



RUTGERS

iJOBS Career Panel: BME and ChemE Industry Jobs

Wednesday October 25, 2017

4:00-5:30pm

Stevens Institute of Technology

- Publications on resume are important but even more important are the skills and making sure they match the job rec.
- Postdoc experience does not count as much at certain companies (like J&J Consumers). But at Merck and GSK it does help to have a postdoc.
- Do informational interviews and network so people on the inside can make sure your resume is seen. Some companies have an internal reference system so they can recommend people.
- About 6 months before you graduate, start to apply for positions.
- Interviews start with HR and then a phone interview with hiring manager.
- Then they will bring you in for a full interview where you give a 40 min talk and then meet with people. They tend to ask technical questions as well as behavioral based questions. Be sure to know the STAR technique (situation, task, action, result).
- Look up the people you are interviewing with and have questions for them. Be honest if you don't know the answer to something.

Merck – Has a good postdoc program. 3 year contract but after 1 year you can apply for a job outside of Merck and after 2 years you can apply for an internal job. The project you work on must be publishable and not in the pipeline. Most positions open up in October and you apply directly to the position through the HR site. 50% stay in industry (of those 30% stay at Merck). 25% go back to academia and 25% do other careers.

J&J - does have 1 year postdoc positions. Their focus is less on publishing but more on getting patents, particularly for the consumer portion.

GSK has 25% protected time so you can develop your other capabilities and publish articles. There is a focus on publishing at GSK.

There is usually a scientific ladder, a managerial ladder and sales and marketing ladder. The progression is faster on the managerial ladder but usually you stay at a position for about 2 years before you move laterally or upward.

Pallavi Pawar, Ph.D.
Investigator (Pharma RnD)
Product and Process Engineering
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Pallavi Pawar has been working as an Investigator (Pharma RnD) in the Product and Process Engineering team at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) since September 2016. She supports the progression of GSK's New Chemical Entity (NCE) portfolio by developing robust continuous formulation processes using state of the art technology, modeling, and statistical experimental design techniques.

She works primarily in R&D labs, and as project advances through development, she is responsible for scale-up, culminating in tech transfer to commercial manufacturing facilities. She received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Rutgers University in May 2016. Her thesis focused on 'Tools for Real Time Release Testing (Rtrt) In Batch and Continuous Tablet Manufacturing'. In it, she investigated non-destructive methods like Near IR spectroscopy to predict process and product performance, blend and content uniformity, hardness and dissolution of tablets and compared this approach to traditional testing. Her expertise is in powder handling and powder processing geared towards direct compaction of tablets both in batch and continuous manufacturing. She has worked with different batch and continuous unit operations including powder mixing, powder feeding, and tablet compaction. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Chemical Technology from Institute of Chemical Technology (UDCT), Mumbai in 2010.

Margot Zevon, PhD
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Margot Zevon grew up in Buffalo, NY and received her undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering at the University of Rochester. She then went on to receive her PhD in biomedical engineering at Rutgers University in the labs of Dr. Prabhas Moghe and Dr. Charlie Roth. She is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow at Merck & Co.

Laura Higgins
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Laura Higgins is a Senior Engineer at the Johnson & Johnson Family of Consumer Companies. In this role she works on new product development for consumer devices. Laura graduated from the University of Delaware with a BS in Physics and completed her PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Rutgers University. Her dissertation research focused on the hardware and software development of optical imaging systems for cancer detection.