

Welcome to Rutgers iJOBS Annual Symposium

Ice Breaker

- Introduce yourself – name, role, and research area
- What is your superpower and how do you use it in your research?

e.g. Mine is my organizational skill that allows me to execute several projects at the same time.





RUTGERS

Rutgers iJOBS Annual Symposium

October 16, 2026



Agenda for today

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM Welcome and iJOBS Program Update

Janet Alder, PhD Co-Director

iJOBS Program at Rutgers University

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM Professional Development Workshop

Juliet Chin Hart, CEO and Founder, Leadership Development Consulting for Scientists and their Organizations

“Career Strategy for Scientists, Building Your Value Proposition”

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM Break

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM Let’s Hear from Our Phase 3 Trainees!

Facilitated by Doreen Badheka, PhD, Co-Director

iJOBS Program at Rutgers University

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Keynote Speaker

Adrianne Wong, PhD Senior Director Oncology Search and Evaluation, Global Business Development, Daiichi

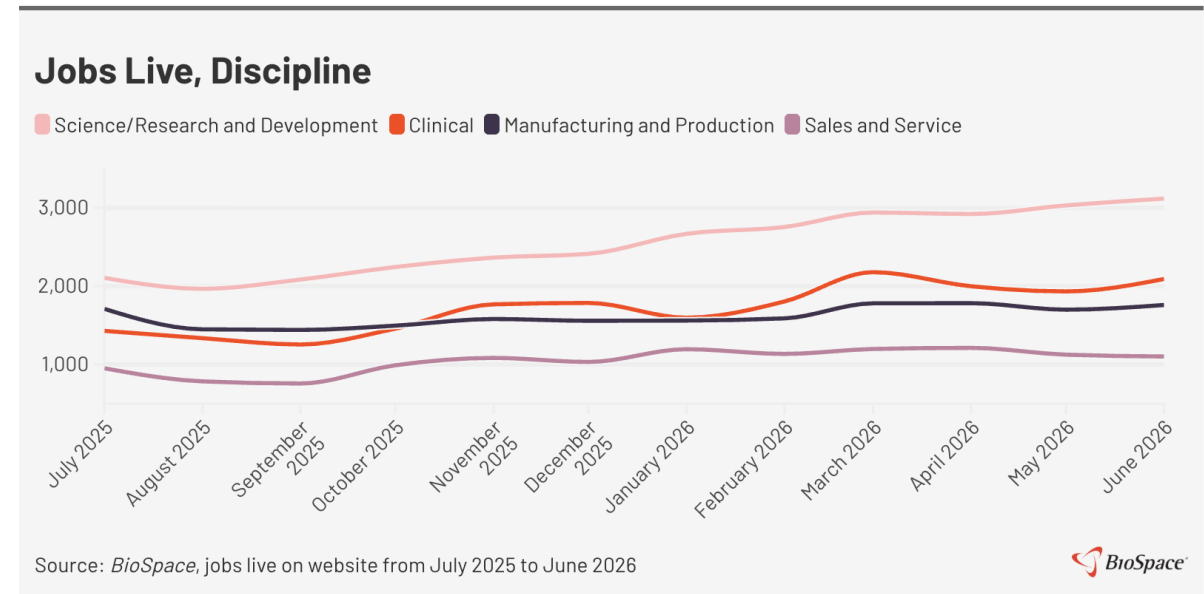
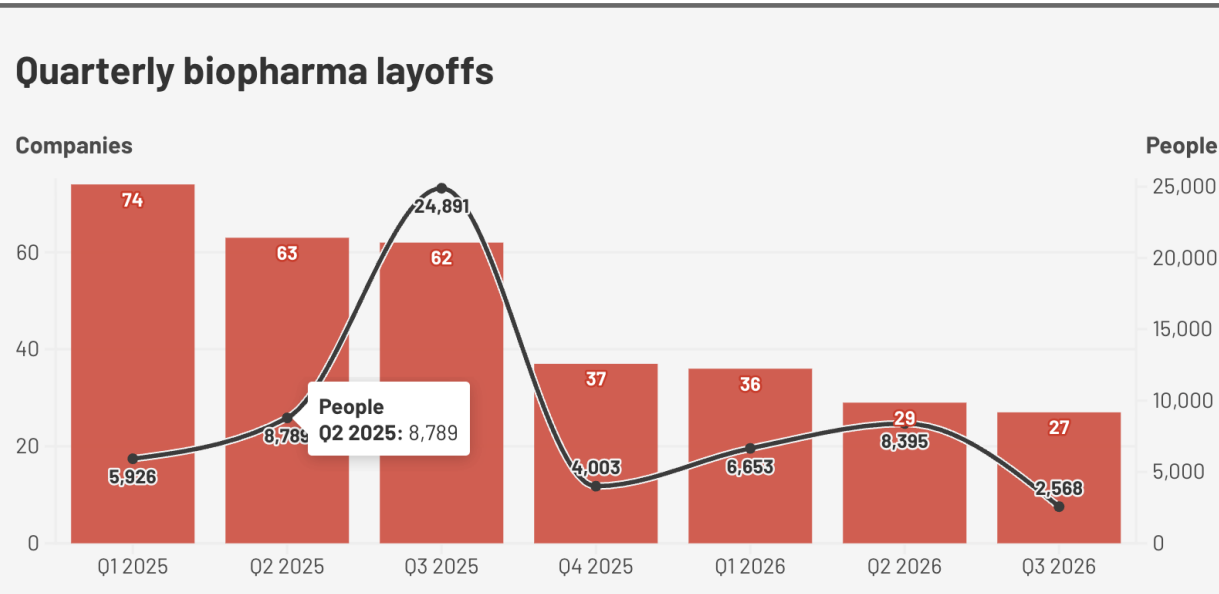
Sankyo, “Scientific Opportunity to Strategic Priority, How Pharma Builds a Portfolio”

12:15 PM – 2:00 PM Career Cluster Meetings and Networking Lunch

Industry Professionals and fellow trainees share advice during networking lunch.

