What Can You Be With a PhD?

A Science & Technology Career Symposium

October 24-25, 2015
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NYU Langone Medical Center
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# What Can You Be With A PhD?

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Keep up with what’s going on at the conference this weekend and tweet with #WCUB2015
What Can You Be With A PhD?

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What Can You Be With A PhD?
**WELCOME**

On behalf of the organizers and sponsors of What Can You Be A PhD?: A Science and Technology Career Symposium, I welcome you to this unique event. The purpose of this symposium, now in its tenth installment, is to allow you, the graduate students and postdoctoral scientists who will become tomorrow’s leaders and innovators, an opportunity to discover the myriad career opportunities that are available to you. I would like to give special thanks and recognition to Dr. Joel Oppenheim, who founded WCUB 20 years ago! His incredible dedication to educating and training scientists in innovative ways led to this event, and we are proud to carry that spirit forth today.

This symposium was made possible through the cooperation and collaborative efforts of fourteen NYC-area institutions and more than 1500 of you have chosen to spend the next two days participating in panel discussions and meeting representatives of various companies, institutions and organizations from the academic, business, government, public and private sectors.

I would like to thank all the students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and administrators who have worked so hard and diligently in creating and supporting this event, with special thanks to Drs. Christine Ponder, Rory Flinn, Eric Vieira, and Tom Magaldi, my co-organizers. We also wish to thank our panel speakers who have enthusiastically volunteered their time to share their insights and experiences with us and our exhibitors and partners for their presence and support. It really is both remarkable and encouraging that nearly 100 professionals volunteered their time and energy to participate this weekend, and I hope you share my gratitude to them!

In the following weeks, our organizing staff will be posting session summaries on the event website providing you with additional information that we hope will be helpful as you continue with your career exploration. I also encourage you to take advantage of the resources and networking opportunities available to you at this symposium as you progress in your various career paths...to learn, discover and explore.

Finally, I want to encourage you not to let WCUB end for you on October 25, but let this be a springboard to greater things. Get involved at your school, help organize events, and take charge of your career path!

All the best,

Keith J. Micoli, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Program Director
Office of Science and Research
NYU Langone Medical Center
Saturday Agenda at a Glance

Session 1: 10:00am - 11:30am
- Interview Skills  Alumni Hall A
- Government Careers  Alumni Hall B
- Bench Science in Private Industry  Farkas Auditorium
- Schmooze or Lose  Smilow MPR
- Technology/Business Development  Smilow Seminar Room

11:30am-1:pm | Lunch

Session 2: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
- Relationship Skills  Alumni Hall A
- Medical Writing  Alumni Hall B
- Careers at Regeneron  Farkas Auditorium
- Negotiation Skills  Smilow MPR
- Careers in Science Journalism  Smilow Seminar Room

2:30pm - 3:00pm | Coffee Break

Session 3: 3:00pm - 4:30pm
- Careers in Publishing  Alumni Hall A
- Women in Science  Alumni Hall B
- Non-Research Industry Careers  Farkas Auditorium
- Academic Administration  Smilow MPR
- Career Satisfaction  Smilow Seminar Room

Keynote Address- 5:00pm-6:30pm
- Rush Holt, Ph.D.  Farkas Auditorium
Sunday Agenda at a Glance

**Session 1: 10:00am - 11:30am**
- Careers in Finance & Equity Research  | Alumni Hall A
- Careers in Science Policy  | Alumni Hall B
- Getting to the Dark Side: Preparing for a Career in Industry  | Farkas Auditorium
- Choosing a Postdoc  | Smilow MPR
- NRSA Fellowships  | Smilow Seminar Room

11:30am-1:pm | Lunch

**Session 2: 1:00pm - 2:30pm**
- Entrepreneurs: From Science to Startup  | Alumni Hall A
- Careers in Teaching and Education  | Alumni Hall B
- Resume Workshop  | Farkas Auditorium
- Non-Traditional Postdoc  | Smilow MPR
- Consulting Careers  | Smilow Seminar Room

2:30pm - 3:00pm | Coffee Break

**Session 3: 3:00pm - 4:30pm**
- Interviews: Formal and Social. Making the Most of Both Opportunities  | Alumni Hall B
- Faculty Positions in Academia  | Farkas Auditorium
- Careers in Non-Profits and Foundations  | Smilow MPR
- Careers in Data Science, Analytics and Visualization  | Smilow Seminar Room

**Keynote Address: 5:00pm - 6:30pm**
- Peter Fiske, Ph.D.  | Farkas Auditorium
Interview Skills
Alumni Hall A

Your CV is a matter of record. Now it’s time to pay attention to the rest. Are you aware of the perceptions you are creating? Master some tools to help you once you’ve landed that interview: What do your body language, your clothing, your manners say about you? We communicate more through what others see than any other single factor. Interviewing is not necessarily limited to formal settings. Sometimes they can include social settings. Learn how to navigate these social settings to your best advantage.

Instructor:
*Bernadette So, Ph.D.*
Director of Graduate Student Career Development

Government Careers
Alumni Hall B

Working for the government involves a wide variety of career options, from running a basic research lab to working on science policy and everything in between. This panel will shed some light on the kinds of opportunities most available to recent Ph.D. graduates, and provide insight into how to find the right fit for you.

Moderator:
*Joerg Schlatterer, Ph.D.*
National Science Foundation, Program Director

Speakers:
*Andrew Hebbeler, Ph.D.*
U.S. Dept. of State, Deputy Director for Cooperative Threat Reduction

*Huong Huynh-Reagan, Ph.D.*
US Food and Drug Administration, Pharmacologist

*Andrew Mara, Ph.D.*
Department of Defense, Deputy Director for Cooperative Threat Reduction
Bench Science in Private Industry
Farkas Auditorium

The pharmaceutical industry draws on a variety of expertise to fill variety of positions. Our panelists will shine a light on the road into a career in the pharmaceutical industry and what to expect if you get there.

Moderator:
Nathan Tinker, Ph.D.
NewYorkBIO, Executive Director

Speakers:
Rafael Depetris, Ph.D.
Kadmon LLC, Director

Anne Diers, Ph.D.
Berg, Senior Scientist II

Lori Gowen Morton, Ph.D.
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Director, Cardiovascular Research and Fibrosis Research

Schmooze or Lose
Smilow MPR

Social settings often intimidate otherwise accomplished professionals. Mary Mitchell discusses business event etiquette concerns such as, address introductions, handshakes, small talk, gender differences, and Miserable Moments - forgetting names, breaking into a group, alcohol protocol, and a host of others. You'll be given an opportunity to practice these skills.

Instructor:
Mary Mitchell
The Mitchell Organization, President
Technology/Business Development
Smilow Seminar Room

Research institutions are the source of many ground-breaking discoveries and inventions with the potential to save lives or preserve world around us. If you aspire to help turn those discoveries into products or businesses then a career in technology & business development may be for you. In this panel we will hear from professionals who have moved from the bench to work at the interface of science and product development.

**Moderator:**
*Eric Vieira, Ph.D.*
CUNY, Director, Special Research Programs

**Speakers:**
*Dee Dao, Ph.D.*
NYU Entrepreneurial Insititute, Venture Associate

*Nadim Shohdy, Ph.D.*
NYU School of Medicine, Director, Office of Therapeutics Alliances

*Lisa Wisniewski, Ph.D.*
S3B Consulting, President
Saturday, October 24th

Session 2 | 1:00pm-2:30pm

Relationship Skills
Alumni Hall A

We are all working in relationships with others. Your performance (and your happiness at work) depends on how well you are able to communicate with others, to get your needs met, receive the support and help you need, support others effectively and resolve conflict where it arises. In this workshop, you will learn winning strategies to create sustainable relationships and communicate feedback in a way that increases the likelihood of getting what you need.

Instructor:
Matthias Birk, Ph.D.
Columbia University, Adjunct Professor

Medical Writing
Alumni Hall B

Communicating the astounding progress occurring in science to a broad audience is a daunting task, but science writers do this every day. Science writers must possess the intellect of Einstein, the writing skills of Faulkner, and the curiosity of a cat. Our panelists will discuss the ways in which you can use your love of science and writing in a way that is personally fulfilling and professionally rewarding.

Moderator:
Cali Howitt, Ph.D.
BGB Group, Vice President and Medical Director

Speakers:
Deb Aronson, Ph.D.
MedEdNow, LLC, Medical Director and Business Development Specialist

Chris Blagden, Ph.D.
Consultants in Medical Education, Medical Director

Christina Hughes, Ph.D.
Medical Exchange International (MEI), Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs

Ashleigh Pulkoski-Gross, Ph.D.
AXON Communications, Scientific Affairs Associate and Medical Writer
Careers at Regeneron
Farkas Auditorium

Regeneron has grown tremendously over the last few years, and many former NYU students and postdocs have found careers with them. This session will highlight some of the diverse career paths available within this vibrant company that you might not know much about. This goes beyond the bench scientist in industry we all think we know, and will open your eyes to the breadth of possibilities at Regeneron and other pharmaceutical companies.

Moderator:
Lyndon Mitnaul, Ph.D.
Regeneron, Director, Program Management

Speakers:
Brandy Lee Bennett, Ph.D.
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Manager Program Direction

Alison Crawford, Ph.D.
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Staff Scientist

Ronald Totong, Ph.D.
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Associate Scientific Business Analyst

Negotiation Skills
Smilow MPR

Asking for what you want can be challenging--if you're not prepared. Learn how to address salary questions during an interview, strategies to approach a salary negotiation, and how to manage potential negotiation factors.

Instructor:
Bernadette So Ph.D.
Director of Graduate Student Career Development
Careers in Science Journalism
Smilow Seminar Room

Much like scientists, journalists research and document their subjects. However science journalists must also translate complex, jargon filled ideas into a compelling story that can be understood by a lay audience. This panel features experienced science journalists that strive to increase public understanding of science and research.

Moderator:
John Timmer, Ph.D.
Ars Technica, Science Editor

Speakers:
Laura Helmuth, Ph.D.
Slate magazine, Science and Health Editor

Maria Konnikova, Ph.D.
The New Yorker; Viking/Penguin, Author; Journalist

Natalie Wolchover
Quanta Magazine, Staff writer
A career in the publishing world can be incredibly rewarding and exciting, but as the world of publishing changes it can be hard to know what roles will be played by PhDs in the future. Our panel of publishers will explain the breadth of possibilities, what skills are most needed, and what is the best way for a PhD to make the transition.

Moderator:
*Francisco Carmona, Ph.D.*
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Research Fellow

Speakers:
*Cesar Berrios-Otero, Ph.D.*
F1000, Outreach Director

*Paul-Andre Genest, Ph.D.*
Elsevier, Associate Publisher

*Sebastien Thuault, Ph.D.*
Nature Neuroscience, Associate Editor
Women in Science
Alumni Hall B

Being a scientist is certainly not easy for anyone, but there are many additional challenges for women scientists. This panel will discuss the challenges and provide advice on overcoming them. Hear from three wonderful panelists at different career stages and in different career paths, share your own experiences, and network with other audience members.

Moderator:
Jeanne Garbarino, Ph.D.
The Rockefeller University, Director of Science Outreach

Speakers:
Diala Habib, Ph.D.
Healthcare Consultancy Group – Health Science Communications, Senior Medical Director

Lisa Kozlowski, Ph.D.
Thomas Jefferson University, Associate Dean

Joan Lakoski, Ph.D.
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Chief Science Officer; Vice President of Research and Graduate Education
Non-Research Industry Careers
Farkas Auditorium

Many students and postdocs assume that transitioning to industry means they’ll just be pipetting in a fancier setting and getting a bigger paycheck. But most PhDs working in private industry don’t do bench research, and this session sheds light on the wide range of non-research careers open to you in the corporate world. From communications to regulatory affairs to education, and beyond, the options for your future are far greater than you might have thought.

**Moderator:**
*Kamila Sip, Ph.D.*
NYU School of Medicine, Postdoctoral Program, Assistant Director

**Speakers:**
*Emily Bauer, Ph.D.*
Bristol-Myers Squibb, Associate Director, Immuno-Oncology Marketing, Biomarkers

*Anastacia Berzat, Ph.D.*
Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research Scientific Program Manager

*Jaime Blais, Ph.D.*
Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development and Commercialization, Director of Global Medical Affairs
Academic Administration
Smilow MPR

Academic institutions are increasingly looking for academically trained people to help support scientific research and training. Panelists who have taken a variety of paths to the support side of research will talk about their careers in Administration.

