

# Welcome to the Career Paths Mentoring Program!

Meet and Greet Mixer



# Introduction to the Program & Meet & Greet Mixer

- Introduction to Program
- Expectations of Program
- Transitioning from Mentor Recruitment to Student Recruitment
- Meet & Greet Mixer
  - 3 break out rooms (~10min each)



# Career Paths Mentorship Program Information

## Overview of the Program

- BGS Alumni Mentor Recruitment (Aug 15th-Sept 9th)
- BGS Alumni Mentor Expectations Document
- Kick Off Mixer (Sept 8th at 6PM)
- Graduate Trainee Sign Ups\* (Sept 12th- Sept 30th)
- Monthly Mentoring Groups (Oct-May)
  - Meet 1 hour/month
- Wrap Up Event\* (June 1st at 6PM)

## Goals of the Program:

1. Facilitate frequent and long-lasting interactions between trainees and alumni
2. Encourage networking and professional development including relationship building, teamwork, and mentoring
3. Provide advice on exploratory approaches to different career paths to effectively compare and contrast future career options

\*Tentative Dates, subject to change

**BGS** Career  
Development



# BGS Alumni Mentors Recruited and Expected Timeline

- Current Stats for Mentors in Program
  - 68 BGS Alumni Currently Recruited to the program
  - Groups being composed based on time availability
  - Expect 2-3 mentors per group
- Mentor Groups Will be Posted on Sign Up!
- Student Recruitment Phase Starts Next Week (Deadline Sept 30th)
  - Kick-Off Event/Mixer for Mentees to meet Mentors and Sign up for groups
- Mentor Groups welcome to start meeting after sign ups!
- Check in Emails to see how meetings are going and provide resources, if needed



# Career Paths Mentoring Program

## What to Expect Next:

### Mentor Recruitment Stage Wrapping Up!

- Mentor Bios will be Provided to Students during sign ups
- Mixer to Meet Mentors Today
- Mentor Group Compositions in progress

### Student Recruitment Stage Initiating next week

- Student Sign Up by Sept 30th!
- Emails to full groups by early october with:
  - Group compositions
  - Additional activity resources

## Mixer Goals:

- Facilitate students meeting mentors
- Help Mentors meet other mentors enrolled in the program
- Answer Questions prior to program start

**Each Mix will be approximately 10 minutes!**

# Mixed Career Discovery and Exploration Groups

20 groups

# Industry/Nonprofit Group: Monday Evenings 7-8PM

- **Kelly Howell: Director at Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Foundation**
  - After graduate school, I did a postdoc at Columbia University for several years until I found a position at the Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation, a nonprofit organization. I joined as a scientist and am now a Director.
- **Alyssa MacMillan: Manager, Field Application Scientists at Thermo Fisher Scientific**
  - Following graduate school, I completed a post-doc at the New Jersey Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory, in collaboration with CDC/Association of Public Health Laboratories. I then became a lead molecular biologist in the Newborn Screening Program at the same laboratory, and eventually became Program Manager of the Microbiology laboratories. In 2021, I changed career paths and became a Field Applications Scientist (FAS) for Thermo Fisher Scientific, supporting customers using an automated high-throughput qPCR COVID testing platform. In September 2022, I will transition into a manager role within my team, managing a team of qPCR FAS. I'm happy to help students interested in clinical or public health laboratory, applications support or people manager careers.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alyssa-macmillan-91a5439/>

# Academic Research/Consulting: Tuesday Afternoons 2-3PM

- **Julie Crudele: Acting Assistant Professor at University of Washington/Consultant at Biotech Companies**
  - After graduating from Penn I moved to Seattle to postdoc at the University of Washington. UW has a pathway for hiring from within (Acting Assistant Professor roll), so I'm currently in that position. It allows me to be a PI and write my own grants while still having the support of a senior professor. I'm definitely in the thick of the junior faculty hustle! My career has been built around AAV gene therapy and immune responses associated with AAV treatments, so it's very translational. I fund my lab through federal grants, patient organization grants, and collaborations with industry. I also consult for gene therapy biotech and clinical trial companies on the side (paid hourly).
- **Jason Covy: Boston Consulting Group**
  - After leaving UPenn, Jason began a post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford University, where he became more involved with the Entrepreneurial and Start-up community. To grow his business acumen, and move away from the scientific bench and closer to patients, Jason joined the Boston Consulting Group in 2015. He is a core member of their Health Care Practice Area serving global Pharmaceutical, MedTech, and Non-profit Healthcare companies.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jason-covy-6768b9a9/>



# Academia/Industry: Thursday Evenings 8-9PM

- **Qian Wu: Associate Professor at Fred Hutch**
  - 2.5 years in industry after PhD, 6 years in academic until now.
- **Jane Schulte: Senior Quality Control Analyst at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Clinical Vector Core**
  - After 9 years in academic lab environments and 1 year at a Pennovation start up company, I now perform analytical development studies and quality control testing to ensure the manufacture of safe and effective gene therapies.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jane-schulte/>

