A Kaleidoscope of Biomedical Science Careers

2024 ASPIRE Annual Career Symposium
Friday, May 31, 2024

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

Welcome to the 2024 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).

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%
	Team meetings	10%
	Inter-organizational meetings	5%
	Client meetings	10%
	Committee meetings	5%
	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%

Want to participate in the Q&A?

Ask questions on SLIDO.com #ASPIRE2024

Select your location. Ask your question!

ASPIRE

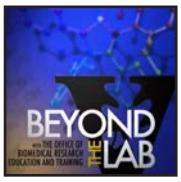
The BRET Office of Career Development ASPIRE Program is located in Light Hall, Suite 340.
bret.career.development@vanderbilt.edu
https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/

BRET
Biomedical Research Education and Training

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 8 drops Fall 2024.
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: Project Management, Clinical Research, and Life Design.

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/X

There are two Twitter/X 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.

Individualized Career Advising

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 resources.
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.

Find more resources (and these 10!) on the ASPIRE site: https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-development/

Sponsored by the Office of Biomedical Research Education 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)
Chemistry-Biology Interface
Genetic Variation and Human Phenotypes Training Program
Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD)
Immunological Mechanisms of Disease Training Program
Interdisciplinary Training in Rheumatic Diseases
Microenvironmental Influences in Cancer
Molecular Biophysics Training Grant at Vanderbilt
Multidisciplinary Training in Molecular Endocrinology
Postdoctoral Program in Functional Neurogenomics
Program in Developmental Biology
Project REACH: Research Expertise and Training in Children with Hearing Loss
Training in Fundamental Neuroscience
Training in Pharmacological Sciences
Translational Interdisciplinary Research Training in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Training Program in Environmental Toxicology
Vanderbilt Biomedical Informatics Training Program

Jean-luc Doumont

Featured Symposium Speaker

An engineer from the Louvain School of Engineering and PhD in applied physics from Stanford University, Jean-luc Doumont now devotes his time and energy to training engineers, scientists, business people, and other rational minds in effective communication, pedagogy, statistical thinking, and related themes. With his rational background, he approaches communication in an original, engineering- like way that contrasts sharply with the tradition of the field, rooted in the humanities. He is thus well received by students and professionals in search of a method they can apply with the same rigor they have come to value in every other aspect of their occupations. *Over more than 30 years, he has addressed grad students, postdocs, and faculty at some 200 universities in over 30 countries in English, French, Dutch, and Spanish.*

Dr. Doumont's Session Descriptions:

Opening Keynote: Critical Thinking for a Successful Career (and a successful life)
Although they can be models of rigor in their area of expertise, researchers often appear to abandon all logic in other aspects of their lives. As a result, they draw wrong conclusions and take suboptimal decisions that work against the interest of all involved. By unmasking typical incorrect reasonings at home and at work, this lecture will sharpen your critical thinking in every aspect of your life.

Networking for Researchers Workshop (afternoon sessions)
A success factor for any career, networking can be daunting for shyer people, who then envy the "people-oriented" ones. In fact, both the introverted and the extraverted can benefit from a more systematic approach to professional networking. After clarifying what a network really is, this workshop reviews approaches to effective networking, both face to face and online, each time offering concrete, readily applicable tips.

Amrita Banerjee, PhD

Policy Advisor,
U.S. Department of State

Diplomatic

Likable

Strategic

7 *Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of State*

6 *AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of State*

5 *National Chair, National Science Policy Network*

4 *AAAS Congressional Fellow, U.S. Congress*

3 *Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellowship*

2 *Policy Intern, Life Science Tennessee*

1 *PhD with Vanderbilt School of Medicine*

Amrita Banerjee, Ph.D. is a Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. State Department, Bureau of International Organization Affairs. Her work focuses on U.S. strategic engagement and leadership at the United Nations and international system.

