Career Planning with iJOBS

Shekerah Primus, PhD
NGS Study Manager, GENEWIZ
Academic Training  

B.S: 2004 - 2008  
Molecular Biology & Science  
Informatics  
Minor: Speech Communication

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Informatics
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Ph.D: 2009 - 2015  
Cell & Molecular Biology  
Teaching experience

Postdoc: 2016 - 2019  
Microbiology  
Career Planning - iJOBS
The iJOBS Journey

Rutgers iJOBS participants follow a phased program:

- **Phase 1 iNQUIRE**: Sample the program to see if a non-academic career is for you.
- **Phase 2 iNITIATE**: Focus on a specific career path and apply to program.
- **Phase 3 iMPLEMENT**: Ready yourself for career placement and search for a position.
- **Phase 4 iNSTRUCT**: Participate as a mentor & share your experience with new trainees.

Par9cipate as a mentor & share your experience with new trainees
The iJOBS Journey

Phase 1 Activities: Open to all PhD students and postdocs

- Career Panels
  - Science policy, Science writing, Regulatory Affairs

- Industry Site Visits
  - Regeneron, Novartis, BMS, Kashiv Pharma, Bayer Pharmaceuticals

- Case Studies, Primers, and Job Simulations
  - Business development, Consulting, Pharma R&D

- Workshops
  - Bioinformatics
  - SciPhD Leadership and Business Skills for Scientists

- Brand-building and Networking
  - 2Actify – Build an effective LinkedIn Profile
  - Networking events
  - Career fairs
The iJOBS Journey

Phase 2: Application-based

- Qualifications: 12 hours of phase 1 activities + SciPhD workshop
- Select a career track
- Shadow a professional in the field
  - 72hrs of shadowing over a yr
- Develop an individual development Plan (IDP) and discuss career plans with mentor
- Complete a 3-credit course at Rutgers
Phase 3: Career placement

- Individualized resume and cover letter preparation
- Interview practice
- Job searching tools
- Partner with regional employment programs like BioNJ
Phase 4: Give back

- Serve as a shadow-host to new trainees
- Mentor new trainees
- Participate in networking events, career panels etc
My iJOBS Journey

- **Phase 1**
  - SciPhD Leadership and business skills for scientists
  - iJOBS-BPNG networking
  - 2Actify LinkedIn profile support – 2actify.com
  - Career panels, job primers & workshops

- **Phase 2: Project Management**
  - Professional shadowing – Merck
  - Shadowed 2 Project Managers
  - Project Management Course at Rutgers business school

- **Phase 3:**
  - Resume/ cover letter/ interviewing - PropelCareers.com
  - BioNJ: profile, resume, job boards

- **Phase 4:**
  - Today
My iJOBS Journey

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- Today

My current role:
- NGS Study Manager at GENEWIZ
- Dual role: technical consultation & project management
- Phase 2 training – great preparation & foundation
- On the job lessons – Organization and Communication
My iJOBS Journey – other opportunities

- iJOBS blog - [ijobs.rutgers.edu/blog.php](https://ijobs.rutgers.edu/blog.php)
  - Writing and editing career-oriented pieces
  - Blog post for all iJOBS events
  - Posts about careers, training opportunities, skills development etc

  - Networking and skills development
  - LinkedIn profile picture
  - Volunteer opportunities

- GRO Biotech - [grobiotech.splashthat.com/](https://grobiotech.splashthat.com/)
  - Planning committee for the 2019 GRO Your Career conference
  - Featured career panels and networking sessions
  - Resume and job-search session
If I could give one piece of advice...

- Don’t wait...START NOW!!!
  - Build LinkedIn Profile
  - Craft Resumes – academic vs industry vs career-specific language
  - Networking – build relationships
  - Gain experience, exposure and information
  - Increased understanding – want vs. need in a job
  - Time to find your own path!
  - Prepared - Confidence booster
  - You’re ready!