# Communications/Outreach: Wednesday Evenings 6-7PM

- **Samantha White: Chief of Scientific and Public Engagement at National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH**
  - Dr. Samantha White is currently Chief of the Scientific and Public Engagement Branch in the Office of Neuroscience Communications and Engagement (ONCE), where she helps ONCE efforts to provide a seamless flow of information on NINDS research advances and initiatives to various stakeholders including scientific and academic communities, as well as policy-makers, patients, and the public. Dr. White identifies new opportunities for collaboration and partnership between NINDS and external parties, while nurturing existing alliances to support synergy in neuroscience research, education, and outreach activities. In addition to orchestrating standard operating procedures, tracking, and programmatic content decisions for meetings, workshops, and scientific conferences like the annual BRAIN Initiative Meeting and the Nonprofit Forum, she participates in the development and dissemination of communications and outreach materials surrounding the progress of BRAIN and other NINDS-funded research. In ONCE, Dr. White also oversees science education and outreach programming across the portfolio of NINDS stakeholders, including the creation of content targeting students, parents, and teachers. Dr. White began working at NIH as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellow in 2014 after receiving her Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania and her B.S. in neuroscience and behavioral biology from Emory University. She previously worked as a Science Policy Fellow at Research!America, and she was also the program director for Emerging Leaders in Science and Society, a pilot graduate student development program hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
  - LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/samanthalwhite](http://www.linkedin.com/in/samanthalwhite)
- **David Garbe: Director of Outreach and Education at The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR)**
  - Dr. David Garbe has a wealth of experience in the academic, nonprofit, and corporate domains. Throughout his tenure as a scientist, Dr. Garbe performed research focused on cancer, nervous system development, circadian biology, sleep, and the treatment of mood disorders. He was also an adjunct professor at the University of the Sciences as well as Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges. Since joining the Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR) as their Outreach Educator, Dr. Garbe has developed numerous in-class programs and activities, presented to countless classrooms, and engaged over 7,500 students. Dr. Garbe also participates in Teacher Professional Development Programs, Science Fairs, Career Workshops, and Public Community Outreach initiatives. He was recently promoted to Director of Outreach and Education and looks forward to extending the scope, reach, and mission of the organization to educate the public about the importance of biomedical research and its significance to human and animal health
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidgarbe/>

# Business/Consulting/Communications: Friday Mornings

## 9-10AM

- **Nick Francella: Scientific Knowledge Manager at Janssen (Johnson&Johnson)**
  - After my PhD at Penn, I stayed in Philly working in consulting for a few years (Deloitte and Envision Pharma Group). Then I moved to Europe and pivoted to medical communications and medical writing within the pharma industry (GSK and Janssen/J&J). I am happy to talk about Consulting, Medical Writing/Communications, and the various non-research careers within Pharma. I can also answer questions about working in Europe vs USA.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nicholas-francella-18753361>
- **Marco Calamito: Executive Director, Early Asset Commercial at Bristol Myers Squibb**
  - Graduate degree to life science consulting, transition to Pharma as Insights & Analytics professional then transition to early drug development representing commercial. Intersection of science & business
- **Jessica Taaffe: Global Health and Science Consultant at Global Renaissance Enterprises**
  - "Dr. Jessica Taaffe advances global health through science, working with researchers and policymakers to interpret, communicate, and apply scientific evidence to global health programs. A PhD microbiologist with 15+ years of research and global health program experience, she has worked on a range of global infectious diseases and pandemic threats (influenza, HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, and coronavirus) with organizations like NIH, World Bank, WHO, and UNAIDS. Jessica is passionate about science outreach and public engagement. She has been featured in popular podcasts and leading science and health media outlets such as PLoS Blogs and Global Health Now, was a science expert and host of the YouTube show This Week in Global Health, and served as a high-profile AAAS IF/THEN Women In STEM Ambassador and role model for young girls. Her personal and professional story is featured the 3M-produced docuseries "Not the Science Type," which premiered during the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jtaaffe/>

# Medical Affairs/Public Health: Monday Mornings 9-10AM

- **Shilpa Iyer: Laboratory Technical Officer at World Health Organization (Regional Office of the Western Pacific)**
  - After completing a PhD in Microbiology, I received a Fogarty post-doctoral Scholarship in Global Health to conduct a field evaluation of a new HIV rapid diagnostic test in Lusaka, Zambia. After the Fogarty fellowship, I held a dual appointment, as an instructor at the School of Medicine, UAB and a Public health national program Implementation fellow at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia . I also obtained a Masters degree in Public health to obtain formal epidemiology and biostatistical methods training. I currently am a laboratory technical officer in the health emergencies program of the World Health Organization, and provide technical guidance on diagnostic strategies, variant evolution and surveillance for SARS CoV2 and other public health emergencies.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shilpa-iyer-phd-mpH-5299635a>
- **Gabriel Krigsfeld: Director, Medical Affairs at Abbvie**
  - I went from a post doc to medical affairs in industry. I worked on numerous programs leveraging my experience in biomarkers and diagnostics to a more traditional role in medical affairs leading clinical programs.

# Industry/Medical Writing Communications: Wednesday Mornings 7-8AM

- **Becky Chanoux: Medical Director at an advertising agency at Evoke North America**
  - Dr Chanoux left the lab to pursue a career in medical writing. She began as a Writer at a Medical Communications agency, where she distilled published data into digestible pieces for physicians. After 4 years, she sought to return to oncology, which was the focus of her PhD. To that end, she left MedComms and has spent the past 7 years as a Medical Writer and finally Medical director in healthcare advertising. Working in advertising has encouraged her to expand the way she talks and writes about science. In this setting, with a different audience, she is more focused on the scientific story and how it fits into the overall strategy of her brands.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/in/rebeccachanoux>
- **Robert Plasschaert: Scientist in Residence at OMX Ventures**
  - "After my PhD, I left my academic postdoc at the Whitehead Institute to join a Biotech (AVROBIO) as an early member of the R&D team. I worked at AVROBIO leading a group of researchers to develop gene therapy applications in neurological disorders. I am currently a Scientist in Residence at OMX Ventures working on new company creation and investment activities.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rplassch/>

