

Isabel Perez <https://www.linkedin.com/in/xip/>

Education

- B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, Rutgers University, 2016
- M.Eng in Biomedical Engineering, Rutgers University, 2019
- Ph.D in Biomedical Engineering, Rutgers University, 2022

Extracurricular Experiences (Graduate School)

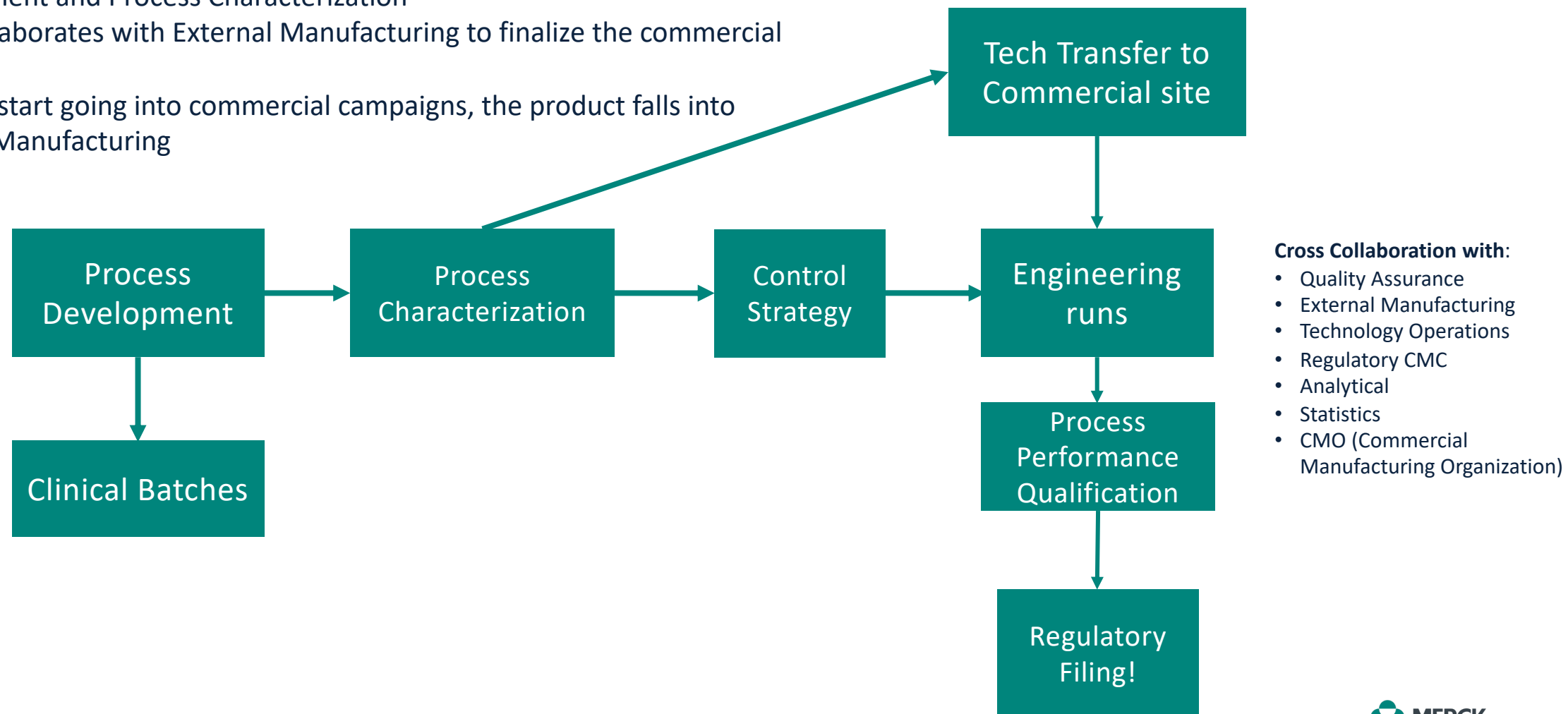
- BioEngineering Student Society (BESS)
- Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science
- STEM Community Outreach Symposium at Rutgers (STEMcosR)
- iJOBS