Current Biopharma Job Market from Biospace 2026

– Fewer Layoffs and More Jobs Live



<https://www.biospace.com/job-trends/q3-layoffs-down-yoy-with-90-fewer-biopharma-employees-affected>

<https://www.biospace.com/job-trends/2026-q2-job-market-report-job-postings-keep-rising-as-fewer-companies-cut-employees>

NIH BEST Grant that Inspired Rutgers iJOBS

17 Universities
\$2 million for 5 years (2014-2019)

Maish Yarmush
Jim Millonig
Susan Engelhardt
Janet Alder
Doreen Badheka

1. Cornell U
2. Emory/Georgia Tech
3. NYU
4. U Mass Worcester
5. UC Davis
6. UCSF
7. U Colorado Denver
8. Vanderbilt U
9. Virginia Polytech
10. Wayne State

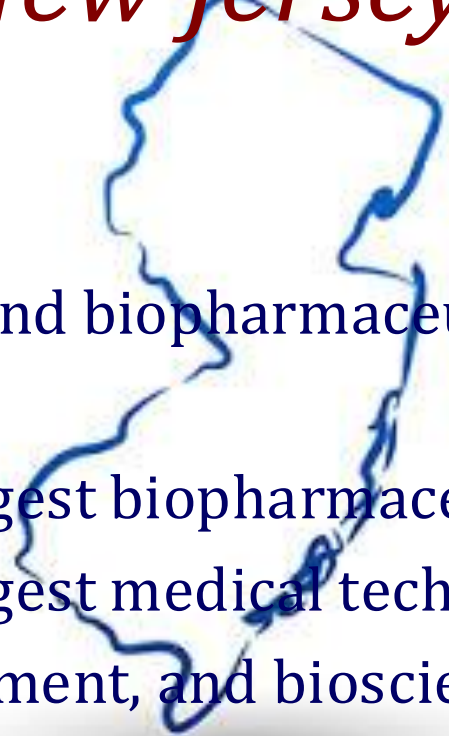


- 11. Rutgers U**
12. U Chicago
13. U North Carolina
14. U Rochester
15. UC Irvine
16. Boston U
17. Michigan State

Excellent Professional Environment

The World's Cure Corridor

New Jersey

- 
- Over 3000 life science and biopharmaceutical establishments
 - 400 biotech companies
 - 14 of the world's 20 largest biopharmaceutical companies
 - 12 of the world's 20 largest medical technology companies
 - #3 state for R&D investment, and bioscience-related patents
 - 22,000 life sciences graduates annually

Professional and Trade Support Abounds



iJOBS Participants



Rutgers Graduate Students

- SGS (New Brunswick/Piscataway/Newark)
- GSN (Newark)
- GSC (Camden)

Rutgers Postdocs

- RWJMS
- NJMS
- SAS New Brunswick
- SoE
- SoP
- SEBS
- SAS Newark
- SAS Camden



Flexible and Phased Programming



Phase 1



Phase 1
iNQUIRE

Representative Career Panels

- Faculty position at R1 institution
- Faculty position at Primarily Undergraduate Institution
- Bench research in Pharma and Biotech
- Medical Devices
- Postdocs in Industry
- Contract Research Organizations
- NIH
- FDA
- Computational Biology
- Data Science
- Consulting
- Science and Health Policy
- Patent Law
- Tech Transfer and Business Development
- Clinical Research
- Regulatory Affairs
- Medical Affairs
- Project Management
- Scientific Writing and Medical Communications
- Non-profit and Foundations
- Finance and Equity Research
- Publishing and Editing
- Food and Fragrance Industry
- Journalism
- Teaching Education Outreach
- Entrepreneur
- Plant and Agriculture Industry
- Non-faculty Jobs in Academia
- Tech and Sales Support

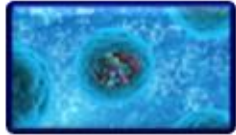


Representative Site Visits

- Bristol-Myers Squibb (14)
- Novartis (5)
- J&J (7)
- Teva Pharma (2)
- GenScript
- Azenta
- Admera Health
- Genmab (2)
- Amgen
- WuXi Biologics
- Pfizer
- Becton Dickinson
- Siemens Healthineers
- Stryker (3)
- IPG Health (3)
- Genewiz (4)
- Merck (7)
- Wiley Publishing (2)
- GlaxoSmithKline (3)
- Regeneron (6)
- Eli Lilly (3)
- Celgene (2)
- NJ Innovation Institute
- Sanofi Aventis
- Commercial Center for Innv Tech (2)
- Inst for Life Sci Entrepreneurship (2)
- NJ Bioscience Center (3)
- Sanofi Aventis
- Covance
- Kashiv
- Hovione
- NJ Dept. of Health (3)
- Ferring Pharmaceutical
- Colgate-Palmolive (4)
- Envigo
- Ethicon
- PTC Therapeutics
- Nanion Technologies
- Bayer (2)