# Research in Different Sectors: Wednesday's 7-8PM

- **Logan Everett: PI/Scientist at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
  - Did two postdocs over ~7 years, both as bioinformatician within wet labs. Spent ~2 years at a private company with informatics research support contracts in both government and industry. Started as a PI in research center at EPA in 2019.
- **Katie Stiles: Assistant Professor of Research at Weill Cornell Medical College**
  - After UPenn, I did a postdoc in virology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and then moved to Weill Cornell Medical College as an Assistant Professor of Research in Genetic Medicine. I am part of the leadership team for the Belfer Gene Therapy Core Facility where I oversee the pre-clinical development of AAV based gene therapy vectors for both academic and industry sponsored or contract research projects.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katiemstiles/>
- **Jennifer Singh: Clinical biomarker director at Gsk**
  - I did my postdoc at Upenn doing single cell and bulk RNA sequencing in the Eberwine lab which positioned me well for my first job at GSK as I never intended on staying in academia. I joined the Dermatology group generating disease signatures for a number of indications. I then took an opportunity to join the Neuroscience group due to my Neuro focused PhD. In this role was responsible for developing the clinical biomarker strategy for an asset to treat ALS. I then officially joined the clinical biomarker group as a clinical biomarker lead developing strategies for a broad range of diseases and therapeutics and serving as a subject matter expert for transcriptomics. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-singh-8168426/>

# Research in Academia/Industry: Monday Afternoons 12-1PM

- **Ari Glatman Zaretsky: Staff Scientist at Regeneron**
  - I was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health. From there, I joined Regeneron as a scientist and have been working in basic research in the Immunology and Inflammation group.
- **Nathaniel Nucci: Associate Professor at Rowan University**
  - After getting my Ph.D., I did a lengthy postdoc at Penn before applying for academic positions. It took me three years to land my current job. I've been at Rowan since 2014 and have helped build multiple academic programs and research structures, including an NIH-funded undergraduate research training program.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nathaniel-nucci-26803355/>

# Data Science/Tech: Tuesday Evenings 7-8PM

- **Isaac Perron: Senior Data Analyst at Penn Medicine (HUP)**
  - Defended thesis Aug 2017; left Penn Dec 2017; started data science fellowship Jan 2018; started as data scientist in payment processing industry (Worldpay/FIS) in June 2018; Promoted and grew responsibilities for 4+ years; Recently left to start data scientist position at Penn Med, August 2022
- **Jennifer Botchway: Associate Director for Tech Talent Development at Wayfair**
  - I have always been a pretty interdisciplinary person. My training & expertise is in bioinformatics & molecular biophysics, but through a series of very fortunate events, I fell in love with the power of data science and have since sought opportunities that blend data & technologies to better inform decision making. I've spent time in private industry, government, academia & non-profit organizations.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-botchway-phd-16032297/>



# Academic Research/Teaching: Wednesday Evenings 8-9PM

- **Matthew Kirby: High School Teacher and Department Chair for Mathematics at Hershey High School**
  - I studied engineering at Syracuse University before coming to Penn where I hoped to earn my PhD and teach at the college level. While at Penn, I enjoy classroom teaching, but was far less enamored with leading a lab and the time requirements involved in writing and reading papers and grants. In order to focus on teaching, I moved to central PA and attended Millersville University to become certified to teach high school math. I have been teaching at Hershey since 2011 and still love working in the classroom.
- **Amanda Crocker: Associate Professor of Neuroscience at Middlebury College**
  - I attended undergrad and graduated unsure whether to go to Med school or pursue a PhD. I took two years as a research technician and then decided to apply to graduate school. During grad school I received great mentorship and felt that the path of an R1 researcher was not the path for me. I still was not sure exactly what I wanted to do but I liked teaching. I went to Princeton for a post-doc because because I was not sure if I wanted to go industry, life time post-doc(my true ambition at the time) or liberal arts. At Princeton, I was able to take part in their teaching transcript program and was able to do more teaching. I enjoyed it and applied for Liberal Arts Teaching/Undergrad Research only when I completed my post-doc. I have been at Middlebury since 2015 and have sat on a number of hiring committees and am associate professor (tenured). Also it is of note that I was married and had a child during both my graduate career and my post-doc so I have experience navigating my career path with a family.

# Academic Research/Business Consulting: Thursday Evenings 6-7PM

- **Zachary March: Postdoctoral fellow at NIH**
  - I graduated from Penn in 2020 and have been a postdoctoral fellow at the NIH for the past two years.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/zach-march-phd-25547622/>
- **Michael Cho: Senior Manager, Oncology Marketing at GlaxoSmithKline**
  - Michael completed his Immunology PhD in 2016 from Aimee Payne's lab where he studied the origins of autoimmunity. He was an active member of the Penn Biotech Group from 2014-2016 which helped him land his first role working in commercial strategy for rare disease therapies at C1 Consulting (acquired by Charles River Associates). In 2017, Michael joined IQVIA as a Senior Consultant in their Oncology Real World Evidence group. He then joined GSK in 2020, supporting Commercial Insights and Analytics for the US Oncology business unit (OBU). Michael has made a recent transition within GSK to the marketing side, where he now supports strategy and operations for the US OBU.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mjtcho>

