

Alliance for Career Advancement (ACA)

Past events

(last updated on September 22, 2017)

August 8th, 2017 – Transforming research into a successful biotech company

Dr. Michael Johnson, CEO and founder of Visikol, Inc. introduced students and postdoctoral fellows to the world of biotech start-ups. He gave us an in-depth view of the range of challenges and how Visikol overcame them to establish successful business strategies.

July 13th, 2017 – Opportunities in drug discovery and development

Dr. Sam Kongsamut gave a talk about his career path from research to the drug discovery and development world. He introduced us to the different areas there are in biopharma companies and the necessary steps that are required to get a drug from the bench to the market.

April 18th, 2017 – ACA and iJOBS career panel: Life after grad school

In this event we had a group of scientists that successfully transitioned from academia into industry. Our guests from various backgrounds (Ph.D and Masters) shared their insights and answered questions first as a group panel and later on a small group session. Students were allowed to interact on a one on one level with the speakers at the end of the event.

Ashley Rae Kark, MBS, CEO of BIOjump

Bishnupriya (Priya) Kar, PhD, Signals Analytics

George Magou. PhD, Sryker

April 4th, 2017 – Information session: Career options with Venn Health Partners

Kulin Hemani, CEO of Venn Health Partners, talked in an interactive session with masters students about who this consulting firm is, and what opportunities for them this firm offers.

March 7th, 2017 – Informal networking reception

For this networking event we had 3 Rutgers graduate that currently have a job outside academia. Our students were able to practice their networking skills and learn more about the career paths our guests followed.

Itzamarie Chevere-Torres, PhD, Office of postdoctoral affairs Rutgers.

Branly Orban, PhD, Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories

February 2nd, 2017 – Information session Students2Science (S2S), Inc.

A presentation by Fran Nelson, Ph.D. on the mission of S2S and its relevant programs. We discussed the role of young graduate students in inspiring, motivating and educating middle school and high school students about careers in STEM.

September 29th, 2016 – Panel discussion: Business and Entrepreneurship as a career path

A panel discussion co-hosted with BioNJ with scientists turned founders and CEOs for biotech/CRO startups.

Dan Safarpour, PhD, Symbiotic Research

Klara Felsovalyi, PhD, GeneCentrix

Marco Tagliette, MD, SCYNEXIS, Inc.

Tara Sharif, PhD, WestPark Capital Inc.

September 20th, 2016 –Transitioning from Academia to Drug Discovery and Pharma

This event was a mix of seminar and one-on-one mentoring Dr. Loging has moved between pharma and academia (Mount Sinai). Hence, he is very excited and has agreed to advice students and post-docs planning to make transition to pharma. In the pharma world, he is known for his contribution for the drug - Maraviroc (Selzentry™) for use in HIV.

May 19th, 2016 – Big Scientist, Little Scientist Program

This event was a one-on-one mentorship event with 10 mentors.

May 5th, 2016 – Life After Grad School: A Career Symposium

This was a full day event with sessions focused on skills' development and career exploration. See attached flyer for more details

October 29, 2015 – Branching out of Academia: Honing Skills for the Commercial World & Industry

This was a small group discussion aimed at understanding the commercial aspect of industry and how students and post-doctoral fellows from academia can adapt to it. Our invited guests for this event were:

- Divi Alagappan, Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Kulin Hemani (Kevin), Siemens Medical

September 30, 2015 – Informal networking event

The invited guests at this event mostly comprised of recent alumni from RBHS, Rutgers, Newark, NJ. This event was aimed at created an environment for MS/Ph.D. students and post-doctoral fellows to learn about the current hiring process and job prospects as well as practice their networking skills. The invited guests were:

- Arthee Jahangir, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Ammy Santiago, Healthcare Consultancy Group
- Branly Orban, Actavis Elizabeth LLC
- Carlo Daep, Colgate Palmolive Company
- Matthew Sam (Matt), Venn Health Partners

May 21, 2015 – First Annual Meet and Greet Series: Industry leaders

This event was aimed at giving the students and post-doctoral fellows an opportunity to discuss career paths and network. Unlike previous events, this event did not feature a panel discussion giving attendees more time with the invited the guests. This new format was mostly well received. The event was carried out in a speed networking format where a set group of attendees were given specific time slots with each guest. The invited guests were:

