

Cornell PhD BEST's Visit to P&G

A Collaboration between P&G and Cornell University

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P & G Cornell Doctoral Recruiting and the Cornell Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training (BEST) program are bringing PhD recruiting and training to the next level. Seven Cornell PhD students were invited to visit the P&G flagship technical center in Mason, Ohio to experience firsthand life at P&G through various activities and interactions with Cornell alumni and P&G scientists. This pilot supplements the traditional on-campus information sessions and career fairs.

- **Career Path Presentations:** Technology managers and Cornell alumni Bruce Murch (PhD '87) from Modeling and Simulation, and Jeff Goldman (MS '98) from Data Analytics described their typical work day and career paths. Research Fellow Duane Charbonneau (PhD '84) from Microbiology presented the story of Align and bringing a new-to-the-world product to life.
- **Tour of World-Class Analytical Labs** by Tim Baker, PhD and Ken Wehmeyer, PhD
- **Networking lunch** with Cornell alumni and more than twenty-five P&G staff from Product and Process Development, Safety & Regulatory, Analytical, Microbiology, Corporate R&D, and IT departments.
- **Students' 3-minute Corporate Style Presentations** with feedback from P&G participants



Figure 1. L-R Sandi Hamad-Ebrahimpour (PhD '04) Cornell Doctoral Students: Ornella Nelson (Chemistry), Erik Skibinski (Chemistry) Sabrina Kelch (Bio and Env. Engineering) Michael Weiner (Physics), Alicia Cintora (Materials Sci), Evgeniya Nazarova (Microbiology), Bo Yang (Mech Eng). Nancy Sevieux, PhD.



Figure 2. In addition to students- Back row L-R Kevin Hill, Jeff Goldman (MS '98) Middle Row: Karen Osorio (PhD '09), Kazue Takeuchi (MS '97), Alicia Fitscher ('86) Front Row Duane Charbonneau (PhD '88), Bernardo Aguilera (PhD '12), Bruce Murch (PhD '87), Vidya Vidyapati, PhD, Henrique Aveiro (PhD '12), Robert Schoettelkote

Some tips students found useful

[In preparation for a career in industry, important skills are] “1) communication and writing in a concise way and 2) consensus building & relying on others to get things done. You need skills to define the big problem, get groups working toward a single agenda that is timeline driven, and engage others via teambuilding.”-

Bruce Murch

“It's up to the individual to design their own career: do what you love, find mentors, ask advice.”-Duane Charbonneau

“The boldest leaders SPEND, ask for forgiveness, and plow ahead to get things done. Hierarchy is important in industry, but it is violated in this way.” -Henrique Aveiro

Benefits of the Visit

P&G/Cornell Doctoral Recruiting:

Strengthened connections with Cornell, creation of P&G ambassadors, and opportunity to coach students on corporate communication skills

Cornell PhD Candidates

- **Firsthand experience** to better plan their career path for an informed career choice and connections with Cornell alumni.

Cornell BEST Program Testimonials

“I was surprised at all P&G does-I had no idea earlier”

“Just learning that you can still do research, publish and have a life outside the lab while also having a fulfilling job in industry made it worth it. The myth busting was valuable.”

90% of the students say they would consider applying to P&G after the visit

P&G Testimonials

The site visit has allowed us to strengthen the relationship between P&G Cornell Doctoral Recruiting and the Cornell PhD student body, administration, and faculty, teaching us more about each other and how we can help one another.