

# Bench Scientist in Industry

iJOBS

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# Introduction

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## **Career Path**

**Bachelor's and Masters in Microbiology:** University of Calcutta, India  
*2007-2012*

**Ph.D., Biological Sciences** | Rutgers University, NJ

*September 2015 - February 2021*

**Research Scientist, Personal Care & Skin Health** | Colgate-Palmolive

*March 2021 - Present*





# Current Role

## **Research Scientist | Colgate-Palmolive**

I work in the Research and Innovation group for Personal Care Products and Skin Health.

My role is focused on the early-stage science that powers the dermatology and skin health products we bring to market.

## **Key Activities**

- Project Leadership:** I independently manage preclinical life sciences projects from initial design and execution through to final data analysis, ensuring our work aligns with key business and clinical objectives.
- Assay Innovation:** I develop and validate new methods to support the commercialization and launch of new products.
- Data Analysis & Communication:** A large part of my role involves analyzing complex data from tissue samples, interpreting the results, and communicating the scientific and business implications to cross-functional teams and management.
- Mentorship & Collaboration:** I mentor summer interns (as part of the summer intern committee) and junior scientists in their daily tasks and professional development, and I frequently coordinate across multiple projects with diverse stakeholders.



# 1 Master the Art of Communication

The ability to create clear, compelling well articulated presentations is a critical and highly valued skill.

Build a strong professional relationships via internships and other research based collaborations. These connections will be invaluable throughout your career.

Always consider the "so what?" of your research. How does your work align with broader business goals or clinical needs?

