

Event Report: Career Paths for Mass Spectrometrists – A Speed Networking Workshop

On June 01, 2025, the Career Development Interest Group and Dr. Olya Vvedenskaya (Lipotype) hosted a workshop titled “*Career Paths for Mass Spectrometrists: A Speed Networking Workshop*”, organized in collaboration with the FeMS+ community. The 75-minute session attracted over 150 participants, including students, postdocs, and early-career researchers interested in exploring diverse career opportunities within the field of mass spectrometry.

Moderated by Rosangela Silva Santos, the event featured five professionals who each represented a unique career trajectory:

- **Dr. Maggie Tam** – Senior research scientist, government research
- **Dr. Prasanna Ashok Kumaar** – Core facility director, academic institution
- **Dr. Olya Vvedenskaya** – Science communicator, biotech industry
- **Dr. Erica Forsberg** – Director of omics applications, industry vendor
- **Dr. Duong Bui** – Postdoctoral researcher, academic research

Each speaker gave a brief overview of their career journey and current roles, followed by two rotating small-group Q&A sessions that allowed attendees to engage directly with the experts.

The speakers also shared career development take-home-messages they wished they had known earlier:

- **Maggie:** Spend more quality time with mentors.
- **Erica:** Learn legal, financial, and compliance skills.
- **Prasanna:** Don’t hesitate to ask for help at the right time.
- **Duong:** Research outputs matter more than location; start job searching before graduation.
- **Olya:** Always emphasize your impact and achievements.