



RUTGERS

iJOBS Career Panel: Non-research careers with a PhD

October 10, 2024

12:45 PM Camden



Krista Connelly, PhD

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Dr. Krista Connelly received her PhD in Neuroscience from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University where she completed her doctoral studies in the Center for Substance Abuse Research. She is a graduate of Rutgers's Eagleton Science and Politics Fellowship. During her Fellowship placement in the New Jersey Department of Corrections, she developed and implemented the initial audit of the healthcare component of the Isolated Confinement Restriction Act. She is currently the Health Information Authority, working in the Healthcare Compliance Unit of the Department of Corrections where she is passionate about expanding the role of data science in oversight of the healthcare provided to the incarcerated population. In her spare time, she can be found reading nonfiction, building Lego, and stressing out over Philadelphia sports with her husband.



Lauren Timmins, Ph.D

Equity Research Associate

Piper Sandler Investment Bank

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Lauren Timmins graduated from the Rutgers Biomedical Engineering program with her PhD in March of 2022. Her thesis focused on engineering cells using dynamic 2D and 3D culture platforms. Prior to this, she attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and received a BS in Chemical Engineering. After graduating from Rutgers, Lauren went on to join the work force as an Equity Research Associate at Piper Sandler Investment Bank.



Juan Manuel Valdez, Ph.D.

Medical Director

BGB

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Juan is a medical director with a PhD in biomedical sciences who has experience in scientific research and life sciences strategy consulting.

Before joining BGB, Juan was an associate consultant at Cello Health, where he worked with therapies in early-stage development for biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Typical projects involved opportunity assessments, indication prioritizations, revenue forecasts, and therapeutic landscape evaluations. While at BGB, he has led content development of a variety of promotional and medical education pieces and contributed his medical and strategy expertise across his teams. He has deep expertise in the fields of biophysics, neuroscience, oncology, and gene and cell therapy.

Juan earned his PhD in biomedical sciences with a concentration on neuroscience and biophysics from Rutgers University and has a BS degree in molecular biology and biotechnology. Juan has authored peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and posters and has presented his research at national and international meetings.

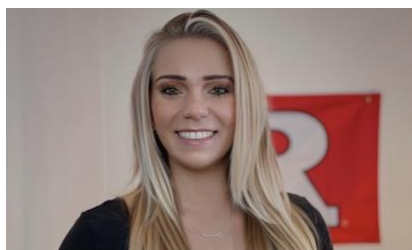


Melissa VonDran, PhD

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Dr. VonDran, is the Senior Vice President, Operations & Director, Biorepository at the National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI), a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization that provides human biospecimens to scientists in academic, corporate and independent research organizations to advance biomedical/bioscience research and development worldwide. Dr. VonDran is responsible for strategy development as well as management of NDRI's Operations department, including its College of American Pathologists (CAP)-accredited Biorepository.

Dr. VonDran earned her doctoral degree in neuroscience and cell biology from Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. Her work focused on evaluating neurotrophins and their receptors as potential targets for therapies for neurodegenerative diseases using animal models. Dr. VonDran draws upon her own experience as an academic research scientist to translate the research community's needs into new research programs for NDRI.



Danielle Kozlosky, PhD

Patent Scientist
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Danielle Kozlosky, Ph.D., works full-time as a patent scientist at Servilla Whitney LLC while attending law school part-time as a JD candidate at Seton Hall Law School. She earned her PhD in Toxicology from Rutgers University, where her research centered on placental transporters and their impact on cadmium toxicity, particularly concerning fetal development. Danielle's interdisciplinary background blends her deep scientific expertise with legal acumen, allowing her to work at the

intersection of patent law and science, primarily focusing on the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors.

With a passion for intellectual property law, Danielle applies the analytical, problem-solving, and research skills honed during her PhD to navigate patent prosecution, conduct prior art searches, and support litigation. Her career trajectory exemplifies how a PhD can open doors to unexpected fields, as she is dedicated to leveraging her dual expertise to drive innovation in science-related industries.