# Victor Tan - Career Path

victor\_tan@vrtx.com



## **Undergraduate**

Dr. Owen Witte

- Prostate cancer pathogenesis



## **Research Associate**

Dr. Harold Chapman

- Lung epithelial regeneration
- Animal technician



## **PhD**

Dr. Justin Drake

- Prostate cancer phosphoproteomics

Dr. Shengkan Jin

- Therapeutic gene editing technologies



## **Senior Scientist, Gene Editing**

- Vertex Cell & Genetic Therapies

# Current Role and Responsibilities

## Meetings

1 on 1s

Collaborators

Team meetings  
presentations



## General deskwork

Literature

Trainings

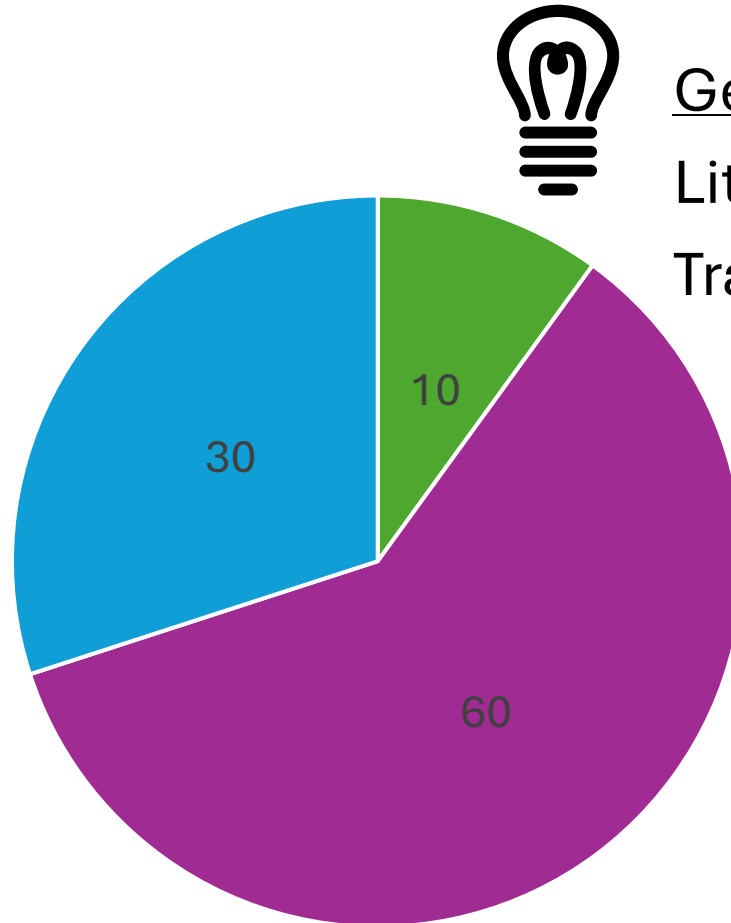


## Experiments

Data analysis

Lab notebook

Planning



Be resilient/adaptable/flexible

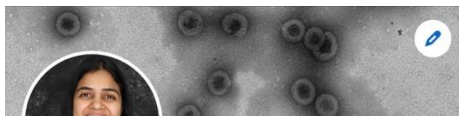
# ABOUT ME



**RUCHI YADAV**



ruchi.yadav@merck.com



**Ruchi Yadav**  She/Her  
Senior Scientist at Merck

Merck  
Piscataway, New Jersey, United States



**BS and MS, Chemistry**  
**India (2013-2018)**



**PhD, Biochemistry**  
**Rutgers University, NJ (2018-2024)**



**Senior Scientist**  
**Merck, Rahway, NJ (2024-present)**



# CURRENT ROLE

**Title** – Senior Scientist

**Department** – Biologics Analytical Research and Development, Merck

**Activities** –

- Drug discovery > drug development > commercialization
- Support early and late-stage biologics pipeline
- Monoclonal antibodies
- 60% of time – experiments in lab
- 40% of time – data processing, working on internal technical reports and sections of regulatory documents (IND and BLA), meetings with CROs and different department teams

**Skills** –

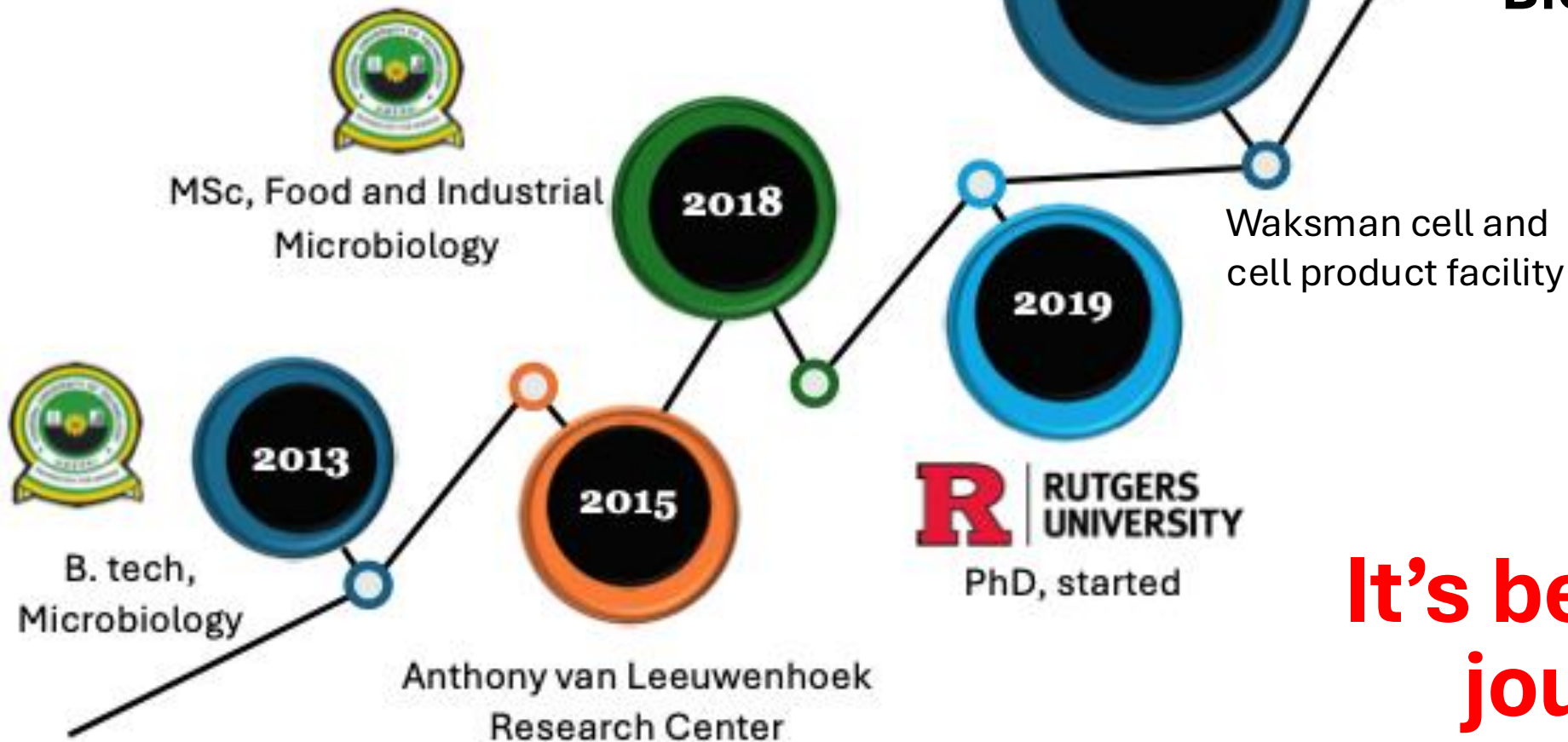
- Scientific and technical skills
- Communication
- Team-work
- Time/project management