# Academic Research/Industry: Wednesday Afternoons 1-2PM

- **Ewa Stypulkowski: Scientist II, Discovery Biology at Arrakis Therapeutics**
  - Early R&D
- **Elia Tait Wojno: Associate Professor at University of Washington**
  - After my PhD, I completed a postdoc at UPenn and Weill Cornell Medicine with Dr. David Artis. I then took a position as an Assistant Professor at Cornell University in 2015. In 2019, I move to the University of Washington as an Assistant Professor and became an Associate Professor in 2022.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elia-tait-wojno-69a2b935>
- **Vered Gigi: Associate at aMoon**

# Industry/Business: Friday Afternoons 3-4PM

- **Claude Warzecha: Lead Researcher at University of Pennsylvania Gene Therapy Program**
  - I received my PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology from Penn in 2010 studying the regulation of alternative mRNA splicing. I was a post-doctoral fellow at the NIH for five years where I studied T cell development and signalling. I had two brief positions as a lab manager for both an academic lab and a start-up biotech company. During that time I was also an adjunct assistant professor at Georgetown University. For the past four years I have been with the Gene Therapy Program at UPenn, first as a Senior Research Investigator and promoted to Lead Researcher.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/claude-warzecha-17047586/>
- **Enrique Lin Shiao: Senior Associate, Venture Investments at Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**
  - Enrique Lin-Shiao is a Senior Associate in Venture Investments at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Prior to joining CFF, he worked as an associate in asset acquisitions at BridgeBio Pharma, where he focused on sourcing and investing in novel therapies for rare diseases and cancer. Enrique trained as a biomedical scientist completing his PhD in biochemistry and molecular biophysics in the Berger lab at the University of Pennsylvania and a postdoc in gene editing in the laboratory of Jennifer Doudna at UC Berkeley. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics and a Master's degree in Biophysics from the Technical University of Munich, as well as a certificate in Public Health from the University of Pennsylvania. He also has experience in consulting, entrepreneurship and co-produces the podcast "Caminos en Ciencia".

# Industry/Business: Thursday Afternoons 12-1PM

- **Ademi Santiago-Walker: Senior Director, Head of Prostate Oncology Translational Research at Janssen**
  - Ademi is the Head of Prostate Translational Research for Janssen Oncology. In the Oncology Translational Research organization Ademi leads a team of biomarker scientists developing and driving personalized medicine and clinical research strategies to enhance development of oncology therapeutics for prostate disease. Prior to leading the prostate team, Ademi led translational research for the FGFR inhibitor (erdafitinib, BALVERSA) program at Janssen. Ademi joined Janssen after spending four years in Precision Medicine and Diagnostics (PMDx), Oncology Biomarkers, at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals where she was the biomarker project leader for multiple small and large molecule assets in solid tumors and multiple myeloma. Ademi received her B.S. in Biochemistry from the Washington Adventist University, her PhD in Pharmacological Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania, and her postdoctoral training at the Wistar Institute.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ademi-santiago-walker-6139b284>
- **Christopher Weber: Associate Attorney at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP**
  - I went directly to law school three days after defending my dissertation. Based on the research I had done prior to matriculating, I assumed I would be involved in patent counseling and procurement, but I have done almost exclusively patent litigation on technologies such as solid oral dosage forms and biologics such as gene therapies.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chris-weber-88604285/>

# Academic Research/Business: Tuesday Afternoons 4-5PM

- **Geetu Tuteja: Associate Professor at Iowa State University**
  - Graduate Student (2004-2009) -> Postdoc (2010-2015) -> Assistant Professor (tenure-track) (2015-2020) -> Associate Professor with tenure (2020 - present)
- **Trisha Agrawal: Associate Director, Patent Attorney at Regeneron**
  - After obtaining my PhD, I became a patent agent at a law firm in Manhattan. Eventually, I earned my JD and am now an in-house patent counsel at Regeneron.

# Academia/Nonprofit: Monday Afternoons 12-1PM

- **Chenere Ramsey: Founder and Executive Director of Ripen the MeriSTEM, Inc.**
  - I began my career in the traditional academic arena as an NIH funded postdoctoral fellow as part of the Career Award (K12) to train postdocs to become undergraduate science teachers at minority serving institutions. I transitioned into a tenure-track faculty position where I ran a lab, taught 12-15 credit hours per semester, competed for my own funding, and served on committees. I transitioned out of my faculty position after a short time because I was searching for work-life balance and also wanted to start a music career to supplement my science career. I founded a public charity (501(c)3 designation by the IRS) that I direct to provide mentoring, career counseling, and professional develop to person interested in entering STEM career fields. I also started a music production company wherein I compose, perform, and produce my own musical compositions in addition to my science career.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chenere-pierce-ramsey-phd-02a36569/>
- **Krishna Vijayendran: Post-doctoral researcher at University of Pennsylvania**
  - Genomics & Computational Biology graduate program, now applying what I learned in graduate school to cancer immunotherapy

# Industry/Nonprofit:Monday Afternoons 2-3PM

- **Jenn Levy: Scientific Director at a nonprofit that funds research at Coalition to Cure Calpain 3**
  - Dr. Levy is the Scientific Director at Coalition to Cure Calpain 3 where she facilitates research into finding treatments for LGMDR1 by managing the grant program and by interacting with international experts in muscular dystrophy research, including those in academia, bio-pharmaceutical companies, government, and peer organizations. Previously, Dr. Levy was a member of Dr. Kevin Campbell's laboratory at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the University of Iowa where she performed postdoctoral research on the roles of the ubiquitous calpains in skeletal muscle function. She has co-authored multiple peer-reviewed manuscripts, and her research has been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and a development grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-levy-3464189>
- **Peijuan zhu: Director pharmacometrics at AstraZeneca**
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/penny-peijuan-zhu-24532a4/>



