The Division of Graduate Medical Sciences & the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs present

Diverse Careers in Science: A Panel Discussion

Date: Monday, June 4, 2012   Time: 4:00-6:00pm
4:00-5:30pm Panel Discussion, Reception to follow
Boston University Medical Campus, Hiebert Lounge

Introductions and Overview

Panel Moderator

Lauren Celano, MBA
Founder and CEO, Propel Careers

Presentation and Panel Discussion of Diverse Careers in Science

Sheryl M. Greenberg, Ph.D.
Senior Industrial Liaison at MIT, Principal at SG Patentscape

Paulina Sierpinski Hill, Ph.D.
Senior Associate at Polaris Venture Partners

Elisabeth Hunt, Ph.D.

Valerie Philippon, Ph.D.
Director of Medical Affairs, Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Heather Sternshein, Ph.D
Content Manager at Boundless Learning

About the Moderator:

Lauren Celano, MBA
Founder and CEO, Propel Careers

Lauren Celano is the Founder and CEO of Propel Careers, a life science research and career development firm focused on connecting talented individuals with entrepreneurial innovative life sciences companies. Lauren is very passionate about working with individuals with strong scientific backgrounds to find exciting growth opportunities in the life sciences industry. Through Propel, she builds relationships and provides guidance on how individuals can position themselves for their next opportunity. Lauren was a senior account manager for SNBL USA where she worked with companies emerging biotech companies in Europe, Asia, and the U.S. to help characterize and advance their drug molecules. She held business development position with Aptuit and Quintiles and worked with Absorption Systems as a marketing manager and account manager. She has a B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Gettysburg College and an MBA with a focus in the health sector and entrepreneurship from Boston University.
About the Panelists:

**Sheryl M. Greenberg, Ph.D.**
Senior Industrial Liaison at MIT

Sheryl Greenberg is a lead life sciences expert and Senior Industrial Liaison Officer in the Office of Corporate Relations at MIT. She is responsible for creating partnerships and opportunities for MIT faculty with appropriate industrial entities, primarily focused on biopharmaceutical, medical device, agricultural, food, flavor, and related companies. By understanding the business, technology and commercial problems within a company, Sheryl identifies useful resources and opportunities at MIT. Prior to MIT, Sheryl created, and then directed, the Office of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer at Brandeis University. In the process of managing intellectual property protection, marketing and licensing, she promoted the successful commercialization of technologies as diverse as new chemicals and manufacturing, biotechnology, food compositions, software, and medical devices. She facilitated the founding and funding of new companies as well as creating a profitable technology transfer program. She was also a Licensing Associate and Co-Manager of Intellectual Property at Massachusetts General Hospital, and has cellular, biochemical and genetic research experience in both, academic and corporate environments. She is also an independent intellectual property, licensing and business development consultant, a U.S. Patent Agent, and currently serves the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as Chair of the Immune Therapies Lay Review Committee and grant reviewer.

**Paulina Sierpinski Hill, Ph.D.**
Senior Associate, Polaris Venture Partners

Paulina Hill is a Senior Associate at Polaris Venture Partners. Paulina joined Polaris in 2011 and focuses on investments in the life sciences. Prior to joining Polaris, Paulina completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Chemical Engineering department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In the laboratory of Bob Langer, Paulina worked on developing novel biomaterial scaffolds and drug delivery systems for neural applications. Paulina was the founding president of the MIT Postdoctoral Association, was nominated to and serves on the MIT Intellectual Property Presidential Committee, and is on the fundraising committee of the nonprofit Women Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology (WEST). Paulina completed her PhD in Molecular Medicine with a Tissue Engineering focus at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Her graduate school work resulted in over 40 published abstracts, awards and peer reviewed manuscripts. Her research contributed to numerous patents and the formation of the startup KeraNetics to commercialize the platform technology. Paulina graduated magna cum laude from East Carolina University with a quadruple major in biochemistry, neuroscience, biology and chemistry. She attended East Carolina on an athletic scholarship where she was captain of the women’s tennis team.

