

Young Mass Spectrometrists Workshop Part 1 and 2

Tuesday June 7 and Wednesday June 8

ASMS Minneapolis

Laura Sanchez (UC Santa Cruz) and Christopher Pulliam (P&G) Presiding

Based on feedback from last years workshop, we split the workshop into two different evenings with a different focus, night 1 (Tuesday) focused on careers in academia and government/national labs. Whereas night 2 (Wednesday) was focused solely on careers in industry. Below will summarize each evening separately.

Night 1. Academia/Govt/Natl Labs

- There were ~80 people attending in person and questions from the audience were asked in a mixture of live questions and those submitted via the conference app. Based on the questions, there were a mix of early to late stage PhD students, Masters level students, and some post-docs.
- Our panelists were: Ben Garcia (Department Head, Washington University in St Louis), Elizabeth Dhumakupt (U.S. Army DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center), Christina Jones (NIST), Mac Gilliland (Assistant Professor, Furman University)
- After a short introduction to each speaker, one predetermined question was asked and the rest came from both the in person audience and were read from the conference app.
- Panelists provided honest answers and highlighted different ways to enter, advance, and persist in their different positions.

Topics discussed included:

- Best and most challenging aspects of each position
- How much research experience is needed prior to starting graduate school
- Navigating the search for postdocs in research labs
- How important is an advanced degree when considering advancement
- Challenges being a women in science and strategies for persistence
- Job opportunities in federal/national labs for international students
- International experience in academic careers

Night 2. Industry

- There were ~150 people attending in person and questions from the audience were asked in a mixture of live questions and those submitted via the conference app. Based on the questions, there were a mix of early to late stage PhD students, Masters level students, and post-docs.
- Due to late minute COVID complications, Chris stepped in as a panelist while Laura moderated the session.
- Our panelists were: Chris Pulliam (Senior Scientist, P&G), Kiran Iyer (Senior Scientist, Merck), Patrick Batoon (Product Manager, Agilent), Lisa Marzilli (Principal Scientist, Pfizer)
- After a short introduction to each speaker, one predetermined question was asked and the rest came from both the in person audience and were read from the conference app.

- Panelists provided honest answers and highlighted different ways to enter, advance, and persist in their different positions.

Topics discussed included:

- Best and most challenging aspects of each position
- Skills applicants should have for industry positions
- What should you look for in a company when you are interviewing (including red flags)
- Opportunities at smaller companies versus bigger companies
- How one gets their foot in the door
- Industry internships, when to do them, importance in the hiring process, asking your PI about participating in one
- How does one approach asking an interviewer about work life balance during the interview process
- How can graduate students network before they are on the job market
- What steps can students take now to build their resume/CV

While the panelists helped facilitate honest discussions, the room was quite large. It may be helpful to facilitate a more lively discussion to have the workshop in a slightly smaller room to provide a more intimate setting since some of the questions can prompt the panelist to share personal details (family, moving across the country, and life changing career decisions). This may further encourage audience participation.