

A Kaleidoscope of Biomedical Science Careers

2023 ASPIRE Annual Career Symposium Friday, June 2, 2023

Sponsored by the BRET Office of Career Development & the Training Grants in the Biomedical and Biological Sciences

Welcome to the 2023 ASPIRE Annual Career Symposium!

Join the conversation on Twitter #ASPIRECareerSymposium

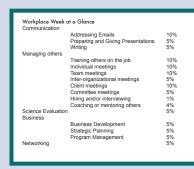
How to read this program:

Each speaker is featured on a page with their bio and career highlights they submitted,...





... three adjectives they would use to describe themselves to be successful at their role,... ... and their daily job activities (what they do all day).



Many thanks to the 2023 ASPIRE Career Symposium Planning Team!

Sydni Smith, PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt University
Sirena Tran, PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt University
Kate Stuart, Associate Director, ASPIRE Program, BRET Office of Career Development

Sponsored by the Office of Biomedical Research Education and Training ASPIRE Program & Training Grants in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Biochemical and Chemical Training for Cancer Research Cellular, Biochemical and Molecular Sciences Training Program Chemical Biology of Infectious Diseases (CBID) Training Program Chemistry-Biology Interface Training Grant Clinical and Translational Research Training Program in Pulmonary Medicine Integrated Biological Systems Training in Oncology Integrated Training in Engineering and Diabetes Molecular Biophysics Training Grant at Vanderbilt Multidisciplinary Training in Molecular Endocrinology Postdoctoral Training in Biomedical MRI and MRS Program in Developmental Biology Program in Neurogenomics Training Grant in Gastroenterology Training in Fundamental Neuroscience Training in Pharmacological Sciences Training Program in Environmental Toxicology Training Program in Ion Channel and Transporter Biology

Vanderbilt Biomedical Informatics Training Program

The BRET Office of Career Development ASPIRE Program provides many programs and resources for the biomedical PhD student and postdoc population. Here are the Top 10 Resources just for you!



PhD Career Stories

PhD Career Stories is a monthly seminar series about career options for PhD scientists. Speakers from a diverse range of exciting scientific careers present their career path and share insights from their professional experiences.



Beyond the Lab Podcast Series

This ASPIRE podcast series features BRET PhD student and postdoctoral alumni to hear about their current roles, what they do all day, and what advice they have for current trainees. Listen on iTunes or wherever you listen to your podcasts (search for "Vanderbilt Beyond the Lab"). Season 7 drops Fall 2023. https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/beyond-the-lab-see-listen/



ASPIRE Modules ASPIRE Modules are short, non-credit bearing electives that broaden the training experiences of biomedical sciences trainees. These elective modules provide efficient exposure to topics in five theme areas: Business/Entrepreneurship, Communication, Clinical Research, Data Science, and Teaching.



Badgr

Using the Badgr platform, the ASPIRE Program is microcredentialing by awarding badges to trainees who fully complete ASPIRE modules. https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/aspire-micro-credentialing-through-badgr/



ASPIRE on **Twitter**

There are two Twitter feeds from the BRET Office of Career Development: @VUBRETASPIRE tweets resources, seminar notices, event photos, and more. @VUBRETPhDJobs tweets current job postings for grad students and postdocs.



Career Advising

Individualized The BRET Office of Career Development provides individual career advising for biomedical sciences PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. Complete the advising form on the ASPIRE website to meet and discuss any professional development topic including document review, career guidance, and job search strategies.



ASPIRE Internships The ASPIRE program facilitates opportunities for post-qualifying exam graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to conduct internships and gain hands-on experience with a project in a professional work environment. https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/overview-of-aspire-internships/



ASPIRE on the Road

ASPIRE on the Road is an initiative aimed at broadening the trainee experience to learn about different career options through workplace tours and meeting professionals in a range of roles. Stay tuned for city and date announcements. https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/aspire-on-the-road/