- Ishita Chatterjee, Regeneron
- Jessica Langer, L'Oreal
- Lav (Bobby) Parvathenani, Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Mark Kaplan, Pfizer

March 12, 2015 – Transferable skills acquired during the Ph.D. and how to market them

Dr. Yaihara Fortis-Santiago, the program manager at Science Alliance hosted this interactive seminar/workshop. This event was intended to introduce young scientists to a career-planning process that focuses less on technical skills developed in the lab and more on personal and professional values. In this interactive workshop, participants will determine their strengths and weaknesses, values, interests, and long-term career goals. This workshop covered:

- Self-assessments to evaluate strengths and weaknesses and identify interests
- Seeking career advice and building networks
- Career planning resources

October 23, 2014 – Best of Both Worlds: Careers at and away from the bench

This panel was aimed at learning about the future of career paths outside of bench research. The panelists for this event were:

- Eric Vieira, Director, City University of New York
- Jean-Michel Gries, Covance
- John Gitas, Director, Healthcare and Life Sciences Practice, KPMG
- Ofra Weinberger, Columbia University Technology Ventures
- Sam Kongsamut, Neurotrope Bioscience

November 6, 2014 – Let's Hear the HR Perspective

Vicky Gaddy of the BioNJ Talent Network moderated this panel. This event was aimed at understanding the hiring process and how to best position yourself in the job market with first-hand advice from hiring and talent managers. The panelists for this event were:

- Catherine Kapferer, Covance
- Gene Mancino, Mancino Burfield Edgerton Search
- James McLaughlin, Ikaria
- Martin Rexroad, PTC Therapeutics
- Teri Hammer-Rosenski, Novartis

October 1, 2014 – Finding the Path to a Career in Health Communications & Drug Marketing

CEO Ana Walz and Chief Medical Officer David Segarnick, PhD both of Medisys Health Communications and MedEvoke discussed about their organization and its role in medical

marketing. Dr. Segarnick and Ana Walz outlined their careers and opportunities in the medical strategy and communications to give us insight into the field and answered questions on how to get the experience you need to fill these positions.

July 17, 2014 – Innovation and Leadership in the Pharmaceutical Industry

A panel of senior level scientists discussed their career paths and current positions as managers in the pharmaceutical industry and a keynote talk by Dr. Juan Carlos López from the Translational and Clinical Research Center on key obstacles to translational research in academia. The panelists for this event were:

- Juan Carlos López, Roche
- Marteen Hoek, Merck
- Holly Hilton, PPD

June 5, 2014 – How to Establish an Efficient Network & Stand Out

A networking skills workshop was presented by Lauren Celano CEO of Propel Careers, an expert life sciences career consultant based in Boston. Participants learned to deliver an effective elevator pitch, how to develop and maintain relationships to build an efficient network.

May 15, 2014 - Finding the Path to a Career in Industry: A Panel Discussion with Early to Mid-Career Scientists

This event featured early and mid-career scientists who work in drug development, drug delivery, microbiology, therapeutic innovation and as a medical science liaison. The panelists for this event were:

- Carlo Daep, Colgate
- Jean Chamoun, Pfizer
- Paola Mina-Osorio, Eli-Lilly
- Thomas Nittoli, Regeneron
- Yan Xu, Bristol-Myers Squibb

April 30, 2014 – From Bench Research to Investment Banking & Consulting in Pharma/Biotech

Dr. Glassman did his MD from Harvard Medical School and worked as a post-doctoral fellow at Rockefeller University. He is a board-certified hematologist-oncologist and clinical assistant professor at Weill-Cornell University Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Glassman has employed his expertise in science while working with firms such as McKinsey & Company and Orbimed Advisors. Currently he is the Managing Director at Bank of America Merrill Lynch where he works in the sector for Global Healthcare Investment Banking. He took part in this round-table discussion to advice students and post-doctoral fellows about careers in consulting and investment banking.

March 13, 2014 – Not So New Kids on the Block: Young Faces in Academia

The first ACA event was an academic career panel featuring newly hired assistant professors or instructors at NJMS. This event provided insight into the trials and tribulations of obtaining an

independent appointment for both research and teaching intensive positions. The panelists for this event were:

- Krista Blackwell, Pharmacology & Physiology
- Mona Batish, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
- Dominic Del Re, Cell Biology & Molecular Medicine
- Paula Bartlett, Pharmacology & Physiology
- Dr. Mike Falvo, Pharmacology & Physiology