**Moderator:**
*Arthee Jahangir, Ph.D.*
*Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences New York University School Of Medicine, Research Strategy Analyst*

**Speakers:**
*Rory Flinn, Ph.D.*
*Columbia University, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs*

*Nina Gray, Ph.D.*
*NYU Langone Medical Center, Executive Director*

*Marcus Lambert, Ph.D.*
*Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Director of Diversity and Student Services*

Career Satisfaction
Smilow Seminar Room

You want to know which career is right for you, but where do you start? This workshop will help you gain greater clarity around what you’re innately good at, what motivates you, and what matters to you. Seeing this weekend’s sessions through the lens of your own individual strengths, preferences and values can help the right career choice become more clear. We’ll also take a look at what modern psychology tells us about the elements that need to be in place to be successful and happy.

**Instructor:**
*Matthias Birk, Ph.D.*
*Columbia University, Adjunct Professor*
Rush D. Holt, Ph.D., became the 18th chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and executive publisher of the Science family of journals in February 2015. In this role, Holt leads the world’s largest multi-disciplinary scientific and engineering society.

Over his long career, Dr. Holt has held positions as a teacher, scientist, administrator, and policymaker. From 1987 to 1998, Holt was assistant director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL), a Department of Energy national lab, which is the largest research facility of Princeton University and one of the largest alternative energy research facilities in the country. At PPPL, Holt helped establish the lab’s nationally renowned science education program. From 1980 to 1988, Holt served on the faculty of Swarthmore College, where he taught courses in physics and public policy. In 1982, he took leave from Swarthmore to serve as an AAAS/American
Physical Society Science and Technology Policy Fellow on Capitol Hill. The Fellowships program, dating to 1973, places outstanding scientists and engineers in executive, legislative, and Congressional branch assignments for one or two years; by early 2015, the program had served nearly 3,000 alumni working worldwide in the policy, academic, industry, and nonprofit realms. Holt has said that his AAAS S&T Policy Fellowship was “life changing,” and served as a springboard to his role in Congress. He also served as an arms control expert at the U.S. State Department, where he monitored the nuclear programs of countries such as Iraq, Iran, North Korea, and the former Soviet Union. In 1981, Holt was issued a patent for an improved solar-pond technology for harnessing energy from sunlight.

Before coming to AAAS, Holt served for 16 years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New Jersey’s 12th Congressional District. In Congress, Holt served as a senior member of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Education and the Workforce. On Capitol Hill, Holt established a long track record of advocacy for federal investment in research and development, science education, and innovation. He served on the National Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics and Science (known as the Glenn Commission), founded the Congressional Research and Development Caucus, and served as a co-chair of the Biomedical Research Caucus. Holt served eight years on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and, from 2007 to 2010, chaired the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, which worked to strengthen legislative oversight of the intelligence community. His legislative work earned him numerous accolades, including being named one of Scientific American magazine’s “50 National Visionaries Contributing to a Brighter Technological Future” and a “Champion of Science” by the Science Coalition. He has also received awards from the American Chemical Society, the American Association of University Professors, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, the American Geophysical Union, and the Biotechnology Industry Organization. Holt is also a past recipient of two of AAAS’ highest honors: the William D. Carey Lectureship Award (2005) and the Philip Hauge Abelson Award (2010).

From December 2014 to February 2015, Holt was appointed a Director’s Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

Holt is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and he holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from New York University. He is an elected fellow of AAAS, the American Physical Society, and Sigma Xi, and he holds honorary degrees from Monmouth University, Rider University, and Thomas Edison State College. He is married to Margaret Lancefield, a physician, and they have three children and seven grandchildren.
Careers in Finance & Equity Research
Alumni Hall A

The bioscience industry is built on life science innovation but money is the means to development. If you have an interest in how money flows to investments and enjoy a high-intensity work environment being a financial analyst may be the career path for you. In this panel, we will hear from professionals who have made the leap from evaluating bio data to engrossing themselves in financial data and learning how the industry operates.

Moderator:
Arthee Jahangir, Ph.D.
Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences New York University School Of Medicine, Research Strategy Analyst

Speakers:
Shiva Bolourchi
STC Biologics Inc, Project Manager and Business Development Associate

Raheleh Hatami
RA Capital, Associate

Anamaria Sudarov, Ph.D.
Credit Suisse, Research Associate
Sunday, October 25th

Session 1 | 10:00 am - 11:30am (Continued)

Careers in Science Policy
Alumni Hall B

Our ability as a society to support the scientific enterprise depends on a bright and dedicated group of science-trained individuals who can recommend policies to lawmakers, granting agencies and other influential groups. From stem cell research to teaching science in public school, sound policy requires thoughtful and insightful individuals to create the structure under which we operate. Our panel will discuss the different ways to apply your scientific training in ways that affect the way science is done.

Moderator:
Ursula Koniges
NYU Graduate Student Researcher, Doctoral Candidate

Speakers:
Heather Dean, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation, Associate Program Director

Barbara Natalizio, Ph.D.
National Science Foundation, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

Yvette Seger, Ph.D.
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), Director of Science Policy
Getting to the Dark Side: Preparing for a Career in Industry
Farkas Auditorium

Adapting to industry jobs can be a significant challenge for scientists coming from academia. Industry values and even requires skills that go beyond the traditional scientific/technical competencies. Having an awareness of your skills and an ability to express those skills in business terms provides a significant competitive advantage in landing an industry job and being successful in that job. This workshop introduces 24 business competencies valued in industry, relates them to academic research experiences, and demonstrates how to identify those competencies and relate them to job ads and descriptions.

Speaker:
Randall Ribaudo, Ph.D.
SciPhD.com, co-founder, CEO

Choosing a Postdoc
Smilow MPR

There are many factors that contribute to a successful postdoc experience. Come listen to the advice some thoughtful experts on the academic postdoc to help you figure out what to consider as you are choosing your next postdoctoral position.

Moderator:
Tom Magaldi, Ph.D.
Memorial Sloan Kettering, Administrator of Career Services

Speakers:
Joel Oppenheim, Ph.D.
NYU School of Medicine, Professor Emeritus of Microbiology and Diversity Advisor to the Office of Science Research

Dawid Nowak, Ph.D.
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Postdoctoral Fellow

Paula Croxson, Ph.D.
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Assistant Professor
NRSA Fellowships
Smilow Seminar Room

This hands-on writing workshop will help those who are working to prepare an application for an individual NRSA Fellowship (F awards; F30, F31, F32 or F33) for submission to the NIH.

Speakers:
Joan Lakoski, Ph.D.
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Chief Science Officer; Vice President of Research and Graduate Education

Robert Milner, Ph.D.
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Associate Vice Provost for Professional Development
What do all the companies and organizations here at the career fair have in common? People who were entrepreneurial started them all. In this session entrepreneurial individuals share how they made an impact with their innovations and how you could too.

**Moderator:**
*Frank Rimalovski*
NYU Executive Director, Entrepreneurial Institute

**Speakers:**
*Kalman Katlowitz, M.D./Ph.D.*
NYU, Graduate Student

*Tom Weingarten, Ph.D.*
NYU, Director of Backend Engineering

*Matt Zeiler, Ph.D.*
Clarifai, CEO

*Rachel Meyer, Ph.D.*
American Association for the Advancement of Science Science, Technology Policy Fellow
Careers in Teaching and Education
Alumni Hall B

Teachers are essential to engage students to foster a scientifically informed public and inspire the next generation of scientists, policy makers, and informed citizens. This panel will cover teaching careers at the college level.

**Moderator:**
*Jessica Linderman, Ph.D.*
NYUMC, Postdoctoral Fellow

**Speakers:**
*Nathan Lents, Ph.D.*
John Jay College, Associate Professor of Molecular Biology

*Matthew Marcello, Ph.D.*
Pace University, Assistant Professor

*Davida Smyth, Ph.D.*
Mercy College, Associate Professor

Resume Workshop
Farkas Auditorium

Converting your CV to a resume is a much bigger challenge than most people expect. One of the biggest difficulties in finding a position outside of academia is getting an interview, and your resume is critical to overcoming this barrier. This session will help you understand what a resume is, and what it is not, and teach you how to turn your experience into a resume that gets noticed.

**Instructor:**
*Zach Marks*
Oystir, Co-founder and COO
Non-traditional Postdocs
Smilow Multipurpose Room

Graduate students considering their next career move usually look at doing a postdoc, and that makes sense for many. But not all postdocs are created equal, and more and more innovative programs are appearing that can give you postdoctoral experience in a more specialized setting that will prepare you more completely for the ultimate career of your choice. Join us for a discussion of a few examples, and hear about why a non-traditional postdoc might be the best career move you can make.

Moderator:
Erwin Cabrera
NYU Medical Center, Graduate Student

Speakers:
Nina Brahme, Ph.D.
National Cancer Institute, Cancer Prevention Postdoctoral Fellow

Cynthia Duggan Ph.D.
Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network - NexGen, Washington University School of Medicine Deputy Director,

Kessler McCoy-Simandle, Ph.D.
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, IRACDA Postdoctoral Scholar
Consulting Careers
Smilow Seminar Room

If problem solver, creative and analytical thinker, and team player describe you well, then you may find a career in consulting and related fields a good match. Panelists will cover consulting and related careers where those transferable skills you picked up in graduate school becomes your number 1 asset.

 Moderator:
 Julie Diamond
 NYU School of Medicine, PhD Candidate

 Speakers:
 Tracy Wang, Ph.D.
 Campbell Alliance, Consultant

 Michelle Kadnar, Ph.D.
 Booz Allen Hamilton, Associate

 Jeffrey Skaar, Ph.D.,
 Boston Strategic Partners, Consultant
Interviews: Formal and Social.  
Making the Most of Both Opportunities  
Alumni Hall B

Our interpersonal skills play a pivotal role in career advancement. Studies by Harvard, Stanford, Carnegie Research Institute, and Google all concur on this point. Some behavioral gaffes are obvious, while some are more subtle. This workshop will bring to light how we can be aware of business etiquette mistakes, how to avoid them, and thus become more confident and effective on our career paths.

Instructor:
Mary Mitchell,  
The Mitchell Organization, President

Faculty Positions in Academia  
Farkas Auditorium

Public, private, research, liberal arts: there are many options for those who are looking for a faculty position, but with the varying expectations of faculty at different institutions, what should you be doing now to increase your chances of landing a faculty position?

Moderator:
Philip Clifford, Ph.D.  
University of Illinois Chicago, Associate Dean and Professor

Speaker:
David Fooksman, Ph.D.  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Assistant Professor

Pablo Peixoto, Ph.D.  
Natural Sciences, Assistant Professor

Joan Lakoski, Ph.D.  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Chief Science Officer, Vice President of Research and Graduate Education
Sunday, October 25th

Session 3 | 3:00pm-4:30pm (Continued)

Careers in Non-Profits and Foundations
Smilow MPR

From philanthropy to government, explore careers looking for science-trained professionals to help guide the use of public and private resources.

Moderator:
Kamila Sip, Ph.D.
NYU School of Medicine, Postdoctoral Program Assistant Director

Speakers:
Pamela Feliciano, Ph.D.
Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative, Senior Scientist

Garth Fowler, Ph.D.
American Psychological Association Associate Executive Director

Vanessa Lucey, Ph.D/MBA
Cancer Research Institute, Associate Director Clinical Accelerator
Many PhD trained scientists have used analytic tools to extract meaning from large amounts of experimental data. These skills can be translated from research to do predictive analytics and data mining. This panel is made up of scientists that have evolved from academic researchers to data scientists.