Industry Experience

- Process Engineer Co-Op, Parenteral MS&T, Bristol Myers Squibb, Jul 2019- Dec 2019
- Senior Scientist, Engineering, Bioprocess Drug Substance Commercialization, Mar 2022- Present
 - Currently Upstream Process Sciences Lead for late-stage mAb product

Cell Culture and Fermentation Sciences, Bioprocess Drug Substance Commercialization

- Our group collaborates with Merck Research Lab in late-stage Process Development and Process Characterization
- BDSC collaborates with External Manufacturing to finalize the commercial process
- Once we start going into commercial campaigns, the product falls into External Manufacturing



Some Advice:

- **If you have the opportunity, do an internship or extracurricular activity.** It's easy to get pulled into lab, but if you want to break into industry, additional experience will help you with developing soft skills. And it makes you stand out as having industry or leadership experience (the market can be competitive).
- **Apply for a job, even if you don't meet all the requirements.** The worst that can happen is the application gets rejected. I applied for an associate director position in my current group and received a phone call saying I wasn't qualified for that role, but there was another role I was qualified for. And I got the job 😊

Monal Dieterich, PhD

monalgmehta@gmail.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/monal-mehta/>

Path to current role

- Finished PhD in neuroscience in March 2021
- Interested in scientist positions at a biotech or pharma company with a neuroscience focus
 - Started applying to scientist level positions all over the country in January 2021
- Job was looking for a specific skill set, iPSCs to model neurological disorders
 - This was the primary focus of my dissertation, had many transferrable skills relevant to the job
- Started job in April 2021

Current role: Scientist II at PTC Therapeutics

- Biology team lead for a preclinical neurodegenerative disorder
 - Overseeing all biological assays from screening tiers to mechanism of action studies
 - Working closely with chemistry and pharmacology teams to progress top small molecules to in PK, PD, and efficacy studies
- Lab work (10-15%)
 - Designing in vitro assays in a therapeutically relevant model system (patient derived iPSCs) to test small molecules
 - Exploratory work to test new targets for early preclinical programs
- Hiring manager for 4 employees

Advice to current trainees

- Know the market (employee vs employer driven)
- Tailor resume/CV to the position, hiring manager shouldn't have to dig
- Always submit a cover letter
- Given the current market... don't apply for positions you are overqualified for
- Conduct informational interviews with individuals currently in the role you desire

Joe Sherba Career Journey joseph.sherba@legendbiotech.com

• Education:

- Undergrad → Penn State University (2009-2013)
 - Major: Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering Track
 - 1st exposure to Research → Tissue Engineering (Electrospinning of Scaffolds)
- Grad → Rutgers (2014-2020)
 - PhD in Biomedical Engineering
 - Thesis: “Towards the development of a continuous-flow, smart micro-electroporation technology to advance cell therapy”
 - Fellowship Year (I think 3rd year?) → GAANN Fellowship → Precision and Personalized Medicine Focus
 - 1st *real* exposure to oncology / CAR-T Therapy