Blog

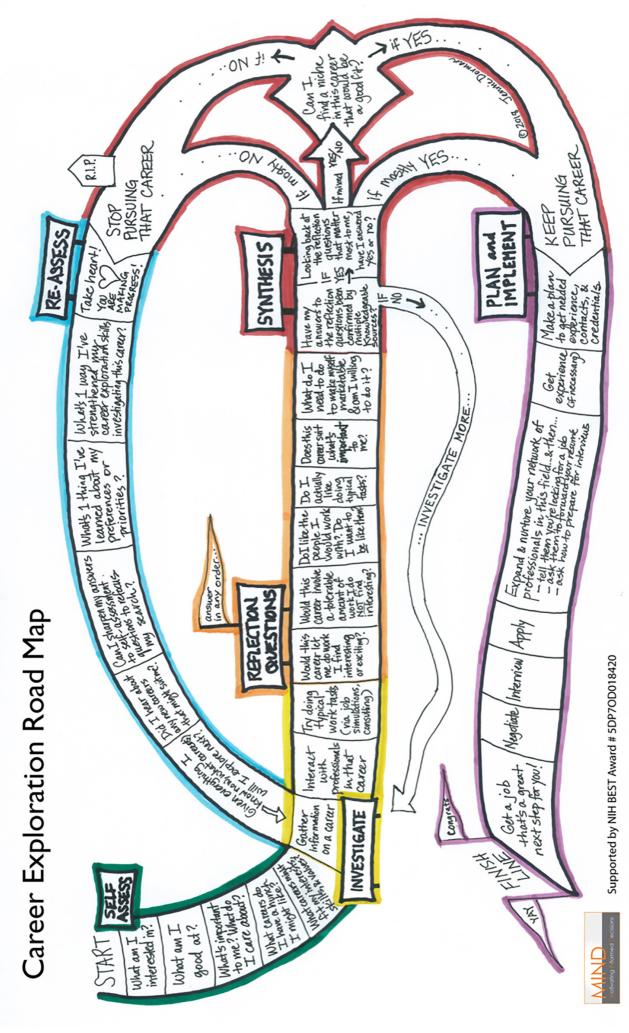
The blog is updated daily with upcoming events, articles of interest, job postings, student organization activities, professional development opportunities, and career

https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/blog/



Newsletter

The ASPIRE Newsletter is published every other Monday. It highlights upcoming events, funding opportunities, volunteer options, and job openings.



The MIND Career Exploration RoadMap (Copyright Jennie Dorman 2018), and was created by the UCSF Motivating INformed Decisions (MIND) Program, which was funded by the NIH BEST DP7 Common Fund award (5DP7OD018420)



Maria Agostini, PhD

Scientist II, Clinical Virology, Vir Biotechnology **Flexible**

Team Player

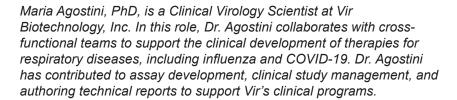
Organized



Research Internship, Gilead Sciences

> Graduate School, Vanderbilt

Great undergraduate research experience



Dr. Agostini received her PhD from Vanderbilt University under the mentorship of Dr. Mark Denison studying broad-spectrum coronavirus antiviral drugs. During her graduate studies, she also interned at Gilead Sciences as part of the Chemical Biology of Infectious Diseases training program.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	10%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
Writing	15%
Managing Others	
Individual Meetings	5%
Team Meetings	15%
Inter-organizational Meetings	10%
Science - At the "Bench"	
Doing Actual Research	5%
Analysis	10%
Business	
Program Management	5%
Operations and Logistics	15%
Reading Literature, Staying Current	3%
Professional Development	2%



Amanda Antons, PhD

Partner, IP Litigation, Dechert LLP

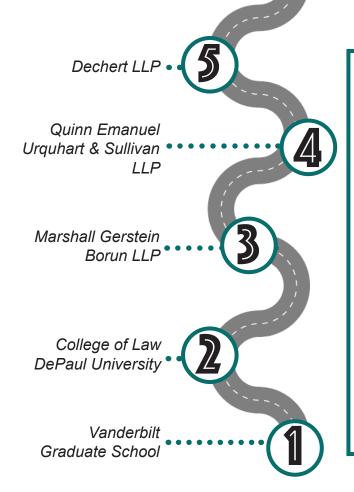
Confident

Team Player

25%

5%

Dependable



Workplace Week at a Glance Communication Addressing Emails

Preparing and Giving Presentations 5% Responding to Phone Calls 5% 20% Writing Managing others Training Others on the Job 5% 5% **Team Meetings Client Meetings** 5% Science Evaluation 5% Business **Business Development** 5%