# MY ADVICE FOR JOB SEARCH PROCESS



**Samuel Adeleye**

Samuel.adeleye@lilly.com



*Lilly*  
**Advisor,  
Biotherapeutics**

**It's been quite a  
journey!!!!**

# Advisor Biotherapeutics (Drug hunter)

- Design and execute experiments to develop Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADCs) for targeted therapies
- Support bioconjugation of payloads to antibodies and optimize for improved biophysical properties
- Purify and characterize proteins at small to medium scale to support therapeutic programs
- Assist in candidate selection by identifying molecules with desirable biophysical characteristics

# Advice for trainees

- **Value people** – they could be the ladders to your next phase!
- **Identify the opportunities around you** – Leverage them!
- **Stay curious, focused and yet flexible** – Things may not always work the way you want.
- **Be open to entry points** -Your first role doesn't have to be your dream job—get in, learn the system, and grow.
- **All you need is to be in the right place, right time and meet the right people and you would move the world in your favor!**

# Jay Shah - Career path



Contract Scientist, 2017-2018  
Small molecule transporters



PhD, 2018 – Oct 2023  
BME  
nanoparticles and in vivo imaging



NanoInk Imaging

Post-doc and Consultant -> Part-time Scientist, Oct 2023 – Feb 2025  
nanoparticles and in vivo imaging



Scientist I, Downstream Process Development, Feb 2025  
Biologics purification

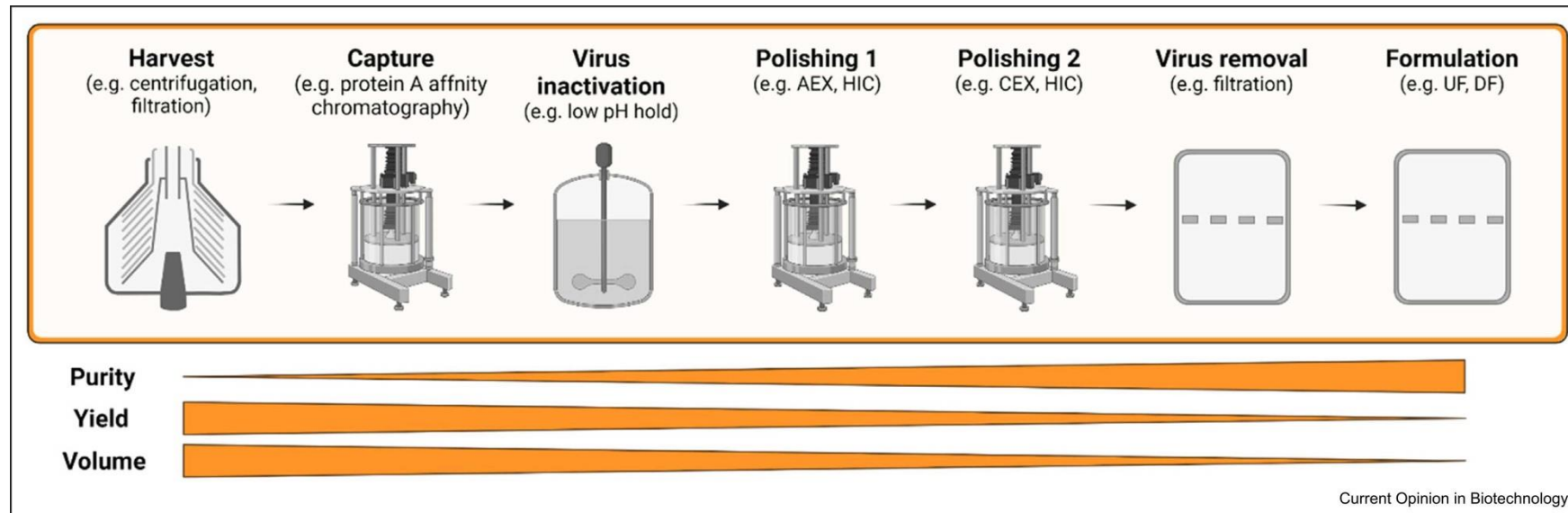
Contact info:

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jay-v-shah/>

# Downstream Process Development

- Separation of therapeutic protein from impurities
- Development of purification processes that will eventually be used for manufacturing, keeping quality, yield, and costs in mind
- High throughput purification at small scale
- Providing biologics drug substance material to support research and drug product development



# Job Search Advice

1. Take all career advice with a grain of salt
  - Everyone is different and nothing is standardized
2. Humility goes a very long way
  - Sometimes it's not what you know or even who you know. It's who you are.
3. Networking is important, but it's not a golden ticket
4. Know your audience and do your research
5. It's a bad market. Luck is a factor. Don't take things personally.
  - If you can afford it, take a break