REACHING THE PEAK:  
A SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CAREER SUMMIT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021, 11-6 P.M. ET

All times are in Eastern Daylight Time. Virtual space is live at 10 a.m. ET for networking.

11:00 The Path Ahead: Career Tour

Early career researchers can choose from a wide array of careers that employ science and health expertise. But what do these career options look like? Using a unique “speed dating” format, connect with professionals from across the health R&D community about their careers and how you can carve your own path toward current and future career goals.

Opening Conversation with

The Honorable Donna Shalala, PhD  
Professor, University of Miami; U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, 1993-2001; U.S. Representative, 2019-2021

Elias Zerhouni, MD  
Professor Emeritus, Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University; Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), 2002-2008

Alyssa Lozano, MS  
Doctoral Student, University of Miami

Featuring

Naomi Charalambakis, PhD  
Senior Science Policy Analyst, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)

Jennifer Chow, MPH  

Karen Correa, PhD  
Vice President, Head of Global Clinical Operations, Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Uros V. Djekic, PhD  
Director, Therapeutic Area Lead, Cardiovascular & Metabolism/Transplant, Global Regulatory Affairs, Region North America, CSL Behring

Darón Freedberg, PhD  
Senior Scientist, Laboratory of Bacterial Polysaccharides, Office of Vaccines Research and Review, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Caitlin Grzeskowiak, PhD  
Senior Director, Research and Innovation, Epilepsy Foundation

LaTasha H. Lee, PhD, MPH  
Vice President, Social and Clinical Research & Development, National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF)

Joseph Lutz, PhD  
Director of Postdoctoral Affairs, University of Kentucky

Rebecca Meseroll, PhD  
Health Science Policy Analyst, Office of Portfolio Analysis, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Nicole Parker, PhD  
Senior Associate, Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC

Michelle Rubin-Onur, PhD  
Senior Regulatory Specialist, Software, AI & Machine Learning Lead, AcKnowledge Regulatory Strategies

Kelley Yan, MD, PhD  
Dorothy L. and Daniel H. Silberberg Assistant Professor of Medicine and of Genetics & Development, Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Ensuring a Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive R&D Pipeline: A Listening Session

In this closed-door listening session, representatives from academia, government and industry will briefly outline DEI workforce initiatives they are spearheading and respond to your questions and comments.

Moderator

Sudip Parikh, PhD
CEO, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Executive Publisher, Science Family of Journals

Featuring

Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD
Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Michelle McMurry-Heath, MD, PhD
President and CEO, Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

Marie A. Bernard, MD
Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS
President, Wayne State University

1:50 Flash Talks Competition: Preliminary Round

Effective science communication is critical to public and policymaker trust and support. Join us as fellow early career researchers hone their science communication skills, presenting their research in three minutes or less in our Flash Talks Competition.

Judges

Dana Acton
Director, Science Policy and Legislative Affairs, American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

Joel Beetsch, PhD
Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Eisai Inc.

Kafui Dzirasa, MD, PhD
K. Ranga Rama Krishnan Endowed Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center

Lauren Powell, MPA, PhD
President & CEO, The Equitist, LLC; Vice President, U.S. Health Equity & Community Wellness, Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Featuring

Salvatore Aiello
MD/PhD Candidate, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine & Science

Trevor DeMordaunt
Master’s Student, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

Sarah Grace Dennis-Little, PhD
Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Surgery, Medical University of South Carolina

Lishu He
Graduate Student, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Medical College of Wisconsin

Kris Ma, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Family Medicine, University of Washington

Andrea Morgan
Graduate Research Assistant, Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience Program, Oregon Health & Science University

James Quinn, PhD
Neurology Research Fellow, Alzheimer’s Clinical & Translational Research Unit (ACTRU), Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School

Faiza Siddiqui, PhD
Research Associate, Department of Internal Medicine, University of South Florida

