



RUTGERS

iJOBS Career Panel: Non-bench careers with a PhD

July 23, 2025

10:00 AM



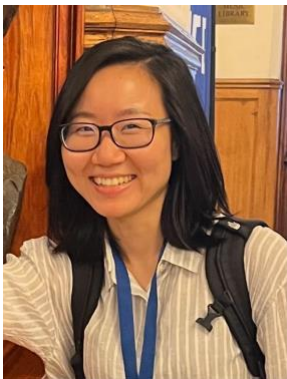
Alexander Turo, PhD

Licensing Manager, Technology Transfer

Rutgers University

alex.turo@rutgers.edu

Alex Turo is a business development professional with a passion for advancing early-stage biomedical and life science technologies from concept to commercialization. As a Licensing Manager in the Technology Transfer group in the Office for Research, Alex works to build relationships with researchers and clinicians of the Rutgers research community, identifying high-potential intellectual property and helping researchers build connections with industry that will enable translation of their ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace.



Donna Chen, Ph.D.

Scientific Consultant

NIRx Medical Technologies

chendonna3@gmail.com

Donna Chen is a scientific consultant at NIRx Medical Technologies and a recent Ph.D. graduate from the joint biomedical engineering program at NJIT & Rutgers. She transitioned from academia to industry and now helps neuroscience researchers use functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) to study brain function. Donna enjoys using her background in neuroimaging and computational neuroscience to support impactful brain research.



Danielle Macario, PhD

Director, Regulatory Affairs Americas

L'Oreal

Danielle.macario@loreal.com

Danielle obtained her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University and UMDNJ through the Joint Biomedical Sciences Program. She then started her career at Johnson & Johnson where she spent 5 years working in early innovation R&D working on

devices, personal care, OTCs, and combination products. Following that, she worked at Schulman IRB (now Advarra) as an affiliated board member, providing regulatory, ethical, and scientific support of proposed clinical research. She went on to explore other aspects of regulatory at Ashland LLC, where she led the regulatory division for home care, personal care, and encapsulates and served as the IRB Chairperson for clinical research, provided customer support for regulatory needs, and collaborated with other teams such as marketing and safety/toxicology to support new product development. Prior to her current role, Danielle was working for Shiseido Americas as a Regulatory Affairs Manager, where she led a team who supported cosmetic and OTC product development including global regulatory compliance, claims support, artwork development, and registration activities. Danielle is currently serving as a Director at L'Oreal USA where she leads a team of four in supporting Regulatory Affairs.



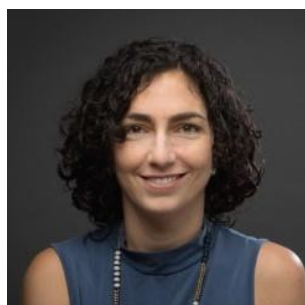
Anita Gould, PhD

Senior Subeditor

Springer Nature

anita@alumni.caltech.edu

Anita Gould is a senior subeditor at Springer Nature. She holds a BA from Simon's Rock College of Bard and a PhD in biology from the California Institute of Technology, with a background in developmental neurobiology. Her responsibilities include copyediting and proofreading for *Nature* and the Nature-branded research and reviews journals.



Orly Levitan, PhD

Chief Business Officer

Pragma Bio

orlylevitan.phd@gmail.com

I am a biotechnology and life sciences executive with over 20 years of experience at the intersection of science, strategy, and business development. Currently, I serve as the Chief Business Officer (CBO) at Pragma Bio, an AI-driven biotech focused on small molecule discovery. In this role, I lead strategic partnerships, corporate development, and growth initiatives to advance the company's platform and pipeline.

Prior to this, I was the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at a mature Series C company, where I worked closely with over 300 prescribing physicians and 22,000 patients, bridging scientific innovation with real-world clinical impact. Over the past 6+ years, I have held C-level roles in two venture-backed startups, gaining deep experience in strategic business development, fostering partnerships, and leading cross-functional teams to drive innovation. While working in biotech for the past 6.5 years, I also have extensive experience leading innovation within large organizations, navigating complex ecosystems to bring novel solutions to market.