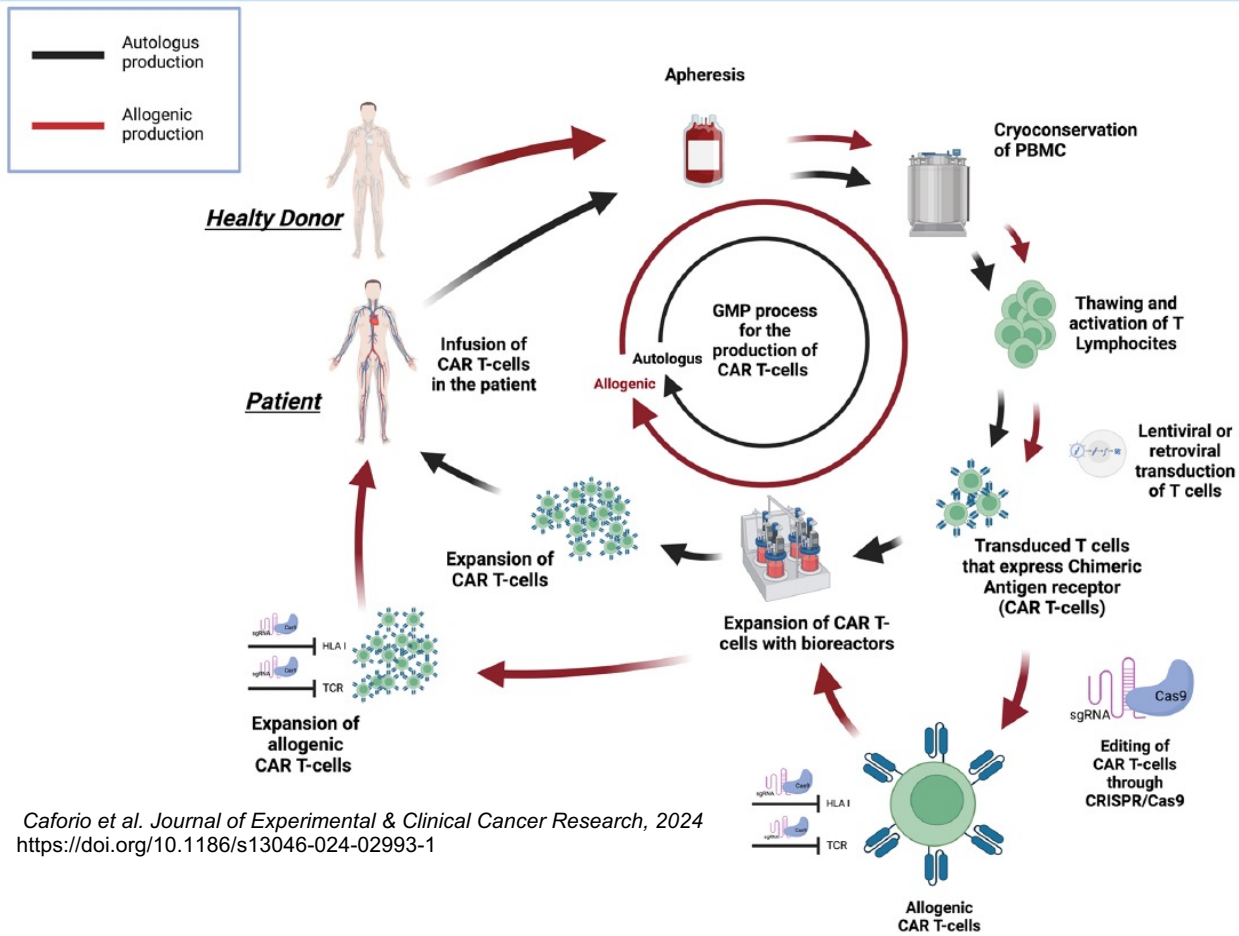


• Industry:

- Legend Biotech → Cell Therapy (specifically CAR-T)
- Scientist, Process Development (2020)
 - (Masters student I trained referred me)
- Scientist II, Process Development (2023)

(Late Stage, Pre-Clinical R&D)