**Moderator:**

*Rory Flinn, Ph.D.*

*Columbia University, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs*

**Speakers:**

*Anasuya Das, Ph.D.*

*Memorial Sloan Kettering, Data scientist*

*Tom Lagatta, Ph.D.*

*Splunk Inc., Senior Data Scientist / Analytics Specialist*

*Shani Offen, Ph.D.*

*About.com, Senior Data Scientist*
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Peter S. Fiske, Ph.D.
Farkas Auditorium 5:00-6:30pm

Peter S. Fiske, Ph.D., is author of “To Boldly Go: A Practical Career Guide for Scientists” and its second edition: “Put Your Science to Work: A Take-Charge Career Guide for Scientists” both published by AGU. From 1997 to 2000 he was the co-author of the biweekly column Tooling Up on AAAS’s Career website NextWave (www.nextwave.com). From 2006-2009 he wrote a monthly column on career development and entrepreneurship called Opportunities on the AAAS career website (www.ScienceCareers.org). He also writes occasional articles on careers and career strategy for scientists for Nature Magazine. He has organized and lead panel discussions and workshops on alternative careers and career development for scientists at national and international meetings, universities, and national laboratories. He has been featured on NPR’s Talk of the Nation - Science Friday. Fiske received his Ph.D. in Geological and Environmental Sciences 1994 from Stanford University and an MBA from U.C. Berkeley in 2002. In 1996 Fiske was awarded a White House Fellowship and served one year in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Special Projects. Fiske is the author of 22 technical articles, a former member of the technical staff of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and currently Chief Executive Officer of PAX Water Technologies, Inc. in Richmond, CA.
Deb Aronson, Ph.D.
Dr. Aronson, better known as Deb, earned her doctorate in BioMedical Sciences from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, in 2011. Before getting her PhD, Deb worked a scientist at several top-tier Biotech and Pharma companies on a variety of therapeutic areas in Cambridge, MA, and Boston, MA, a career she began weeks before her graduation ceremony from Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. Commuting to work in lieu of participating in any Senior Week activities, which felt lame at the time, was the first of many opportunities that led Deb to where she is today. She is now a Medical Director and Business Development Specialist at MedEdNow, LLC, in Manhattan, NY, where she has had the privilege of rapidly gaining responsibilities since August 2014, when she started there as an Associate Medical Director. Deb has worked at a few other Medical Communications companies in the tristate area and has interviewed at many others. In Deb’s precious little spare time, she scuba dives and aspires to travel to, photograph, and dive at increasingly exotic locations. Deb fulfills her good-deed quota by helping almost anyone with their resumes, cover letters, and interviewing technique. She is honored to be a panelist today and is very much looking forward to your questions and sharing her experiences with you. Remember this: “The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising again after you fall.” — Vince Lombardi.

Emily Bauer, Ph.D.
Emily Bauer is currently an Associate Director of Marketing at Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) in Princeton, NJ focused on immuno-oncology biomarkers. In her previous role at BMS, she worked on consumer marketing for OPDIVO (nivolumab) and YERVOY (ipilimumab) in metastatic melanoma. Emily earned her doctorate in Biochemistry and Structural Biology in the Biochemistry, Cellular, and Molecular Biology (BCMB) Program at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of Weill Medical College of Cornell University. She worked in the laboratory of Jonathan Goldberg at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center using biochemistry and x-ray crystallography to study the structure and function of proteins involved in intracellular transport. Prior to moving to Bristol-Myers Squibb, Emily worked as a Medical Director at BGB, a pharmaceutical marketing agency based in SoHo.

Brandy Bennett, Ph.D.
Brandy Bennett, PhD is a scientific communications specialist in the Program Direction group at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. She completed her doctoral training in Molecular Cell Biology in 2012 at New York University School of Medicine where she specialized in infectious disease with interest in membrane biology and immunology. Since joining Regeneron in 2012, she first worked as a Scientific Writer specializing in preclinical pharmacology before joining Program Direction where she contributes to program advancement from Discovery to Development across all therapeutic areas.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

**Cesar A. Berrios-Otero, Ph.D.**
Guided by the passion of Jacques Cousteau, from a very early age Cesar knew he wanted to be involved in science, or at least make movies about the denizens underneath the waters of the Caribbean Sea. After graduating from high school in his native Puerto Rico, he enrolled in the UPR Rio Piedras’ program in Biology where as an undergraduate researcher he worked on studying the regenerative capabilities of the sea cucumber Holothuria glaberrima. We’re pretty sure, however, that he was really into it for the frequent trips to the beach to collect the little critters. After a couple of summer vacations spent in labs on the US mainland (University of Wisconsin – Madison and UCSF) he decided to enroll in NYU’s Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, where he received a Ph.D. in Developmental Genetics for messing around with expensive MRI and ultrasound equipment in order to analyze vascular development in mice. During this time he dabbled in outreach work, traveling back to Puerto Rico to recruit fellow students into NYU’s graduate program. In 2011 he started a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Matilde Inglese at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai using his MRI skillset to characterize animal models of demyelinating diseases. However, his passion for outreach, never waned and in between scanning sessions he kept himself busy organizing social events and conferences for the Mt. Sinai Postdoc Executive Committee. After two and a half years as a postdoc he made the decision to hang up his pipette and joined the outreach team at Faculty of 1000, where he has worked since December 2013. He hopes to further stretch F1000Research’s reach in North, Central, and South America.

**Anastacia Berzat, Ph.D.**
Anastacia Berzat joined Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research as a Scientific Program Manager following completion of a postdoctoral fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Her work includes the development and implementation of training programs for young scientists. Prior to joining NIBR, Anastacia earned a BS in Biology from Florida A&M University where, in addition to her coursework, she participated in numerous student-led committees including an electoral commission and life science careers organization. She subsequently received her PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a focus in elucidating oncogenic signaling pathways. Her work examined the molecular mechanisms utilized by small GTPases in regulating cellular transformation. She was awarded graduate fellowships from the National Cancer Institute and UNC-CH. At Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Anastacia was awarded an American Cancer Society fellowship to investigate the role of Rho GTPases in driving glioma invasion, using 3D and 2D model systems, under the guidance of the late Professor Alan Hall. Her work has been published in several peer-reviewed journals. Anastacia also completed a program management internship with the New York Academy of Sciences and served as an executive member on several postdoctoral advocacy councils during her fellowship.
Matthias Birk, Ph.D.
Matthias Birk is an expert on talent and leadership development. He holds a Masters degree in Psychology and a PhD in Marketing and is an ICF certified coach. As a consultant at McKinsey & Company in the Mindsets & Capabilities Group he advised clients on a wide array of organizational change and leadership topics and helped create the McKinsey Hospital Academy. He has worked as an executive coach and leadership development facilitator for a wide range of profit and nonprofit organizations. He has trained clients internationally from various industries, such as banking, insurance, professional services, chemicals, and health care in workshops ranging from one day to two weeks in the areas of leadership, communication, conflict resolution, teamwork and developing trusted relationships. He has coached over 150 executives one-on-one, ranging from partners of a wall-street law firm to the CEO of an Indian conglomerate. Matthias is an Adjunct Professor at Columbia Business School, where he has also served as Faculty Director for Personal Leadership, he is a guest lecturer at Wharton on Leadership and Innovation, co-leads the Communication and Conflict Resolution Program at NYU Medical School together with his wife and has taught programs on leadership at the CEU Budapest. Matthias lives with his wife and his 5-year-old stepson in Brooklyn, New York.

Chris Blagden, Ph.D.
Chris Blagden, PhD, is currently the Medical Director for Consultants in Medical Education in New York. He has 10 years’ experience developing continuing education initiatives for improving the care of patients with a wide range of mental and neurologic health disorders, cardiometabolic and cardiovascular disease, chronic pain and addiction. Chris received his Bachelor of Science and PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of London in the United Kingdom, and completed his postdoctoral work at New York University School of Medicine in New York City. His research studies initially concerned the developmental biology, and latterly the adult neurobiology of skeletal muscle, and how it adapts in response to electrical stimulation. Chris has been a part of several leadership initiatives to enhance the state of the US scientific and medical workforce. He was a charter member of the National Postdoctoral Association, including serving on their Board of Directors for two years; involved in the development, securing funding for and executing their Team Visit Program; chairing Outreach and Board Development Committees. Chris has also served as a scientific and strategic consultant for the Institute for Schools of the Future, a New York non-profit with National Science Foundation grant support, focused on innovative scientific educational programs for children, developing and executing a national education program on forensics for middle school children in collaboration with the Police Athletics League.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Jaime Blais, Ph.D.
Jaime Blais, PhD, is Director of Global Medical Affairs in the Cardio-Renal Department at Otsuka. She completed her PhD in human molecular genetics at the University of Ottawa (2006) and a 4-year post-doctoral fellowship at NYU under the supervision of Dr. David Ron. Jaime entered the pharmaceutical space in 2010 as a program manager for a small molecular device company. Two years later she transitioned to Otsuka, starting initially as a consultant Program Manager in Oncology before shifting to a role in global medical affairs in Dec 2012. In this role she provides insight into early stage development and scientific support for late stage development and post marketing functions.

Shiva Bolourchi
Shiva Bolourchi (MS/MA) is a young professional who has successfully transitioned from working in the scientific research field to the business development and project management side of the pharmaceutical industry. At an early age, she began gaining experience in industry from three independent internships at Shire Pharmaceuticals and Infinity Pharmaceuticals where she developed professional oral and communication skills as well as the technical know-how in the fields of cell culture and analytics in product development departments. She received a Bachelors degree in biochemistry and molecular biology and a Masters degree in biotechnology from Boston University and a second Masters degree in molecular pharmacology from New York University. Shortly after graduating from NYU, she moved to Massachusetts where she became the project manager and business development associate at STC Biologics Inc. At STC Biologics, she has blossomed under the direction of the C.E.O who mentored her in the fields of business development and operations, training and pushing her to mature up to an executive level position in the industry. Her current role includes managing clients and projects, social media, market forecasting, marketing, financial analysis, human resources and operations to insure the growth in capabilities and profitability of the company.

Nina Brahme, Ph.D.
Dr. Brahme studied molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley where she participated in research surrounding the neuroendocrine regulation of the reproductive axis. As an undergraduate, she interned in the Protein Chemistry department of Plexxikon Inc., a local drug discovery company. She then pursued a Ph.D. in Yale University’s Cell Biology and Pharmacology departments focusing mainly on the protein-protein interactions of cell adhesion signaling pathways. Early in her graduate career she also interned with Bristol-Myers Squibb where she worked in the High Throughput Screening department of the Lead Discovery group. Dr. Brahme then became a Cancer Prevention Postdoctoral Fellow with the National Cancer Institute. During this fellowship, she completed a Masters of Public Health in Quantitative Methods from Harvard University and is currently interested in identifying biomarkers that predict drug efficacy, safety, and outcomes in cancer patients.
Erwin Cabrera
Erwin Cabrera is currently a senior graduate student in the lab of Jorge Ghiso, in the department of pathology. His research focuses on the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease.

Francisco Javier Carmona Sanz, Ph.D.
Francisco Javier Carmona Sanz got a Biology degree after completing his studies at University of Navarre and Autonoma of Madrid (Spain). He holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology obtained at the Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBELL), in Barcelona, were he focused on uncovering epigenetic defects associated with human cancer. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York, where he is investigating the mechanisms of acquired resistance of breast cancer patients to HER2-targeted therapies. He is also interested on science management and dissemination, aiming to make society participating on the scientific progress.

Philip Clifford, Ph.D.
Philip Clifford is Associate Dean for Research in the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is an outspoken advocate of career and professional development for PhD scientists. In addition to founding the Office of Postdoctoral Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin, he helped initiate national reform by participating in the establishment of both the National Postdoctoral Association and the AAMC GREAT Group Postdoctorate Leaders Section. He is a coauthor of the widely acclaimed career website, myIDP.sciencecareers.org and an accompanying series of career planning articles in ScienceCareers. He was honored with the NPA Distinguished Service Award in 2012 and was part of the team that received the AAMC’s Innovative Institutional Partnerships Award in 2013. Dr. Clifford heads an active research program investigating the physiological mechanisms regulating skeletal muscle blood flow during exercise. His research laboratory has been funded by the NIH, the American Heart Association, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is a fellow of the American Heart Association, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the American Physiological Society Cardiovascular Section. He serves on the editorial boards of several physiological journals, and participates on grant review panels at the NIH, NASA, and the American Heart Association. He is also a consultant in the medical device industry and a member of the Anesthesia and Respiratory Devices Panel at the FDA.
Alison Crawford, Ph.D.
Dr. Alison Crawford is a scientist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, NY. She received her Bachelors degree in Immunology from Glasgow University, Scotland. She gained entrance to the Wellcome Trust PhD program at Edinburgh University, Scotland where she studied developmental biology and cell biology with a later focus on immunology. She then moved to the University of Pennsylvania for a post-doctoral fellowship where she focused on testing antibody therapeutics during chronic viral infection. This peaked her interest in immunotherapies and led her to move from academia to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals where she now focuses on antibody therapeutics in oncology.