# Academic/Industry Research: Monday Mornings

## 11AM-12PM

- **Sarah Clark: Assistant Professor at University of Colorado**
  - I completed my graduate work in the lab of Dr. Jeffrey N Weiser at UPenn in the CAMB group as a student in the Microbiology, Virology, and Parasitology program. I then moved to the University of Colorado to do a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Dr. Laurel Lenz in the Department of Immunology and Microbiology. In 2019, I opened my own lab at the University of Colorado in the Department of Otolaryngology. My research combines my PhD training in respiratory tract bacterial pathogens with my Postdoctoral training in innate immune responses to bacterial infection to investigate host-pathogen interactions in the respiratory tract.
  - LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/in/sarclark>
- **Jonathan Silver: Associate Principal Scientist at AstraZeneca**
  - I finished my PhD in 2012 in the lab of Chris Hunter and wasn't entirely sure that I wanted an academic career. I chose to do a postdoc in industry --- most of my cohort did academic postdocs or took other career paths. I thrived in the setting and really enjoyed the more applied aspect of science you learn as an industry scientist and creativity allowed when publishing, grant-writing etc were removed from the equation. I have continued in industry at Medimmune and later (we merged) with AstraZeneca; transitioning from a medium sized biotech to a large world-wide pharma company. My primary role now is to lead pre-clinical drug programs from conceptualization through lead optimization and Candidate Drug nomination. I'm happy to discuss further with any trainees that are interested!
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-silver-a1729936>

# Business/Consulting: Thursday Evenings 7-8PM

- **Chris Bialas: Associate Director of Business Development at Incyte**
  - LinkedIn: [/in/Chris-Bialas-98941591/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/Chris-Bialas-98941591/)
- **Scott Pesiridis: Scientific Director at GSK**
  - PhD in Biochemistry/Biophysics, Postdoc in Cell Biology/Neurodegeneration, Investigator at GSK in HTS and Protein/Cell Science, Manager/Biology Leader Innate Immunology, GSK Fellow and Scientific Director of Immunology where my primary role is Project Leader.

# Focused Career Area Groups

11 groups

# Academic Research: Thursday Evenings 5-6PM

- **Mike Gallagher: Postdoctoral fellow at Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research**
  - Pursuing tenure-track faculty positions
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-gallagher-a2a85828/>
- **Haitao Hu: Associate Professor (tenured) at University of Texas Medical Branch**
  - I was a PhD student with Drew Weissman in CAMB program between 2004-2010. I went on to do postdoc training at Water Reed Army Institute of Research between 2010-2014, followed by establishing my own research lab at the University of TEexas Medical Branch in 2015. I was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure in 2021. My research has focused on antiviral immunity and infectious diseases, including use of mRNA to develop vaccines and therapeutics.
- **Laura Conlin: Clinical Laboratory Director and Associate Professor at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and UPenn**
  - After getting my PhD from CAMB (Genetics) studying model organisms, I wanted to transition to human genetics and was interested in a more direct and practical application. I did a postdoctoral fellowship and a clinical fellowships studying cytogenetics and molecular genetics, which put me on a career path to become a Director in a clinical genetics lab. This fellowship covered not only the laboratory aspects of doing clinical testing (karyotype, sequencing, arrays, etc) but also clinical interpretation, policies, billing, and regulations involved with clinical care. I have been working at an academic children's hospital as a director since my fellowship, which also allows me time to teach (graduate students and medical residents/fellows) and to perform translational research (brining on and constantly improving our clinical tests).
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-conlin-b867a980/>

# Academic Research/Physician: Thursday Evenings 8-9PM

- **Alice Zhou: Instructor in oncology at Washington University School of Medicine**
  - I completed an MD/PhD and went into clinical residency in internal medicine, then fellowship in heme-onc. Now I am an instructor in oncology with 70/30 research/clinic divide.
- **Chaim Schramm: Staff Scientist, leading a computational immunology core at Vaccine Research Center, NIH**
  - After almost being forced to leave BGS after three years, I was able to switch labs (and research areas) and successfully finish my PhD. Then I switched fields again, stumbling into a postdoc studying broadly neutralizing antibodies against HIV. From there, I have been fortunate to build a rewarding career as a computational immunologist. I currently run a small core at the Vaccine Research Center.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chaim-schramm-17064218/>

# Academic Research/Physicians: Wednesday Evenings 3-4PM

- **Joshua Gruber: Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center**
  - Penn MD/PhD graduated in 2008 (PhD), 2011 (MD), then went to Stanford for Internal Medicine (internship, residency) & Oncology fellowship, Instructor at Stanford 2017-2021, then joined UT Southwestern as Assistant Professor in 2021
- **Eugene Khandros: Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Perelman School of Medicine**
  - I completed my MD/PhD training at UPenn, followed by pediatrics residency at Columbia and pediatric hematology-oncology fellowship at CHOP. I am a recently appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Perelman School of Medicine and an attending physician hematologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. As a physician-scientist, my time is split with 80% research and 20% clinical responsibilities. My lab focuses on red blood cell development, regulation of hemoglobin production, and discovering new therapies for red blood cell disorders such as thalassemia and sickle cell disease. My clinical time is spent as a pediatric hematologist focused on sickle cell disease and thalassemia, and as part of the CHOP gene therapy program for red blood cell diseases.