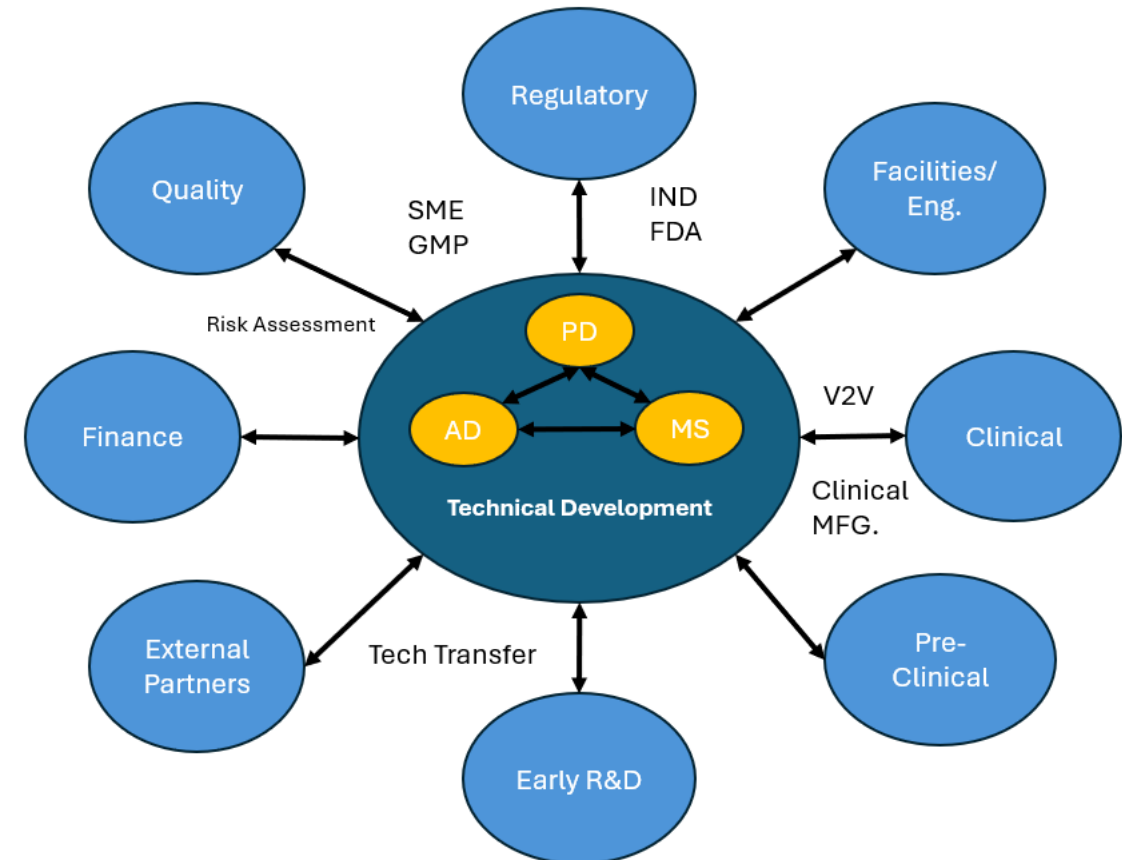
Caforio et al. Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research, 2024
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13046-024-02993-1>

Major Focus as a PD Scientist:

- Optimize / Understand our CAR-T Drug Product Manufacturing Process(es)
- Take R&D Process and ‘GMP-enize’ → Package to FDA
- Kick-off and oversee clinical manufacturing

Highly Collaborative Environment:

- Internally (Tech Dev), w/ Analytical Dev. and Material Science.
- Externally, numerous groups (both within and external to Legend)... *we are also not the ‘center of attention’*
- **Key Roles:** Tech Transfers (internal/external), serving as SME (Quality / Regulatory), overseeing clinical manufacturing



Advice for iJOBS Trainees:

- Landing a Role:
 - Give yourself time
 - Network!
 - Reach out to people (strangers), talk to them, get referrals
 - **Focus on the Company / Role.**
 - **Transferable Skills!**
 - Group Interview → Who are you?
 - Include a slide together (w/ Pics) about yourself and what you like to do outside of work
- Transitioning to and (hopefully) excelling in Industry R&D:
 - Ask questions (so many acronyms)
 - Effective Communication
 - Don't let things get lost in translation → Unnecessary **Timeline** delays
 - Apply your PhD experience to describe study designs and to organize/communicate findings
 - Don't get *too* 'emotionally invested' in a specific **project**
 - Make yourself an Asset!
 - Continue to learn / grow... take on activities *outside* of your job description or specific **project**



Rutgers iJOBS Panel on Industry Research

OLUFUNMILOLA IBIRONKE, M.Sc. , PhD

[HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/IN/OLUFUNMILOLA-IBIRONKE-M-SC-PHD-B326A249/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/olufunmilola-ibironke-m-sc-phd-b326a249/)