Legal 5%
Reading Literature, Staying Current 5%
Professional Development 5%

Strategic Planning

Dr. Amanda K. Antons, PhD, is a partner with the patent law firm Dechert, LLP. Dr. Antons's practice focuses on patent litigation, specifically in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, including biologics litigation, ANDA litigation, PTAB proceedings, European Patent Office proceedings, other contentious patent office matters including interferences, and related trade secrets litigation. Her doctoral training, including work on T cell/HIV interactions, provides her with significant research experience and knowledge in the biotechnology and life sciences industries.

Dr. Antons's cases have dealt with a wide variety of technologies, including monoclonal antibodies, peptides, DNA sequencing and small-molecule therapeutics. Dr. Antons also has experience counseling clients regarding patent portfolio evaluation, including conducting diligences regarding validity of biologics patents and the freedom to operate new technologies.

Dr. Antons received her PhD in Microbiology and Immunology at Vanderbilt in 2008 and her JD at DePaul University College of Law in 2011.



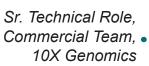
Jeff Bylund, PhD

Partner, IP Litigation, Dechert LLP

Adaptable

Multi-Talented

Autonomous





New Business Unit Manger, Nikon





Grad School, Vanderbilt

Market Development Roles as an Undergrad

Commercial Experience

Originally a chemist, Dr. Jeff Bylund transitioned into biology via a PhD in Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University, where he developed protocols for differentiating human iPSC's into cardiac myocytes for use in drug discovery, toxicology, and safety pharmacology. Dr. Bylund then transitioned into a career in industry as an Advanced Biosystems Specialist at Nikon Instruments. While at Nikon, Dr. Bylund gained expertise in microscopy, optics, high content screening, tissue and cellular sample preparation, and image analysis while serving as a link between the sales and technical teams. He then had the opportunity to manage stem cell applications at Nikon and to start a new business unit providing imaging as a service to the biotech and pharma industry in the greater Boston area. Dr. Bylund recently took a new role at 10X Genomics as a Spatial Science and Technology Advisor, where he works with clients on the cutting edge of imaging and omics technology to interrogate biological systems in their complexity.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Co	mmunication	
	Addressing Emails	10%
	Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
	Responding to Phone Calls	5%
	Writing	10%
Ма	naging Others	
	Training Others on the Job	5%
	Individual Meetings	5%
	Coaching or Mentoring Others	5%
Sci	ence	
	Analysis	5%
	Evaluation	5%
Bus	siness	• , •
	Business Development	5%
	Competitive Intelligence	5%
	Strategic Planning	5%
	Forecasting, Reporting	5%
	Consultation for Others	5%
Tra		5%
_		5%
	ading Literature, Staying Current	
	fessional Development	5%
ive:	tworking	5%



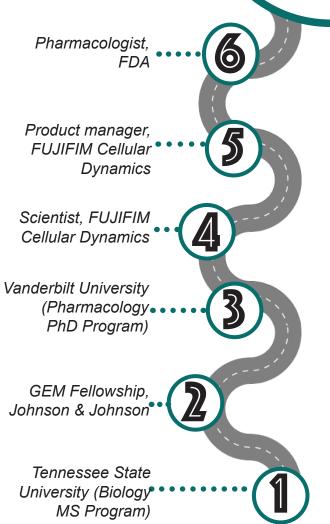
TK Feaster, PhD

Pharmacologist, FDA

Curious

Disciplined

Professional



Workplace Week at a Glance	
•	
Communication	
Addressing Emails	4%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	4%
Writing	1%
Managing others	
Training Others on the Job	1%
Individual Meetings	1%
Team Meetings	1%
Inter-organizational Meetings	1%
Committee Meetings	1%
Hiring and/or Interviewing	1%
Coaching or Mentoring Others	1%
Science	
At the "Bench" Doing Actual Research	40%
Analysis	10%
Discovery	1%
Evaluation	1%
Business	
Competitive Intelligence	5%
Program Management	2%
Financial Operations (writing grants, et	•
Consultation for Others	20%
Reading Literature, Staying Current	2%
Networking	1%