Paula Croxson, Ph.D.
Paula Croxson is Assistant Professor of Neuroscience and Psychiatry at the Icahn School of Mount Sinai where she works on the neural basis of memory, particularly the detailed autobiographical memories that are lost in patients with dementia such as Alzheimer’s disease. Her work combines neuroscience techniques in order to study the changes that occur to the networks of brain regions responsible for these memories, and the neurochemical basis of the changes. Paula carried out her undergraduate research at the University of Cambridge, U.K., and completed her Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford, U.K., where she held a Wellcome Trust 4-year Prize Studentship. After a period working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Oxford, she moved to Mount Sinai, where she was awarded a Charles H. Revson Senior Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences. In 2013 she was recruited as tenure-track faculty and started her independent laboratory. In addition to her academic work, Paula is very active in public engagement in science, participating in and collaborating with events such as Brain Awareness Week, Story Collider, Nerd Nite and ArtLab. In her spare time she is part of the alternative rock band Marlowe Grey.

Dee Dao, Ph.D.
As a Venture Associate, Dee drives engagement in life science entrepreneurship and technology commercialization across the university; source, evaluate and lead the due diligence of investment opportunities in the healthcare and life science sectors for the Innovation Venture Fund; and helping to oversee portfolio company management and growth. Prior to joining the NYU, Dee was at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research where she contributed to early oncology therapeutic development planning and oversaw intellectual property (IP) strategy to support the clinical development of the Institute’s therapeutics. Before that, Dee investigated bacterial virulence and immunity to identify new vaccines against Tuberculosis as a postdoctoral fellow in an HHMI laboratory at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Currently, Dee also serves as a mentor for entrepreneurs participating in the Entrepreneurship Lab, a NYCEDC initiative. Dee received a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics/Developmental Biology at Columbia University and a B.S. in Chemistry from University of Pittsburgh.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Anasuya Das, Ph.D.
Anasuya is currently a data scientist at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In her past life, Anasuya got her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Rochester. During her PhD, she helped stroke patients improve their vision and scanned their brains. Then she travelled to the vertically sprawling metropolis that is NYC along with Dr. Pendleton, a cat. Anasuya was going to be a postdoc in CNS and Psychology at NYU, and Pendleton was going to be a New Yorker. While at NYU, Anasuya discovered that she was deeply disillusioned with academia and, after doing a bit of exploration, decided on data science. That brought her to the Insight Data Science fellowship which was an amazing amount of fun. Now she is a data scientist for the MSKCC Strategy and Innovation team, and is embedded in the Dept. of Medicine. She can be found cleaning messy hospital data, using statistics and predictive modeling to improve cancer care and optimizing the perfect blend of coffee beans.

Heather Dean, Ph.D.
Dr. Heather Dean is currently an Associate Program Director in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation. At NSF, she is working on big picture issues such as replicability of published scientific findings and broadening participation in science and technology fields and has founded a NeuroPolicy group and speaker series in Washington, D.C. that is building a neuroscience policy community. Dr. Dean is interested in issues related to cutting-edge interdisciplinary neuroscience, neuroethics, data sharing, science communication, science education and broadening participation. She started out in engineering at Caltech but was interested in neural networks and soon exploring the biological side of such networks by studying locust olfaction with Dr. Gilles Laurent. She earned her Master’s degree in Computation and Neural Systems along with her Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering. This research experience also set her on the path of neuroscience research, and she went on to earn her Ph.D. in Neurobiology at Duke University, where she went into monkey electrophysiology with Dr. Michael Platt. After graduate school, she spent six years at New York University helping to found the lab of Dr. Bijan Pesaran and studying the neural circuitry underlying hand-eye coordination in monkeys. She came to Washington as a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at NSF. Dr. Dean has served on several boards, including those of the Caltech Alumni Association, the Duke Alumni Association Board, the Duke Board of Trustees, and local chapters of both the Society for Neuroscience and the Association for Women in Science.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Rafael Depetris, Ph.D.
Rafael Depetris is the current Director of Molecular Signaling at Kadmon Corporation LLC. Dr. Depetris earned his PhD in Structural Biology from NYU Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine, followed by postdoctoral research at Weill Cornell Medical Center. He subsequently was hired at Pfizer as Senior Scientist before joining his current position at Kadmon. His expertise is protein expression, purification and characterization as well as structural analysis and X-Ray crystallography. He is currently focusing on the characterization of therapeutic antibodies and small molecules and how they interact with the target proteins.

Julie Diamond
Julie Diamond is the current president of the NYU Consulting Club, an organization of PhD students and post-docs who are interested in learning more about careers in life science consulting. She is a 4th year graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Sandra Demaria. Her research is focused on immune responses to radiation therapy in breast cancer and how these can be targeted for the treatment of patients.

Anne Diers, Ph.D.
Anne Diers, PhD, is currently a Senior Scientist II and Program Leader for Cancer Biology at Berg in Boston, MA. Her team is focused on supporting the development of BPM 31510, Berg’s lead candidate in oncology, and using integrated pan-omics approaches for the identification novel therapeutic targets and biomarkers in cancer. Dr. Diers obtained her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pathology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed postdoctoral fellowship training at the Medical College of Wisconsin prior to joining Berg in 2013. Dr. Diers has published numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts in the areas of cancer metabolism and redox biology and is an ad hoc reviewer for the journals Cancer Research, PLoS One, Free Radical Biology and Medicine, and others. Dr. Diers also dedicates significant effort to the Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine, serving as on its Professional Development Committee and Society Council.

Cynthia Duggan, Ph.D.
Cynthia Duggan is a neuroscientist specializing in Alzheimer’s disease research and clinical trials. She currently manages development of the Next Generation Prevention Trial for the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network at Washington University School of Medicine. Prior to this role Dr. Duggan was director of the New York Academy of Sciences’ Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Initiative where she oversaw a portfolio of projects including scientific meetings, publications and public outreach. She was a panel speaker at the 2013 Canada-France G7 Global Dementia Legacy Event, led the Dementia Forum policy research for the World Innovation Summit for Health and is an active member of the WHO-led working group for Global Dementia Research Prioritization and Portfolio Analysis. Dr. Duggan earned her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley and completed almost two decades of laboratory research including neurodegeneration and Alzheimer’s-related projects at Genentech and the Rockefeller University.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

**Pamela Feliciano, Ph.D.**
As a scientist with SFARI, Pamela Feliciano contributes to the development and management of several projects with a mission to build research cohorts of individuals with autism. She is deeply involved in SFARI’s new initiative to build a national autism research cohort of 50,000 individuals with autism and their families, which will launch in 2016. She is also involved in SFARI’s efforts to develop objective and reliable outcome measures for autism clinical trials. Pam has a son with autism and joined the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative in 2013. Previously, Pam worked as a senior editor at Nature Genetics, where she was responsible for managing the peer review process of research publications in all areas of genetics. While at Nature Genetics, Pam was engaged with the scientific community, attending conferences and giving talks and workshops on editorial decision-making at academic institutes worldwide. Pam holds a B.S. from Cornell University, an M.S. from New York University and a Ph.D. in developmental biology from Stanford University. The journal Science named her Ph.D. thesis work on the parallel evolution of wild populations of three-spine stickleback fish part of the “Breakthrough of the Year” in 2005. Later, Pam completed her postdoctoral work with Nicholas Tolwinski at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, studying the establishment of planar cell polarity in epithelial sheets.

**Peter Fiske, Ph.D. - see page 34.**

**Rory Flinn, Ph.D.**
Rory Flinn, Ph.D. Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Columbia University Dr. Rory Flinn has been a New Yorker for over 10 years, first coming to NYC in 2005 to begin his PhD training. Rory received his Ph.D. in Molecular Pharmacology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2011 and went on to conduct postdoctoral training at NYU School of Medicine supported by an NIH NRSA F32 Fellowship. During his postdoc training, Rory engaged in many activities away from the bench, including exploring interests in teaching and postdoctoral affairs. While a postdoc, Rory taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at both NYU School of Medicine and Yeshiva University, served on the NYU School of Medicine postdoctoral council, and founded the NYC city-wide postdoctoral council. Rory ultimately decided to pursue a career in which he could follow his zest for postdoctoral affairs, utilize his teaching skills, and leverage his research training experience. In 2014, Rory joined Columbia University as the Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, where he has been focused on implementing an extensive array of career and professional development programs for postdocs at his University and advocating for policies to improve the postdoctoral training experience. In addition to his role at Columbia University, Rory has served on several committees in both the Graduate Career Consortium and the National Postdoctoral Association.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

David R Fooksman, Ph.D.
David R Fooksman, Ph.D. is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Pathology Department and the Microbiology and Immunology Department at Albert Einstein College of Medicine since 2013. He is currently a Alexandrine and Alexander Sinsheimer Foundation Scholar. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 2007 in the Department of Biological Sciences at The Johns Hopkins University, in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Edidin, studying the surface organization of MHC Class I molecules. He conducted his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Dustin at The Skirball Institute at NYUSOM, from 2007-2013, working on B cell Immunology and in vivo imaging. His laboratory website is at www.google.com/sites/fooksmanlab/.

Garth Fowler, Ph.D.
Garth A. Fowler is the Associate Executive Director for the Office for Graduate and Postgraduate Education and Training. Dr. Fowler leads the APA’s efforts to develop resources & guidelines that enhance graduate and post-graduate education and training in psychology, and provides expert advice on national policies and best-practices for career development, science education and professional training. He authors scholarly papers, reports, and articles on career development, STEM education & training, developing student learning outcomes & providing career & professional development to STEM trainees. He has been an invited speaker or keynote presenter at numerous career development events for young scientists, and has served as a panelist for both the National Research Council’s State of the Postdoctoral Experience, and the Committee on Research Universities. He has served as a consultant for universities, medical schools, and federal research institutes on various education and training topics, including, implementing Individual Development Plans (IDPs), increasing research-training capacity, grant-writing, and developing learning outcomes and assessing career pathways for scientists. He served on the National Postdoctoral Association’s Board of Directors from 2009 – 2012, and is currently a member of the NPA’s Finance Committee. Before joining APA in 2013, Garth was a faculty member at Northwestern University, where he was the Assistant Chair and Director of the MS program for the Department of Neurobiology. Garth has a BA in psychology from The College of Wooster (1993), a PhD in behavioral neuroscience from the University of Washington – Seattle (2001), and was a postdoctoral researcher at the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences from 2002 – 2005.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Jeanne Garbarino, Ph.D.
Jeanne Garbarino, PhD is the current Director of Science Outreach at The Rockefeller University. Dr. Garbarino earned her PhD in nutritional and metabolic biology from Columbia University, followed by postdoctoral research in the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics and Metabolism at Rockefeller. As both a graduate student and a postdoc, Jeanne has participated in a variety of teaching and outreach programs, and has mentored a number of students ranging from grammar school to college levels. She is also a science communicator, and has contributed to multiple blogs and national media outlets such as the Huffington Post, Scientific American, and Nature. Find her on Twitter as @JeanneGarb.

Paul-André Genest, Ph.D.
Dr. Paul-André Genest is an Associate Publisher at Elsevier, responsible for a portfolio of journals in Life Sciences. Previously, he was Managing Editor of the International Journal for Parasitology: Drugs and Drug Resistance (IJP:DDR), the International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife (IJP:PAW) and the Malaria Nexus web portal. Dr. Genest has a BSc (Biology) degree and a MSc (Microbiology-Immunology) degree from the Université Laval in Québec City, Canada, and a PhD (Molecular Parasitology) from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He held two postdoc research positions at the Netherlands Cancer Institute before joining Elsevier in 2012.