Dr. Banerjee previously served as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow at the State Department. She was also an AAAS Congressional Fellow and legislative aide to U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer (WA-06) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Banerjee received her doctoral degree in Cell and Developmental Biology from Vanderbilt University and her bachelor's degree in Biology from Duke University. She speaks Bengali and Spanish.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	25%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
Responding to Phone Calls	5%
Writing	5%
Managing others	
Individual meetings	10%
Team meetings	5%
Inter-organizational meetings	5%
Hiring and/or interviewing	5%
Coaching or mentoring others	5%
Business	
Strategic Planning	5%
Travel	5%
Professional development	5%
Networking	5%
International relations (multilateral and foreign affairs)	10%

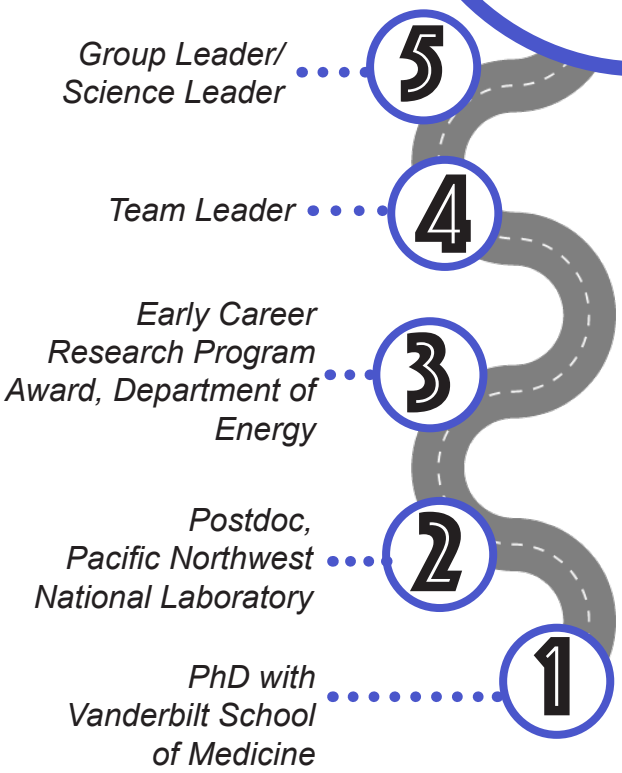
Kristin Burnum-Johnson, PhD

Science Group Leader for Functional and Systems Biology, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Leader

Team Player

Strategic



Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	2%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	10%
Writing	2%
Managing others	
Individual meetings	10%
Team meetings	10%
Inter-organizational meetings	1%
Client meetings	1%
Hiring and/or interviewing	1%
Coaching or mentoring others	17%
Science	
Analysis	2%
Discovery	13%
Evaluation	1%
Business	
Business Development	2%
Competitive Intelligence	2%
Strategic Planning	14%
Program Management	2%
Financial operations (writing grants, etc)	5%
Travel	1%
Reading literature, staying current	1%
Professional development	1%
Networking	2%

Kristin Burnum-Johnson is a Science Group Leader for Functional and Systems Biology at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Burnum-Johnson earned her PhD in Biochemistry from Vanderbilt University with Professor Richard M. Caprioli and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship at PNNL with Dr. Richard D. Smith.

Critical challenges in systems biology, ranging from environmental sustainability to human health, may be addressed through the comprehensive and informative view of underlying biological pathways provided by the integration of spatiotemporal multi-omic measurements (i.e., proteomics, metabolomics, and lipidomics). Her research is dedicated to achieving transformative molecular-level insights into environmental and biomedical systems by implementing advanced mass spectrometry (MS) instrumentation. Burnum-Johnson has more than 20 years of experience and more than 80 publications dedicated to the development and evaluation of in situ imaging MS, structural characterization of molecules using ion mobility-MS, and analyses of molecules in complex matrices using high-resolution MS. Her research program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program, the DOE Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Tony Chen, PhD