Representative Workshops



- GLP and GMP Primer for Pharma
- FDA Drug Approval and Case Study
- Advice from an Immigration Attorney
- Negotiation Strategies
- How to Make Your PhD Work: A Guide for Creating Your Career
- Clarifying Your Mission
- What You Need to Know about PK/PD for a Job in Pharma
- Navigating Career Transitions
- Primer in Drug Discovery through Pre-Clinical Development
- Agile Project Management and Microsoft Project
- Python and Genomics Data Analysis by Data Carpentry
- Self assessments (Clifton Strengths)
- Targeted Resumes
- Online Networking and LinkedIn Profiles
- Finding and applying for an internship
- Emotional Intelligence and Influencing others
- Job search using staffing agencies

iJOBS Professional Development Workshops for Academia

- Overcoming Writers Block and Developing Sustainable Writing Habits
- A Systematic Approach to Scientific Writing
- Navigating the Publication Process
- Even Faster Figures with BioRender AI
- Designing an Effective Chalk Talk
- Top Tips for Better Posters
- Top Tips for Publication Quality Figures
- Top Tips for Better Graphical Abstracts
- Top Tips for Depicting Biological Pathways
- Grant writing workshops
- Mentoring Undergrads in Research

iJOBS Partnerships On and Off Campus



- Eagleton Institute for Science and Politics
- Erdos Institute - Invitations to Industry
- I-CORPS and Tech Transfer Training with Rutgers OfR
- PhD to Passport, What Can You Be with a PhD at NYU
- Nucleate - GRO Biopharma Conference with NY Schools
- Regeneron Science to Medicine Forum
- From Science to Pharma MSL Preparation
- BioNJ
- Association for Women in Science
- Biogen Drug Development Conference
- Skills embedded into curriculum (communications, computational)

SciPhD: Leadership and Business Skills for Scientists

Provided by Human Workflows, LLC

January 14th (9am-5pm) and 15th (9am-5pm) 2027

- 
- The Business of Science
 - Major Leadership Styles
 - Successful Communications as a Scientist
 - Developing Your People
 - Networking and the Interview Process
 - Team Performance Tools
 - Negotiations
 - Financial Literacy
 - Strategic Project Management for Scientists

Phase 2



iJOBS Program Registration

Phase 1

- iJOBS programming open to all pre and post-doctorates as well as recent alumni.
- Some events have limited capacity but put your name on the wait list

Phase 2

- Graduate students should have completed propositional qualifying exam. Postdocs are eligible at any time.
- Trainee application approval based upon Phase 1 participation (12 hours), letter of intent, letter of recommendation. PI approval for participation is required with application.
- Applications open every April and program starts in September for 1 year

Representative Career Track Skill Classes

Drug Development from
Concept to Market

From Science to Pharma
Medical Science Liaison
Training

One 40-Hour Class

Principles of Finance
and Accounting

Technology Transfer

Data Science Bootcamp

Market Assessment for
Science and Tech

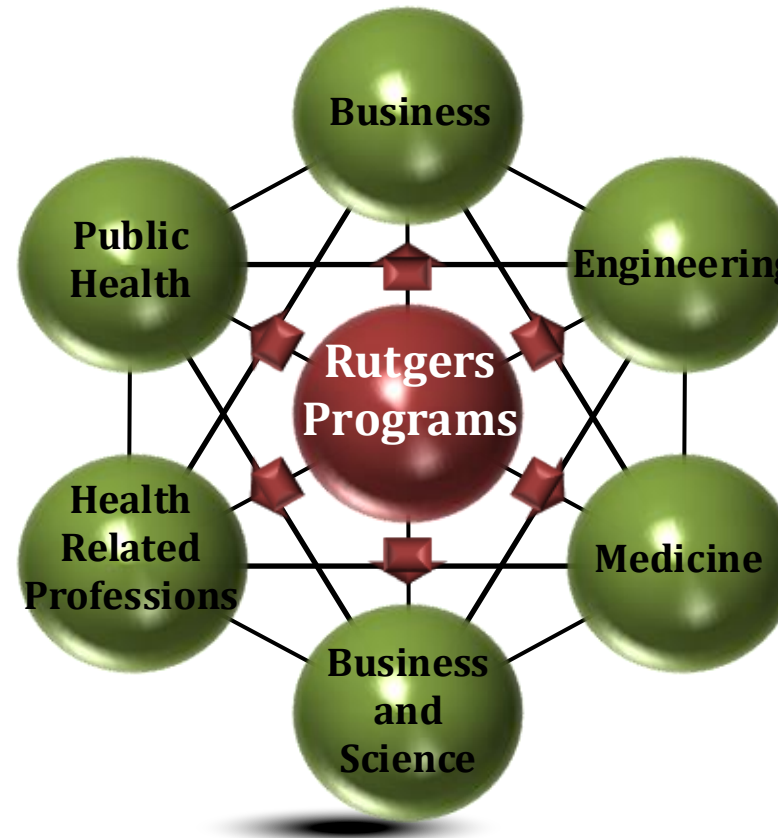
Business of Science:
Molecules to Medicine

Project Management

Practical Aspects of
Clinical Trial Design

Organizational Behavior

Fundamentals of
Regulatory Affairs



Professional Shadowing and Mentoring



- Each trainee is matched to a professional for a shadowing opportunity relevant to their chosen track with industrial, institutional or governmental partners. 72 hours over a whole semester.
- Each trainee is assigned a professional mentor and uses the Individual Development Plan (IDP) as a framework for growth.

Phase 3



Job Search Preparation

- One on one mentoring sessions with Juliet Chin Hart to refine resume and cover letter
- LinkedIn Counseling with Penny Pearl at 2Actify
- Strategize on job search approach
- Prepare for interviews





Dissemination, Evaluation and Outcomes

Communication Platforms

Email listserve: 1500 members



Trainee run blog:

grad.rutgers.edu/ijobs/blog



Website: ijobs.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS School of Graduate Studies

About Admissions Academics Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Professional Development Funding Life at Rutgers

Biomedical Career Development (iJOBS)

Preparing you for your first day with your new degree. And every day after that.

