



Division of Graduate Medical Sciences

Office of Professional Development and Postdoctoral Affairs

The OPDPA speaker series aim to provide the postdocs and Ph.D. students with information and resources and to exchange of ideas and the intellectual enrichment of the trainees' community.

Title: [How to ask the right questions when transitioning from academia to industry](#)
Speaker: David Proia, Ph.D.
Date: Thursday, August 7, 2014
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Room L-110, 72 East Concord St., BU School of Medicine
Additional Information Registration required Email: Yolanta@bu.edu
Refreshments will be provided

Brief Description: A career in the life sciences can be incredibly rewarding, more so if you are in the right environment with a solid leader. We have all seen or heard of the student who changed labs in their fifth year because of poor interactions with their mentor, the eight year postdoc too afraid to move on, the senior research associate unable to progress to the Scientist level because of degree requirements, or the scientist pigeonholed into doing the same type of work day in and day out. Some of these problems can be eliminated by doing due diligence prior to joining an academic lab or industry position and asking some key questions.

Speaker Bio: David Proia, Ph.D., is the Director of Cancer Biology at Synta Pharmaceuticals in Lexington, Massachusetts. Over the past 5 years, he has focused on the preclinical development of the now Phase 3 HSP90 inhibitor, ganetespib. With the recent unveiling of Synta's drug conjugate platform for delivering small molecule anticancer agents specifically to malignant cells, he is also leading the preclinical biology for these novel compounds. Dr. Proia has more than 15 years of cancer biology experience, half of which have been in biotechnology and pharmaceutical development. Dr. Proia earned his B.S. in Biochemistry from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and his Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine, followed by postdoctoral training at Tufts University School of Medicine. Prior to Synta, Dr. Proia was a Scientist at AstraZeneca.



Yolanta Kovalko, Administrative Manager
Office of Professional Development and Postdoctoral Affairs
Boston University School of Medicine
Division of Graduate Medical Sciences
72 East Concord Street, L-317
Boston, MA 02118
(617)638-5244
Yolanta@bu.edu