

LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRY DAY

A virtual career conference for graduate students

Sept. 23 - 25, 2020

Sponsored by:



Hosted by:



Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

About Life Sciences Industry Day:

The University of Georgia Graduate School is proud to present the second annual Life Sciences Industry Day event for master's and doctoral students in the life sciences. Life Sciences Industry Day is a career conference designed to help graduate students explore the diverse professional opportunities within their field. This year's event will take place virtually and span three afternoons, from Sept. 23 – 25. The program will feature a diverse variety of speakers from professional areas such as industry research and development, regulatory affairs, licensing, and science communication, as well as specific sectors such as biotechnology, government and nonprofit administration, or consulting. Attendees will have opportunities to expand their network and receive career planning tips from experienced leaders in the field.

NOTE: All sessions will take place via the Zoom meeting platform. Further details (i.e. session URLs) will be provided to attendees closer to the event date.



Opening Session: Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 1:00 – 2:15 pm EST

A Conversation with Dr. Susanna Greer of the American Cancer Society

Dr. Susanna Greer is the Director of the Biochemistry and Immunology program in the Extramural Discovery Science department at the American Cancer Society. She manages peer review committees focused on genes and molecules involved in cancer, potential targets for new cancer treatments, mechanisms of signal transduction and the immunology of cancer. Dr. Greer also has extensive experience in science communication, policy, and advocacy work. During this informal dialogue, we will discuss Dr. Greer's career path as a scientist, her perspective on mentoring talented students for diverse career opportunities, the importance of effective advocacy and other 'lessons learned' along the way.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 (1:00–5:30 pm EST)

- 1:00 – 1:15 pm **Conference Welcome and Introduction of Keynote Session**
- 1:15 – 2:15 pm **Opening Session: A Conversation with Dr. Susanna Greer**
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

- o Intro to Regulatory Affairs Careers

The UGA Regulatory Sciences (RS) Programs are academic graduate programs designed to prepare Regulatory Affairs Professionals for careers in the Medical Device, Pharmaceutical, Biologics, and Animal Health business sectors. In this session Dr. Grace Gowda, Director of UGA's International Biomedical Regulatory Sciences program, will discuss career pathways for graduate students with an interest in regulatory sciences. Attendees will leave this session with an understanding of how their skillsets might be put to use in regulatory roles to ensure the safe delivery of medical and other consumer products to the market.

- *Grace Gowda, M. Pharm, PhD, RAC – Director, International Biomedical Regulatory Sciences Program and Associate Professor, UGA College of Pharmacy*

- o Industry R+D Panel

Many life sciences graduates begin their industry careers by working in a research and development role. In this session, we will discuss industry R+D careers with professionals from diverse industry settings. The conversation will highlight aspects of transitioning from academic to industry research, tips for the job search, and potential career tracks for those who begin their post-graduate careers in an industry R+D position.

- *Shada Kanchanasuwan, PhD – Biostatistical Research Analyst, BlueCross BlueShield*
- *Additional panelists tba*

- 3:45 – 4:45 pm **Concurrent Sessions**

- o Company Feature: Boehringer–Ingelheim

Improving the health and quality of life of humans and animals is the goal of the research-driven pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. With a corporate footprint that spans across the globe, Boehringer Ingelheim has several facilities within the state of Georgia (including in Athens) and an established working relationship with the University of Georgia. This session will feature several team members from Boehringer Ingelheim who will discuss their efforts to develop innovative therapies for their customers and the potential career tracks that are available to life sciences graduate students.

- *Crystal Leach, PhD (moderator) – Director of Industry Collaborations at UGA*
- *John Harrington, PhD – Boehringer–Ingelheim*
- *Aynsley Eastman – Boehringer–Ingelheim*

- Industry Panel: “Beyond the Bench” Business Development Panel

There are a number of rewarding career opportunities for life sciences graduate students working "beyond the bench," including numerous positions in the area of business development. This session will highlight three UGA alumni who work in business development roles. Through an informal discussion, we will better define what is meant by the term business development and demonstrate potential career paths for graduate students who are interested in business development roles. We will be sure to save plenty of time for audience questions as we navigate our conversation.