Dr. T.K. Feaster, PhD, is a Pharmacologist in the Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories at FDA. He obtained his PhD in Pharmacology from Vanderbilt University and completed a GEM Fellowship in Assay Development and Screening at Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development. Prior to joining FDA, Dr. Feaster worked as a Scientist at Fujifilm Cellular Dynamics, Inc. in the Toxicology and Safety Pharmacology business unit. He then took the position of Cardiovascular Product Manager

where he was responsible for all phases of product management, research & development, and marketing of the entire cardiovascular portfolio. Dr. Feaster's research interests include cardiomyocyte electrophysiology, toxicology, pharmacology, and regulatory science. In addition to his regulatory science research, he serves as a toxicological risk assessment subject matter expert and consultant reviewer at FDA.



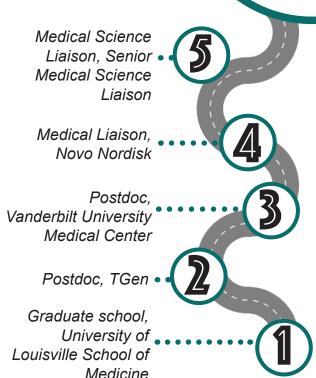
Nicole Krupp, PhD

Senior Associate Director, Regional Integration Lead, Medical Affairs, Boehringer Ingelheim

Autonomous

Persistent

Leader



Workplace Week at a Glance Communication Addressing Emails 20% Preparing and Giving Presentations 20% Responding to Phone Calls 5% 15% Writing Managing Others **Individual Meetings** 5% Inter-organizational Meetings 15% **Business Business Development** 10% Strategic Planning 2% Program Management 2% 2% Travel **Professional Development** 2% Networking 2%

After earning her PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Louisville, Nicole Krupp, PhD, knew she wanted to pursue a career in personalized (precision) medicine. In her first postdoctoral fellowship, she screened drug targets identified through next generation sequencing by using high-throughput screening assays. Although she enjoyed these precision medicine projects in solid tumors, she pursued further clinical opportunities through a training opportunity at VUMC. During this time, Dr. Krupp was also able to leverage the excellent professional development opportunities provided by VUMC where she first learned about the Medical Science Liaison role.

Dr. Krupp's first job in pharma was as a Medical Science Liaison with Novo Nordisk. Unfortunately, she was only in the position a short time but she was still able to gain knowledge and experience that was used to launch her career with Boehringer which she joined as a Medical Science Liaison in February 2017. As MSL, Dr. Krupp focused on a specific therapeutic area but learned about many aspects of drug development. As a Regional Lead, she followed projects across multiple therapeutic areas and in various stages of drug development.

In her current role, Dr. Krupp works with drug development project teams as a representative of all relevant stakeholders. She integrates input/feedback from all departments throughout the drug development process which is particularly critical around major milestones, but manages the needs of patients, regulators and stakeholders in our healthcare ecosystem.