Nina Gray, Ph.D.
Nina Gray, PhD completed her B.S. in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences department at MIT, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Then as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellow at Brown University, she studied calcium ion channels that regulate chemical communication between neurons and received her PhD there in 2006. After a postdoctoral position at Brandeis University, examining synapse plasticity during “critical periods” of brain development, Nina moved to New York City and transitioned into a career away from the bench. After brief stints as a freelance writer and a program manager at the New York Academy of Sciences, she transitioned to the new Neuroscience Institute at NYU Langone Medical Center. She is currently the Executive Director there and is instrumental in developing and implementing the Institute’s strategic vision, including educational, research, financial, and operational goals. She heads an administrative team to oversee a large graduate program, a portfolio of grants and fellowship, a number of scientific events, research facilities, and a network of collaborative relationships throughout the medical center.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Diala Habib, Ph.D.
Diala obtained her PhD in neuroscience at Queen's University, Canada and pursued a post doctorate in Alzheimer’s disease research at the University of Rochester, New York. She is passionate about health science education and enjoyed teaching during her graduate training. Diala is currently a Senior Medical Director at Healthcare Consultancy group (HCG) with 4 years of experience in promotional medical education. At HCG, she defines and executes US and global strategic communication tactics for pre-launch and marketed drugs and devices at various stages of the lifecycle.

Raheleh Hatami, Ph.D.
Raheleh Hatami is an Associate at RA Capital Management, a crossover fund manager dedicated to evidence-based investing in healthcare and life science companies. She conducts research and analysis to create competitive landscapes of drugs and medical devices for disease indications and capabilities. Raheleh holds a BA in Neuroscience from Columbia University and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences with a Cancer Biology focus from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Prior to her current position at RA Capital, she completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at NYU School of Medicine where she was also a Biotechnology Venture Intern at the NYU Office of Industrial Liaison and an intern at the Office of Therapeutics Alliances.
**Speaker Biographies**
*(in alphabetical order)*

**Andrew Hebbeler, Ph.D.**
Andrew M. Hebbeler is a former biological research scientist with foreign affairs, national security, S&T, and nonproliferation program and policy experience. Currently, he is Deputy Director for the Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the U.S. Department of State. From 2013-2015, he served as Assistant Director for Biological and Chemical Threats in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and focused on national security policy efforts to: combat the rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria, prepare for and respond to emerging infectious disease outbreaks (including Ebola in West Africa, pandemic influenza in Asia, and enterovirus-D68 in the United States), strengthen laboratory safety and security, advance the Global Health Security Agenda, promote effective oversight of life sciences dual use research of concern (DURC), and enhance federal infectious disease prediction and forecasting modeling. Prior to his position at the White House, Dr. Hebbeler managed and oversaw the State Department’s Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP), which reduces the threat of bioterrorism by preventing terrorist access to potentially dangerous biological materials, dual-use infrastructure and expertise, while supporting efforts to combat infectious disease and enhance public and animal health worldwide. Dr. Hebbeler was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and received his Bachelor’s degree in biology and philosophy from Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Kentucky. He completed his doctoral work in the laboratory of C. David Pauza at the University of Maryland, Baltimore where he focused on understanding an unconventional lymphocyte population that is important during immune responses to infectious disease and cancer. Before joining the State Department, Dr. Hebbeler was a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Warner C. Greene at The J. David Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco, California.

**Laura Helmuth, Ph.D.**
Laura Helmuth is the science and health editor for Slate magazine, based in Washington, D.C., and the vice president of the National Association of Science Writers. She was previously the science editor for Smithsonian magazine and a writer and editor for Science magazine’s news department and its daily news site, ScienceNOW. She serves on the boards of SFARI.org and High Country News. She has a Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Rush Holt, Ph.D. - see page 21**
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(in alphabetical order)

Cali Howitt, Ph.D.
Cali is a Vice President, Medical Director, at BIONYC (BGB Group) with over 6 years of extensive content development, publications, and strategic experience across a wide range of therapeutic areas. Cali attended Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Cornell University in New York, where she received a PhD in molecular and cellular biology, focusing on infectious disease. After her defense, she joined Medicus NY, where she served as the lead on publication planning and development for the Janssen HIV portfolio. In this role, she became thoroughly acquainted with publication planning and execution, from initial conception through peer-reviewed publication. Since joining BGB GROUP in 2011, Cali has served as the medical lead on a wide variety of therapeutic areas including HIV, HCV, HBV, oncology, rheumatology, ophthalmology, respiratory, pain management, and diagnostics. She has led pre- and post-launch initiatives including thought leader engagements, development of speaker bureau content and training, congress activities, competitive intelligence, development of sales training and promotional materials, and establishment of strategic brand communication plans and messaging platforms. Over the course of her career Cali has worked with BMS, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Janssen, and many other major pharmaceutical companies.

Christina Hughes, Ph.D.
Christina did her thesis research at Harvard University in cancer biology before beginning a post-doc at The Rockefeller University in epigenetics. She began her medical communications career three years ago, when she started as a medical content developer at Flywheel Partners working in sales training. Christina recently moved to MEI (Medical Exchange International), a promotional medical education agency (and part of the Medical Knowledge Group), where she works as a Scientific and Medical Director.

Huong Huynh-Reagan, Ph.D.
Dr. Huong Huynh-Reagan is currently an Acting Team Leader in the Division of Bioequivalence III in the Office of Generic Drugs (OGD) at the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). She leads a team of four reviewers as part of the generic drug review and approval process under GDUFA. As an Acting Team Leader, Huong collaborates with Office management and administrators to discuss, improve, and implement organizational processes and work efficiency. Huong also serves as a member of several internal Working Groups within the OGD and CDER. Prior to joining the FDA, she managed the Office of Postdoctoral and Graduate Training at Burnham Institute for Medical Research and co-founded the San Diego Postdoctoral Training Consortium. Huong received her Ph.D. in pharmacology and completed postdoctoral training in signal transduction and immunology.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Arthee Jahangir, Ph.D.
Arthee Jahangir recently joined NYU School of Medicine as a senior Research Strategy Analyst. Her primary responsibilities are to define the visions, goals, and strategies for the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences. Previously, she was the Assistant Director of Career & Professional Development for both the Graduate Division in Biomedical Sciences and the postdoctoral Belfer Institute at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She helped create this role while she was an Administrative Fellow, a hybrid admin/research postdoc position. Arthee completed her doctoral work in cancer immunotherapy research in the lab of Dr. Claudia Gravekamp. Her work focused on understanding the aging immune system in order to develop better treatments for breast and pancreatic cancers. Her interest in developing cancer immunotherapies led her to continue as a postdoc in the Gravekamp lab. She also participated as an entrepreneurial lead in Entrepreneurship Lab NYC (ELabNYC) and in New York City Regional Innovation Node (NYCRIN) to commercialize the technology from her lab. Arthee is also a STEM advocate, supporting women in STEM and STEM outreach. She is the co-president of New York Women in STEM (NYWISTEM), a professional community of scientists. She is also involved in several STEM outreach initiatives. She was a genetics and nutritional science mentor of the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) STEM afterschool mentoring program. She is also a mentor for the NeXXt scholars program, which mentors female undergraduates from predominantly Muslim countries who are interested in STEM fields. Arthee received her BA from Rutgers University in genetics and psychology.

Michele Kadnar, Ph.D.
Dr. Michele Kadnar is a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton where she supports the life science practice and health analytics capability. She joined the firm in 2012 and has worked with commercial and government clients. After receiving her Ph.D. in Microbiology from New York University, Michele did her post-doctoral research on the microbiome at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health. Throughout her research career, Michele has been involved in many teaching and engagement opportunities targeting both scientists and non-scientists. Michele received her B.A. in Biological Sciences from Wellesley College.

Kalman Katlowitz, M.D./Ph.D. Student
Kalman Katlowitz is in the middle of an MD/PhD program at NYU, currently a 2nd year graduate student in a systems neuroscience lab. I study how premotor areas of the brain drive downstream regions that control speech production in humans and song in finches. I also co-founded a health-tech startup called Cardimetrix that is designed to help heart failure patients. By rapidly and easily collecting a set of noninvasive biomarkers on a recurrent basis we can track patient health and response to treatment. Integrating information, we then work with the physician to tailor treatment and reduce hospital re-admissions, a major driver of healthcare cost and patient morbidity.
Speaker Biographies
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Ursula Koniges
Ursula a Ph.D. candidate in the Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Department of NYU's Tandan School of Engineering. Her doctoral research focuses on the development of DNA-based diagnostics in the laboratory of Dr. Rastislav Levicky. Originally from NYC, Ursula grew up in Seattle, WA and earned dual bachelor’s degrees from the University of Washington in biochemistry and chemical engineering, minoring in international studies. During her time in graduate school she has twice served as an intern with the Department of State's Virtual Student Foreign Service program, working first with USAID's Office of Science and Technology, then with USAID’s Higher Education Solutions Network.

Maria Konnikova, Ph.D.
Maria Konnikova is the author of the New York Times best-seller, “Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes,” a nominee for the Agatha Award and the Anthony Award for Best Non-fiction and a Goodreads People’s Choice Semifinalist for 2013, and of the forthcoming “The Confidence Game” (Viking/Penguin, January 2016). She is a contributing writing for The New Yorker, where she writes a regular column with a focus on psychology and culture, and her writing has appeared in The Atlantic, The New York Times, Scientific American MIND, and The Smithsonian, among numerous other publications. Maria graduated from Harvard University and received her Ph.D. in psychology from Columbia University. She is currently a Schachter Writing Fellow at Columbia University's Motivation Science Center and lives in New York City.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

Lisa Kozlowski, Ph.D.
Lisa Kozlowski is Associate Dean for Student and Postdoctoral Affairs at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia. She received her Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Pennsylvania and did a postdoc at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where she was an officer in their postdoctoral association. She then worked as a Program Director at Science’s Next Wave, which is now part of ScienceCareers.org. She moved on to become a consultant, helping disciplinary societies and universities provide career workshops to their students and postdocs. Since October 2003, she has directed the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at TJU. Her administrative accomplishments include implementing a required minimum salary and revising the annual performance evaluation. Her enhancements for postdoctoral fellows include providing career and professional development workshops, co-organizing the annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium and establishing the Distinguished Mentor Award. Lisa is also the faculty liaison for the Graduate Student Association of the Jefferson College of Biomedical Sciences and the newly established Jefferson Business and Biotechnology Group. Additionally, she works with Jefferson's Admissions Office on the recruitment of MS and PhD students. On the regional level, Lisa was the lead organizer for the Philadelphia consortium of the Laboratory Management Course for senior postdocs in 2006-2007. She is also a Past President and Past Vice-President of Programs of the Philadelphia chapter of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS-PHL). In May 2015, Lisa was recognized for her mentoring of female graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and received AWIS-PHL’s Elizabeth W. Bingham Award. On the national level, Lisa has been on the planning committee for the National Postdoctoral Association's Annual Meeting. She is also a Past Chair of the Postdoctorate Leaders Section of the AAMC’s GREAT Group.

Tom LaGatta, Ph.D.
Dr. Tom LaGatta is Splunk’s Senior Data Scientist & Analytics Specialist, based in New York City. Tom engages with customers on advanced analytics use cases, and is passionate about delivering actionable insights to all users across the business. He helped design Splunk’s latest course on Analytics & Data Science. Tom has a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Arizona, and was previously a Courant Instructor at New York University.
Speaker Biographies
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Joan M. Lakoski, Ph.D.
Joan M. Lakoski, PhD, is Vice President of Research and Graduate Education and Chief Science Officer at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Dr. Lakoski received her doctoral degree in pharmacology from the University of Iowa, completed postdoctoral training in the Department of Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine, and has held faculty positions at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, including appointment as interim chair of the Department of Pharmacology at Penn State. Prior to joining the AACP, she was appointed as Professor of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Professor in the Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. Her administrative responsibilities at the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences included service as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Career Development and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Science Education Outreach; she also served as the Founding Executive Director of the Office of Academic Career Development (2002-2009) and the Office of Science Education Outreach (2010-2014) and was Director of the RIMED Postdoctoral Fellows Program - a unique training program for international postdoctoral trainees. She was the inaugural Associate Dean of Postdoctoral Education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Lakoski received The University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association Postdoctoral Advocate Award (2007) in recognition of her numerous contributions toward improving the postdoctoral community. Her biomedical research activities include 30 years of continuous support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in research studying the pharmacology of the aging brain, drugs of abuse and infectious diseases and participation on numerous NIH study section panels; she is currently appointed to the National Institute on Aging Neuroscience review panel. Frequently invited as a speaker on the topics of mentoring and grant writing, Dr. Lakoski enjoys the opportunity to support the career success of the next generation of biomedical investigators. In joining the staff of the AACP, she is delighted to contribute to empowering the success of graduate education and research in basic, clinical and translational science across the colleges and schools of pharmacy - and to improving the health of all individuals.