Home → Professional Development → Biomedical Career Development

Hear about iJOBS from our students

Biomedical Career Development: +
iJOBS

- About
- Events
- Blog
- Get Involved

iJOBS Past Events with Recordings

Featured

iJOBS Career Panel: Academic Jobs at Large Research and Small Undergrad

August 2, 2021 1:00 - 2:30 pm

→ View Details

Featured

iJOBS Workshop: J&J Practice Virtual Interview Session

July 28, 2021 9:30 - 11:00 am

→ View Details

Featured

iJOBS Workshop: Exploring Scientific Communications Careers

July 26, 2021 3:00 - 5:00 pm

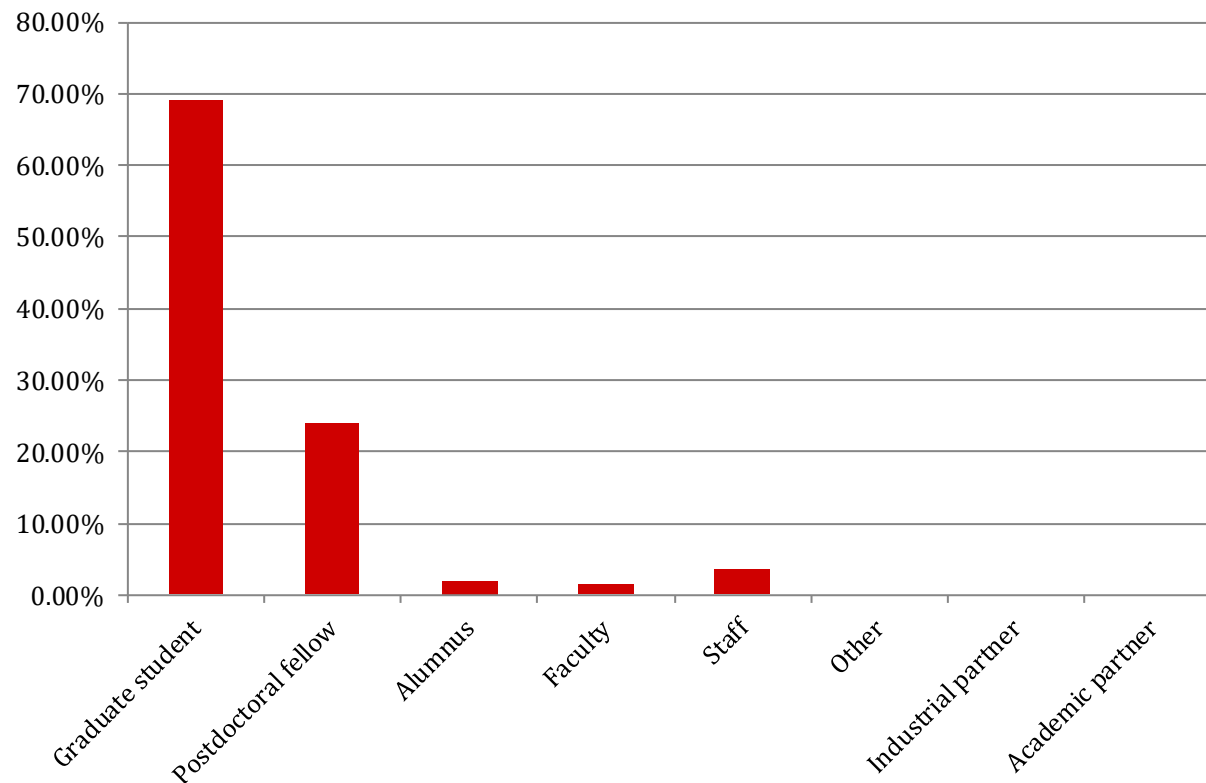
→ View Details

iJOBS Cohort Participation

From Sept 2020- Oct 2026, we have hosted 263 events with over 5,300 attendees

Trainee Academic Standing n = 1388

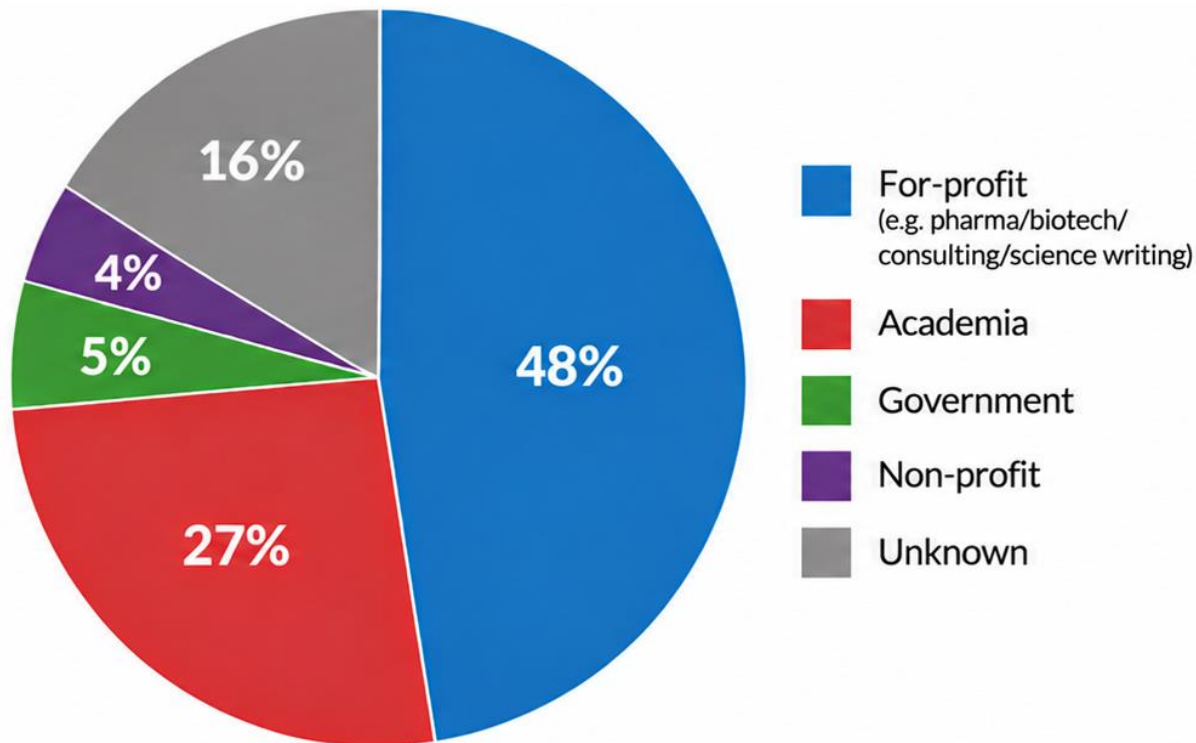
What best describes your position?



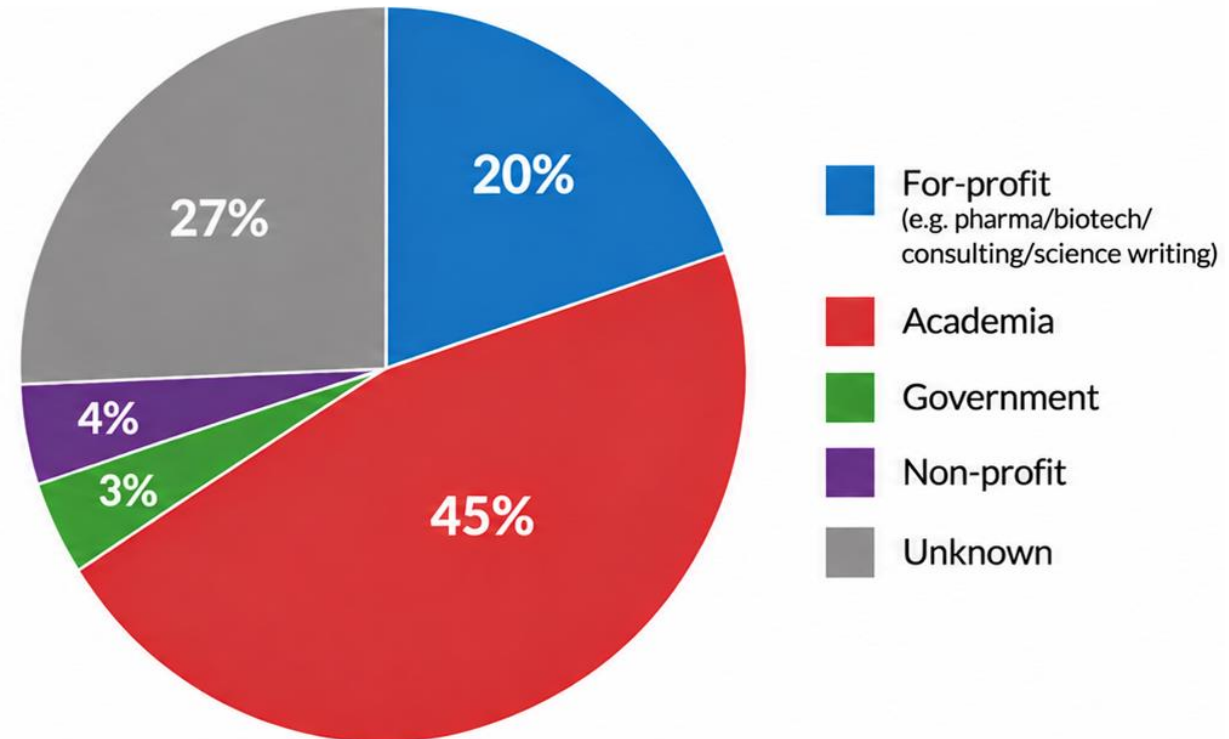
Total pool
68% predoc
32% postdoc

Outcomes for PhD Students and Postdocs at Rutgers from Academic Analytics

PhD Graduates 2017-2025 (n = 798)