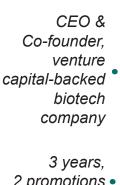
Wyatt McDonnell, PhD

CEO, Infinimmune

Adaptable

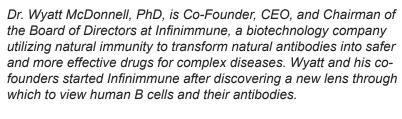
Open-minded

Decisive

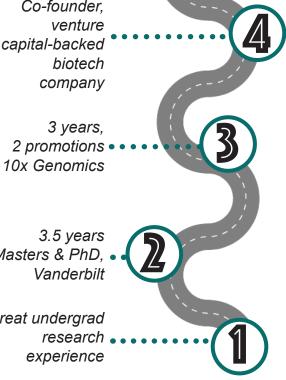


3.5 years Masters & PhD, Vanderbilt

Great undergrad research experience



Previously, Wyatt worked on world-class single cell technologies at 10x Genomics where he was Technical Lead and Developer of Barcode-Enabled Antigen Mapping (BEAM). Wyatt also developed 10x Genomics' first therapeutic antibodies and core immunology intellectual property behind three commercial products to interrogate the immune repertoire. As a faculty member at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Wyatt studied the human immune correlates of chronic viral infection and type 2 diabetes using single cell technology and computational approaches and received Young Investigator awards from CROI, the International Workshop on HIV and Aging, and the American Heart Association. He received his PhD and Masters also at Vanderbilt University for his work on the roles of T and B cells in HIV infection, checkpoint inhibitor toxicity, and other immune-mediated diseases. He has co-authored 31 peer-reviewed papers in journals including Nature, Cell, and Nature Medicine, and 19 published patents in relation to immunobiology, genomics, and disease. He has been invited to speak at conferences including PEGS, the Keystone Symposia, the World Vaccine Congress, and PMWC.



Workplace Week at a Glance

"If you're CEO of a startup, there's nothing that isn't your job at some point."

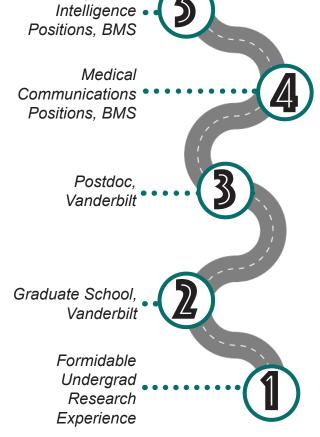


Accountable

Team Player

Adaptable

Dr. Stacey Mont, PhD, is the Associate Director for Business Development Competitive Intelligence at Bristol Myers Squibb in Princeton, NJ. Dr. Mont received her PhD from Vanderbilt University in Cancer Biology and Radiation Oncology, focusing on immuno-oncology biological mechanisms for the treatment of cancer. Prior to her current role, Dr. Mont served as a US Medical Communications Manager for Early and New Assets with BMS.



Workplace Week at a Glance		
Communication		
Addressing Emails	6%	
Preparing and Giving Presentations	6%	
Responding to Phone Calls	6%	
Managing others		
Training Others on the Job	6%	
Individual Meetings	6%	
Team Meetings	6%	
Inter-organizational Meetings	6%	
Hiring and/or Interviewing	2%	
Coaching or Mentoring Others	6%	
Business		
Business Development	6%	
Competitive Intelligence	6%	
Strategic Planning	6%	
Forecasting, Reporting	6%	
Program Management	6%	
Consultation for Others	6%	
Travel	5% 5%	
Professional Development		
Networking	4%	

KEYNOTE

Gauri Nair, PhD

Vice-President, Innovation, MassBio

Dynamic

Leader

Decisive

External Innovation role, Novartis

Tech Transfer role, Harvard University

> Analyst role, Scientia Adv

Graduate School at U Penn, UMD Postdoc

Sales experience, Boehringer Mannheim, Bio-Rad and Life Technology "I convene, connect and catalyze interactions between innovation creators and seekers to support a healthy and robust innovation ecosystem."

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication

Addressing Emails 10%
Preparing and Giving Presentations 5%
Writing 5%

Managing Others

Training Others on the Job 10% **Individual Meetings** 10% 10% **Team Meetings** Inter-organizational Meetings 5% **Client Meetings** 10% 5% **Committee Meetings** Hiring and/or Interviewing 1% Coaching or Mentoring Others 4% Science Evaluation 5%

Business
Business Development 5%
Strategic Planning 5%
Program Management 5%
Networking 5%

As Vice President of Innovation at MassBio, Dr. Gauri Nair, PhD, serves the evolving needs of the early-stage innovation community via programming and relationship-building with thought leaders, key stakeholders, and constituents of the Massachusetts life sciences innovation ecosystem. She leads MassBio's efforts as a connector between innovators and the industry to enable the development, distribution, and delivery of breakthrough technologies in life sciences.

Prior to joining MassBio, Dr. Nair was an Associate Director in Academic Partnerships and External Innovation at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research Inc., where she drove external innovation by developing research partnerships and strategic collaborations with key partners in the academic innovation ecosystem. As a business

development associate at Harvard University's Office of Technology Development, Gauri supported OTD's mission to build strategic relationships with industry to enable the effective development and commercialization of Harvard technologies. Dr. Nair is passionate about diversity, inclusion, and equity, and about promoting inclusive innovation that serves underserved medically relevant populations.

