

Nexxus Bioscience Club

Nexxus Bioscience Club 2010: Career Paths in Life Sciences

Biographies

Rosaleen McNeill (Chair)

Director, Scientia Career Consulting Ltd (www.scientiacareerconsulting.com)

On graduation from Glasgow University with an Honours Degree in Biochemistry, Rosaleen McNeill commenced employment as a Research Biochemist at MSD Neuroscience Research Centre in Harlow. She worked on the development of novel drugs for the treatment of manic depression. After a couple of years at the bench, she decided that she preferred people to molecules and embarked on a career in recruitment. Rosaleen has since accrued over 18 years experience in the Career sector. On completion of an MBA from Strathclyde Graduate Business School, Rosaleen formed Scientific Staffing Solutions with her partner Jonathan Tancock.

More recently, in response to feedback from scientists who have undergone a career counselling programme with consultants with no scientific knowledge or understanding of the market, Rosaleen set up Scientia Career Consulting, a Career Management Service dedicated to the provision of a range of flexible coaching and counselling services to Scientists and Engineers. Rosaleen believes that anyone involved in helping scientists to make the most of their future prospects should have an expert knowledge and understanding of the specific sector to enable clients to build on their valuable training and experience.

Shirley Appelbe

SMART Executive, Scottish Enterprise (www.scottish-enterprise.com)

Shirley gained a BSC (Hons) degree in Immunology and Pharmacology from the University of Strathclyde, graduating in 2001. She then completed a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology at the University of Glasgow, graduating in 2005. She stayed within the University of Glasgow for a further three years, working as a post-doctoral researcher in molecular pharmacology.

In 2008 Shirley joined the Scottish Government as a Case officer within the SMART: Scotland programme. SMART: Scotland is a science and technology scheme which can provide financial support to small and medium sized companies to help support projects that represent a significant technological advance in the sector or industry concerned. The key criteria for the scheme are that the product or process are highly innovative, technically challenging and are new to the UK in the sector. The scheme moved to Scottish Enterprise in 2009 and it currently sits within the innovation and commercialisation directorate. Shirley's role involves meeting with companies hoping to apply for the scheme, processing existing applications, monitoring completed applications and promoting the scheme across Scotland.

Athol Haas

CEO & Entrepreneur, Pharmacells (www.pharmacells.co.uk)

Athol is CEO of Pharmacells Ltd, a Glasgow based, life sciences company that aims to become the world's first commercially viable adult stem cell banking organisation. Pharmacells has exclusive rights to a US technology that allows for the collection, isolation, storage and thawing of a special type of blood derived, adult multipotent stem cell line.

Taking a very unconventional route into life sciences, Athol started out by studying Aeronautical Engineering at Glasgow University but veered off to London and work within a young Vodafone. He started his first telecoms business in 1996 with help from the PSYBT (Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust) and eventually sold the business, known now as Abica Ltd, through a management buyout in early 2008. Along the way he has had successful forays into property development and business angel funding.

A quest to find a role that offered more personal fulfilment led Athol into life sciences and Pharmacells where the aim is not just to be financially successful but to also add value to Scotland and beyond.

Andrew Ingram

Development Technologist, Biofilm (www.biofilm.co.uk)

Andrew attained an MSc in biomolecular medicinal chemistry at the University of Strathclyde, and went on to obtain a PhD at Strathclyde working at the interface of synthetic and bioanalytical chemistry. He has postdoctoral research experience in synthesis of nanomaterials, bioanalytical techniques such as immunoassays, protein microarrays and also biopharmaceutical formulation.

He is currently working in industry, and having previously worked for a multinational CRO, is now working in product development at BioFilm, an SME that deals directly with businesses to help bring their platform technology to novel products in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors.

David Irvine

Clinical Research Fellow, University of Glasgow (www.gla.ac.uk)

David graduated from Glasgow Medical School in 2000 and has been working in the field of clinical haematology since 2003. He also has a longstanding interest in combining the clinical care of patients with haematological malignancies with research into the causes, classification and treatment of these conditions.

David completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Biology concurrently with his medical degree. He was able to gain further research experience, first as a summer student in the Garvan Institute in Sydney, Australia and then as a doctor working with the Bone Marrow Transplant and Acute Leukaemia programme in Vancouver, Canada in 2005. He returned to Glasgow in 2006 to continue his clinical haematology training.

He competed successfully for a clinical research fellowship funded by the Chief Scientists Office, Scotland in 2008 and is currently undertaking PhD research with Professor Holyoake and Dr Copland at the Paul O' Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre where he is looking at new treatments designed to specifically target leukaemic stem cells. He also contributes to running various leukaemia clinical trials at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in addition to continuing to participate in the clinical haematology service in Glasgow.

Donald Lawrie

Patent Attorney, Murgitroyd & Company (www.murgitroyd.com)

Donald is a Patent Attorney, working in private practice for Murgitroyd & Company – one of the largest firms of European Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys. His work involves the filing and prosecution of patent applications in the fields of biotechnology, chemistry, chemical engineering, and medical devices. He also has experience of license negotiations, due diligence exercises and providing advice in relation to infringement and anticipated litigation. Donald has undertaken work for large corporate clients in the healthcare and chemical industries, as well as several SMEs, various Universities, and University spin out companies.

