

MICaB Career Development Committee

Report December 2008

Committee members:

Carol Lange, Kris Hogquist, Chris Pennell, Ryan Kelly, Lucia F. Zacchi

Past member: Leslie Schiff

Mission Statement

The mission of the MICaB Committee for Graduate Career Development is to promote education, opportunity, inclusion, and excellence surrounding the exploration of available career paths. Key elements of our mission include promoting open and candid discussions of career path options, providing a realistic rationale for choosing a given path that considers both the professional and personal needs of each student, and providing mentorship, resources, and guidance that will equip our students with the best tools to succeed within a given career path choice. Recognizing that career development is influenced by professional interests and opportunity as well as life-style and life-stage considerations, our goal is to assist our students in making the “next-steps” upon completion of our program as new PhDs.

Calendar of Events Spring and Fall 2008

January 15	*Beth Brown, Ph.D., R.Ph. Sr. Manager of new technology at CIMA Labs *Eric DeMaster, Ph.D., Attorney at Merchant & Gould PC *Marie Danos Breitenfeldt, Ph.D., Technical writer at R&D Systems, Inc. *Dwight Nelson, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at St. Thomas University *Chris Schwartz, Group Manager, HR at Beckman Coulter	Career development panel
February 5	*Michael T. Osterholm, Ph.D., M.P.H. Director of CIDRAP www.cidrap.umn.edu	Working for advisory Boards
April 17	Arthur Gutierrez-Hartmann, Ph.D. Departments of Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center	Critical transitions: Guidelines for a career in biomedical sciences
April 29	Chris Pennell, Ph.D. University of Minnesota	"Skills for the Big Chill: How to Survive and Thrive as a Newly Independent Scientist"
May 15	Jenni Punt, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Biology, Haverford College	Tales of T-cell Tolerance; and Teaching/Research at a primarily undergraduate institution
September 8	Douglas Braaten, Ph.D. Senior Editor of Nature Immunology	"The editorial process at Nature Immunology"
October 2	Diane M. Robins, Ph.D. Department of Human Genetics University of Michigan Medical School	"The Art and Science of grant writing"
October 22	Beckman-Coulter site visit Chaska, MN	

November 18	Post-doc roundtable Panelists: Kirsten Nielsen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Tim Starr, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Associate in Largaespada lab David Masopust, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Marion Pepper-Pew, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Associate in Jenkins lab	"What to consider when choosing a postdoctoral position"
November 20	Richard Treisman, Ph.D., Fellow of the Royal Society, Director of Cancer Research UK London Research Institute, London, England	"Biomedical and Life Sciences Career Options in Europe"

MICaB Career Development Committee First Student Survey May 2008

Total MICaB students: 72

Relative % of attendance to the events: 12%

% of students who returned survey: 30%

Do you plan on doing at least one postdoc after you graduate? **76% Yes 0% No 24% Not sure**

Career Interests (see graph):

- 1. Running an academic lab at a large research institution (23%)**
2. Teaching and running an academic lab at a primarily undergraduate institution (14%)
3. Research position in a government laboratory (18%)
- 4. Research position in industry (23%)**
5. Sales/Marketing/Development/Liaison position in industry
6. Running a clinical laboratory within a hospital
7. Intellectual Property or Patent Law
8. Medical/technical Writer
9. Policy or Regulatory Affairs

Did you attend (or do you plan to attend) any of the following events hosted this year? **See graph**

1. Career Panel Discussion (1/15/08)
2. Science and Policy. Dr. Michael Osterholm (2/5/08)
3. Career workshop: Tips and suggestions for applying for industry jobs with Dr. Daniel Ehresmann, Staff Development Scientist with Beckman-Coulter (3/14/08)
4. Dr. Arthur Gutierrez-Hartmann, Critical transitions: guidelines for a career in the biomedical sciences (4/17/08)
- 5. Dr. Chris Pennell, Skills for the big chill: How to survive and thrive as a newly independent scientist (4/29/08)**
6. Dr. Jennie Punt, Teaching and research at a small undergraduate institution (5/17/08)

Did you attend any of the workshops/events hosted by the UMN Graduate School this year? **95% NO**

Would you be interested in participating in a mentorship/internship program with local industry that may include site visits and one-on-one discussions with PhD at the company? **See graph**

For next year, what types of events would you be interested in attending? (see graph)
(Highlighted means above 10%)

1. outside PhD speaker from academia
- 2. postdoctoral Q&A panel and workshop**
3. senior MICaB graduate student Q&A panel/workshop
- 4. outside PhD speaker from government lab**
5. representatives from the UMN graduate school
6. industry job recruiters
7. outside PhD speaker from patent law firm
- 8. MICaB alumni roundtable**
9. NIH grant-writing workshop
- 10. professional/public speaking workshop**
- 11. CV → resume workshops**
12. representatives from the UMN career resources center
13. research symposium and poster session with representatives from industry in attendance
14. other