Dr. Nair holds a PhD in Biology from University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), an MS in Innovation from D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University (Boston), a BS in Microbiology and Biochemistry from St. Xavier's College (Mumbai, India), and an MS in Biotechnology from Pune University (India).



Laura Terry, PhD

Senior Manager, Risk Manager, Risk and Operations and Experience, McKinsey & Co.

Curious

Team Player

Professional



Princeton Postdoc & Lecturer (Molecular Biology)

Vanderbilt PhD (Cell & Developmental Biology) Laura Terry, PhD is a scientist-turned management consultantturned cyber and data risk professional with a reputation for fast problem-solving and inclusive coaching of teams and clients. Dr. Terry earned her PhD in Cell & Developmental Biology from Vanderbilt under the mentorship of Dr. Susan Wente and then pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University. Dr. Terry began her time with McKinsey & Co over six years ago and is currently a Senior Manager in Risk and Operations.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication

20% Addressing Emails Responding to Phone Calls 10% **Managing Others Individual Meetings** 10% 20% **Team Meetings** Coaching or Mentoring Others 5% Business

30% Operations and Logistics Networking 5%





Kristi Thiel, PhD

Assistant Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Iowa **Articulate**

Persistent

Insightful



Co-founder of Immortagen

Scientific Writer/Editor at University of Iowa

Postdoctoral Training at University of Iowa

Vanderbilt Graduate School

> Undergraduate Research Experience

Dr. Kristina (Kristi) Thiel, completed her PhD in Biochemistry at Vanderbilt University under the mentorship of Graham Carpenter, followed by postdoctoral training at the University of Iowa in RNA biodrugs with Paloma Giangrande and gynecologic oncology with Kim Leslie. Dr. Thiel is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa. The focus of the Thiel laboratory is translational studies of gynecologic cancer to better guide treatment choice and improve overall survival.

Dr. Thiel has a strong track-record in coordinating multiinvestigator projects and fundraising for academic research. She is also a cofounder of the University of Iowa spinoff company, Immortagen, which is developing bioinformatics analysis tools for personalized cancer treatments. She has authored 57 scientific manuscripts and is the named inventor on two patents.



Communication	
Preparing and Giving Presentations	10%
Writing	15%
Managing Others	
Individual Meetings	5%
Team Meetings	10%
Coaching or Mentoring Others	15%
Science	
Analysis	5%
Business	
Operations and Logistics	10%
Financial Operations (writing grants, et	c)20%
Reading Literature, Staying Current	5%
Professional Development	5%



