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Information, insights, and advice for ACS industry members

September 12 , 2019

Today's issue explores "Boss Talk" with Peter Eckes, President, BASF Bioscience Research. He talks about what transformed R&D, provides some counterintuitive advice on career advancement, and more. Ed Miller, Executive Director of the ACS Rubber Division, looks back on three different careers with insights and observations that you'll find interesting and helpful. Career Corner explores management 'hot buttons.' Hope you enjoy the issue.

John C. Katz
Executive Editor

[BOSS TALK](#)

Insights and advice from a senior executive in the chemical industry



Peter Eckes, President of BASF Bioscience Research

What technology trends are you following most closely with an eye toward how they may impact the work of your BASF teams?

Every R&D leader should ask themselves this question. From my perspective nothing has changed R&D more than digitalization, modelling and... [Read More](#)

[CAREER CORNER](#)

ACS Career Consultants and other experts answer questions about advancing your career in industry

What are some "hot buttons" for managers?



Mojitaba Bonakdar, Sr. Director Chemical Medicines, USP

Poor communication. No manager likes to feel blindsided. Establish a way to keep your manager up to date on your work while being... [Read More](#)



Lori Spangler, ACS Career Consultant

Most managers do not like to be "out of the loop." Make sure your manager is updated whenever there is a change in plan, a change in... [Read More](#)



Chris Bannochie, Manager, Savanna River National Laboratory

Lack of appreciation for how long projects actually take to complete when following... [Read More](#)

Jim Tung, ACS Career Consultant



A hot button I've seen for managers is not being given accurate timelines. Everyone knows that delays happen. Once the first delay happens, the best approach is to... [Read More](#)

WHAT I LEARNED

Observations and reflections from chemists with decades of experience working in industry.



Edward L. Miller, MSCE, MBA, PE, Executive Director, ACS Rubber Division

You have had three full careers: 24 years in the Air Force, 9 years as President & CEO of the Asphalt Institute, and 19 years as Executive Director of the ACS Rubber Division. What advice do you have for chemists who might be mulling a career change?

Start the thought process well in advance, do your homework, list your reasons, as well as pros and cons, and talk it through with someone you respect and trust. My wife and I were both career Air Force officers. We began discussing the possible change one year before we... [Read More](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY CAREER CHEMIST

Get to know an early career chemist working in industry.

Nancy Ortiz, Development Chemist, Quaker Houghton



Smoothing the way for people and products

Nancy Ortiz thought she'd like to be a detective. She grew up in Eagle Pass, Texas, a small border town where the adult jobs she saw were mainly teacher, police officer, or Homeland Security personnel. So when she transferred from community... [Read More](#)

QUOTABLE

"Seek out the boss that believes in you and provides you with real challenging opportunities. These opportunities foster personal growth and great engagement."

Peter Eckes, President, BASF Bioscience Research

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