Career Path

2008 - 2011

2012 - 2021

2021 - 2022

2022 -

Johns Hopkins
University

- Master's Degree (M.Sc. Molecular Microbiology & Immunology)
- Research Assistant (Malaria research)
- Visiting Scholar (Schistosome research: field and lab work: funded by Global Health)

Rutgers University

- Scientist (DNA repository)
- PhD Degree (Physiology and Integrative Biology)
- Program Co-Ordinator (USAID-funded program)

Rutgers University

- Post-doctoral Fellow (2 post-doc trainings)
- Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow (Rutgers University Honors College)

Bristol Myer
Squibb

- Scientist (Assay development and qualification)
- Method transfer to Quality control
- Collaborating with Process development and QC teams to advance analytical projects

Novartis

- Principal Scientist / Senior Expert (CAR-T, Cell and Gene therapy,
- Analytical Platform Development, Technical Research and Development, Cancer Immunotherapy.

Current role as Principal Scientist at Novartis

Own and drive technical and development projects to test and characterize cell therapy products

Design and develop complex molecular, cellular characterization, cell-based, and multi-color flow cytometry assays for cell therapy products

Presents results and project updates to team

Demonstrate strong scientific leadership and deep understanding of method suitability for Quality Control (QC) implementation

Actively keep abreast with the latest advances in next-generation analytical technologies for cell therapies

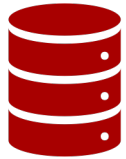
Continuously identify opportunities for method improvement and technical challenges

Collaboratively lead, drive, and execute qualification/optimization/transfer of analytical methods to aid in driving project timelines and deliverables into QC lines functions

Author and review method related documents to ensure completeness, accuracy, consistency, and clarity

Review and approve data by other team members. Support programs which assist in testing, evaluation, and monitoring of quality and efficiency

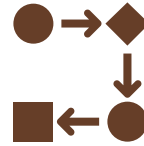
Industry Career goals



- Weigh your options and achieve clarity!
- “Am I sure I want to pursue industry research” (genuine answer to this will allow you to get where you want to be)



- Set short-term goals
- For example, acquiring skills to facilitate job search e.g acquire data analytics skills (R, ML, Python,&SQL)
- Apply, apply, apply! (tailor resume to each job description)



- Set long-term goals
- For example, acquiring skills to facilitate growth in industry (depends on your goals: make money vs build a career?)
- E.g acquire key technical competence in R&D (field/line of interest)



- Acquire strategic planning and leadership experience.
- Evolve into people manager and driving strategic initiatives
- Make friends (Networking)



- Influence and impact Novartis’s (your company) corporate strategy
- Develop and facilitate strategic policy initiatives.
- **Exe. Leader (Corporate Strategy) in Pharma.**

Short-Term Goals (pre-industry)

Long-Term Goals (In-industry)



Jennifer Casiano-Matos, Ph.D.