Afra Toma
PhD Student, Joint Biomedical Engineering Program, Emory University and Georgia Institute of Technology
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| A     | Building a Strong Resume: A Hiring Manager’s Perspective | In a highly competitive job environment, how do you communicate your value to an employer? Hear a hiring manager who has a PhD share tips on how to craft a resume that not only demonstrates your scientific qualifications and experience, but also tells a story.  
   | Speaker: Josh Henkin, PhD, Founder, STEM Career Services |
| B     | The Power of Diverse Perspectives: Contributing to Successful Collaborations | Collaboration is central to scientific and medical progress, bringing together a diverse group of creative minds to achieve a common goal. How do we cultivate successful collaboration in the workplace? Through exercises and group discussion, hone your ability to bring your authentic self to the workplace, share your ideas, and foster a collaborative work environment.  
   | Speakers: Nick Heath, PharmD, Sustainable Innovation & Life Sciences Leadership, Takeda Pharmaceuticals  
   | Joshua Ammirato, Sustainable Innovation & Life Sciences Intern, Takeda Pharmaceuticals  
   | Aqsa Ali, Sustainable Innovation & Life Sciences Intern, Takeda Pharmaceuticals |
| C     | Funding and Grantsmanship as an Early Career Researcher | The options for securing research funding are varied, and the path there is nuanced. In this workshop, learn how to navigate the funding landscape and about the mechanisms available to early career researchers.  
   | Speakers: Jaime S. Rubin, PhD, Vice Chair for Investigator Development, Professor of Medical Sciences, Department of Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center  
   | Joanne Ly, Biomedical Engineer PhD Candidate; Graduate Professional Success STEM, University of California Irvine |
| D     | Communicating the Value of Science Through Op-Ed Writing | The future of science investment depends in part on the ability of the next generation of scientists to amplify the value of science to the public. Learn the process behind crafting a timely and effective op-ed and bolster the skills you need to make your voice heard as an early career researcher.  
   | Speaker: John Siniff, Executive Vice President, Subject Matter; Former Opinion Editor, USA Today |
| E     | Becoming an Effective Science Advocate on Campus and Beyond | Science advocacy is key to fostering an inclusive research community fully integrated with society. But how do you get involved? Learn how to advocate for science through campus advocacy programs and in your community from leading advocates.  
   | Speakers: Chris Jackson, PhD Candidate, University of California, Berkeley; Workshops Director, Engineers & Scientists Acting Locally (ESAL)  
   | Erin Reagan, PhD Candidate, University of Pennsylvania; President, Penn Science Policy and Diplomacy Group; Eastern Hub Co-Chair, National Science Policy Network (NSPN)  
   | Dan McCalley, PhD Candidate; Micrograntee, South Carolina - Policy, Engagement, Advocacy and Research, Medical University of South Carolina  
   | Julia Lefler, PhD Candidate; Micrograntee, South Carolina - Policy, Engagement, Advocacy and Research, Medical University of South Carolina |

**Networking Break**

3:10

**Workshop Sessions**

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**Speaker:** Josh Henkin, PhD, Founder, STEM Career Services

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- Julia Lefler, PhD Candidate; Micrograntee, South Carolina - Policy, Engagement, Advocacy and Research, Medical University of South Carolina
Mentorship as a Key to Career Success

In a research and career environment that is rapidly changing, effective mentorship is essential to navigating the path ahead as an early career researcher. In this conversation and Q&A session, mentors and "mentees" will discuss how you can identify and work with mentors to help meet your career goals.

Moderator

Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh
Executive Vice President and CEO, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

Featuring

Joel Beetsch, PhD
Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Eisai, Inc.

Sydella Blatch, PhD
Program Officer, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Lauren Citron
Legislative Director, Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL)

Sophia Kaska, PhD
Manager of Science Initiatives and Outreach, Research!America

Daniel Pham, PhD
Associate Director, Milken Institute Center for Strategic Philanthropy

Guillermo (Willy) Prado, PhD
Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs; Dean, Graduate School; Professor, Nursing and Health Studies, Public Health Sciences, and Psychology, University of Miami

Networking Reception

Join us as we announce the Flash Talks Competition finalists, and continue your conversations with Summit panelists, fellow attendees, and other invited guests.

Thank You to Our Summit Sponsors!

Principal and Flash Talks Sponsor

Eisai

Event Sponsors

Research!America is the country's largest not-for-profit education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. Our diverse base of nearly 400 members spans the research spectrum from the lab bench to the bedside. These institutions, organizations and companies are actively engaged in the promotion, protection, and preservation of health and medical research funding.