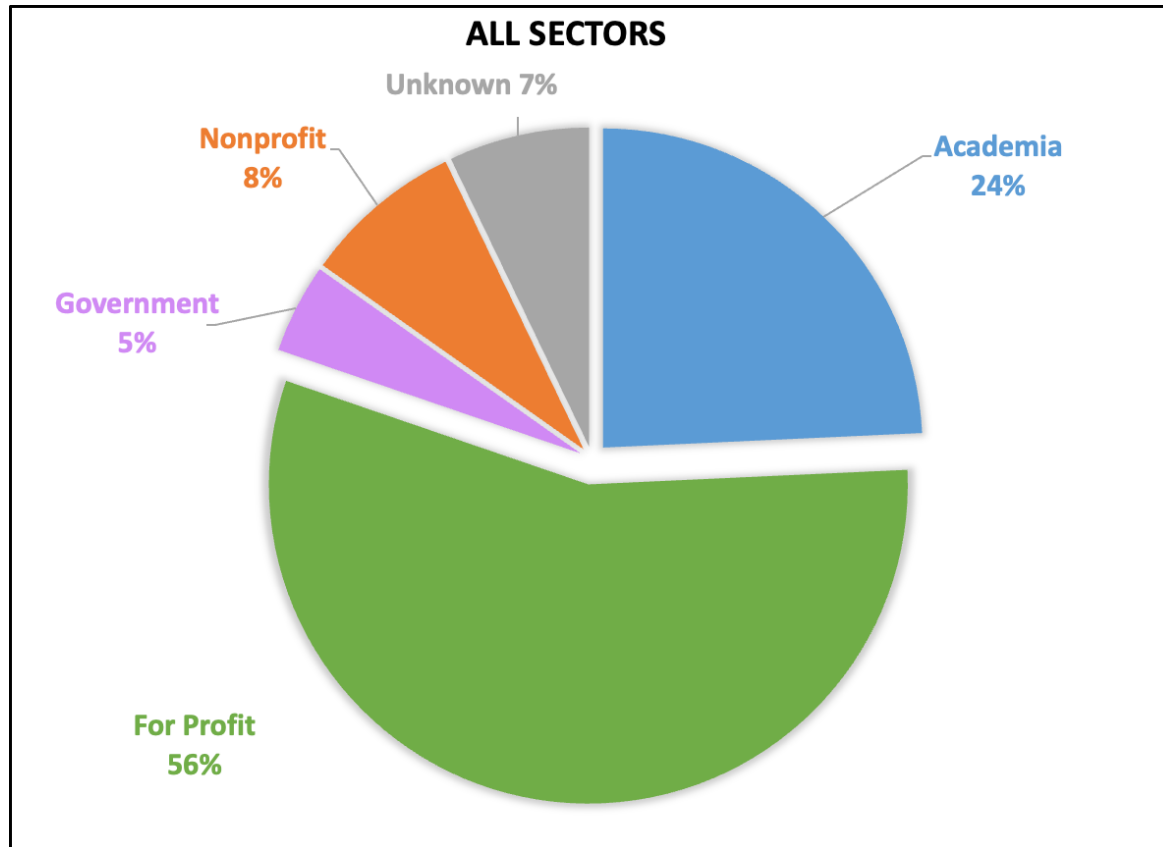


Former Postdocs 2020-2024 (n = 229)

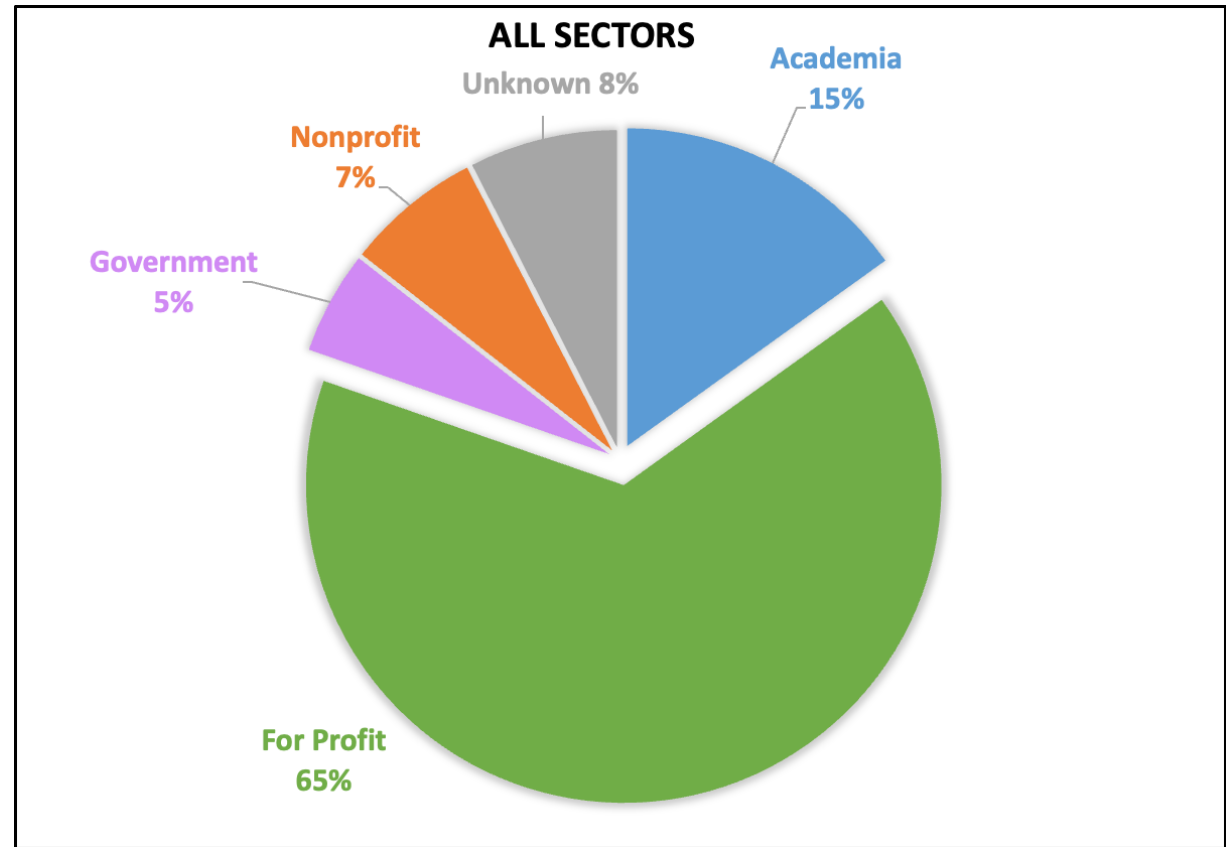


Positions of SciPhD Participants (n = 310)