Marcus W. Lambert, Ph.D.
Dr. Marcus Lambert is Director of Diversity and Student Services at Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences and Adjunct Professor of Microbiology at New York City College of Technology. At Weill Cornell, he manages diversity programming, housing, and immigration services for more than 350 Ph.D. students. He also serves as an advisor on diversity and outreach to a number of organizations in New York City and around the United States. Marcus completed his doctorate in biomedical science at New York University (NYU) School of Medicine and was a postdoctoral research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Garabedian at NYU School of Medicine. His research focused on the bidirectional crosstalk between stress hormones and neurotrophins in the brain, which may lead to a better understanding of the pathophysiology of mood disorders such as depression.
Speaker Biographies
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Nathan H. Lents, Ph.D.
Nathan H. Lents earned a BS in Molecular Biology from Saint Louis University, a Ph.D. in Physiology and Pharmacology from SLU Medical School, and postdoctoral training in genomics and gene expression control at NYU Medical Center. He joined the faculty of John Jay College of the City University of New York in 2006 and was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2011. He has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. His book, “Not So Different: Finding Human Nature in Animals” will be published in early 2016 by Columbia University Press. He maintains The Human Evolution Blog and writes most of its content. Professor Lents’s research lab focuses on forensic biology including a project on the postmortem human microbiome and DNA-based forensic identification of botanical residue. In addition, he has also published research in science pedagogy, educational technology, and program development at minority-serving institutions. Always mentoring several graduate and undergraduate students, Professor Lents is a firm believer that the classroom is a laboratory and the laboratory is a classroom.

Jessica Linderman, Ph.D.
Jessica Linderman is a postdoctoral fellow at NYU School of Medicine in the laboratories of Drs. Ian Mohr and Moses Chao, where she researches neuron-intrinsic immune control of herpes simplex virus type I latency and reactivation. She also teaches immunology as an adjunct professor at Stern College for Women at Yeshiva University. Jessica is a member of the NYU SoM Postdoctoral Council, focusing her efforts on yearly courses for graduate students and postdocs on the fundamentals of teaching and preparing for a career in academic research. She completed her graduate work with Dr. Judith Shizuru at Stanford University and worked with Dr. David Schneider there for a short postdoctoral fellowship before coming to NYU.

Vanessa Lucey, Ph.D./MBA
Vanessa M. Lucey, PhD, MBA, is the Associate Director of the Clinical Accelerator, the Cancer Research Institute’s drug development incubator, a unique academia-industry partnership model designed to help organize and de-risk clinical study of next-generation combination cancer immunotherapies. The model is driven by a nonprofit venture capital fund that enables it to achieve significant leverage via co-investments, and is designed to become self-sustaining over time through returns on investment back to the charity as supported drugs become successful. Currently, the program invests approximately $20 to $30 million in innovative clinical trials each year, and has 15 significant industry and nonprofit partners. Prior to joining the Cancer Research Institute, Vanessa was a postdoctoral fellow at NYU School of Medicine. Vanessa hold’s a PhD in Immunology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, an MBA in Management from Mercy College School of Business, and a BS in Biology from Fordham University.
Speaker Biographies
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Thomas Magaldi, Ph.D.
Dr. Tom Magaldi is the Administrator of Office of Career Services at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). Tom develops, coordinates, implements and evaluates career and professional development services and activities for MSKCC postdoctoral researchers and graduate students. Tom was most recently the Director of Science Alliance, the professional development branch of the NYAS. There, he developed and implemented innovative workshops and courses that provide early career scientists with a range of business skills essential for all careers. Dr. Magaldi received his PhD in genetics from Yale University and was a postdoc at the National Cancer Institute. Tom has also worked as an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Montgomery College and the University of the District of Columbia. In addition, he has worked as an Executive Board Member for the Career Network for Science PhDs at Yale, an organization that provided networking and internship opportunities for young scientists at Yale.

Andrew Mara, Ph.D.
Dr. Andrew Mara is the Director of the Naval Forces Division within the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), Cost Assessment & Program Evaluation. Within this role, Dr. Mara leads a team of analysts who provide independent analysis and assessments of naval ships, submarines, and weapon systems to inform multi-billion dollar investments. Previously, he has completed in depth analyses of a wide range of issues spanning management reform, special operations forces, weapons of mass destruction, and military family support programs. Dr. Mara’s achievements have been recognized with the OSD Medal for Exceptional Civil Service, OSD Award for Excellence, and the Brian Creed Jack Award for Distinguished Defense Analyses. Prior to serving within the Department of Defense, Dr. Mara was a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the National Defense University where he conducted technical analyses on biological detectors and examined non-traditional methods of technology investment. Dr. Mara has a PhD from Yale University in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology where he won independent funding from the Department of Homeland Security as a member of the inaugural class of Department of Homeland Security Graduate Fellows. He also holds undergraduate degrees in Economics and Molecular Biology from the University of California, San Diego.
Speaker Biographies
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Matthew Marcello, Ph.D.
Matthew R. Marcello is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Pace University located in the Financial District of Manhattan. Dr. Marcello received his B.S. in Molecular Biology and Microbiology from the University of Central Florida in 2003, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2010. Prior to joining the faculty at Pace, Dr. Marcello was an INSPIRE (IRACDA New Jersey/ New York for Science Partnerships in Research and Education) Postdoctoral Fellow at Rutgers University. Dr. Marcello previously taught at CUNY-Medgar Evers College and the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Marcello was named a National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Sciences for 2011-2012. He has lead scientific teaching workshops at multiple institutions including New York Academy of Sciences, New York City College of Technology, and Rutgers University. Dr. Marcello’s leads a group of undergraduate researchers at Pace University that focus is on understanding the molecular basis of sperm-egg interactions using C. elegans a model organism. In recognition for his research accomplishments, the American Society of Andrology honored Dr. Marcello with the Outstanding Trainee Investigator Award in 2011.

Zach Marks
Zach Marks is co-founder and COO of Oystir, a company dedicated to helping PhDs find non-academic jobs at no cost to them. In this role, he helps employers source and hire talented PhDs and works with PhDs to identify their skills, potential career opportunities and how best to position themselves. Prior to Oystir, Zach was a consultant at McKinsey & Company, where he developed strategies to hire talent from non-traditional sources. He advised large public, private and social sector clients on a range of organizational strategy topics with a focus on economic development, including an engagement designing South Sudan’s first national agriculture plan. Zach received a BA in Ethics, Politics and Economics from Yale University. He is writing a book on chai wallahs, India’s roadside tea vendors.

Kessler McCoy-Simandle, Ph.D.
A proud Kentuckian, Kessler McCoy-Simandle first left behind her beloved state to attend the University of Pittsburgh for dual B.S. degrees in biology and chemistry. Afterward, she attended Northwestern University for her PhD. where she studied the type II secretion system of Legionella pneumophila and its ability to modulate the immune response. Continuing her desire to pursue immunology, she started a Post-doctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Steve Porcelli at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and extended her training into cell biology where she currently researches macrophage communication in Dianne Cox’s lab. During her tenure at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, she received an NIH IRACDA fellowship which expanded her postdoctoral training to include both research and education pedagogy. Dr. McCoy-Simandle was furthermore essential in teaching at Lehman College, through implementing active learning strategies into classrooms, updating and running a Microbiology course, and effectuating a new Immunology lecture and laboratory class to the curriculum.
Speaker Biographies  
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Rachel Meyer, Ph.D.
Rachel is currently working in science policy, based at the National Science Foundation in their Dimensions of Biodiversity Program. Now aimed at fulfilling science capacity missions for the Executive Branch of government, she gets to participate in envisioning the nation’s future science research avenues, and gets to do science diplomacy with Asia. Rachel completed a postdoc at NYU’s Center for Genomics and Systems Biology, which was supported by the NSF Plant Genome Research Program. Her research was on food crops, which brought her into the field in West Africa to explore African rice salt tolerance, and to the lab to explore the rice genome. Her Ph.D was focused on another food crop, eggplant, where she wove molecular biology, chemistry, and anthropology together. Rachel loves science outreach. She worked with two other female science colleagues to start an LLC called Shoots and Roots Bitters that they use to teach people about plant science. They consult, run workshops, and provide bittersextracts of uncommon and undervalued botanicals-to bars and restaurants around the country.

Robert Milner, Ph.D.
Robert J. Milner, Ph.D., is Associate Vice Provost for Professional Development and Professor of Neurology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). He has a long-standing interest in the professional development and education of individuals at all stages of academic careers. His background as a basic science researcher in neuroscience and as a former department chair provides a wealth of experience and knowledge about the challenges of advancing an academic career. At UMMS, Dr. Milner is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating professional development programs for faculty, including the Junior Faculty Development Program, and programs on mentoring, promotion and tenure, teaching and learning, and leadership. Dr. Milner received his doctoral degree from The Rockefeller University, completed postdoctoral training at The Salk Institute, and held faculty positions at Salk, the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic, and Penn State College of Medicine before moving to UMMS in July 2010. At Penn State College of Medicine, he directed the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, co-directed the Junior Faculty Development Program, co-directed the Intercollege Graduate Program in Neuroscience, and taught courses in neuroscience, professional development, and ethics. Dr. Milner received the Distinguished Educator Award from the Penn State College of Medicine in 2007. He is also the 2009 recipient of both the Graduate Program Leadership Award from Penn State’s Graduate School and the Faculty Mentorship Award from the Penn State Hershey Postdoctoral Society. His current scholarship focuses on faculty development and mentoring.
Mary M. Mitchell
Mary M. Mitchell is dedicated to helping postdocs become more professional so that they can expand their careers. Having lived and worked on four continents, she has successfully navigated the halls of corporate and academic institutions. She is the author of 9 books on manners, now translated into 11 languages, and writes the “Modern Etiquette” column for Reuters. Postdocs are the primary focus of her career. She teaches Zumba and aqua fit to stay healthy, sane, and in good humor.

Lyndon Mitnaul, Ph.D.
Dr. Mitnaul is a graduate of Benedict College, in Columbia, South Carolina. After obtaining his B.S. degree in chemistry, he studied classical enzyme kinetics and received his Ph.D in Biological Chemistry from the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Pennsylvania State University. His dissertation research, which won the 1994 Northeast Association of Graduate Schools Dissertation award, elucidated the regulatory mechanisms of phenylalanine hydroxylase by its cofactor tetrahydrobiopterin in primary rat hepatocytes. Dr. Mitnaul then accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital where he studied influenza A virus pathogenesis in the laboratory of Dr. Yoshihiro Kawaoka in the Department of Virology and Molecular Biology. He was awarded an American Lung Association Fellowship for his work investigating the importance of the balance of viral neuraminidase and hemagglutinin activities for viral growth. In 1997, Merck Research Laboratories recruited Lyndon into the Department of Inflammation Research where he studied HIV pathogenesis as a Senior Research Immunologist. Subsequently, Dr. Mitnaul was promoted to Research Fellow, Biology Program Team Lead, and Principal Scientist in the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases. His lab studied the pathophysiology of lipid biology and thrombosis, discovering and validating novel targets for dyslipidemia and blood clotting. Leveraged his leadership skills obtained during his 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical drug discovery and development arena, in June of 2013 Lyndon made a career change and accepted a position in Program Management at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. As a Director in Program Management at Regeneron, he provides essential support to the Center, which elucidates the genetic underpinnings of diseases from whole human exomes using high-throughput genomic approaches. Dr. Mitnaul accomplishes this by facilitating several external academic collaborations, building multiple, cross-functional teams and providing clear vertical and horizontal communications between teams and Regeneron Senior Management. Lyndon has a strong passion for increasing diversity in the STEM disciplines and in the Pharmaceutical environment. He is an active mentor to young scientists and future leaders, and he has been recognized with several awards for his efforts.
Speaker Biographies
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Lori Morton, Ph.D.
Dr. Lori Morton is the director of the Cardiovascular Research Group and the Fibrosis Research Group at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. In that role, Dr. Morton leads a team of scientists in the discovery and validation of new targets for the treatment of a wide variety of diseases affecting heart, kidney, lung and vascular function, as well as a number of diseases characterized by tissue scarring (fibrosis). Once interesting approaches to treat disease are identified, Dr. Morton’s group collaborates with a number of other research groups at Regeneron to develop and test new drugs, determining the best drug candidates for new clinical programs. Dr. Morton has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences from Douglass College of Rutgers University and a Ph.D. in Genetics and Molecular Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Morton’s graduate research involved the use of genetic modification in mice to explore the biology of the breast cancer gene, BRCA1. Following her Ph.D., Dr. Morton was a post-doctoral fellow at Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, characterizing genetically modified mice deficient in the OF45 gene, a protein involved in determination of bone density. As a Pfizer fellow, Dr. Morton then transferred to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where she studied co-activators of nuclear receptor (Vitamin D, TSH, Estrogen, etc.) transcription. In 2002, Dr. Morton joined Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in the Neuroendocrinology and Obesity Research group, and initiated cardiovascular studies to better understand the function of a number of genes and proteins on blood pressure, cardiac and renal function. These efforts have grown into the present Cardiovascular Research group.