- *Shelina Ramnarine, PhD – Senior Manager, Janssen Business Development*
- *Ben Boward, PhD – Business Development Specialist, Leica Biosystems*
- *Ankit Agrawal, PhD – Strategy Consultant, ClearView Healthcare Partners*

- **5:00 – 5:30 pm Networking Activity: Speed Networking**

Interested in connecting with other attendees to build your network? Join us for this rapid-fire networking session. We will provide a few discussion prompts and allow participants to have several short conversations with colleagues at the conference. The goal of this session is to facilitate connections between conference attendees and to help you expand your contacts across campus and beyond!

Thursday, Sept. 24 (1:00 – 5:00 pm EST)

- **1:00 – 2:00 pm Concurrent Sessions**

- Breaking Down Barriers: Coaching Strategies to Jumpstart Your Career Planning

Feeling “stuck” in finding your next step after graduate school? The options can seem overwhelming if you don’t know where to start...or underwhelming if you’re looking to make a big change. Join us in this interactive session with Dr. Anita Kishore, a UGA alumna, former consultant / pharmaceutical executive turned career & executive coach. Dr. Kishore will share her own professional journey and highlight coaching strategies for current graduate students who are looking to jumpstart their own career planning. Whether it’s information or inspiration you seek, you should expect to engage in small group discussions with other attendees on your current professional challenges and emerge from this session with an [action plan](#) to help you get “unstuck.”

- *Anita Kishore, PhD – Principal & Founder, Access to Opportunity Consulting*

- Exploring MSL Career Opportunities

Are you interested in working in medical affairs or becoming a medical science liaison (MSL)? MSLs play an important role in facilitating technical communication within many pharmaceutical, biotechnology, or other healthcare industries. MSLs often concentrate their work around a specific therapeutic area and serve as scientific peers within the medical community, as well as consulting internally within their

organization. This session will feature medical science liaisons from four different companies, illuminating for attendees the avenues into the MSL field, various MSL career paths, and the day-to-day realities of working as a medical science liaison.

- *Sadie Nennig, PhD – Regional Medical Liaison, Bristol Meyers Squibb*
- *Sherry Adesina, PhD – Mid-Atlantic MSL, Akebia Therapeutics*
- *Natty Chalermphanupap, PhD – Medical Science Liaison: Migraine, AbbVie*
- *Yuri Klyachkin, PhD – Sr. Medical Science Liaison, Amgen*

- **2:15 – 3:00 pm** **Networking Activity: Resume Roundtable**

Want to brush up your resume? This speed networking event will provide attendees the opportunity to get feedback from their peers. A host facilitator will kick off the session with some pointers and a short discussion prompt, and then pair you with several colleagues to review your resume and get input from others. Join us – and come ready to share your resume or CV!

- **3:15 – 4:15 pm** **Concurrent Sessions**

○ **Company Feature: Conagen**

Conagen is advancing the ways natural products are manufactured with molecule-per-molecule precision and customization. We uncover the metabolic pathways of nature and engineer unique microbes by way of synthetic biology, and develop high-quality products through specialized fermentation. Our innovation is delivered to the food and beverage, flavor and fragrance, nutrition, renewable materials, and pharma markets. Join this session to learn more about Conagen in an informal conversation with the company's Vice President of Innovation, Dr. Casey Lippmeier, and Scientific Innovation Office Dr. Richik Nilay Mukherjee.

- *Crystal Leach, PhD (moderator) – Director of Industry Collaborations, UGA*
- *Casey Lippmeier, PhD – Vice President of Innovation*
- *Richik Nilay Mukherjee, PhD – Scientific Innovation Officer*

○ **Industry Panel: Career Paths in Biotechnology**

Biotechnology is a crucial industry for addressing the healthcare, environmental, and economic challenges of our time and the source of many diverse job opportunities for life sciences graduates. In this session, we'll talk with several panelists who work in biotech industry roles – including business development, licensing, and bench research. Our panelists will talk about their own professional journeys from academia to industry and share tips for attendees who are interested in biotechnology career paths. Bring your questions as we will be sure to save time for audience Q&A!

