

Young Mass Spectrometrists Workshop

Monday November 1, 2021

ASMS Philadelphia

Chris Rose (Genentech) and Laura Sanchez (UC Santa Cruz) Presiding

- There were ~150 people attending in person and some people attending virtually that submitted questions through 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: Stephanie Cologna (University of Illinois at Chicago), German Gomez (Restek), Christine Kirkpatrick (Merck), and Matt Crawford (LabCorp)
- 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 advance or move between different company divisions.
- We left ~ 20 mins for breakout groups to highlight large biotechnology companies, academia, and smaller companies in the room. This portion of the workshop was not compatible with the online participants.

Topics discussed included:

- Work-life balance
- Moving between divisions and growth within one company
- Day-to-day activities and responsibilities
- Managing intellectual freedom within the confines of a larger employer (both industry and academia)
- How do you determine if you are eligible for a position – when to apply, when not to apply
- Best and most challenging aspects of each position
- What skills do hiring managers look for

Break out groups were specific to the questions being asked, the two industry breakout groups (large biotech and smaller more focused companies) were more populated than the academic breakout group.

MS Career Options: How to Kick Start Your Career

ASMS Young Mass Spectrometrist Interest Group
Co-chairs: Chris Rose (Genentech) and Laura Sanchez (UC Santa Cruz)



Christine Kirkpatrick, PhD - Merck



BS in Chemistry, SUNY Geneseo

PhD in Chemistry, Leslie Hicks lab @ UNC Chapel Hill
2018

Analytical Commercialization Technology Group @
Merck 2018- Present

At UNC Chapel Hill she studied mass spectrometry approaches for natural product bioactive peptide discovery. In her three years at Merck, she focuses on late stage development and commercialization of small molecule drug products.

Matt Crawford, BS - LabCorp



BS in Biochemistry, Cal State, Northridge 2005

Scientist at LabCorp for the Corporate Mass Spectrometry Research and Development department, currently working on a Ph.D. in Chemistry from University of Texas, Arlington concurrently while employed.

I entered the clinical lab space as a technician at LabCorp's Esoterix Endocrinology and then relocated to be a part of the corporate R&D team. My efforts are focused high-throughput small molecule method development, laboratory automation, and method validation (CAP, CLIA, and FDA Bioanalytical) utilizing LC-MS/MS, GC-MS and ICP-MS.

German Gomez, PhD - Restek Corp



B.Sc. in Chemistry, Elena Stashenko lab @ Industrial University of Santander in Colombia

Colombian National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences

MSc and PhD in Analytical Chemistry, Janusz Pawliszyn lab, University of Waterloo, Canada

Joined the Discovery team led by Tom Kane at Restek Corporation in 2018. Currently, he and his teammates work on the development of novel sample preparation technologies coupled to mass spectrometry that facilitate rapid qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Stephanie Cologna, PhD - University of Illinois at Chicago



BS in Chemistry, University of Arizona

PhD in Chemistry in David H Russell Lab (Gyula Vigh co-mentor), Texas A&M University

Postdoc @ Eunice Kennedy Shriver, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health

In 2015, Stephanie began her independent career at UIC and was promoted and tenured in 2021. Her research program is focused on integrative proteomics and lipidomics to study neurodegeneration disorders.

Question to kick us off

What is the **best** thing about your job as well as the most **challenging** aspect of your position?

1. What was your job search experience like?
2. How did you know that the company or institution was the best fit for you?
3. What is one piece of advice you would give to people who are applying for your positions?
4. If you could have negotiated for one more thing, what would it be?
5. How do you spend your time on a weekly basis?
6. How do you manage your job responsibilities?
7. What support do you have from the faculty/dept. towards further career development?