First Position



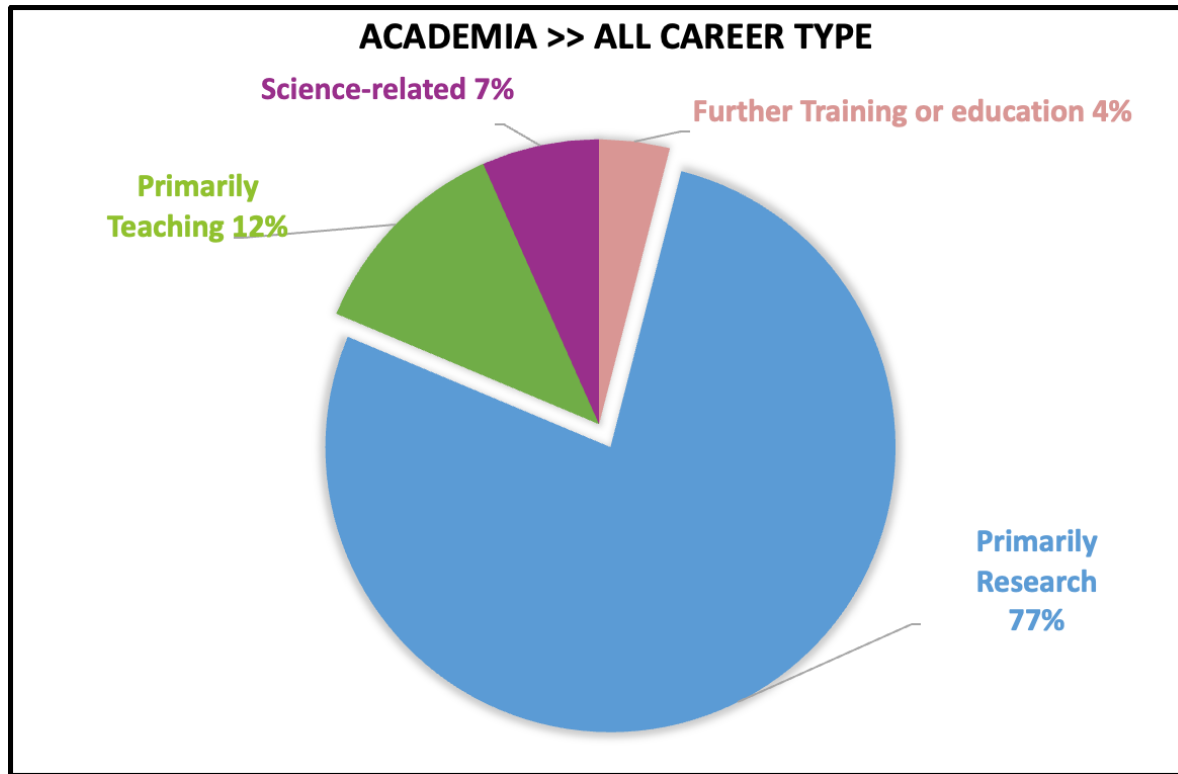
Current Position



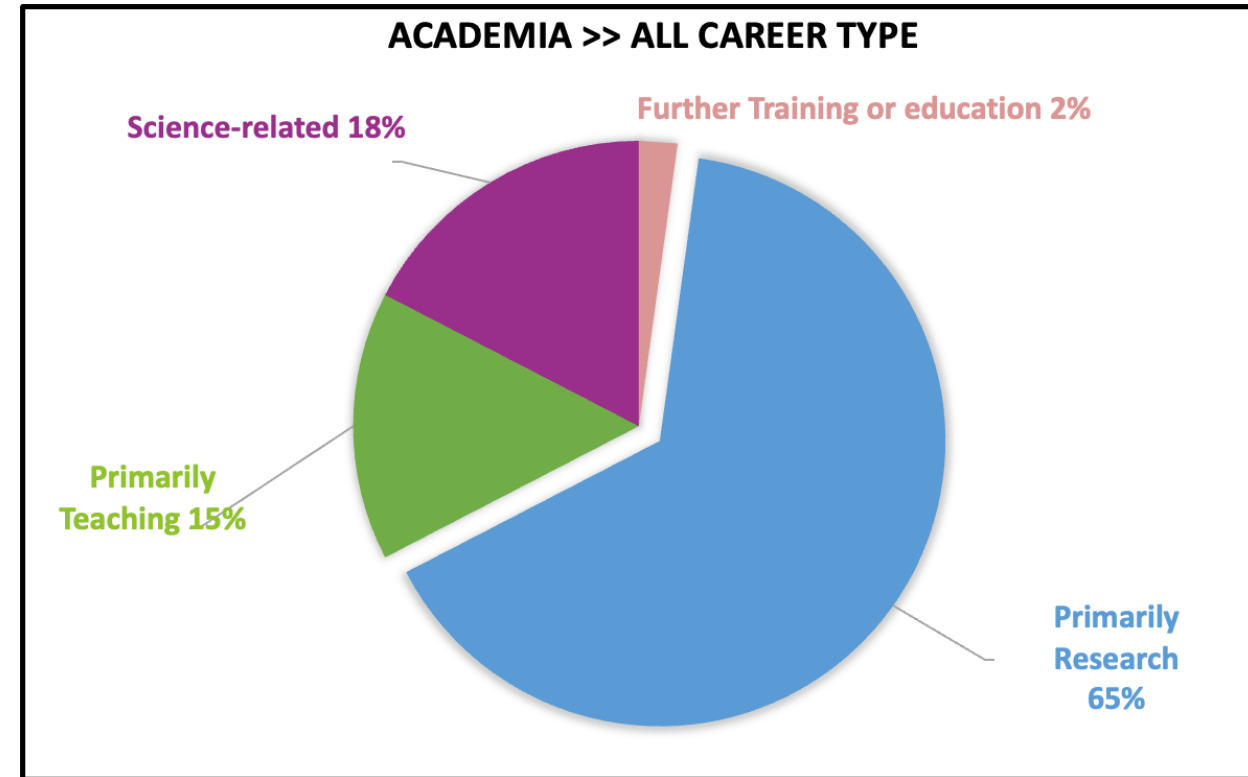
Data analyzed by Janell Mason and Tracy Scott

