2020 MENTORING PROGRAM

The GPS-STEM online mentoring program provides professional mentoring for PhD students/postdoctoral scientists & opportunities to connect/reconnect with alumni. In this pandemic climate, more than ever, you need a mentor to help you navigate the new normal. The mentors will help mentees clear variety of rumors and myths causing insecurity and uncertainty related to the job space.

Program Overview

Goals: To address the gap between excellent research training & lack of exposure to diverse job sectors for a successful career transition

- Help trainees understand & develop skills in coping with COVID19-induced ripple effects in job sectors
- Build a supportive community, where mentors & mentees can openly discuss career advancement & preparedness
- Encourage & expand e-networking between alumni and UCI trainees

Program Structure (2 - 3 hours)

- Trainee Workshop (Compulsory) on "Effective Communications with Your Mentor: Dos & Don’ts" led by Bri McWhorter, MFA (Activate to Captivate) & Harinder Singh, PhD (Program Director, GPS-STEM)
- Program launch - eNetworking for participants to identify mentors (60 mins)
- #1 - Introductions & Career Exploration (30 mins)
- #2 - Informational Interview - Job specific questions (30 mins)
- #3 - Transition Mechanisms (Optional)
- #4 - Application Process & Job application simulation (Optional)

Trainee Workshop: September 24, 4:00PM
Program Launch (2 days) : September 28, 2020; 1PM - 2PM
&
October 1, 2020; 2PM - 3PM

Register to participate: https://tinyurl.com/OnlineMentoring2020

"In my personal opinion, this program has been the most beneficial program GPS-STEM has organized (and they organize a ton of events that I find extremely useful!). I will be strongly recommending this mentoring program to other UCI students and postdocs." - Mentee in 2019 program & Mentor for 2020 program

Learn more - https://gps.bio.uci.edu/2020-online-mentoring-program/
Got questions? Please contact, Program Director, Harinder.Singh@uci.edu
MEET OUR 2020 MENTORS!

Natasha Wadlington, Ph.D.
Science/Medical Writer
SB Pharma Solutions, LLC

Specializes in STEM communication. Currently, serving as Medical Writer working on content deliverables & quality assurance consultant
- Content Writer, Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Former Grants Intern & Postdoctoral fellow at University of Chicago
- PhD in Neurobiology from University of Chicago

Ohimai Unoe, Ph.D.
Field Application Scientist
Menarini Silicon Biosystems

Goal oriented & people-minded biotechnology professional with 7+ years of experience in the life sciences building professional relationships
- Former Sr. Application Scientist (Flow Cytometry) at Beckman Coulter
- PhD from UC Irvine

Ankita Shukla, Ph.D.
Research Applications Scientist
BD

- Co-Chair, Professional Development Committee, Associated Graduate Students at UC Irvine
- Intern, Allergan
- PhD in Biological Sciences, UC Irvine

Lauren Sheehan, Ph.D.
Field Application Scientist
Lexogen GmbH

Application scientist in a biotech company, infectious disease specialist, science communicator.
- Mentee, 2019 mentoring program
- Research Associate, UC Irvine
- PhD from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Brandon Matthews, Ph.D.
R&D Chemist
Intelligent Optical Systems, Inc.

Experienced analytical chemist with passion for science communication
- Mentee, 2018 mentoring program
- Volunteer, UC Irvine Outreach
- PhD from UC Irvine

Gilbert Martinez, Ph.D.
Sr. Scientist, Developmental Sciences
Abbvie

Experienced researcher with demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry
- Sr. Scientist, Biologics, Allergan
- Sr. Fellow, University of Washington
- PhD in Biophysics from Stanford University School of Medicine

Julie Dela Cruz-Mulders, Ph.D.
Medical Science Liaison
Eli Lilly

Science communicator & educator with multiple years of working experience in academic research & pharmaceutical industry.
- Global Medical Communications Manager & Publications Manager, Allergan
- Postdoctoral Fellow, UC Irvine
- PhD from City University of New York
- PhD from Maastricht University

Lindsey Araujo, Ph.D.
Medical Science Liaison
Johnson & Johnson

Translational scientist with >10 years of experience working in academia & industry research
- Clinical Development Regional Medical Specialist, Actelion
- Medical Science Liaison, Bayer Pharmaceuticals
- Postdoctoral research, UC Irvine
- PhD from UC Irvine

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- Mentor, 2017/2018 mentoring program
- VP Global Marketing, Zymo
- Research Translational Group Manager, UC Irvine
- Director of Life Sciences Automation & Genomics, Beckman Coulter
- MBA, The Paul Merage School of Business, UC Irvine
- PhD in Biochemistry, King’s College London, University of London

Milton Greenberg, Ph.D.
President
Vivrean Biosciences

Researcher/teacher/mentor with passions to solve unmet needs in chronic diseases
- Mentor, 2018/2019 mentoring program
- Assistant Instructional Professor in Biology at Chapman University
- PhD from UC Irvine

Translational scientist with >10 years of experience working in academia & industry research
- Clinical Genomics Scientist, Pacific Reproductive Center
- General Curation Scientist, Fulgent Genetics

Dianne Sanchez, Ph.D.
Air Quality Specialist, South Coast Air Quality Management District

Earth system scientist with expertise in atmospheric chemistry. Skilled at community engagement & scientific communication
- Project Manager, Seed Consulting Group
- PhD, Dept. of Earth System Science, UC Irvine

Mario A. Pulido, Ph.D.
Sr. Research Associate
Kite Pharma

RECAP of 2019 MENTORING PROGRAM

Last year, ~20 PhD students & Postdocs participated in the program, which produced numerous ways for them to hone their career interests. After initial ice-breaking sessions over Zoom, trainees took the initiative & organized 1-on-1 meetings with their mentors, shadowed their mentors at their work place, and attended networking events together.

>70% of the participants said that the program met their expectations.

One program mentee shared, "I am now aware of possible careers post-PhD/-Postdoc, and worked on a career plan with my mentor that emphasized skills I would need to be successful."

Lara Clemens, Ph.D.
Postdoc
DIUnified

The Online Mentoring Program was a great opportunity for me to talk to several mentors about their career paths and approach to job searches. I particularly want to give a huge shout out to my mentor, Sharel, who helped me through my career search and developing my job applications. I would 100% recommend the program at any stage!

Karissa J. Muñoz
Ph.D. Candidate
Developmental & Cell Biology

The online mentoring program was an excellent way for me to interact with PhDs in a career that I am interested in. I want to pursue a career in scientific communication/writing and I met people who gave me valuable information regarding this position as well as steps I should take to achieve my career goals.

Brianna (Craver) Hoover
Ph.D. Candidate
Biochemistry

GPS-STEM mentoring program was an excellent way to grow my network, strengthen connections and learn about alternative career paths for PhD scientists.

Lee-or Herzog, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

I was mentored by two outstanding mentors that took their time to explain to me the requirements of their positions, recruitment process, best training paths, and ultimate positions. These meetings included onsite tours and meeting with possible future employers. I highly recommend the program to anyone interested in pursuing a career in the industry or various career pathways and want to learn from the first-hand experience.