Barbara Natalizio, Ph.D.
Barbara J. Natalizio, Ph.D. is a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow serving in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Division of Graduate Education at the National Science Foundation. Prior to the AAAS fellowship, Dr. Natalizio was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where her research focused on investigating messenger RNA export regulation and its effects on eukaryotic gene expression. There she became interested in issues related to career transitions for scientists as a member of the Executive Committee of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Postdoctoral Association. As a member of the Board of Directors of the National Postdoctoral Association, Dr. Natalizio advocates for the enrichment of the postdoctoral experience by supporting initiatives that provide professional development opportunities. Moreover, her transformative training at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science inspired her to help scientists become more effective communicators. Dr. Natalizio is passionate about channeling this enthusiasm for communicating with non-scientific audiences to advocate for improved science policy. She received her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and history from Montclair State University and her Ph.D. in molecular genetics and microbiology from Duke University.
Dawid Nowak, Ph.D.
Dawid Nowak is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL). He is a cancer biologist by training, having received his PhD in Pharmacology and Physiology from the University of Bristol, UK. During his doctoral studies, he developed a series of novel technologies to investigate the signaling pathways that regulate the splicing of the key angiogenic regulator VEGF-A. Dawid also has a Masters degree in Bioscience Enterprise, a program that focuses on biotechnology and business, from the University of Cambridge, UK. Dawid was a co-founder of a start-up company, AngioSplice, where he was responsible for designing pre-clinical studies to provide proof of concept for the company’s lead program. In 2009, AngioSplice won the Technology & CleanTech Prize from the University of Cambridge. His scientific expertise includes the in vivo viral delivery of CRISPR-Cas9, in order to develop mouse models that can better utilize information derived from human genomic analysis. In his work, he combines modeling strategies and single cell sequencing to discover drivers of metastasis and to follow the evolution of genes at the level of Copy Number Alterations. Dawid is also a co-founder and president of the Bioscience Enterprise Club at CSHL. BEC is dedicated to helping CSHL’s science research professionals and alumni cultivate and leverage their cross-disciplinary skill sets and expertise to transition into diverse science-related careers. BEC focuses on enabling members to explore alternative science careers and develop entrepreneurial skills through interaction with peers and professionals representing industry, government and academic career paths.

Shani Offen, Ph.D.
Shani has a PhD in Neuroscience from NYU. Her academic focus was computational vision and human brain imaging. She is currently a data scientist at About.com, where she works on a range of problems including identifying plagiarism and predicting topic interest.
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(in alphabetical order)

Joel Oppenheim, Ph.D.
Joel Oppenheim is presently Professor Emeritus and Diversity Advisor to the Office of Science Research at NYU School of Medicine. From 1973 – 1994 he ran an NIH funded research lab in the Department of Microbiology at NYU and served as the departmental graduate advisor and co-PI on the departmental NIH T-32 training grant. From 1994 until May 2014 he served as the Senior Associate Dean for Biomedical Sciences and Director of the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at NYU School of Medicine. In these positions he oversaw all PhD (~275 students), MD/PhD (~75 students) and Postdoctoral (>700) trainees and all graduate research training programs (12). He served (and still serve) on the NYU School of Medicine’s MD and MD/PhD. Admissions Committees for the past 22 years. Some of his accomplishments include: founder and director of the NYU’s Summer Undergraduate Research and Postdoctoral Programs; founder of the “What Can You Be With a PhD?” Symposium, the largest university based career development program for predoctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in the country; he has served on many national advisory committees (AAMC, NIH, NRC, NSF, ASM, Leadership Alliance, and UNCF/Merck), grant study sections (NCATS, NIAID, NIGMS, NSF, Sloan Foundation, UNCF/Merck), and as a reviewer of numerous NRC, NSF and NAS reports involved with graduate education, pipeline issues and the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students to graduate programs; he also has served (serve) on the external advisory boards and program review boards of a number of state and national accrediting agencies, colleges and universities (presently including MIT’s CBMM program, UNCF Merck and UC Santa Cruz IMSD program). He has been an invited speaker to over 70 colleges and universities, at the NRC, NSF and NIH as well as at ABRCMS, IRACDA, Leadership Alliance, McNair, SACNAS and UNCF/Merck national meetings, speaking to students and faculty on topics ranging from how to prepare for and apply to graduate and professional schools, to strategies for the recruitment and retention of students and career options. In 2010 was the recipient of the AAAS (American Association of the Advancement of Sciences) Life Time Mentoring Award, one of the nations highest mentoring awards. He was also one of the founding members of the Leadership Alliance in 1992, which in 2010 received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Engineering and Mathematics.
Speaker Biographies
(in alphabetical order)

**Pablo Peixoto, Ph.D.**
Pablo Peixoto is an Assistant Professor of Natural Sciences. He completed his PhD studies in Cell Biophysics at the University of Extremadura, Spain in 2006. His research provided the first plausible explanation of how mitochondria import proteins from the cell cytoplasm without compromising the permeability barrier that is essential for energy production. In 2007, Professor Peixoto moved to New York University to study therapeutic approaches for control of cell death. He was awarded the “Young Bioenergeticist Award” from the Biophysical Society in 2010. The following year he moved to the Weill Cornell Medical College, where he studied the role of mitochondria in premature death of motor neurons during amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He joined Baruch College in 2013, where he teaches General Biology and Human Physiology and is currently studying the functional interactions of mitochondria with other cellular structures, specifically the pre-synaptic architecture in motor neurons.

**Ashleigh Pulkoski-Gross, Ph.D.**
Ashleigh received her bachelor’s degree in biology from Saint Joseph’s College in Patchogue, NY. She went on to earn a master’s degree in biological sciences from St. John’s University in Queens, NY, and her doctorate in molecular and cellular pharmacology from Stony Brook University in NY. Ashleigh’s doctoral dissertation encompassed both understanding the role of matrix metalloproteinases in cancer migration and developing novel therapeutics targeting the early stages of cancer metastasis, namely cancer cell migration and invasion. During her tenure as a graduate student at Stony Brook University, Ashleigh built her leadership and communication skills, undertaking several writing projects outside of her dissertation work, serving as her department’s graduate student representative, teaching and tutoring both undergraduate and graduate students, and participating in conferences, both internal and external. As she progressed through her program, Ashleigh realized that she was interested in modifying her current career trajectory. As such, she transitioned to actively pursuing a career in medical writing. In 2015, she joined AXON Communications, a specialist healthcare consulting firm, as a scientific affairs associate and medical writer. This position allows her to continue learning about scientific breakthroughs in various therapeutic areas and contribute to dissemination of medically relevant information. The best part of working at AXON Communications for Ashleigh is that each day is different and offers the possibility of learning something new and sharing that knowledge with others.
Randall Ribaudo, Ph.D.
Human Workflows and SciPhD co-founder Dr. Randall Ribaudo has over twenty years of experience in the Scientific Research and biotechnology field and has successfully made the transition from academia to industry. Dr. Ribaudo co-founded Human Workflows after more than five years at Celera Genomics where he was a liaison to pharmaceutical, biotechnology and academic communities, served as product manager for the mass spectrometry software group, led a task force to define strategic direction and advised on product development for enterprise solutions for information integration. Human Workflows provides consulting services to the biotech and pharmaceutical industries to improve their information integration processes. Dr. Ribaudo also has extensive experience in academic research. After receiving a Ph.D. in Immunology at the University of Connecticut, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH before becoming a Principal Investigator at the National Cancer Institute. His research program studied the immune response to viruses and tumors, leading a team of postdocs, technicians, and students resulting in patents and numerous publications. Dr. Ribaudo's experience as an academic and industry scientist, coupled with his experience consulting with industry scientists provides unique insight to the critical skills necessary to promote success in academic and industry settings, and forms the basis for the SciPhD training programs. The combined communications and behavioral sciences talents of co-founder Larry Petcovic, and the academic and industry experience of Dr. Ribaudo have resulted in training programs that are deployed at over 60 institutions in the United States and abroad.

Frank Rimalovski, MBA
Frank Rimalovski is executive director of the NYU Entrepreneurial Institute, leading a pan-University initiative to spur and support entrepreneurship and technology commercialization across NYU. Frank is also the managing director of the NYU Innovation Venture Fund, a seed-stage venture fund formed to invest exclusively in startups founded NYU students, faculty and researchers. He is also the co-author, with Giff Constable, of the acclaimed book Talking to Humans, which guides entrepreneurs through the customer discovery process. Frank has more than 20 years of experience in early-stage venture capital, spinouts and technology commercialization. He was a founding partner of corporate spinout VC specialist New Venture Partners, and before that a director and entrepreneur-in-residence in Lucent’s New Ventures Group. Previously, he held positions in marketing and product management and marketing in at Sun Microsystems, Apple and NeXT. Earlier in his career, he was an M&A banker at Bear Stearns and Rodman & Renshaw. Frank currently serves as Instructor for the National Science Foundation’s Innovation Corps (NSF I-Corps) program and is an Adjunct Professor at the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. He sits on the advisory boards for Harlem Biospace and Tufts University’s Entrepreneurial Leadership Program. Frank holds a BA from Tufts University and a MBA from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business.
Speaker Biographies  
(in alphabetical order)

**Joerg Schlatterer, Ph.D.**
Joerg Schlatterer is a Program Director in the Division of Graduate Education at the National Science Foundation. Joerg studied chemistry in Berlin and received his PhD in Heidelberg (Germany). In 2004, he moved to the US and worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Florida before as a faculty member in biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. At Einstein, Joerg also co-created and directed the Career & Professional Development Program for Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Researchers. Joerg served as Assistant Dean of Faculty Professional Development at Columbia University Medical Center before moving to Washington DC in summer 2014.

**Yvette Seger, Ph.D.**
Yvette Seger, PhD, is the Director of Science Policy for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), a coalition of 27 scientific societies collectively representing over 120,000 biological and biomedical researchers. In this role, she oversees FASEB’s science policy portfolio, and specifically manages efforts related to training, clinical and translational research, and research evaluation. After launching her policy career at the National Academies as a Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Fellow, Dr. Seger served as a policy analyst for a private company, U.S. federal research agency, and a patient advocacy group prior to joining FASEB. Dr. Seger conducted her doctoral research on human cell transformation as a member of Stony Brook University’s Graduate Program in Genetics at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and received a BA in Zoology (Genetics Concentration) and Politics & Government from Ohio Wesleyan University.