Aaron Wexler, PhD

Chief of Staff, Vaccine Research & Development, Pfizer

Driven

Passionate

Multi-talented



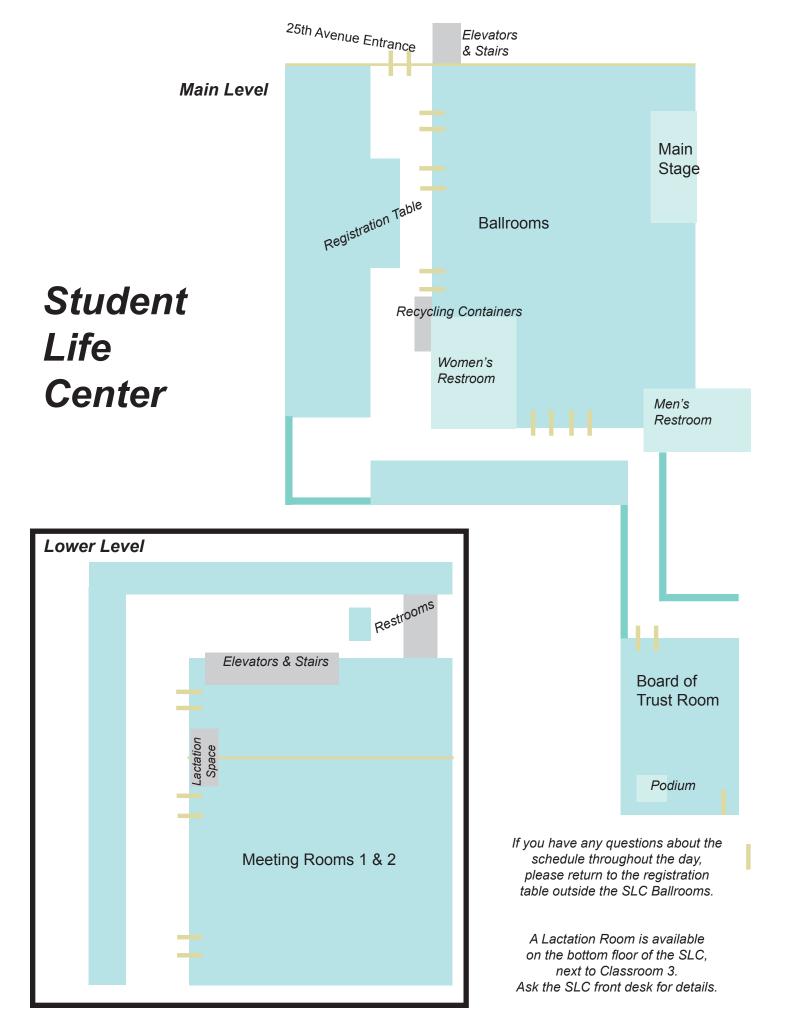
Dr. Wexler is the Chief of Staff for Vaccine Research & Development (VRD) at Pfizer, where he leads strategic and operational planning and scientific support for the Office of the Chief Scientific Officer of VRD. Aaron joined Pfizer in 2021 as a senior manager of scientific communications, where he managed writing, editorial, and graphic design projects, including research manuscripts and patents.

Prior to joining Pfizer, Dr. Wexler was a post-doctoral research fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Eric Skaar at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. During his time at Vanderbilt, he received offers for prestigious fellowships from the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation and the Life Sciences Research Foundation to support his research into how Clostridioides difficile invades and modifies the intestinal environment and resident microbiota. He earned a PhD and MPhil in microbiology from Yale University under the mentorship of Dr. Andrew Goodman, and a BS in biology from Cornell University.

He is a father, a husband, and a classically trained violinist.

Graduate School, Yale University Research technician. Penn State Undergraduate research, Cornell University

Workplace Week at a Glance	
Communication	
Addressing Emails	15%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
Responding to Phone Calls	5%
Writing	15%
Managing Others	
Individual Meetings	10%
Team Meetings	20%
Inter-organizational Meetings	3%
Science	
Analysis	5%
Evaluation	5%
Business	
Strategic Planning	5%
Operations and Logistics	5%
Travel	2%
Reading Literature, Staying Current	5%



Schedule

TIME	BALLROOMS	Board of Trust Room	TIME	Downstairs 1&2
9:00am	Welcome Kathy Gould, Senior Associate Dean for Biomedical Research Education and Training			
9:15- 10:00am	Beyond R&D in Industry Jeff Bylund Stacey Mont Aaron Wexler	Academic Faculty Kristi Thiel Yi Ren, VU Faculty Member		
10:15- 11:00am	Research Roles: Industry v. Government Maria Agostini TK Feaster	Understanding Industry Support: Consulting + Patent Law Laura Terry Amanda Antons	10:10- 10:40am	FIRESIDE CHAT: Sci Comm Aaron Wexler
			10:45- 11:15am	FIRESIDE CHAT: Competitive Intelligence Stacey Mont
11:15am- noon	Start Me Up: Entrepreneurship Wyatt McDonnell Kristi Thiel	Medical Science Liaison Nicole Krupp	11:30- 12:00pm	FIRESIDE CHAT: Regulatory TK Feaster
12:15- 1:00pm	LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE: Evolving Career Trends in the Life Sciences Gauri Nair			
	I			
1:30-	NETWORKING HUDDLES 1:30-1:50 Huddle A		1:15- 1:45pm	FIRESIDE CHAT: Patent Law Amanda Antons
3:10pm	1:50-2:10 Huddle B 2:10-2:30 Huddle C 2:30-2:50 Huddle D 2:50-3:10 Huddle E			
3:15		Networking Reception		