Publisher, Research Publishing, Springer Nature

Adaptable

Curious

Team Player

5 *Publisher, Springer Nature*

4 *Publishing role, Wiley*

3 *Volunteer editing role, NIH*

2 *Postdoc at NIH (but with intention to leave Academia)*

1 *PhD with Vanderbilt School of Medicine*

Tony Chen, PhD is a Publisher in the NPJ portfolio at Springer Nature, managing a portfolio of Life and Health Science journals. Previously, he worked as an Associate Publisher at Wiley for nearly 6 years, managing a portfolio of Health Science and Life Science journals (2018-2024). He earned his PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology from Vanderbilt University in 2015 and did postdoctoral work at the NIH studying the molecular mechanisms of Head and Neck cancer.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	20%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	10%
Writing	5%
Managing others	
Individual meetings	10%
Team meetings	10%
Client meetings	10%
Science	
Evaluation	5%
Business	
Business Development	5%
Strategic Planning	10%
Program Management	5%
Professional development	5%
Networking	5%

KEYNOTE

Karissa Culbreath, PhD

Section Chief, Medical Director, Infectious Disease, TriCore

Humble

Strategic

Thoughtful

7 *Director Role*

6 *Managment Role*

5 *CPEP Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill*

4 *Fantastic Vanderbilt graduate school informal mentors*

3 *Valuable Vanderbilt graduate school colleagues*

2 *Summer research exploration*

1 *Amazing undergraduate mentorship*

Dr. Karissa Culbreath is Medical Director and Division Chief of Infectious Diseases at Tricore. Dr. Culbreath received a Ph.D in Microbiology and Immunology from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN and completed a fellowship in Medical and Public Health Microbiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill through the American Society of Microbiology. She is board certified by the American Board of Medical Microbiologists. She currently serves as the Chair of the American Board of Medical Microbiologists. Her research interests include implementation laboratory automation in the clinical laboratory and advancing health equity through laboratory diagnostics in resource-limited communities.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	20%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	10%
Managing Others	
Training Others on the Job	5%
Individual Meetings	5%
Team Meetings	5%
Inter-organizational Meetings	5%
Coaching or Mentoring Others	5%
Science	
Analysis	20%
Evaluation	10%
Business	
Strategic Planning	15%

Keely Gilroy, PhD

Senior Medical Director, Global Medical Affairs, Agios Pharmaceuticals, LLC

Articulate

Strategic

Independent

Networking while at Vanderbilt and utilizing BRET Office resources! — 4

Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Fellowship — 3

Emory Graduate School, Genetics & Molecular Biology Program — 2

Undergraduate Research Experience at University of North Carolina — 1

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	10%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
Responding to Phone Calls	2%
Writing	2%
Managing Others	
Individual Meetings	3%
Team Meetings	5%
Inter-Organizational Meetings	5%
Client Meetings	20%
Committee Meetings	2%
Science	
Analysis	2%
Evaluation	2%
Business	
Competitive Intelligence	5%
Strategic Planning	5%
Travel	15%
Reading Literature, Staying Current	10%
Professional Development	2%
Networking	5%

Keely Gilroy is a Senior Medical Director at Agios Pharmaceuticals, a biotechnology company committed to advancing healthcare for patients living with rare diseases. At Agios, she leads the medical strategy for an investigational development program in thalassemia; her responsibilities include overseeing medical education activities, investigator-sponsored research, and data communications, as well as serving as a scientific subject matter expert for internal and external colleagues. Keely joined Agios in 2017 as a Medical Science Liaison and then transitioned to a role leading Publications and Scientific Communications before moving into her current position. Prior to joining Agios, she was a Medical Science Liaison with Takeda Pharmaceuticals where she supported several different disease areas including diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and inflammatory bowel disease. Keely earned a B.S in Biology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a PhD from Emory University in Genetics and Molecular Biology, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. She lives in Charleston, SC, and in her free time, enjoys the coastal life with her husband, Pat, and their two sons, JP (10) and Connor (8).