# Academic Research/Teaching: Friday Mornings

## 11AM-12PM

- **Keith Feigenson: Associate Professor of Psychology/Teaching at Albright College**
  - Undergraduate degree in psychology from Haverford College. 2011 PHD from Upenn in Dr. Judy Grinspan's lab working on Wnt signaling in oligodendrocyte development. Disillusioned by the research pipeline to be a PI, so I looked into postdoctoral programs in teaching. Applied for the IRACDA fellowship (development of teaching in postdoctoral science researchers, with a focus on schools serving underprivileged populations). Pivoted research to human subjects in Dr. Steve Silverstein's lab (then at Rutgers University) studying visual perception in schizophrenia. After 3 year fellowship applied to a wide variety of teaching institutions; started at Albright College in 2014 in the Psychology department. Not an MSI (minority serving institution) but most of our recent classes have been around or above 50% minority. Teaching load is 3 3, with expectations to conduct research with students, although publications are a bonus and not necessarily a deal breaker. Limited research budget, currently investigating perception and cognition in human beings (who are usually undergrad psychology students). Class sizes capped around 30.
- **Brigid Jensen: Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at Thomas Jefferson University**
  - I majored in Molecular Biology/Biochemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, and then got my PhD in Neuroscience at Penn studying the effects of antiretroviral drugs used to treat HIV infection on neurons and the myelinating cells of the brain. I then went to Thomas Jefferson University for my Postdoctoral Fellowship, where I used both in vitro and in vivo models to study the molecular mechanisms of ALS-causative proteins and their contributions to disease. During this time I also took advantage of teaching opportunities for undergraduates, post-baccalaureate students, and graduate students. I recently transitioned into an Assistant Professor position at Thomas Jefferson, continuing with my research interests of glial cell contributions to ALS, as well as my teaching interests of Biochemistry and Neuroscience in the post-baccalaureate and graduate programs.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brigid-jensen-0132588a/>

# Business/Finance: Tuesday Evenings 9-10PM

- **Liyan Pang: Director of Marketing and Product Management at Meridian Bioscience**
  - Dr. Liyan Pang is the Director of Marketing & Product Management at the Life Science Division, Meridian Bioscience. Dr. Pang received her Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania in 2006, specialized in cellular and molecular biology. After her graduation from University of Pennsylvania, she did her post-doctoral training at National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health (NHLBI, NIH), focusing on mitochondrial biogenesis in metabolic diseases. Dr. Pang has been working in the Life Science industry for over 12 years from the commercial side and is very knowledgeable with molecular diagnostic market. In her current role, she manages both immuno. and molecular product lines of Meridian Life Science, driving the continuous growth of both product lines, and addressing the need from the diagnostic assay developers.
- **Yanfeng Wang: Business Development Director at Stanford University**
  - Transformed from academic to business (Ph.D. >>> MBA; postdoc >>> consultant >>> business development director of university)



# Business/Finance: Thursday Afternoons 1-2PM

- **Robert Lin: Pipeline Analytics Manager (portfolio analytics) at GSK**
  - Currently I support clinical stage project teams in Respiratory, Specialty and Primary Care to determine asset financial value and assist in preparation for governance workstreams at GSK. This gives senior leadership an overview of the potential return on investment for projects and is a critical data point for allocation of resources. I also do freelance work as a publications professional as time permits. I completed an Executive MBA from New York University last year and have spent a fair amount of time exploring career options. Previously at Allergan I was responsible for developing strategies for scientific publications for therapeutics in eye care. As a postdoc I studied the utility of using stem cell derived retinal sheets to restore vision in a rat model of macular degeneration. I was the president of the UCI Postdoctoral Association and an Intern for the UCI Office of Technology Alliances. I received my Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania where my research focused on EEG markers of vasopressin deficiency as a model for schizophrenia. Additionally, as part of a joint UPenn-RWTH Aachen University IRTG traveling fellowship program I used PET imaging techniques to illustrate the differences in receptor binding potential during continuous and intermittent antipsychotic treatment.
  - LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/robertelin>
- **Avram Slovic: Sr Commercial Director at Invaio Sciences**
  - Avram has worked for 13 years in agribusiness and industrial biotechnology across Brazil, Europe, and the United States. With a background in Biophysics and Synthetic Biology, he led R&D and Commercial teams in global companies including Amyris, Braskem and Indigo Agriculture. An entrepreneur, Avram co-founded InstaAgro.com in 2015, leader in online sales of Agricultural inputs in Brazil, and Harvest Consulting, helping companies enter the Brazilian agriculture market. Currently, Avram leads commercial efforts in Latin America at Invaio. He is author on 5 articles and 11 patents.

