

From Walid Fakhouri

11.07.06

Report on Brookfield, Wisconsin Symposium “Put your Ph.D. to work”

We arrived there by evening and joined other people who represent the PDA/PDO offices at their universities. Dr. Philip Clifford, Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Education, Medical College of Wisconsin hosted this evening event. The other represented universities are:

- a. Medical College of Wisconsin
- b. Uni. of Wisconsin-Madison
- c. Mayo Clinic
- d. Uni. of Chicago
- e. Northwestern University
- f. University of Minnesota
- g. Michigan State University

We introduced each other and talked about general issues related to postdocs and the situation in other institutes in term of PDO office, benefits and retirement plans. Remarkable thing that Medical College of Wisconsin has Prof. Philip Clifford as Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Education (A big positive element for their PDA/PDO). A positive point goes to MSU that the medical and retirement benefits for the research associates are much better than most of the other institutes.

Other high light points from the symposium:

1. It was very organized, excellent and experienced speakers were invited, we had enough time to ask and get answers for the questions, they divided the symposium to 4 tracks, direct talk and contact with the speaker and organizers during the two breaks was very productive.
2. The exhibitors represent a very important sectors of career oriented agencies and industries like Kelly Scientific, Covance Laboratories and GTI Diagnostics.

From Anastasia Kariagina

Symposium agenda was very well planned and was targeted for PhD students and postdoctoral fellows looking for a career path in academy or industry.

Plenary sessions were devoted to interviewing skills and the power of procrastination.

Breakout sessions were divided to 4 tracks

Track 1. Career in Biotechnology and Drug Development: Taking the Leap into Industry by Toby Beth Freedman, Ph.D. Toby serves as a Board member of the Bioscience Forum, www.biosf.org, a non-profit educational organization serving Bay area life science community.

Track 2. Negotiating skills by Joanne Lipo Zovic, JD, Adjunct Associate Professor of Law / Marquette University.

Track 3. Academic Job Search by Bill Lindstaedt, MS, Director of Career & Professional Center Development / University of California – San Francisco <http://www.ucsf.edu/career/>

Track 4. Industry panel. R. Dusty Sarazan, DVM, PhD / Director, Safety Pharmacology / Covance laboratories, Inc, J. ruth Wu-Wong, PhD / Research fellow / Abbott, Jason Hamann, PhD / sr. Research Scientist, Neural Cardiac Therapy / Boston Scientific Corporation.

Biotechnology Job Posting Sites:

BioSpace, www.biospace.com

Craigslist, www.craigslist.org

MDs only, www.dropoutclub.org

Recruiters:

On Assignment Lab Support, www.onassignment.com , www.labsupport.com

KForce, www.kforce.com

Kelly Scientific, www.kellyscientific.com.

Suggested readings:

Career in Biotechnology and Drug Development, Toby Freedman, www.cshlpress.com,

www.careerbiotech.com

Nature Biotechnology, www.nature.com/nbt/

What is a Color of Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers,

Richard Nelson Bolles, www.jobhuntersbible.com

Science Magazine, www.Sciencecareers.org