Henry Henderson, PhD

Medical Science Liaison, Foundation Medicine

Adaptable

Persistent

Enthusiastic

Diagnostic Medical Science Liaison — 6

Heme/Onc Medical Science Liaison — 5

Black in Cancer Co-Founder — 4

FDA-AACR Oncology Educational Fellowship — 3

Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Fellowship — 2

Tuskegee Graduate School — 1

Dr. Henry J. Henderson III is a trained cancer biologist and cancer health disparities advocate. He received his B.S. from Southern University and A&M College and his Ph.D. in Integrative Biosciences from Tuskegee University. Following his graduate studies, he completed his postdoctoral training at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he also served as an FDA-AACR Oncology Educational Fellow.

Currently, Dr. Henderson is an Oncology Medical Science Liaison. From lobbying on Capitol Hill for cancer research funding to serving as an expert panelist and keynote speaker for several prominent patient advocacy organizations, Dr. Henderson has contributed ardently to his field.He has also serves as a frequent panelist for the FDA Oncology Center of Excellence's Black Family Cancer Awareness Week. Most notably, Dr. Henderson is the co-founder of Black in Cancer, an organization aimed to increase cancer awareness and Black representation in cancer related fields.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	15%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	10%
Responding to Phone Calls	5%
Writing	5%
Science	
Evaluation	5%
Business	
Strategic Planning	10%
Travel	20%
Reading Literature, Staying Current	10%
Professional Development	10%
Networking	10%

Eric N. Johnson, PhD

Executive Director, Discovery Science, Initial Therapeutics

Leader

Skillful

Thoughtful

8 — *Executive Director, Exelixis (management of scientists and programs)*

7 — *Director, WuXi AppTec (management and client interactions)*

6 — *Director, Merck (management of scientists/ automation)*

5 — *Scientist, Merck (intro to automation)*

4 — *Scientist, GSK (intro to industry)*

3 — *Postdoc, NIH*

2 — *Postdoc, Univ of Calif San Diego*

1 — *PhD with Vanderbilt School of Medicine*

Dr Eric Johnson completed his BS degree in Biology at Dickinson College, and his PhD degree in Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His diverse training includes post-doctoral studies at the Univ. of California San Diego and the National Institutes of Health where he focused on cell signaling in cardiac myocytes and the immune system, respectively. During his more than two decades of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, Eric worked with a variety of corporations, including large pharmaceutical companies such as Wyeth, GlaxoSmithKline, and Merck & Co. Through his on-the-job training in automation and its implementation in the hit finding process, Eric was able to advance his career and assume leadership roles for several highly efficient teams. His responsibilities included assay development for drug repurposing and genome-wide siRNA screening. After his tenure in big pharma, Eric helped to build successful screening groups at WuXi AppTec, a contract research organization (CRO) as well as Exelixis, a mid-size biotech company. These teams were responsible for high-throughput screening, alternative hit finding campaigns, automated weekly structure-activity-relationship (SAR) assays and determining mechanism of action. Eric recently entered the world of startups as the Executive Director of Discovery Science at Initial Therapeutics, a biotech company, where he leads assay development scientists to identify compounds that inhibit protein synthesis in the ribosome's exit tunnel with the intention of developing novel cancer-fighting therapies.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	5%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
Managing others	
Training others on the job	5%
Individual meetings	10%
Team meetings	10%
Inter-organizational meetings	5%
Committee meetings	5%
Hiring and/or interviewing	5%
Coaching or mentoring others	20%
Science	
Analysis	5%
Discovery	5%
Evaluation	10%
Business	
Strategic Planning	5%
Consultation from others	5%

Jessica Overstreet, PhD

Senior Advisor, Lilly Diabetes and Obesity and Talent Development Academy, Eli Lilly and Company