# Communications: Medical Writing: Tuesday Evenings 6-7PM

- **Caroline Davis: Associate Medical Director at ApotheCom**

- Taking roots in the BMB Graduate Group, Caroline's dissertation covered the complex role of copper metabolism in regulating enzymes critical to liver and pancreatic cancer progression. Inputting, graphing, and analyzing data, as well as interpreting results were Caroline's favorite parts of graduate school. In addition to her work at the bench, Caroline participated in several projects with the Penn Biotech Group Healthcare Consulting, as well as taking leadership roles within GAPSA, PGWISE, and BGSA. Her participation in these organizations in combination with her knack for writing led her to a career path in Medical & Scientific Communications after graduating in December 2020. She has recently taken a role as an associate medical director at ApotheCom, where she leads the effort to shape the medical strategy of an infectious disease therapeutic area of a leading top-10 global pharmaceutical company. In her prior role, she served as a senior medical writer II for PRECISIONscientia, where she worked closely with the US and global medical affairs teams in the rare disease sector of a top-10 global pharmaceutical company to develop high-quality deliverables (e.g., slide decks, brochures, executive summaries, strategy pieces) that were used to educate health care professionals in the field and improve the company's medical strategy.
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolinedavis2020/>

- **Peter Dong: Medical Director at Health Science Communications**

- I've been in the field of medcomms for more than 4 years, having spent my career at 3 very different companies. I started my career as a medical writer at an agency that specializes in publications before making the switch to a much smaller company that focuses on more commercial work. I'm now back at a larger agency, where I've begun transitioning to a more senior-level role while continuing to develop my career in promotional medical education and strategy. I love talking to graduate students about my journey, and I'm looking forward to meeting more students considering a career in medcomms!
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/peterdong11/>

# Government Research: Friday Mornings 9-10AM

- **Hilary McCarren: Research Neuroscientist, ORISE Program Coordinator at US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense**
  - After completing my PhD in Pharmacology in 2014, I stayed at Penn for a brief post-doc with a lab I had collaborated with during grad school. Later that year, I began a post-doc position at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (USAMRICD). This position was part of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) program, which supports recent graduates at all levels as they explore government research positions. As a post-doc at USAMRICD, I was able to successfully compete for funding and lead my own project. I was then hired as a principal investigator in 2017. Now I lead a lab of 13 people on a variety of pharmacology, neuroscience, and toxicology research projects. Earlier this year, I also became the USAMRICD ORISE program coordinator, a role in which I serve as the primary point of contact for the ~40 participants in our organization.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/in/hilary-mccarren-a3553469>
- **Eric Villegas: Senior Research Microbiologist/Branch Supervisor at US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Center for Environmental Measurement & Modeling**
  - Eric is a Senior Research Microbiologist and Branch Supervisor of the Environmental Genomics Branch. His research group focuses on developing tools to understand human and ecological human health risks associated with environmental contaminants ranging from aquatic invasive species to zoonotic pathogens. He studied host immune responses following infection with *Toxoplasma gondii* with Chris Hunter between 1995-2001. He then went to UC Berkeley as a post-doctoral research fellow with Bill Sha's group where he worked on identifying novel immunological pathways that regulate host responses to parasitic diseases. In 2005, he joined the USEPA to continue his work on zoonotic pathogens and developing tools to monitor microbial contaminants in water.
  - LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/ericvillegas](http://www.linkedin.com/in/ericvillegas)

# Bio-Pharma Industry: Tuesday's 12-1PM

- **Chun-Pyn Shen: Regulatory affairs / vice president at Impact Therapeutics**
  - Didn't plan to join industry in the first place. Experience multiple functions (exploratory research, clinical research, competitive intelligence, and regulatory affairs) in Bio-Pharma industry.
- **Sarah Welsh: Associate Scientific Director at Horizon Therapeutics**
  - Straight to industry - clinical drug development
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/in/sarahwelshphd>

# Clinically focused Industry Research: Monday Evenings 8-9PM

- **Reshma Singh: Director, Cell Product Clinical Translation, Global Translational Lead at Takeda**
  - Following grad school, I did a 4 year postdoc at Yale in Immunobiology. From here I joined a startup (Advaxis) as a senior scientist. During my 2 years there, I was a bench scientist, trained technicians, had many roles and opportunities in a small company. Then joined Novartis leading a small group to set out our in house in vivo studies for all CART programs. Following this, I moved to the IO group and was a preclinical biology lead for various small molecule and antibody programs targeting the tumor microenvironment. Transitioned to a Director role at TCR2 where I had a larger group work on next gen adoptive cell therapies and strategies to overcome suppression in the tumor microenvironment. Joining Takeda, I have shifted to the clinical space and am a global translational lead for various cell therapy programs entering clinical trials or already in the clinic. In this role, I lead the strategy for the biologic understanding of our cell therapy in the patient population.
- **Rachel Leibman: Director of clinical science at Abbvie**
  - I went into clinical development directly after grad school
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachel-leibman-1156a88a>

# Industry Research: Wednesday Afternoons 3-4PM

- **Jenessa Smith: Director, process development at Arsenal Biosciences**
  - After graduate training developing immune cell therapies, I joined a start up company as a bench scientist. I grew my team and led several programs. I then transitioned downstream in drug development to process development- overseeing a team focused on creating a robust manufacturing process for CART. I am now a Director of process development.
- **Jennifer Dashnau: Executive Director, Analytical Development & Quality Control at Century Therapeutics**
  - Dr. Jennifer L. Dashnau is Executive Director of Analytical Development and Quality Control at Century Therapeutics, where she is responsible for the full lifecycle of analytical method development, genome characterization, and quality control for clinical-stage allogeneic, induced pluripotent stem cell-derived, natural kill and T cell therapies targeting hematological and solid tumor malignancies with significant unmet medical need. Over her 24-year career, Dr. Dashnau has held a range of positions in large pharmaceutical companies (Merck; Johnson & Johnson) and therapeutic start-ups (Century Therapeutics) supporting process development, product and process characterization, analytical development, program management, technical operations (manufacturing support), and quality control spanning several therapeutic modalities, including recombinant vaccines, viral vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, and cell and gene therapy products. Dr. Dashnau received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, and MBA and BS in Biotechnology from RIT.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-dashnau-phd-mba-6428906/>