**Nadim Shohdy, Ph.D.**
Dr. Shohdy is the Director of the NYU Office of Therapeutics Alliances (OTA) that utilizes a novel “virtual biotech” approach to help advance NYU drug discovery to a far more validated stage to enable greater quality dealmaking with biopharma and investors. Since its launch in 2013 OTA has transformed the way NYU de-risks its therapeutic projects and currently has a pipeline of over 15 projects in various stages of target validation, hit finding and lead optimization. Prior to co-founding OTA, Dr. Shohdy first joined NYU's Office of Industrial Liaison with a focus on developing life science partnerships with industry. Dr. Shohdy received his PhD with Distinction in Microbiology from Columbia University and was the 2006 Richard C. Parker Graduate Student Award recipient. Dr. Shohdy then completed his postdoctoral training at the Rockefeller University where he was awarded an NRSA Fellowship to study the cell biology of hepatitis C virus. During this time, Dr. Shohdy was a co-founder of the Rockefeller University Biotechnology Forum. Dr. Shohdy then joined the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a non-profit product development partnership, as a research analyst in IAVI’s Innovation Fund where he was involved in developing and managing collaborative alliances with biotechnology companies and academia.
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*(in alphabetical order)*

**Kamila Sip, Ph.D.**
Dr. Sip currently holds the position of Assistant Director of Postdoctoral Program at NYU Langone Medical Center. Dr. Sip earned her PhD in neuroscience from Aarhus University in Denmark, followed by two postdoctoral research positions at Rutgers University and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) respectively. In her academic career, Dr. Sip has investigated risk-based decision making in healthy and psychiatric populations combining the fields of psychology, economics and neuroscience. Outside of academic endeavors, Dr. Sip has advocated for comprehensive training options that allow growth beyond an academic setting in order to prepare young academics to take on positions that require executive skills, communication and leadership. During her tenure at ISMMS, she was as co-Chair of the Postdoctoral Executive Committee, which coupled with her international experience, gives her a unique awareness of the needs of postdoctoral community and career options available to this population. In her current role, Dr. Sip is dedicated to assist young scientists in pursuit of their chosen careers and to empower them in recognizing their skills and value in the current market.

**Jeff Skaar, Ph.D.**
Jeff is a consultant with Boston Strategic Partners, a boutique consulting firm serving the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry. At BSP, he has pursued projects in each of the firms practice areas (Business & Clinical Strategy, Health Economics & Outcomes Research, and Medical & Technical Communications) for a variety of client, ranging from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Previously, Jeff was a postdoctoral fellow at the NYU School of Medicine and authored 19 publications during his career in academic research. He received his A.B. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University and his Ph.D. in Virology from Harvard University.

**Davida Smyth, Ph.D.**
Davida Smyth is an associate professor of Natural Sciences at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry. She did her Bachelors and PhD, both in microbiology at the University of Dublin, Trinity College in Ireland. She did her postdoctoral training at New York Medical College, the University of Mississippi Medical Centre and New York University. She currently has assistant research scientist status at the Skirball Institute of NYU Langone Medical Center and is an adjunct instructor of bioinformatics at NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering. Her research focuses on the genomics of Staphylococcus aureus, and the role of mobile DNA, biofilm production and antibiotic resistance in clinical and environmental strains of Staphylococci. She is also interested in pedagogical research in the area of student reading skills in STEM disciplines and peer led team learning in Biology.
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(in alphabetical order)

Bernadette So, Ph.D.
Bernadette So is Director, Graduate Student Career Development, at the NYU Wasserman Center for Career Development. After realizing that watching mice give birth was not her calling, she revisited her professional goals and discovered that being a student resource and advocate was at the heart of what she wanted to do. Since 2006, Bernadette has been a career services professional. In her current role, she focuses on developing services and resources for graduate students to enhance their career opportunities. As an advocate of planned happenstance, she encourages all students to be prepared for the unexpected. Prior to NYU, she held positions in career centers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Lake Land College, supporting students ranging from pre-college to graduate level. Bernadette has served on the Executive Boards for the Central Association of Advisors for the Health Professions and the Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers, as well as on numerous committees for a variety of professional associations. She has finally stopped registering for classes (at least for credit), but not before she earned her B.A. in Biology and Psychology from Barnard College, a PhD in Molecular Biology from UCLA, a Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising from Kansas State University, and a M.S. in College Student Affairs from Eastern Illinois University.

Anamaria Sudarov, Ph.D.
Anamaria Sudarov completed her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at FAU, where she graduated summa cum laude from Honors Program. Then as a PhD student at NYU, she studied molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying cerebellar development. She received her PhD from NYU in 2003. She published numerous first-author scientific papers, some of which have remained on the Top 5 Accessed Papers of All Time list in the respective journals. After holding an NIH-NRSA funded postdoctoral position at Cornell University Medical College, where she examined synaptic plasticity associated with neurodegenerative diseases, Anamaria transitioned into a career away from the bench. She is currently an Associate Analyst in Equity Research Department of Credit Suisse Investment Banking division. Her team covers major pharmaceutical companies, as well as small and mid cap biotechnological companies. She performs due diligence on more than 15 companies, writes daily reports regarding various events concerning companies in her team’s universe, as well as interacts with institutional investors by providing both high-level and product-specific research necessary for investment decisions.

Sebastien Thuault, Ph.D.
Sebastien Thuault has been a manuscript editor for Nature Neuroscience since 2011. After his undergraduate degree in Paris, he obtained his PhD from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, where he trained as an electrophysiologist through a program funded by GlaxoSmithKline. Before joining Nature Publishing Group in New York, Sebastien was an Associate Research Scientist and an Instructor for the Science Honors Program at Columbia University where he studied the cellular mechanisms associated with short-term memory in the mouse.
John Timmer, Ph.D.
John got a PhD in molecular and cell biology, and spent 10 years on the academic research track before switching to journalism. For the last 7 years, he’s been in charge of the science section at Ars Technica, where he writes, edits, commissions pieces, and coordinates coverage. In his tiny scraps of spare time, he teaches digital media at the Alan Alda Center for Science Communication, and science journalism at Stony Brook University.

Nathan Tinker, Ph.D.
Nathan has been Executive Director of NewYorkBIO since 2007. As Executive Director, Nathan serves as a spokesman and advocate for the states industry. He comes to the Association with a deep knowledge and awareness of the industry and its unique strengths in New York an he has more than 20 years of experience in working with both global and emerging technology companies. Immediately prior to joining NewYorkBIO, Nathan served as Executive Director of the Sabin Vaccine Institute Cancer Vaccine Consortium and as the Director of the Nanotechnology and Biotechnology Practice at Antenna Group. Before that, Nathan was Co-Founder and Executive Vice President of the NanoBusiness Alliance, the national trade association for nanotechnology. Nathan lends his talent and knowledge to industry on corporate boards, including the advisory boards, including the NYU Science Training Enhancement Program and the Kingsborough College Bioscience Advisory Committee.

Ronald Totong, Ph.D.
Ronald Totong is an Associate Scientific Business Analyst at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in Tarrytown, NY. As a member of the research application development group, Dr. Totong stewards the research data management strategy for target discovery and antibody development. He also leads agile software development efforts to create database systems that manage the company’s critical research data. While in Chicago, Dr. Totong led the MD, PhD-focused networking group called DOC Chicago, bringing together professionals from pharma, consulting, finance, clinical, medical communications and more. He has previously held positions in the University of Chicago Center For Technology Development and Ventures and in Research Program Management at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Totong received his BA in Biology from Boston University and his PhD in Cell Biology-Developmental Genetics from NYU School of Medicine Sackler Institute.
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Eric Vieira, Ph.D.
Eric is no stranger to NYC’s vibrant science community. He received his PhD in Developmental Genetics from NYU in 2003 and went on to launch the New York Academy of Science’s Science Alliance program. Under his direction, he organized numerous career development seminars and workshops, including NYC’s first course on science entrepreneurship. In 2005, Dr. Vieira moved from NYAS to the finance world where he began a successful career as a biotechnology equity analyst. It was during this time that Eric began to appreciate the challenges facing the technology industry as it tried to keep pass with the ever-increasing complexity of science and innovation, and the industry’s need for a highly-skilled workforce. Dr. Vieira moved back to Academia in 2008 to rejoin the front-line of scientific discovery and innovation and to assist in the development of those technologies for the advancement of society. Eric was most recently an Assistant Director in the Office of Technology & Business Development of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Currently, Dr. Vieira is the Director of Special Research Programs for the City University of New York. In addition, Eric is the Director for the Fundamentals of the Bioscience Industry Course in Manhattan, a program of the Center for Biotechnology at Stony Brook University (SUNY); as well as the Bioscience Practice Leader of the Bio & Health Tech Entrepreneurship Lab NYC, an initiative of the NYC Economic Development Corporation.

Tracy Wang, Ph.D.
Tracy Y. Wang is a consultant in the market access practice of Campbell Alliance. She has worked on projects in payer marketing, access strategy, and launch tactics for a blockbuster immuno-oncology drug across multiple cancer types. Tracy obtained her PhD in chemistry in 2014 from Columbia University, where she worked in the laboratory of Professor Virginia Cornish. During her time as a graduate student, she served as a co-president of Women in Science at Columbia (WISC), treasurer of the Columbia Graduate Consulting Club (CGCC), and founding vice president of New York Women in STEM (NYWiSTEM). In 2010, Tracy graduated from Wellesley College with a BA in biochemistry.

Thomas Weingarten, Ph.D.
Dr. Thomas Weingarten studied Computer Science at the University of Rochester and received his PhD in Computational Biology from NYU. Upon graduation, he co-founded Wiser, a startup that used text extraction to deliver highly targeted professional content to the enterprise via a SaaS product. In 2015, his team was acquired by Percolate, where he now serves as a Director of Backend Engineering.
Speaker Biographies
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Lisa Wisniewski, Ph.D.
Lisa Wisniewski is a drug development executive and thought leader whose scientific, regulatory, operational and business experience uniquely positions her to assess, develop and optimize pharmaceutical strategy. She has over 20 years of global experience driving the development and execution of pharmaceutical strategy, developing and leading teams and transformations that have delivered significant results in multiple therapeutic areas including oncology, anti-infectives, vaccines and pulmonary hypertension. Lisa’s experience includes small molecules, proteins, monoclonal antibodies and devices in all research and development phases. Lisa received her BS from University of Illinois and her MS and PhD from North Carolina State University, where she graduated Xi Sigma Pi and Sigma Xi, respectively. Following her PhD, she completed a post-doc at Washington University in St Louis.

Natalie Wolchover
Natalie Wolchover is a staff writer at Quanta Magazine covering the physical sciences. Previously, she wrote for Popular Science, LiveScience, Seed, Make magazine and other publications. She has a bachelor’s in physics from Tufts University, studied graduate-level physics at the University of California, Berkeley, and co-authored several academic papers in nonlinear optics.

Matthew Zeiler, Ph.D.
Founder and CEO of Clarifai Inc. studied machine learning and image recognition with several pioneers in the field of deep learning at University of Toronto and New York University. His insights into neural networks produced the top 5 results in the 2013 ImageNet classification competition. He founded Clarifai to push the limits of practical machine learning, which will power the next generation of intelligent applications and devices.
What Can You Be With A PhD?
Meet the Co-Organizers

The co-organizers of What Can You Be with a PhD?, Rory Flinn, Tom Magaldi, Keith Micoli, Christine Ponder, and Eric Vieira would like to extend special thanks to two members of the NYU Langone Medical Center team, Sean Tong and Teneisha Olivierre. This is the first WCUB for both of them, and they have demonstrated great skill under pressure, a wonderful positive attitude, and boundless enthusiasm over the course of the many months that go into an event of this scale. If you see them, make sure to thank them because WCUB would not have been possible without their hard work.

Drs. Flinn, Magaldi, and Vieira have been introduced to you in their speaker bios, but we would like to be sure you got to know a little bit about Christine and Keith, who have overseen planning but are not speaking at this year’s event.

Dr. Christine Ponder is the Director for Postdoctoral Affairs at the Washington Square campus of NYU. She established the program in 2011 and has since been part of two large projects in postdoc career development, the NYU STEP program funded by a BEST grant from the NIH, to expand career preparation and outcomes for biomedical postdocs, and the NYC ASCENT program funded by the Computing Community Consortium, to do the same for Computer Science Postdocs. Co-Organizing What Can You Be with a PhD is one of the most daunting and most rewarding parts of her job, and it is an absolute privilege. Christine has a PhD in Genetics and Development from Columbia University and was a postdoc at Rockefeller University before joining NYU. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.

Dr. Keith Micoli is the Director of the Postdoctoral Program at NYU Langone Medical Center, a position he took seven years ago after making the transition from research. He is the co-PI on the NYU STEP grant, a five-year grant to explore strange new career options, seek out new training models and new training partners, and to boldly go where no postdoctoral program has gone before. Keith is also Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Postdoctoral Association, where he works to improve the postdoctoral experience at the national level. Co-organizing WCUB since 2009 has been a monumental challenge, but also one of the most rewarding experiences of his career. Getting to meet hundreds of PhDs who have transitioned to rewarding careers is a true honor, and helping to expand the horizons of thousands of young PhDs has shown him the impact that programs like WCUB and STEP can have.
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