Multi-talented

Strategic

Team Player

8 *Eli Lilly-Lilly Diabetes and Obesity (Ph3 Development-CV)*

7 *Eli Lilly-Lilly Genetic Medicine (Modality Expert)*

6 *Eli Lilly-Talent Development Academy (High Potential Employee Professional Development)*

5 *Eli Lilly-Diabetes Obesity Complication Therapeutic Area (Disease Expert)*

4 *Lilly Innovation Fellowship Award Recipient (Gateway to Industry)*

3 *Vanderbilt-Bayer Partnership & BRET Office Programs*

2 *Vanderbilt University Postdoc-Nephrology*

1 *Albany Medical College, PhD Cell Biology and Cancer Research*

Jessica M Overstreet, PhD is a Senior Advisor in the Lilly Diabetes and Obesity-Cardiovascular Phase 3 Clinical Development team at Eli Lilly and Company. She is currently in the Talent Development Academy Experienced Employee Rotational Program, a two-year program that enhances the employee's development through contribution to different business areas across the organization. Her previous roles were as a discovery scientist in Lilly Genetic Medicine and the Diabetes, Obesity, Complications therapeutic area as an expert on novel therapeutic modalities and disease biology. Jessica supports enterprise-level Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, mainly focusing on employees identifying as Black, Latinx, women and early career professionals.

Jessica received her B.S. in Biotechnology at Ferris State University, Ph.D. from Albany Medical College and completed her postdoctoral studies in nephrology with Ray Harris at Vanderbilt University. Her research at Vanderbilt was funded by the Lilly Innovation Fellowship Award (LIFA) and the Vanderbilt-Bayer partnership. She serves as an advisor to the ASPIRE Path in Molecular Medicine, acts as an Indianapolis Public School ambassador, and is the board chair of a non-profit organization, El Sistema Indianapolis.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	2%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	15%
Managing others	
Team Meetings	15%
Inter-organizational Meetings	15%
Coaching or Mentoring Others	5%
Science	
Discovery	5%
Evaluation	10%
Business	
Strategic Planning	20%
Travel	2%
Professional Development	4%
Networking	7%

Meagan Quinlan, PhD

Scientist/Therapeutic Lead, Gene Therapy, Allen Institute for Brain Science

Encouraging

Persistent

Team Player

Meagan Quinlan joined the Allen Institute as a Therapeutic Lead on the AAV Gene Therapy Team in the Human Cell Types Group in 2022. As part of the gene therapy program, Meagan designs and tests new therapeutic AAVs to treat brain diseases such as epilepsy. Before joining the Allen Institute, Meagan studied the impact of disease-associated gene variants at the molecular, neural circuit, and behavioral levels. As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington, she studied potassium channel variants identified in neurodevelopmental disorders and worked on developing a novel cell-type specific CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology. She got her PhD in Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University studying the structural and functional dynamics of serotonin transporter gene variants identified in autism spectrum disorder. Meagan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Pharmacology and Mathematics from the University of Vermont.

4 — *Scientist at Allen Institute for Brain Science*

3 — *University of Washington Postdoctoral Fellowship*

2 — *PhD with Vanderbilt School of Medicine*

1 — *Undergraduate Research Experience*

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	5%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	30%
Managing others	
Individual meetings	20%
Team meetings	20%
Science	
At the “bench” doing actual research	10%
Analysis	10%
Reading literature, staying current	5%

Emily Turner, PhD

Manager, Medical Writing, Clinical Development, Xenon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Decisive

Procedural

Team player

6. *Manager, Xenon Pharmaceuticals*
5. *Executive Director, Critical Path Institute*
4. *Senior Scientific Director, Critical Path Institute*
3. *Associate Director, Critical Path Institute*
2. *Postdoc, Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium (Arizona State University)*
1. *PhD with Vanderbilt School of Medicine*