**Elisabeth Hunt, Ph.D.**

Elisabeth Hunt is a Technology Specialist and Patent Agent at Wolf Greenfield, the largest law firm in New England focusing solely on the practice of intellectual property law. Wolf Greenfield, based here in Boston, established the first Technology Specialist program in New England to develop patent attorneys from top-notch scientists, engineers, and medical doctors, many having advanced degrees in their technological fields. Elisabeth is a member of Wolf Greenfield’s Electrical and Computer Technologies practice group, and holds a B.S.E. in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University as well as a master’s degree and a Ph.D. from M.I.T. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. She performed her doctoral research with Prof. Kenneth N. Stevens in the Speech Communication Group of the Research Laboratory of Electronics at M.I.T. in the areas of speech science, acoustic phonetics and speech recognition. As a Technology Specialist and Patent Agent at Wolf Greenfield, Elisabeth’s practice involves patent application preparation, prosecution, and reexamination before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, litigation support, diligence, and opinion work for a wide variety of clients in electrical- and computer-related technology areas. Like most Technology Specialists at Wolf Greenfield, Elisabeth is currently supported by the firm as an evening law student at Suffolk University Law School, and expects to earn her J.D. in 2014.
Valerie Philippon, Ph.D.
Director of Medical Affairs at Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Valerie is the Director of Medical Affairs at Vertex Pharmaceuticals and is responsible for developing the medical communication strategy and coordinating the scientific and medical publications and presentations of Vertex marketed product and investigational compounds. Valerie holds a doctorate degree in Microbiology from the University of Paris, France with over 15 years of experience in Research, Development, Program & Portfolio Management and Publication Planning. Prior to Vertex, she worked at Idenix Pharmaceuticals where she directed publication planning of the company HCV and HIV drug candidates. Prior to working at Idenix, she worked at Therion Biologics for 7 years in a GMP/GLP environment where as a scientist and program manager she participated in the product discovery and development of cancer immunotherapies and was responsible for the company HIV vaccine development program. Valerie is a board member of the Healthcare Business Women’s Association Boston chapter and the Director of its Leadership Success Series.

Heather Sternshein, Ph.D.
Content Manager at Boundless Learning

Heather Sternshein is the Life Sciences Content Manager at Boundless Learning. Boundless enables students to never have to touch an expensive and boring textbook again by curating the best openly licensed content from the web in a free learning platform. Boundless was founded in April 2011 by Ariel Diaz, Aaron White, and Brian Balfour and is funded by Venrock, Kepha Partners, Nextview Ventures, and Founder Collective. Heather joined Boundless in February of this year and is thoroughly enjoying revolutionizing education. Prior to joining Boundless, Heather completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Neuroscience department at Harvard Medical School. In the laboratory of Margaret Livingstone, Heather investigated the electrophysiological correlates of color vision and optical illusions in non-human primates. She also teaches a course which she developed, Sensation and Perception, at Harvard University. Last year, Heather taught science and biology to middle and high school students. Heather completed her PhD in Neuroscience at Brandeis University. Her dissertation focused on attention and working memory and she has authored several research papers. Heather graduated from Swarthmore College with a major in biology and a minor in psychology.

About the Organizers:

The Division of Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS) at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) is a recognized leader in research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences. Our more than 900 students can choose from 33 fields of study, with interdisciplinary programs available in many areas. Students may pursue Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degrees in 15 different Departments and Programs. Masters degrees may be earned in many of these fields as well as in Medical Sciences, Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Medicine, Clinical Investigation and other scientific and health services oriented disciplines. Certificates are also available in several areas of study.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and focuses on support of the postdocs, a vital part of the Boston University Medical Campus. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is housed within the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. Our mission is to help and support postdocs by addressing their needs and providing resources across the medical campus.