iJOBS Career Panel Series: Bench Research in BioPharma

Tuesday January 31, 2017
4:00-5:30pm
Shultz Lab Room 107
Princeton University

Bahar Demirdirek, PhD
Research Investigator
Drug Product Science and Technology Group
Bristol Myers Squibb
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Bahar is currently a Research Investigator in the Drug Product Science and Technology Group at Bristol-Myers Squibb. In this role, Bahar is the lead analytical scientist for numerous modalities including small molecules, peptides and monoclonal antibody therapeutics. Her responsibilities for these assets include analytical method development and validation for potency and impurity assays. In addition, she is the project team lead for analytical CMC activities via cross-functional collaborations with internal and external stakeholders. Overall, Bahar has 7 years of pharmaceutical industry experience in analytical method development and validation as well as formulation development for injectable and oral dosages. Bahar received her PhD from Rutgers University, where she designed, developed and characterized hydrogel-based protein delivery systems.

Philip Tedeschi, PhD
Senior Scientist Bioassay Department
Oncobiologics
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Dr. Philip Tedeschi is a Senior Scientist in the Bioassay Department at Oncobiologics, a clinical stage biosimilar company. Philip develops various analytical bioassays to characterize biosimilar monoclonal antibody mechanism of action and structure/function in accordance with biosimilar regulatory filings (IND, Phase I/III). Areas under study include auto-immune disease, oncology and immuno-oncology. Philip received a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology from Rutgers University, an M.S in Molecular Targets and Drug Discovery from The Johns Hopkins University and a B.S in Biology from The College of New Jersey.

Eva Rubio-Marrero, PhD
Scientist I
Cell Line Production
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Eva N. Rubio-Marrero completed her PhD in Biomedical Sciences at Rutgers University on May 2016. During her thesis project she investigated the function of CASPR2, a protein linked to autism spectrum disorder. During this time, she found CNTN1 as a new ligand for CASPR2 on the cell surface and characterized the interaction of these two molecules. In 2015, Eva participated in a Summer internship with Eli Lilly in New York City working with the Immuno-Oncology Research group developing cell based assays to screen new antibodies and generating cell lines to be used in different assays. On July 2016, she started to work with Celgene in Summit, NJ in Biologics Department and is part of the Cell Line Development Team. So far, she is enjoying the work applying the knowledge acquired from her PhD and from her background in Industrial Biotechnology.

Jeffrey Harris, PhD
Senior Scientist
Janssen
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Jeffrey Harris, PhD is molecular cell biologist by training with expertise in stem cells, cancer stem cells and their niche, vascular biology, immunology, and oncology. He successfully transitioned from a postdoc position at Duke University four years ago, and is currently a Senior Scientist in Oncology Translational Research department at Janssen, a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary. As a translational research scientist, he leads the biomarker strategy for a late-stage clinical program, responsible for designing and executing studies to aid in characterizing the pharmacodynamics, mechanisms of action, and efficacy of candidate biologics therapeutics in hematologic malignancy.

Janet Wangari-Talbot, PhD
Senior Scientist, Project Manager
L'Oreal Research and Innovation, Clark NJ
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Janet obtained her PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology from UMDNJ/Rutgers University in 2012 with a focus on targeted therapies to treat melanomas with ectopically expressed metabotropic receptor 1 and mutant BRAF. This work resulted in a combination therapy regimen presently used at CINJ for melanoma treatment. She obtained her first postdoc experience at Fox Chase Cancer Center working on the role of ABC transporters in chemo-resistance and tumorigenicity in lung cancer where she showed that ABCC10 has a significant impact on both the growth of the

tumors and resistance to taxane based therapies. She proceeded to a second postdoc at JNJ consumer products division working on biodelivery of large molecules and non-invasive skin diagnostics. Presently, she is a project manager at L'Oreal USA where she manages academic and external innovation as well as early phase clinical trials for devices, wound healing and photobiology.