Dr. Emily Turner earned a B.A. in Psychology and Art History from Northwestern University (2012) and a Ph.D. in Psychological Sciences (Neuroscience) from Vanderbilt University (2017). Following her postdoctoral fellowship with the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium (2017-2019), Dr. Turner served as the Associate Director and then Executive Director of the Huntington's Disease Regulatory Science Consortium (HD-RSC) at Critical Path Institute (2019-2022). Through that role, she led a global collaboration of drug developers, Huntington's disease experts, non-profit science research and patient advocacy representatives, and global regulators, with the aim of creating new tools and methods to advance efficient clinical development and to inform regulatory needs for approval of HD therapeutics. Dr. Turner transitioned into the pharmaceutical industry in 2022, joining Xenon Pharmaceuticals in Boston, MA, where she is currently a Senior Manager of Medical Writing. In this role, she prepares a wide variety of regulatory documents, such as CSRs, CSPs, IBs, DSURs, briefing documents, and patient narratives, in the indications of epilepsy and major depressive disorder.

Workplace Week at a Glance

Communication	
Addressing Emails	5%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	15%
Writing	40%
Managing others	
Team meetings	5%
Inter-organizational meetings	10%
Science	
Evaluation	20%
Business	
Strategic Planning	5%

Isaac Zike, PhD

Managing Director,
RiverVest Venture Partners

Detailed

Strategic

Multi-Talented

