



RUTGERS

iJOBS Panel: Different Options for International PhD Trainees to Land a Job

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Bharani Thangavelu, PhD

Expert Scientist

GSK

Vaccines at Rockville

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I graduated with a BS in Biochemistry in 2008 and MS in Chemistry in 2010 and then went on to do 1-year internship at Mylan Laboratories, India. Later I moved to United States and completed my PhD in Biochemistry in 2016 and then did 1-year postdoctoral training at Cleveland Clinic. In 2017, I started working for Walter Reed Army Institute of Research through a fellowship from National Academy of Sciences called National Research Council (NRC) fellowship. Later I worked for Bio-Rad Laboratories as a Field Application Scientist II and supported the Mid-Atlantic region for proteomics products lines from Bio-Rad. I moved to Novavax as Scientist II, with in analytical development laboratory, and supported the Covid, RSV and Flu vaccine programs. I currently work at GSK, Vaccines at Rockville as Expert Scientist supporting the analytical program for the cell line development team.



Awanti Bambarey, Ph.D

Translational Data Scientist

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Dr Awanti Sambarey is a translational data scientist with over 10 years' experience in computational biology, bioinformatics and real world data analysis. With a PhD in bioinformatics and systems biology from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore followed by postdoctoral research in Biomedical Engineering at University of Michigan Ann Arbor - she has worked extensively in the field of translational biomedical research, focusing on biomarker discovery, multimodal data analysis and machine learning to address pressing clinical problems in infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. In 2022, she transitioned from academia to join Tempus AI as a Senior Translational Scientist, where she provided data-driven insights from real world data to support key developmental milestones in drug development, clinical trials, and biomarker discovery in oncology. She is soon joining Truveta as Director of Life Science Research Solutions this July. Both Tempus AI and Truveta have sponsored her O1-A visa.

Dr. Sambarey is passionate about utilizing genomics and data analytics to advance patient care. She is also the co-founder of The STEM Times, the STEMpeers science communication

platform on Instagram, and is a strong advocate for STEM outreach, education and science communication.



Abhijit Kale, Ph.D.

Site Lead
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I am a scientist by training with more than 18 years of experience in Genetics, genomics, aging, and senescence research. I did my M.S. and Ph.D. in Molecular genetics from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in NY. For my postdoctoral work, I joined the Buck Institute for Aging Research in the San Francisco Bay area. After that I worked with two biotech start-ups in California and both transitions I did by filing O-1A visa. Recently I have transitioned as a Grants review coordinator at Hevolution foundation that funds research on aging and longevity. I am also an active member of the STEMpeers community and manage O-1A stempeers slack channel for informational purposes.



Shyamtanu Datta, PhD

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Dr. Shyamtanu Datta is currently serving as Associate Director at Novartis, Basel. Prior to joining Novartis, Shyam held several positions related to Advanced Therapies at Roche, Harvard Medical School, and UTSW Medical Center. With approximately 14 years of professional experience in Molecular Biology, Human Genetics, and Advanced Therapies across industry and academic settings, he aspires to make significant contribution to curing diseases by bringing cutting edge discoveries from bench to bedside.

Outside of work, Shyam enjoys spending time with his family, travelling, and reading detective novels and popular science books. He is also passionate about mentoring and coaching next generation of STEM students and professionals, guiding them to shape their careers.



Pierre-Axel Monternier, PhD

CEO and Founder
Reventus Pharma
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Pierre-Axel Monternier is the CEO and founder of Reventus Pharma, a company dedicated to developing therapies for rare metabolic diseases. With a robust background in pharmacology and preclinical research, Pierre-

Axel has successfully led multiple projects from academic partnerships to drug repurposing initiatives. His expertise in bioenergetics and mitochondrial function has been pivotal in identifying new therapeutic indications and mechanisms of action. Prior to founding Reventus Pharma, he served as the Director of Pharmacology at Poxel SA, contributing to regulatory filings that achieved FDA approvals. Pierre-Axel holds a PhD in physiology from Lyon University and has extensive experience in managing cross-functional teams, strategic planning, and business development. His dedication to advancing scientific research is further evidenced by his postdoctoral work at the Buck Institute and his field research with the French Polar Institute. An avid rock climber and outdoor enthusiast, Pierre-Axel combines his passion for science with a love for adventure and nature.