Before transitioning to industry, I was a professor at Rutgers University, where I led research initiatives, secured funding, and drove scientific innovation. Earlier in my career, I served as a

Captain in military intelligence, managing big data and data-mining technological initiatives as well as international innovation strategy projects.

PhD in Molecular Biology from Bar-Ilan University and Certificate of Specialization in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Harvard Business School



Tanya Borsuk, PhD

President of North 49 LLC

tanyaborsuk@hotmail.com

Dr. Tanya E. Borsuk is President of North49 LLC, a consulting agency that specializes in Business Development, Branding and Messaging, Corporate Development, Fundraising, and Pipeline/Platform Strategy for Biotechnology companies across North America and Europe. Dr.

Borsuk has over 17 years of experience in the Biotech/Pharma industry and has previously held the roles of CBO/BD Head of BD at small biotechnology companies in Canada, the U.S. and the UK, Vice President of Pipeline Strategy and Alliances at Flagship Pioneering, where she helped guide business development and strategic pipeline design across numerous technology platforms and therapeutic areas for early-stage companies in the Flagship ecosystem. She was the co-founder and Director of the Business Development Search and Evaluation team at Celgene Corporation, later acquired by Bristol Myers Squibb, where she led worldwide scouting BD activities in Oncology, Hematology and Cell Therapy. And prior to that was Worldwide head of Business Insights and Strategy.

She has participated in the global and regional launches of 8 NCEs across several Therapeutic Areas, has successfully negotiated BD deals worth >\$5B in value, and participated in finance raises of >\$400M US.

Tanya holds a Doctorate in Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics from Rutgers University in New Jersey, a bachelor's degree in Biology from Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and a Mini-MBA from the Rutgers University Business School



Ken Shatzkes, PhD

Program Director

Foundaion for Opioid Response Efforts

kshatzkes@gmail.com

Dr. Ken Shatzkes is Program Director for the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE). Ken leads FORE's grantmaking, programmatic, and communications activities and helps to identify new funding

opportunities with a focus on patient-centered, evidence-based solutions addressing the nation's opioid crisis.

Ken has over 15 years of experience performing biomedical research in academic, government, and non-profit settings. In 2017, Ken served as the Science Policy Advisor in the Office of the New Jersey Governor, providing evidence-based recommendations on state opioid initiatives and leading the Governor's efforts as Chair of the President's Commission on Combating Drug

Addiction and the Opioid Crisis. Working closely with stakeholders and political leadership, he helped author the Commission's report containing 65 federal policy recommendations aimed at curtailing the opioid crisis. Previously, he was a Rutgers-Eagleton Institute of Politics Fellow, placed in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he researched, tracked, and informed senior leadership of innovative state-led opioid crisis-related initiatives. Prior to joining FORE, Ken was an Associate Program Officer at the Helmsley Charitable Trust, a global health philanthropy focused on improving patients' lives, where he supported the development of innovative diagnostics for individuals living with Crohn's disease. His other previous roles include laboratory research positions at New York University Langone Medical Center, the J. Craig Venter Institute, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Ken earned his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences (Immunology and Infectious Disease) from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and his B.Sc. in Biology (Molecular Genetics and Development) from McGill University.



Lauren Timmens, PhD

Senior Healthcare Equity Research Associate

Jefferies Bank

missnewlauren@gmail.com

<http://linkedin.com/in/lauren-timmins-phd-3a5291b8>

Lauren Timmins completed her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University in spring of 2022 under Dr. Biju Parekkadan. Her thesis looked at improving manufacturing platforms for viral vector based cell therapies such as CAR-T and CAR-NK cells. From her PhD she directly pivoted into an equity research career covering the biotechnology sector at Piper Sandler for 2.5 years, and more recently in February pivoted to a senior associate equity research role covering the life science diagnostics and tools sector at Jefferies bank. Lauren is originally from outside Boston, MA and completed her undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Myka Ababon, PhD

VP, Medical Director

Caudex, an IPG Health Company

myka.ababon@caudex.com

Myka has been in the medical communications industry for over 8 years, with extensive experience across multiple therapeutic areas. She has a proven track record in strategic and tactical leadership across pre- and post-launch brands, specializing in medical affairs and promotional medical communication. Myka sees herself as a scientific storyteller with a deep passion for understanding complex scientific concepts and communicating these effectively to diverse audiences.