6 — *Managing Director, RiverVest Venture Partners*

5 — *Principal, RiverVest Venture Partners*

4 — *Senior Associate, RiverVest Venture Partners*

3 — *Management Consultant, Life Sciences, Huron Consulting Group*

2 — *Visiting Graduate Student, Columbia Medical Center*

1 — *Vanderbilt PhD Training Program, Pharmacology*

Workplace Week at a Glance

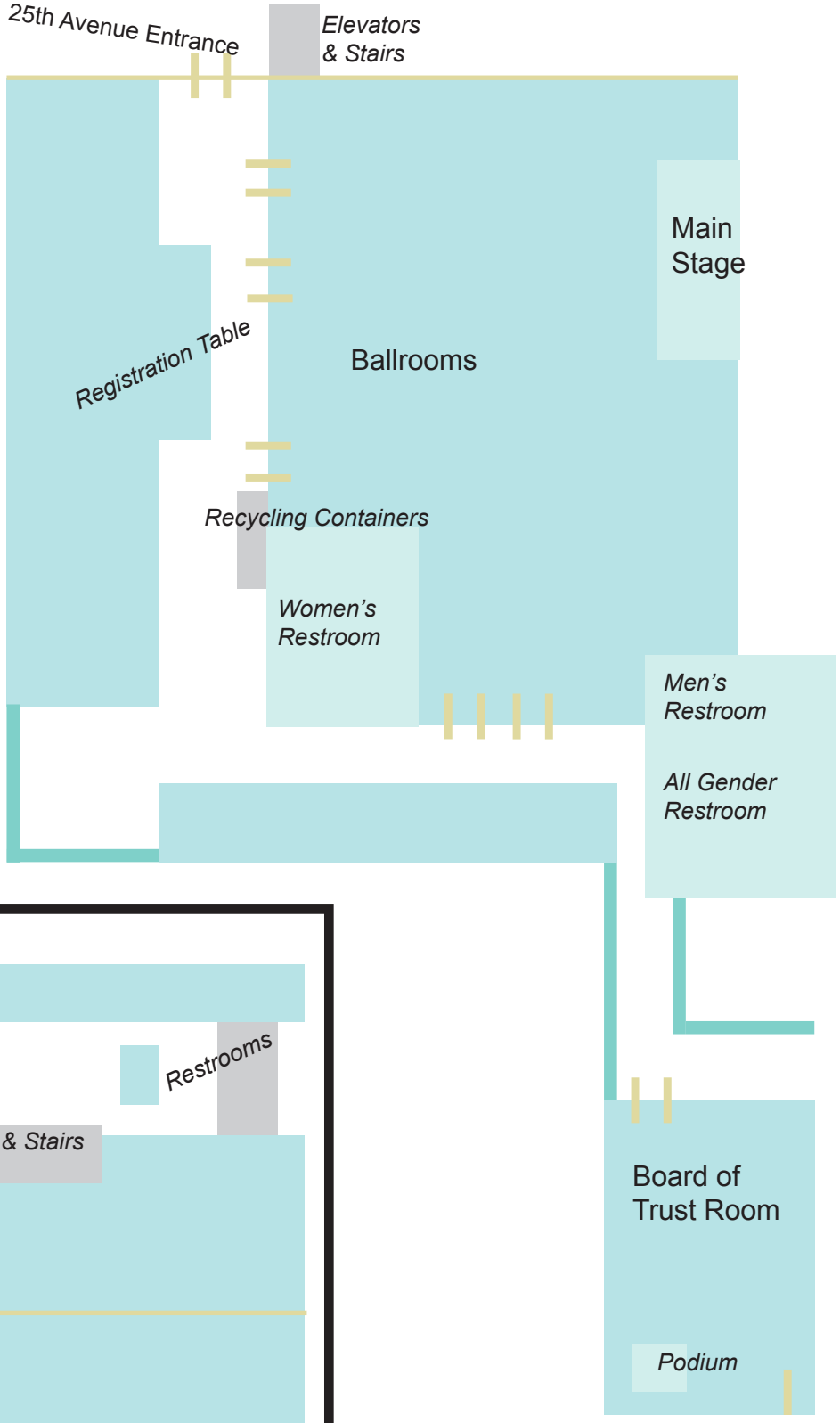
Communication	
Addressing Emails	10%
Preparing and Giving Presentations	5%
Writing	5%
Managing others	
Team Meetings	5%
Inter-organizational Meetings	15%
Committee Meetings	5%
Science	
Analysis	5%
Evaluation	5%
Business	
Business Development	5%
Competitive Intelligence	5%
Strategic Planning	15%
Forecasting, Reporting	5%
Operations and Logistics	5%
Travel	5%
Professional Development	5%

Isaac Zike, PhD is a Managing Director at RiverVest Venture Partners and has been with the fund since joining in 2019 as a Senior Associate. Isaac serves as a director on the boards of RiverVest portfolio companies SeQure Dx and a stealth biopharma company as well as a board observer for Glycomine, Sparrow Pharmaceuticals, and Wugen. He earned a B.S. from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, double majoring in Biochemistry and in Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development. Following his undergraduate studies, he completed a PhD in Pharmacology at Vanderbilt University, where he worked in the lab of Dr. Veenstra-VanderWeele, focusing his thesis work on the evaluation and validation of novel animal models for psychiatric disease.