- *Patrick Raber, PhD – Sr. Research and Business Development Manager, Adaptive Biotechnologies Corp*
- *Robert Ng, PhD – Licensing Associate, Mass General Brigham Innovation*
- *Denise Fahey – UGA PhD Student, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (formerly w/ Genentech)*

- **4:30 – 5:30 pm** **Featured Panel: Life Science Leadership in the Era of COVID-19**

Featured Panel:
Life Science Leadership in the Era of COVID-19

Friday, Sept. 25 4:30 – 5:30 pm EST

The last six months have been a rollercoaster of news headlines, including not only the on-going impacts of the coronavirus pandemic but also the associated economic turmoil and renewed calls for racial equity across the United States. For leaders in life science industry settings, these forces have been the source of significant challenges and opportunities. Our featured panel discussion will highlight perspectives from experienced leaders in various sectors of the life sciences and include an exploration of organizational leadership during periods of significant disruption.

- *Andrea Hall, PHR SHRM-CP – Sr. Global Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Thermo Fisher Scientific*
- *Jolly Mazumdar, PhD – Founder, President & CEO, Chimeron Bio*
- *Derek Eberhart, PhD – Associate Vice President for Research, UGA*

Friday, Sept. 25 (12:00 – 3:45 pm EST)

- **12:00 – 1:00 pm** **Networking Activity: Student-Alumni Roundtable Luncheon**

Interested in some casual networking? Our lunch session will allow attendees to dine (virtually) with a small group of other participants, including a UGA alumnus or other guest speaker who can talk further about their work or answer questions that students may have about their career path.

- **1:15 – 2:15 pm** **Concurrent Sessions**

o **A Closer Look at Careers in Science Policy**

Have you ever wondered how policies that affect directions in science and research are made? Would you like a career that helps shape science policy? From stem cell research to climate change, scientific issues are as much driven by policy as by scholarly research. Science policy is an attractive career option for biomedical scientists interested in the intersection of politics, policy, science, and economics. While providing an in-depth understanding of the National Institutes of Health and its roles and responsibilities in the US Government, Dr. Glowinski will describe her career path, what science policy is, where it can be practiced, and some of the career opportunities available. Finally, Dr. Glowinski will provide some valuable lessons she learned along the way.

- *Irene Glowinski, PhD – Deputy Director, NIH (retired)*

- Company Feature: Booz Allen Hamilton

At Booz Allen, our purpose is to empower our people: consultants, engineers, scientists, analysts, and cyber professionals with different backgrounds and strengths who work together to create change. We believe in using our collective brainpower—coupled with creativity—to make the world a better place. We focus on protecting each other, exploring new worlds, facing down threats, curing diseases, innovating, and standing up for what’s right. That philosophy drives everything from our collaborative culture and our experimentation and discussion to our passion for community and problem solving. If you share that drive, you’ll fit right in. Join us for this informational discussion about life as a team member at Booz Allen Hamilton. This session will feature several alumni from UGA graduate programs who have gone on to consulting and leadership roles within the firm.

- 2:30 – 3:45 pm **Closing Panel: A Conversation with Early-Career Scientists**

Closing Panel:
A Conversation with Early-Career Scientists

Friday, Sept. 25 2:30 – 3:45 pm EST

Career transitions can be challenging experiences, even for those with advanced degrees. Join us for a candid discussion about navigating post-academic life. Our closing panel features three recent graduates who will talk about their experiences transitioning into roles within industry, research, or business. Topics covered will include mental wellness, adapting to the workplace, and other aspects of “adulthood” beyond graduate school. Audience participation is welcomed and encouraged as we explore the highs and lows of launching your career in science.



Susanna Harris, PhD
Founder/CEO, PhD Balance
Marketing Lead, Grant Engine



Jaye Gardiner, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Fox Chase Cancer Center



Edhriz Siraliev, PhD
Scientist
StrideBio

Event Registration Rates

The following registration rates apply for this virtual conference event. Registration capacity will be limited for undergraduates and non-UGA attendees. To learn more, or to register, please visit:

<https://www.hotel.uga.edu/event-registration>.

- UGA Graduate Students: \$5.00
- UGA Undergraduate Students: \$10.00
- UGA Faculty, Staff, or Postdoctoral Trainees: \$15.00
- Non-UGA Registrants: \$25.00

Questions about this event? Interested in becoming a sponsor?

This program is hosted by the Office of Experiential Professional Development (xPD) in the University of Georgia Graduate School. For questions and other inquiries, please contact:

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Experiential Professional Development
at the University of Georgia Graduate School