# Industry Research: Friday Afternoons 4-5PM

- **Riju Ray: Compound Development Leader at GSK**
  - MD (India) / PhD (BGS, Penn) researcher who completed a post-doc + research associate role before becoming junior research faculty (all @Penn). Thereafter was recruited into GSK for a project wherein I had expertise. I started out in clinical development leading/working on clinical trials in neuroscience, oncology and auto-immune disease. Broadened my scope within GSK by then pursuing medical affairs roles with a global function (for influenza vaccines) and a US-market focused role (Respiratory disease). Currently serve as a x-functional leader focused on compound progression in the early phases (pre-Ph1 work to Ph2a). Fortunate to have lived in mainland EU as well as USA so can give perspectives on international relocation/work environments.
  - LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/rijuray](http://www.linkedin.com/in/rijuray)
- **Sebastian Rieck: Director - New Product Sciences, R&D at ViaCyte, Inc**
  - I am a PhD scientist with over 19 years experience in regenerative medicine and current leading team discovering novel cell therapies to treat type 1 diabetes and other diseases.
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/mwlite/in/sebastian-rieck-2969b573>



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# List of All Groups

## Career Discovery (20)

- **Industry/Nonprofit Group:** Monday Evenings 7-8PM (Kelly Howell, Alyssa MacMillan)
- **Academic Research/Consulting:** Tuesday Afternoons 2-3PM (Julie Crudele, Jason Covy)
- **Academia/Industry:** Thursday Evenings 8-9PM (Qian “Vicky” Wu, Jane Schulte)
- **Communications/Outreach:** Wednesday Evenings 6-7PM (Samantha White, David Garbe, Caroline Davis)
- **Business/Consulting/Communications:** Friday Mornings 9-10AM (Nick Francella, Marco Calamito, Jessica Taaffe)
- **Medical Affairs/Public Health:** Monday Mornings 9-10AM (Shilpa Iyer, Gabriel Krigsfeld)
- **Industry/Medical Writing Communications:** Wednesday Mornings 7-8AM (Becky Chanoux, Robert Plasschaert)
- **Research in Different Sectors:** Wednesday’s 7-8PM (Logan Everett, Katie Stiles, Jennifer Singh)
- **Research in Academia/Industry:** Monday Afternoons 12-1PM (Ari Glatman Zaretsky, Nathaniel Nucci)
- **Data Science/Tech:** Tuesday Evenings 7-8PM (Isaac Perron, Jennifer Botchway)

## Career Discovery cont.

- **Academic Research/Teaching:** Wednesday Evenings 8-9PM (Matthew Kirby, Amanda Crocker)
- **Academic Research/Business Consulting:** Thursday Evenings 6-7PM (Zachary March, Michael Cho)
- **Academic Research/Industry:** Wednesday Afternoons 1-2PM (Ewa Stypulkowski, Elia Tait Wojno, Vered Gigi)
- **Industry/Business:** Friday Afternoons 3-4PM (Claude Warzecha, Enrique Lin Shiao)
- **Industry/Business:** Thursday Afternoons 12-1PM (Ademi Santiago-Walker, Christopher Weber)
- **Academic Research/Business:** Tuesday Afternoons 4-5PM (Geetu Tuteja, Trisha Agrawal)
- **Academia/Nonprofit: Monday Afternoons 12-1PM** (Chenere Ramsey, Krishna Vijayendran)
- **Industry/Nonprofit: Monday Afternoons 2-3PM** (Peijuan zhu, Jenn Levy)
- **Academic/Industry Research:** Monday Mornings 11AM-12PM (Sarah Clark, Jonathan Silver)
- **Business/Communications/Industry:** Thursday Evenings 7-8PM (Chris Bialas, Scott Pesiridis, Peter Dong)

# List of All Groups cont.

## Focused Groups (11)

- **Academic Research/Physician:** Thursday Evenings 8-9PM (Alice Zhou, Chaim Schramm)
- **Academic Research/Physician 2:** Thursday Evenings 5-6PM (Mike Gallagher, Haitao Hu, Laura Conlin)
- **Academic Research/Physicians 3:** Wednesday Evenings 3-4PM (Joshua Gruber, Eugene Khandros)
- **Academic Research/Teaching:** Friday Mornings 11AM-12PM (Keith Feigenson, Brigid Jensen)
- **Business/Finance:** Tuesday Evenings 9-10PM (Liyan Pang, Yanfeng Wang)
- **Business/Finance:** Thursday Afternoons 1-2PM (Robert Lin, Avram Slovic)

## Focused Groups cont.

- **Government Research:** Friday Mornings 9-10AM (Hilary McCarren, Eric Villegas)
- **Bio-Pharma Industry:** Tuesday's 12-1PM (Chun-Pyn Shen, Sarah Welsh)
- **Clinically focused Industry Research:** Monday Evenings 8-9PM (Reshma Singh, Rachel Leibman)
- **Industry Research:** Tuesday Afternoons 3-4PM (Jenessa Smith, Jennifer Dashnau)
- **Industry Research:** Fridays 4-5PM (Riju Ray, Sebastian Rieck)