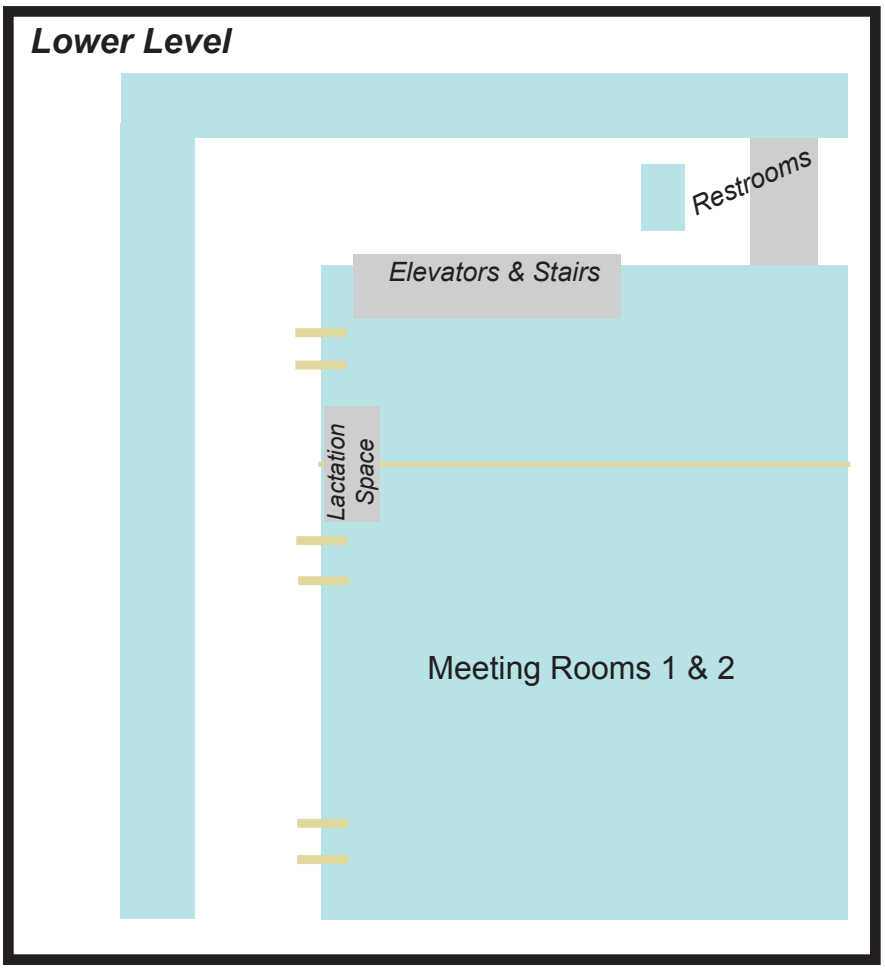
Prior to joining RiverVest, Isaac worked as an associate within the Life Sciences practice at the Huron Consulting Group in New York City, where he assisted pharmaceutical and biotech clients on strategic projects ranging from early optimization of R&D processes to commercialization strategies for marketed products.

Student Life Center

Main Level



Lower Level



If you have any questions about the schedule throughout the day, please return to the registration table outside the SLC Ballrooms.

A Lactation Room is available on the bottom floor of the SLC, next to Classroom 3. Ask the SLC front desk for details.

Schedule

TIME	BALLROOMS	Board of Trust Room		TIME	Downstairs 1&2
9:00am	**Welcome Remarks** Walter Chazin *Senior Associate Dean for Biomedical Research Education and Training*				
9:15-10:15am	**Critical Thinking for a Successful Career (and a Successful Life)** Jean-Luc Doumont				
10:25-11:20am	**Medical Science Liaison Panel** Henry Henderson Keeley Gilroy	**Government and Non-Profit Research** Kristin Burnum-Johnson Meagan Quinlan		10:45-11:15am	**FIRESIDE CHAT:** Jessica Overstreet
11:30am-noon	**Government, Policy, Advocacy** Amrita Banerjee	**Biotech Ventures** Isaac Zike		11:30-12:00pm	**FIRESIDE CHAT:** Henry Henderson
12:30-1:15pm	**LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE:** ***Clinical Lab Medicine*** *Karissa Culbreath*				
1:25-2:25pm	**Industry Science** Jessica Overstreet Eric Johnson	***Networking for Researchers*** Workshop Jean-Luc Doumont		1:20-1:50pm	**FIRESIDE CHAT:** Keeley Gilroy
2:35-3:30pm	**Writing and Publishing** Tony Chen Emily Turner	***Networking for Researchers*** Workshop Jean-Luc Doumont		2:00-2:30pm	**FIRESIDE CHAT:** Karissa Culbreath
				2:40-3:10pm	**FIRESIDE CHAT:** Karissa Culbreath
3:30pm	**Networking Reception** *Outside on the Promenade*				