



**iJOBS Career Panel: Nutrition and Fragrance Industry**  
**Friday, February 11, 2022**  
**10:30 AM**



**Ratna Mukherjea, PhD**

Sr. Director Food Innovation

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Ratna currently leads Food Innovation at Benson Hill. The Food Innovation group supports both R&D and commercial activities with connecting composition, functionality, nutrition and sensory to genetics.

In the past she has been the Global R&D leader for Specialized Nutrition at IFF with a focus on strategy, technical and market readiness for pediatric nutrition and medical nutrition. In her current and past leadership positions at Solae/DuPont, IFF, she has had responsibility for research strategy and execution (Protein business), science translation & influencer engagement across the health science portfolio (probiotics, fiber and proteins) and technology and innovation efforts for the Human Milk Oligosaccharide (HMO) platform. Ratna, as an R&D Fellow was engaged in scouting initiatives to drive innovation in the business and a core team member of the Human Microbiome Venture. She was with DuPont for 13 years.

Prior to joining Solae/DuPont, she held faculty positions at Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute and University of California, Medical Center, in the Department of Endocrinology, Clinical Nutrition and Vascular Medicine with adjunct appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has over 20 years of experience in clinical and translational research, dietetics and teaching at academic institutions and food industry. Ratna received her Bachelor's degree in Nutrition from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad, India. She was then awarded a fellowship from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for completion of her Masters degree in Nutrition & Food Science at SNTD Women's University, Bombay, India. She was a practicing Dietician before she moved to the United States for her Doctoral degree in Nutrition at University of Maryland, College Park. She completed her postdoctoral fellowship with a focus on mathematical modeling at the Western Human Nutrition Research Center, UC Davis.



**Dushyant Kshatriya, PhD**

Project Manager & Scientist  
Research Diets, Inc.

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I am currently working as a project manager and scientist at Research Diets Inc. in New Brunswick, NJ. Before joining Research Diets Inc., I received my undergraduate degree in Food Engineering and Technology from ICT Mumbai, India and a PhD in Nutritional Sciences from Rutgers University. During my doctoral studies I studied the impact dietary supplements. At Research Diets, I help guide scientific experiments of researchers across academia and industry. The experience I gained at Rutgers which focused in designing and conducting metabolic studies that evaluate the interaction of diet-induced phenotypes with dietary supplements and their pharmacokinetics, provided me with the daily skills I use at RDI. I am a proud iJOBS phase 2 trainee and benefitted from its various activities.



**Julia Olayanju, PhD**

Director  
Global Food Health Institute

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Julia Olayanju PhD is the Director at the Global Food Health Institute, where she leads a team focused on developing evidence-based approaches to addressing the issue of childhood obesity in US communities. The team partners with US schools to expand nutrition education for students K-12. She is also the founder at FoodNiche Inc. a mission-based company focused on creating a healthier food system through strategic partnerships and educative programming. She has led her team to partner with Fortune 500 companies such as Kroger Health, PepsiCo, SAP-Next Gen and others to achieve company objectives.



**Bo Li, Ph.D.**

Research Investigator  
International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF)

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Bo Li is currently Research Investigator at International Flavors & Fragrances (IFF). He earned his Bachelor of Science at Jilin University in China, in 2013, and his PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from the Rutgers University – New Brunswick in 2019, working with Prof. Alan S. Goldman and Prof. Fuat E. Celik. After completing his PhD, Bo accepted a position as Senior Scientist and Instrument Manager at Abzena in Bristol, PA, where he worked for over 2

years. In 2021, Bo joined IFF as Research Investigator, where he has been since that time. At IFF, Bo is working on renewable and biodegradable new fragrance ingredient discovery.



**Robert Assini, Ph.D.**

Research Investigator

Applied Neuroscience group in R&D

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Rob earned a PhD in Neuroscience from the Behavioral and Neural Sciences (BNS) Program at Rutgers-Newark in 2019, based on work completed in Dr. Elizabeth Abercrombie's lab. He immediately transitioned to an industry position after being recruited to work as a Research Scientist for International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc. He currently works as a Research Investigator as part of a recently formed Applied Neuroscience group in R&D, where his team investigates the impact of olfactory experience on health and wellness across several functional domains.