Before becoming a Patent Attorney, Donald studied chemistry and biology at the University of Glasgow, graduating in 2000 with a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry. He went on to take up a PhD studentship at the Universities of Glasgow and Newcastle-upon-Tyne during which he was involved in the preparation and study of large photoactive and electroactive molecules with applications as molecular sensors, wires and switches.

Susan Livingston

Global Marketing Manager, BioReliance (www.bioreliance.com)

Susan joined BioReliance in July 2005 as Commercial Scientist in GMP Manufacturing and was responsible for scheduling, evaluating enquiries, preparing proposals and assessing feasibility to ensure capabilities met client requirements. In June 2007 Susan moved into the role of Europe and Asia Pacific Marketing Manager for BioReliance and in September 2008, that role was expanded to a Global remit with responsibility for several service segments across all BioReliance sites.

Prior to joining BioReliance, she was European Industrial Product Manager for Invitrogen (now Life Technologies), marketing the GIBCO® Cell Culture brand in Europe, primarily to the BioPharmaceutical sector. Susan has been involved in the BioPharmaceutical Industry for 14 years including previous roles with Sigma Aldrich in GMP Manufacturing, Key Account Management, Marketing, Sales Co-ordination and Business Development.

Susan received an Honours degree in Immunology from the University of Edinburgh in 1995 and a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in 2003. She was conferred with Chartered Marketer status in 2005.

Karen Macdonald
Head of Operations, Biopta (www.biopta.com)

Karen graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Molecular Biology from the University of Glasgow in 1993. She then went on to do a PhD in the Cell Biology department (IBLS) at University of Glasgow. The title of Karen's thesis was "Topographical reactions of cells in tissue repair". The project involved collaborations with the Electronic Engineering department at the University (joint "Cell Engineering" group) and was a CASE studentship sponsored by Ethicon, Edinburgh. The aim of the project was to study the molecular mechanisms of cell shape changes and to develop a biodegradable implant for tendon repair.

From 1998 to 2006 Karen was employed by a leading Contract Research Organisation (CRO) in the West of Scotland. During her time with the company, Karen broadened her scientific skills and gained wide knowledge of the CRO business, whilst working in the Cell Biology, Virology and Development departments, in both a lab-based and managerial role.

In June 2006 Karen joined Biopta Ltd and as Head of Operations she has day to day responsibility for the planning and running of the CRO side of the business.

Eileen McBride
Research Associate, University of Strathclyde (www.strath.ac.uk)

Eileen graduated with a Master of Pharmacy degree from the University of Strathclyde in 2003. Following on from this, she performed her pre-registration training in a split post between the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the formulation development group at Quintiles Ltd in Riccarton (Edinburgh), obtaining her professional qualification as a Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (MRPharmS) in 2004. At this stage, she made the decision to continue with research and undertook a PhD at the University of Strathclyde looking at drug delivery to the gut for the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, gaining experience in a number of diverse areas, and enabling her to work as part of a multidisciplinary team.

After gaining her PhD in 2008, she commenced a postdoctoral research position in the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences where she has been involved in the development of novel, non-invasive imaging techniques to map drug distribution *in vivo* covering treatment areas including the eye, gut, and oral cavity. She works as part of a number of large multidisciplinary, multi-centre teams, bridging the gap between academic and industrial collaborators where her role is both scientific and managerial ensuring effective knowledge exchange.

In addition to her work as a researcher, Eileen works as a tutor in transferable skills on both internal courses and UK GRAD school courses aimed at research students. She is also still a registered and practising pharmacist.

Soryia Siddique
Higher Education Lecturer, Forth Valley College (www.forthvalley.ac.uk)

Soryia Siddique, has a degree in Chemistry from Glasgow Caledonian University, after which she completed her Masters in the Pharmaceutical Sciences department at Strathclyde University. In 1997 she joined GlaxoSmithKline as an Analyst and progressed to method development and validation, continuing in Invitrogen and DSM.

For her PhD she joined the Pharmaceutical Sciences department at Strathclyde University in 2000 where she worked with Professor Ijeoma F Uchegbu in a joint project with Dr Andreas Schatzlein, CRUK Department of Medical Oncology on Drug Delivery systems for Cancer. In 2004 she started lecturing and developing Chemistry and Biology based courses in further education colleges. Soryia has also self written and taught DACE courses at Glasgow University.

Paul Taylor
Head of Business Development, Scottish Health Innovations (www.scottishhealthinnovations.co.uk)

Paul completed his PhD in 2004 with the Medical Research Council and decided that he wanted to leave bench science but continue working in the life sciences sector. After working in both Pharmaceutical and Drug Development Service sales roles he joined Scottish Health Innovations in 2008 as head of business development.

Scottish Health Innovations commercialise intellectual property generated within the Scottish NHS. Paul's role is to manage the commercial process in the form of revenue from licences and product sales as well as providing commercial input into the selection and development of technology emanating from NHS Scotland.
