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Senior Researcher
Department of Pharmacology
Baylor College of Medicine
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Upcoming ACS Webinars

Thursday, March 23, 2017

**Fighting Cancer: Allostery and Targeting Cancer Cell Metabolism**

Session 3 of the 2017 Drug Design and Delivery Symposium

Stefan Gross, Director of Enzymology, Agios Pharmaceuticals
Scott Edmondson, Director of Chemistry, AstraZeneca

Thursday, March 30, 2017

**Sustainability Challenges of the Textiles, Dyeing and Finishing Industries: Opportunities for Innovation**

Co-produced with the ACS Green Chemistry Institute

Richard Blackburn, Associate Professor, University of Leeds
Joseph Fortunak, Professor of Chemistry, Howard University

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“Exploring Alternative Careers in Chemistry”

Slides available now! Recordings are an exclusive ACS member benefit.

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Education and career highlights

- Amherst College B.A. in chemistry
- Merck analytical chemist
- Stanford University Ph.D. in chemistry
- UC Santa Cruz science writing certificate
- Freelance writer and consultant
- Joined C&EN staff in 2007

Currently: Reporter, writer, blogger

- Cover
  - Basic research and techniques
  - Breast milk composition, psychedelic medicines
  - Current events like lethal injections and oil spills
  - Lab safety
- Via
  - Staying on top of local/national news
  - Reading scientific papers
  - Talking to sources
  - Attending conferences, visit research facilities
- Great job for a curious and analytical mind but:
  - Must meet deadlines
  - Must work well under constant criticism
Which of the following best describes why you are tuning in today?

- I am not in the workforce yet but am interested in alternative careers in chemistry.
- I would like to transition from a traditional to more alternative chemistry career.
- I am curious to find out more about alternative chemistry careers.
- It’s Thursday and I always tune into ACS Webinars!
Background

- Interest in chemistry began in middle school
- Baylor University (Waco, TX)
  - B.S. (A.C.S. certified) in Chemistry and Minor in Mathematics
  - Studied Electrochemistry with Dr. Thomas Franklin
  - Performed medicinal chemistry research at Merck
- Attended the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) (Pasadena, CA)
  - Ph.D. Chemistry
  - Thesis: Fundamental Aspects of DNA-mediated Charge Transport
- Law School at the University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)
  - Focused on intellectual property
- Patent litigation associate at Sidley Austin LLP (Los Angeles, CA)

Current Position: Gilead Sciences, Inc.

- Biopharmaceutical company (Foster City, CA)
  - Portfolio and pipeline includes treatments for HIV/AIDS, liver disease, cancer, inflammatory and respiratory diseases and cardiovascular conditions
- Responsible for contested matters in the U.S. and ex-U.S.
Are you planning to transition jobs in the near future?

• Yes, I would like to transition now.
• Yes, I plan to make a transition in a few years.
• Not sure for now but I have pondered it.
• No, I am content with my current position.
Bonnie Charpentier, PhD

Education and Career Highlights

- Bachelor degree in Anthropology
- PhD in Plant Physiology
  - Dissertation required lots of analytical chemistry (pine trees in space)
- First job post-PhD:
  - Analytical Chemist at Procter and Gamble – 10 years
    - Analytical and flavor chemistry; became interested in approval of new molecules in foods
- Moved to California – First job in Regulatory Affairs
  - Syntex, later bought by Roche (total ~10 years)
  - Small biotechs
  - Cytokinetics

Current Position: Senior VP Regulatory and Compliance

Responsible for three departments

- Regulatory Affairs
  - Regulatory strategy
  - Regulatory operations
  - Technical Writing
    - Clinical
    - Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls (CMC)
- Quality Assurance
  - QA for Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
  - Clinical Quality Assurance
- Drug Safety and Pharmacovigilance
Regulatory Affairs

Selected responsibilities

• Strategy and planning for benefit/risk assessment of potential new drugs
  • Collaborate with clinical, nonclinical and CMC groups to ensure appropriate studies are done.

• Communication and liaison with regulatory authorities (e.g., FDA, EMA); prepare for and manage meetings

• Regulatory intelligence and currency with rules and guidances

• Preparation of regulatory documents and dossiers

• Managing collaborations with partners

Regulatory Affairs

Skills useful for the job

• Technical background

• Ability to interpret data and collaborate with technical teams

• Analytical thinking skills

• Ability to communicate clearly across different disciplines

• Ability to transition quickly from detail to big picture (and back)

• Negotiating skills

• Crisis management

• Influencing others

• Patience
**Regulatory Affairs**

**Sources of Information**

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

- International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH)
  - [www.ich.org](http://www.ich.org)

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“Exploring Alternative Careers in Chemistry”

Tashica Amirgholizadeh  
Corporate Counsel, IP Litigation, Gilead Sciences

Bonnie Charpentier  
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance, Cytokinetics

Jyllian Kemsley  
Senior Editor, Chemical & Engineering News

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