Scientist II – AMGEN

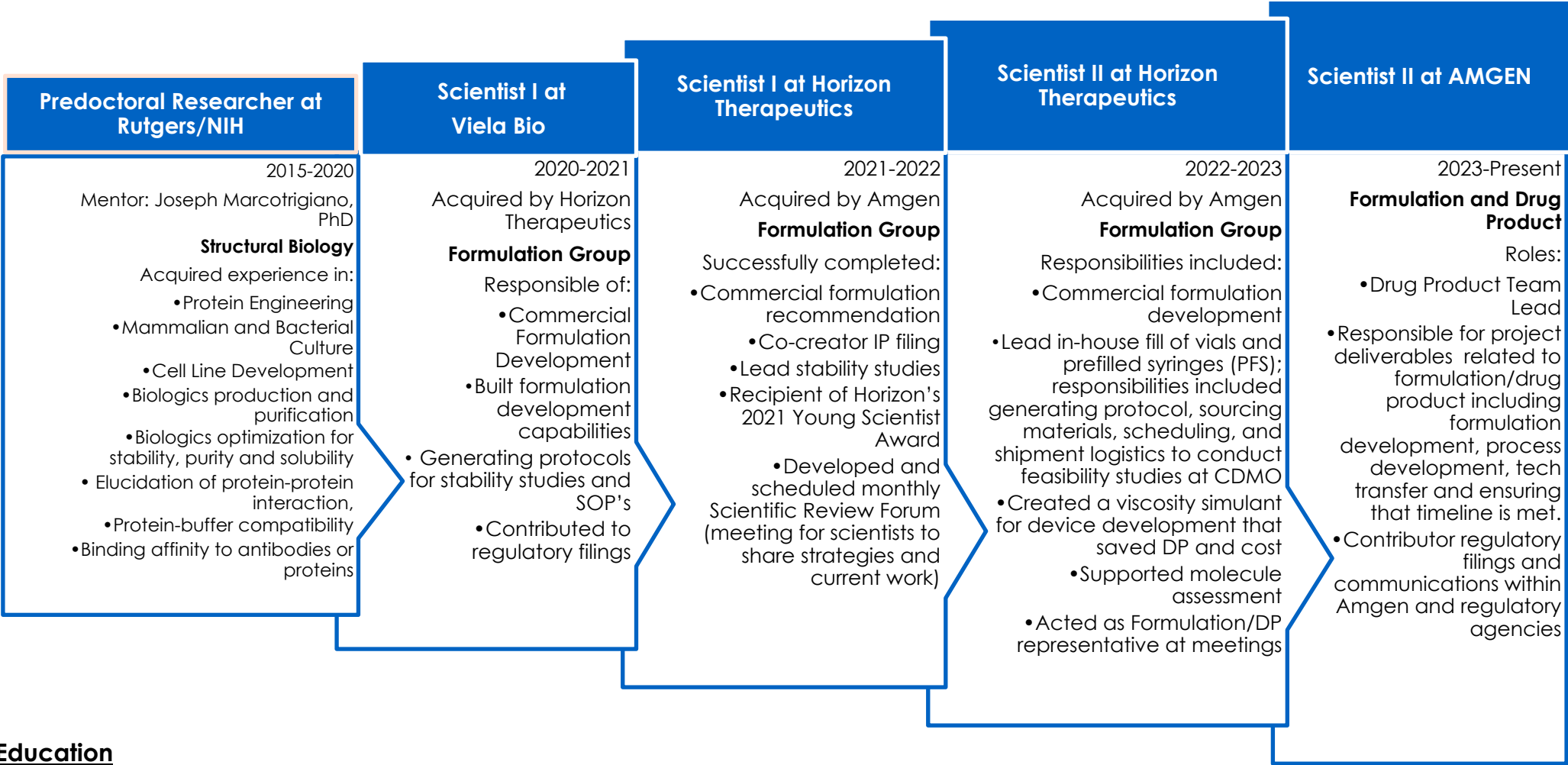
iJOBS Panel on Industry Research Careers

