Laney, Ph.D., is a senior director of science and technology development at the the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. As senior director, du Laney is responsible for managing and administering the North Carolina Biotechnology Center's research grant funding programs that are designed to advance promising scientific discoveries and technologies developed in N.C. colleges, universities, and nonprofit institutions toward commercialization. Recently, du Laney was named an AAAS Alan I. Leshner Leadership Institute Public Engagement Fellow, with a focus on human augmentation. She received her Ph.D. in biochemical engineering from Duke University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining the NC Biotech Center, du Laney was a partner and co-founder of an independent life sciences consulting firm, specializing in life sciences startup company formation, entrepreneurship, grant writing, business plan review, investor due diligence, and life sciences markets and competitor analysis.

**Heather Franco, Ph.D.**, Principal Proposal Manager

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Heather Franco, Ph.D., is a director of strategic proposal development within the Commercial Center of Excellence, part of the Clinical Research Group at Thermo Fisher Scientific (formerly PPD). Her focus is on helping clients achieve their clinical trial goals by conveying commercial and operational strategy in proposals during the RFP process. For the past 3-plus years, Franco has led a team of proposal managers and proposal specialists in the same pursuit. She earned her Ph.D. in molecular and cellular biology from Baylor College of Medicine and was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

**Doreen Grech, Ph.D.**, Vice President, Business Development

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Doreen Grech, Ph.D., has held several senior level positions in business development, alliance management, external innovation, and venture capital working with early and late-stage biopharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Grech is vice president of external innovation and science at Forma Therapeutics, a hematology-focused biotech company. Prior to Forma, Doreen was vice president of business development at AskBio, a gene therapy company and wholly owned subsidiary of Bayer Pharmaceuticals. She previously served as a mentor-in residence with Duke University Office of Licensing and Ventures and spent nine years at UCB Pharma in various global business development and alliance management roles. Prior to UCB, Grech headed up business development at Gloucester Pharmaceuticals and spent nine years in venture capital, working with early-stage life science companies and entrepreneurs across the U.S. Grech has expertise in assessing and developing life sciences technologies and products, building startup companies, developing teams, and managing growth. She received a B.A. in biology from University of California, Santa Barbara, an M.S. in biology from Texas A&M University, and a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. She completed postdoctoral studies at Harvard Medical School.

**Sheila Plant, Ph.D.**, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs

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Sheila Plant, Ph.D., has 20 years of experience in biomedical sciences, including more than 12 years in clinical research. Her therapeutic areas of experience include oncology, dermatology (topical anti-infectives, antivirals, and analgesics), hematology (thrombocytopenia, transfusional iron overload), neurology (Alzheimer disease, multiple sclerosis, Down syndrome), endocrinology (diabetes, calcium deficiency, pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy), cerebrovascular (stroke), and cardiovascular research. Since joining Allucent, Plant has authored Food and Drug Administration (FDA) meeting packages, developed regulatory strategies, prepared for and attended multiple face-to-face meetings (including an oncology advisory committee meeting) with the FDA, and managed both Investigational New Drug application (IND) New Drug Application (NDA) submissions to FDA, and Clinical Trial Application (CTA) submissions to Health Canada. As senior director of regulatory affairs for the United States, she provides strategic leadership for and manages activities of the Regulatory Affairs department. In addition, Plant has many project-level responsibilities, including writing and reviewing regulatory, clinical, and scientific documents; pharmaceutical development, and regulatory project management; providing scientific consulting; and assisting with the preparation of business development proposals. She earned her Ph.D. in neurobiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her master of health sciences in clinical research degree through the Duke University School of Medicine's Clinical Research Training Program. She is regulatory affairs certified by the Regulatory Affairs Certification Board and the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society.

**Egon Ranghini, Ph.D.**, Science and Technology Adviser for the North Central region

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Egon Ranghini earned his Ph.D. in biological sciences from the University of Liverpool (UK). In 2011, Ranghini joined the University of Michigan as a postdoc, then he moved to Rubicon Genomics as an application scientist. Ranghini joined 10x Genomics in June 2017 as field application scientist, where he supported 10x's customers in the Great Lakes and Southeast regions. Since June 2021, he has been the science and technology adviser for the North Central region.

**Amy Rawls, Ph.D.**, HR Leader, Business Partner and President  
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Amy Rawls earned her Ph.D. in molecular genetics at Washington University in St. Louis where she studied the pattern formation in the *Drosophila* retina. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship, also at Washington University, she focused on developing a mouse model of a congenital bone marrow failure syndrome, Rawls took some time away from bench science. During that time, Rawls started editing and writing scientific content as a freelancer. In 2010, she joined Research Square (then, American Journal Experts) as a managing editor. After some time in a manager role, she found a way to apply her strengths and interests in the HR realm, first in recruitment and talent development, then as HR director and VP of HR. Rawls has been the HR leader, business partner, and the president of ASR Business Partnering LLC since March 2020. She enjoys the puzzle of helping trained scientists to apply their own strengths, interests, and knowledge to a new field when that's the right path for them.

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Erica Rogers received her M.S. and Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Louisville in 2007 and 2011, respectively. She has more than 10 years of experience in planning, leading, interpreting, and conducting multidisciplinary scientific studies in chemical-induced cancer and genetic epidemiology, human health risk assessment, pharmacology, toxicology, and environmental health science. She is adept at developing and recommending new methods for given research findings, a proficient communicator with the ability to review and evaluate results by preparing comprehensive written and oral summaries on major toxicological studies. Since joining Gad Consulting Services in 2017, Rogers has added an invaluable level of expertise to our team which includes qualification of process impurities and residual solvents, assessment of the risk from leachables/extractables, risk assessment, and in silico analysis.

**Erin Romes, Ph.D.**, Senior Process Development Scientist II  
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Erin Romes, Ph.D., is a senior process development scientist II at Grifols Therapeutics LLC. Romes provides technical expertise and leadership for the development, scale-up, transfer, and support of cGMP purification processes for plasma derived proteins, especially immunoglobulins. She utilizes her knowledge of protein chromatography, filtration, process trouble-shooting, and protein biophysical property determination to drive method development at lab-scale through commercial manufacturing-scale. Romes is also the outreach coordinator for NC Grifols R&D where she coordinates the summer intern program and scientific outreach initiatives. She was an NIEHS IRTA Fellow in the lab of Robin Stanley, Ph.D., where she studied the structure and mechanism of early pre-60S ribosome assembly factors. Romes completed her Ph.D. in biochemistry and biophysics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under the direction of Kevin Slep, Ph.D.



## The NIEHS Office of Fellows' Career Development

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

The Office of Fellows' Career Development (OFCD) provides intramural fellows in training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) with the professional skills and career development opportunities needed to excel in their future careers, regardless of their scientific field of study. The OFCD 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.

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