

## Young Mass Spectrometry Users Meeting

Scribe: Yun Zhang and Ning Pan, Ohio University

The meeting began at 5:45pm on May 21, 2012 at Vancouver Convention Centre, Canada.

First order of business, we need a person to chair the committee in 2013-2014. The chair serves the committee for two years and must be one to five years into your career, you also must be able to attend ASMS. The focus is for us to use the website more within the ASMS site and elections will be held online this year. The Young MS group was taking nominations at the meeting, if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else please contact Bich Vu at bich.vu@covidien.com. This is a great networking opportunity, especially if you are interested in being on the committee to run ASMS in the future.

The second order of business was to get two scribes for the meeting. Two scribes volunteered to write minutes of the meeting.

The topics for today's discussion include how to prepare for finding academic/industrial jobs and how important publications are to career development. Today's Panel:

Dr. Hao Chen: Assistant Professor at Ohio University

Dr. Kathleen Noon: Director of Mass Spectrometry, Innovation Center Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. David McKenzie: Senior Scientist Covidien/Mallinkrodt

Dr. Sarah Pierce: The Commissioner Fellows FDA

Question 1: Please provide some advice for a quiet but clever and productive Ph.D. student working in a company?

- Dr. McKenzie: Communication is very important; you should talk with and network with as many good people that you can..

Question 2: Is it necessary to be a post-doc before going to industry?

- Dr. McKenzie: It depends. But if this experience is helpful, you should do it.
- Dr. Vu: The economy is not good now, so it's difficult to find an industry job. Post-doc will be useful in networking, which is worthy. When you are looking for a job, be patient and positive.

Question 3: Is it possible to develop career with master degree? Is it necessary to get a Ph.D?

- Dr. Vu: It depends. There are some examples of people who lead out industry without Pd.D. But if this experience is helpful, you should go. If you decided to industry who wants you to do something different. If you don't fit, you may let it go. If you want to go to a real company, you have to be prepared. Both of them, you need to open your mind.
- Dr. Chen: In the university, you will have pressure from your professor, I think the important thing is to do excellent in your area, and then you will find a job. As long as you have skills, you will be able to find a job.
- Dr. Noon: I don't think you can find a job about security, we can redefine it now. I don't think you can stay at one place for twenty years, which is not disappointed, it is on the way to becoming is. That is considered a stable position. You are a young man now, you can pursue your dream, but remember that you need to have a plan. When you work for several years, the experience will

change your mind, and you will change your decision. So catch up with the opportunity in front of you.

Question 4: I am in a unique situation, and I have two advisors, one suggests me focusing on writing and trying to get a job; another one pushes me on research instead of writing. Which one is more important?

- Dr. Vu: I have the same experience. You should find a job as soon as possible, and focus on writing at the same time. Focus on one thing.
- Dr. Noon: You should make sure complete the degree positively and emphasis on your advisor.

Question 5: Mass spectrometer is only a tool, but for my career, I need to learn more skills and knowledge, I am wondering how it is easy or difficult to transfer the current fields to others?

- Dr. Vu: As a junior scientist in a company, someone will help you to learn the new knowledge and skills, so try to ask someone in the group. It's hard for one person to know everything, the company will train you. I also have the same experience; my group leader taught me a lot.
- Dr. Pierce: I agreed with Dr. Vu, as a Ph.D student, you need to learn more.
- Dr. Noon: This is a good application of Post-doc. You will never know when your background and you learned, or some experience come to useful in the future.

Question 6: Is mass spectrometry future proof., I am wondering what's the future of mass spectrometry?

- Dr. Mckenzie: I can't predict the future. But the technique you are using now is changing; when you are 50 years old, you might not use electrospray ionization any more. But one thing you can be sure of, there will be better, faster and more sensitive techniques related to mass spectrometers.

Question 7: This question is for someone has industry experience. When I was in my undergraduate school, someone recommended me to get internship experience as possible as you can. I am wondering if this is the same for graduate level?

- Dr. Noon: I will talk to anyone from Graham Cooks's lab. I don't work in industry now, but he sent as many as people to do internships as possible, someone became very famous scientist, they did a lot of internships with some big companies like thermo. He told me the company is great for students. And I don't think it is extension for your graduation. Dr. Cooks think it's very valuable and worth.

Question 8: I am a student with F1 visa. I would like to know after graduation, how to become US resident and the visa status (H1b or J1) when working in industry or post-doc in USA?

- Dr. Chen: After you graduate, you can apply for OPT, which can allow you to work in USA for several months. When I was a post-doc in Prof. Cooks lab, he gave me H1b visa for post-doc.

Question 9: The 50% of the famous companies usually looking for R&N and 2-3 years experiences like sales representative. But for the freshly graduated PhD, we do not have 2-3 years experiences and do not have like the sale skills. It is true the company looking for this person, so what should I do like this?

- Dr. Mckenzie: Don't worry about what it says in the description of the position. Even if the requirement says, needs 2-3 years experience, emphasize what you have done. Do not cut yourself. You can apply with good resume, give them your shining points, don't worry too much about the requirement. If you do not apply I guarantee you will not be hired.

- Dr. Vu: I know several sell representative. I know how tough it is. You know a lot of instrument it does not mean that you can sell the instrument. There are certain skills you need to learn. If you want to know more about like how to sell something you maybe talk with some sell representative area. You know a lot of about instruments but you do not know how to use it. It is different, and it do not like the research. If you want to sell this instrument to a big professor you may know what he wants? Because the professor knows so many things.
- Dr. Noon: I will tell some details about this. Because I have several sale representative PhD student biological science. They have technology background. They are very successful sale representative. Because you know they have the technology background. What I know from my situation, a lot of job requirement description is generalic. I do not wanna give you a job if you don't apply. If you interested, you apply.

Question 10: Maybe my job is restrictive about what I can do and what I can't do, so I may donott have direct experience as listed in the job requirements, , is it good to mention that? Is it good to say this?

- Dr. Mckenzie: What I would do is apply. I would not emphasis what you have not done, I would emphasise what you have done. When you write your cover letter, you may write, no, I do not have that experience. Remember some of this is legal. You also can write I want a higher salary that doesn't mean you'll get it, do not worry about that, apply.

### Wrap Up

The final points that the ASMS Young Mass Spectrometry group would like to say is that if you do have a goal in mind then any road will take you there. Also it is important to network and get involved with your local chapters of ASMS.