June 24, 2024

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifercasiano/>



Jennifer Casiano-Matos, Scientist II Career Path



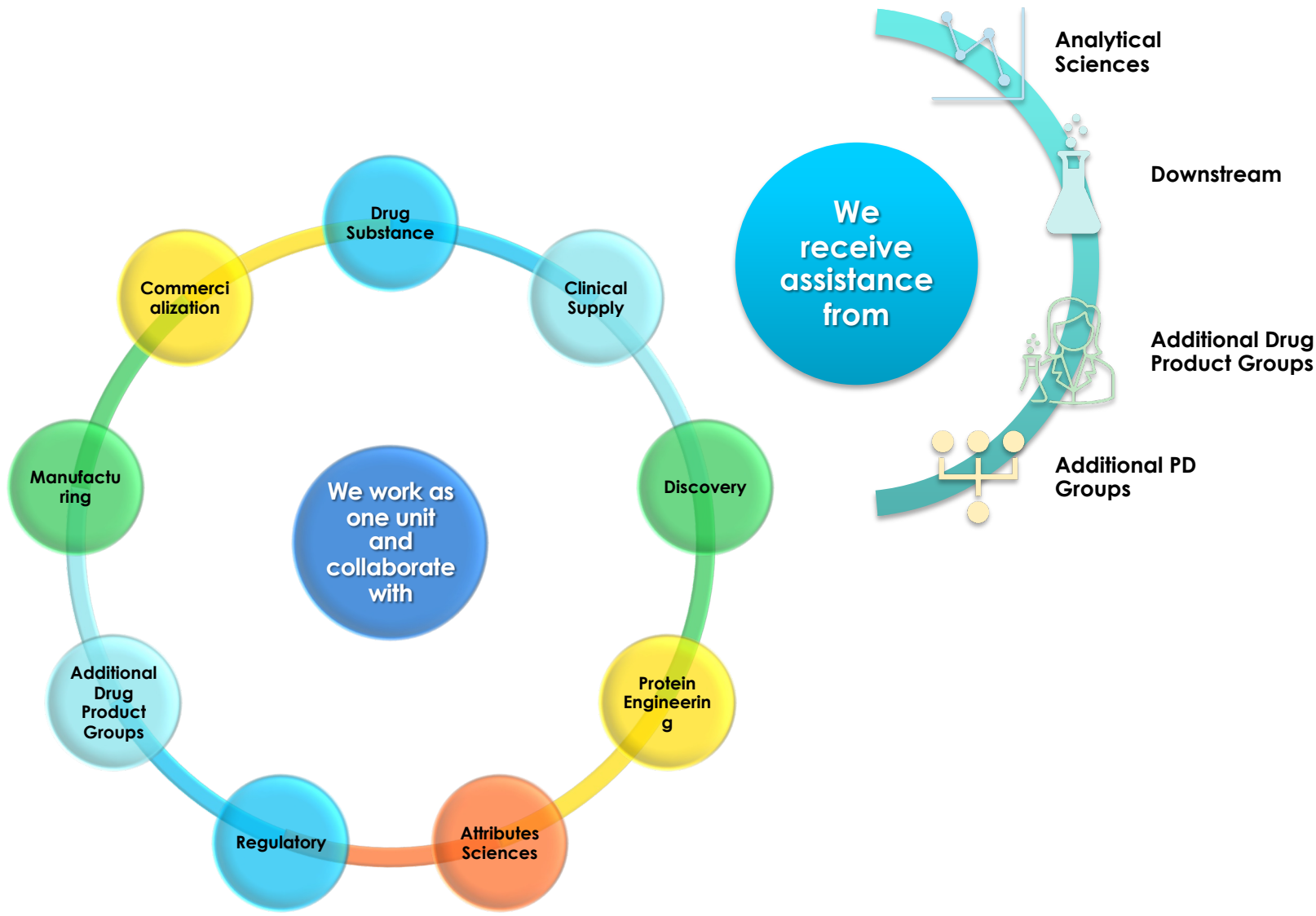
Education

- PhD: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Rutgers University
 - Structural Biology - Dr. Joseph Marcotrigiano
- MS: Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez
 - Virology – Dr. Nanette Diffoot
- BS: Industrial Microbiology, University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez



Formulation/Drug Product Team

- Formulation/Drug Product is part of **Process Development (PD)**.
- As PD group we collaborate across **AMGEN** functions to ensure a smooth and efficient end to end process.
 - For example, we work with **R&D** as the drug evolves; from discovery, pass clinical trials, and beyond ensuring that molecules move across the pipeline.
 - We work collaboratively; from a small-scale process to fulfil clinical trials towards **manufacturing and commercial**.
 - During development we work with **commercial operations** and contribute to **regulatory** filings.



Pieces of Advice when Preparing for Careers in Industry

- Take your time to understand what section of the industry calls you
 - Research
 - Discovery, Protein Engineering, Pharmacokinetics, Biologics vs Small Molecules, Computational, etc.
 - Development
 - Process Development, Device Development, Engineering, Analytical Sciences, etc.
- Gain relevant experience during graduate school
 - Understand the needs of the role(s) of interest
 - Apply for internships
- Understand how to leverage your expertise
 - Your skills and training could have an impact on changing patient's lives
 - During an interview be ready to speak about your research experience and how it translates to the position
- Network
 - Connect with people to understand their role
- Leverage transferable skills
 - Problem solving, data analysis, communication, etc.