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Information, insights, and advice for ACS industry members

October 10, 2019

In this issue, learn why Serban Cantacuzene believes pairing an MBA with a Ph.D. has been instrumental in helping him execute his duties as VP, R&D Americas for Air Liquide. On another matter, people talk a lot about the differences between working in industry vs. academia. But few people explain it as well as Frankie Wood-Black does in her "What I Learned."

There's more. Learn how to deal with a boss who takes credit for your work, and meet Jason Zbieg, an early career chemist at Genentech who works in discovery of new targets.

Feedback is always welcome. Please send to industry@acs.org.

John C. Katz
Executive Editor

[BOSS TALK](#)

Insights and advice from a senior executive in the chemical industry

Serban Cantacuzene, VP R&D Americas,
Air Liquide, Inc.



**Several Boss Talk participants have paired a Ph.D. in chemistry-
- or some other science --along with an MBA. Has the MBA made
you more effective in your current role as V.P., R&D, Americas?
If so, how?**

I truly feel that my MBA has enabled me to be more effective in my current role. I completed my MBA over a two-year course, as I was finishing my last year of Ph.D. and starting my first R&D position with Air Liquide, during which time I explored topics such as marketing and finance and business models. [Read More](#).

CAREER CORNER

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

**My boss routinely takes credit for my accomplishments. What
should I do?**



Moji Bonakdar, Senior Director, Chemical
Medicines

Prepare and take advantage of perfecting your elevator pitch and let the right people know about your contributions to specific... [Read More](#)



Greglynn Gibbs, ACS Career Consultant

Not knowing the particular details, you have a few options: 1. Have a professional conversation with your boss voicing your concern. If you have had any Conflict Resolution and Emotional Intelligence Training... [Read More](#)



Lori Spangler, ACS Career Consultant

This is a tough challenge. Some managers will take credit for a team's accomplishments, but still recognize, reward and promote individual team members who made the accomplishment happen. If this is not... [Read More](#)



Chris Bannochie, ACS Career Consultant

Talk to your supervisor as soon as possible before you become disenchanted or disengaged. Open communication... [Read More](#)

[WHAT I LEARNED](#)

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



Frankie Wood-Black, Ph.D, M.B.A., R.E.M.,
Division Chair, Engineering, Physical Science
and Process Technology at Northern
Oklahoma College, and Principal of Sophic
Pursuits, Inc.

You have worked in both academia and industry. Can you share something academics might not adequately appreciate about the challenges confronting people who work in industry, and vice-versa?

There are two major challenges moving from academia to industry, one is the time scales of getting work done, and the other is the emphases on process and safety. As a graduate student, your project timelines were controlled by the research, your personal academic timeline, and your advisor's grant schedules. These timelines are more fluid than what I encountered moving into industry, even in a group that was focused on fundamental research. [Read More.](#)

[SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY CAREER CHEMIST](#)

Get to know an early career chemist working in industry



Jason Zbieg, Scientist, Discovery Chemistry at Genentech

Fueled by coffee, Jason Zbieg explores strategies to create new medicines faster

Jason Zbieg admits he has a competitive streak. It showed up in wrestling and baseball during his New Jersey childhood, and now he's an avid golfer. "I just want to get as good as I possibly can in anything I do." That same drive infiltrates Zbieg's work discovering new pathways to medicines at Genentech. [Read More.](#)

[QUOTABLE](#)

"What's missing from today's discussion of cancer is the admission that current strategies have failed and we need to take a 180-degree turn. We now invest a lot of effort into finding minimal residual disease. Why not apply the same rigor and focus to finding minimal initial disease? Cancer research has been promising hope and delivering disappointments for a half-century. Instead of letting cancer grow into its end-stage monstrosity, let us assemble our resources to pre-empt that battle and strike instead at cancer's root: the first cells."

Dr. Azra Raza, the Chan Soon-Shiong Professor of Medicine and director of the MDS Center at Columbia University. Published in the 10.5.19 Wall Street Journal.



[LINKEDIN LEARNING COURSE](#)

What you most need to know from an industry-connected LinkedIn Learning Course. Today's course: Communicating with Confidence

Although people understand that public speaking is an essential skill in industry, many remain nervous and struggle to speak with confidence. Course leader and speaker Jeff Ansell gives listeners tips on how to overcome nervousness and speak with confidence in a public setting. [Read More](#)

Views expressed in this newsletter are those of authors and not necessarily those of ACS.

[MORE FROM ACS](#)

ACS Heroes of Chemistry Spotlight: DuPont

Hats off to the 2019 Heroes of Chemistry at DuPont that advanced flexographic printing by developing the Cyrel Easy platform! Watch their story and get ready for 2020 nominations, opening Nov. 1! [More at acs.org/heroes](#)

ACS Exclusive Report: AI and the Future of Drug Discovery

Artificial intelligence promises to revolutionize drug discovery and development. But what is it really capable of? And how can chemists help it succeed? Enjoy this special publication courtesy of C&EN and ACS. [Get the report.](#)

Nominate a Noteworthy Chemist for an ACS National Award

Recognize an employee for an appropriate technical award. If your organization has a group that identifies individuals who should be nominated for awards, please share this information. We encourage you to nominate individuals from groups not commonly named as recipients of ACS awards such as women, minorities, chemists from industry and the national laboratories. The deadline date for all nominating material is November 1, 2019. [Submit your nominations today.](#) You can also [visit ACS's National Awards Page](#) or email awards@acs.org for more information on how to submit a nomination for an ACS National Award.

Top Career Tips from C&EN's Inaugural Table Talks Event

C&EN held its first Table Talks event at the ACS National Meeting in San Diego. Here are the top takeaways from discussions on salary negotiation, career changes, battling imposter syndrome and more. [Read More](#)

Join ACS's New LinkedIn Group

Are you an entrepreneur or interested in entrepreneurship in the chemical industry? Join ACS's new Innovation Hub LinkedIn group to make important connections, get advice, and learn about the latest trends driving chemical industry innovation. [Learn More.](#)

ACS Industry Matters Goes Weekly

By popular demand, the ACS Industry Matters newsletter is moving to a weekly format. You can now expect the same great, member-only content, plus several exciting new columns, including features on innovation, safety, industry job postings, and more, weekly every Thursday starting October 17.

Send thoughts, tips, and questions to industry@acs.org.

Visit us at www.acs.org/industry.

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