Academia – All Career Types

First Position



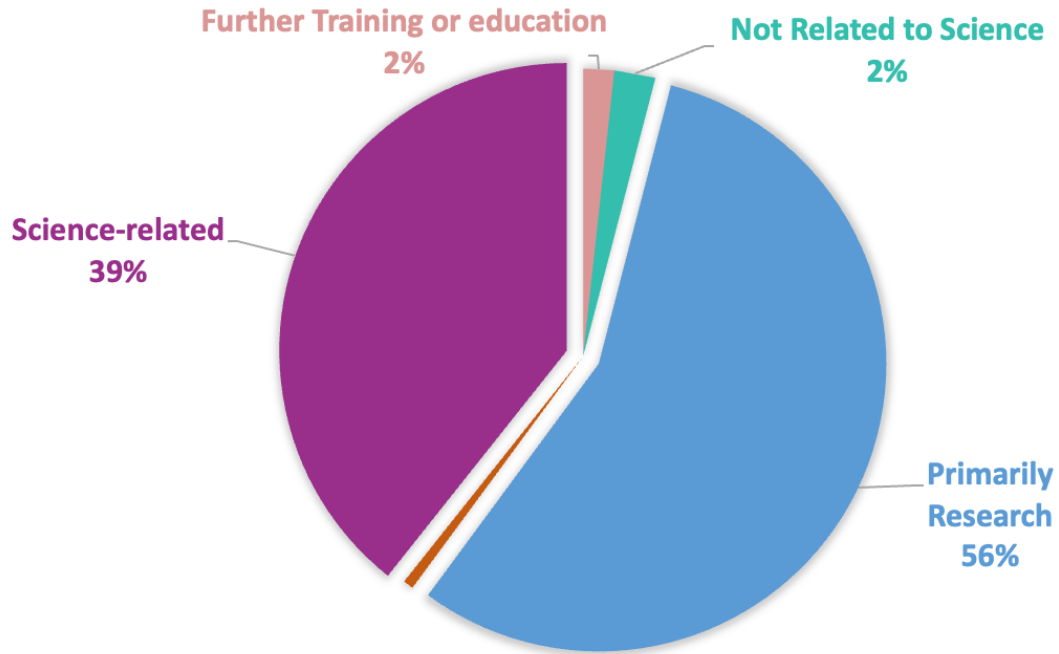
Current Position



For-Profit – Research vs Science-Related

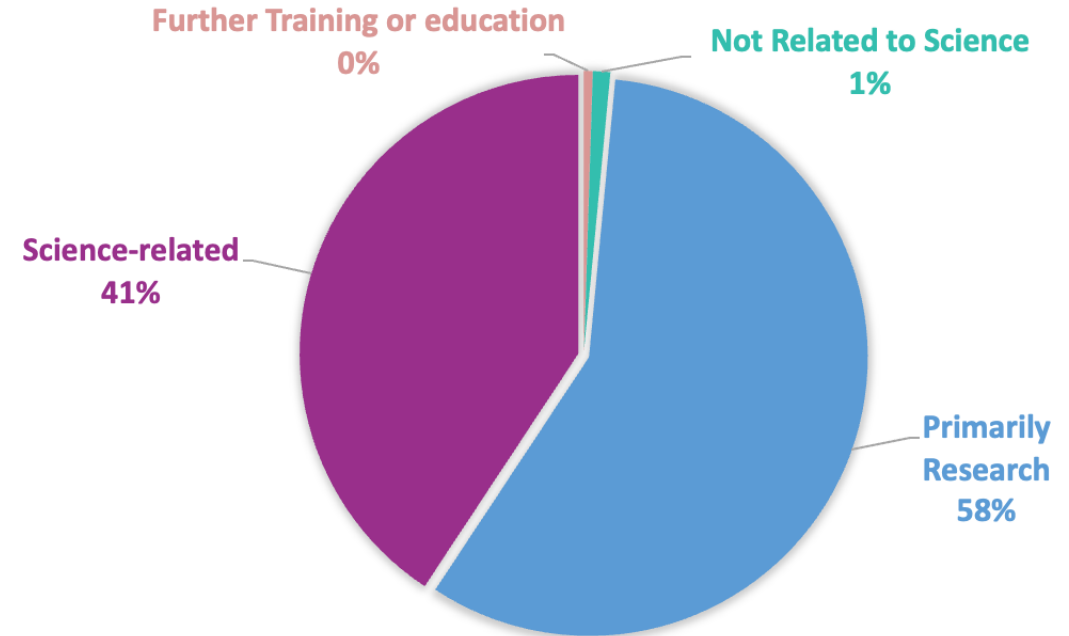
First Position

FOR PROFIT >> ALL CAREER TYPES



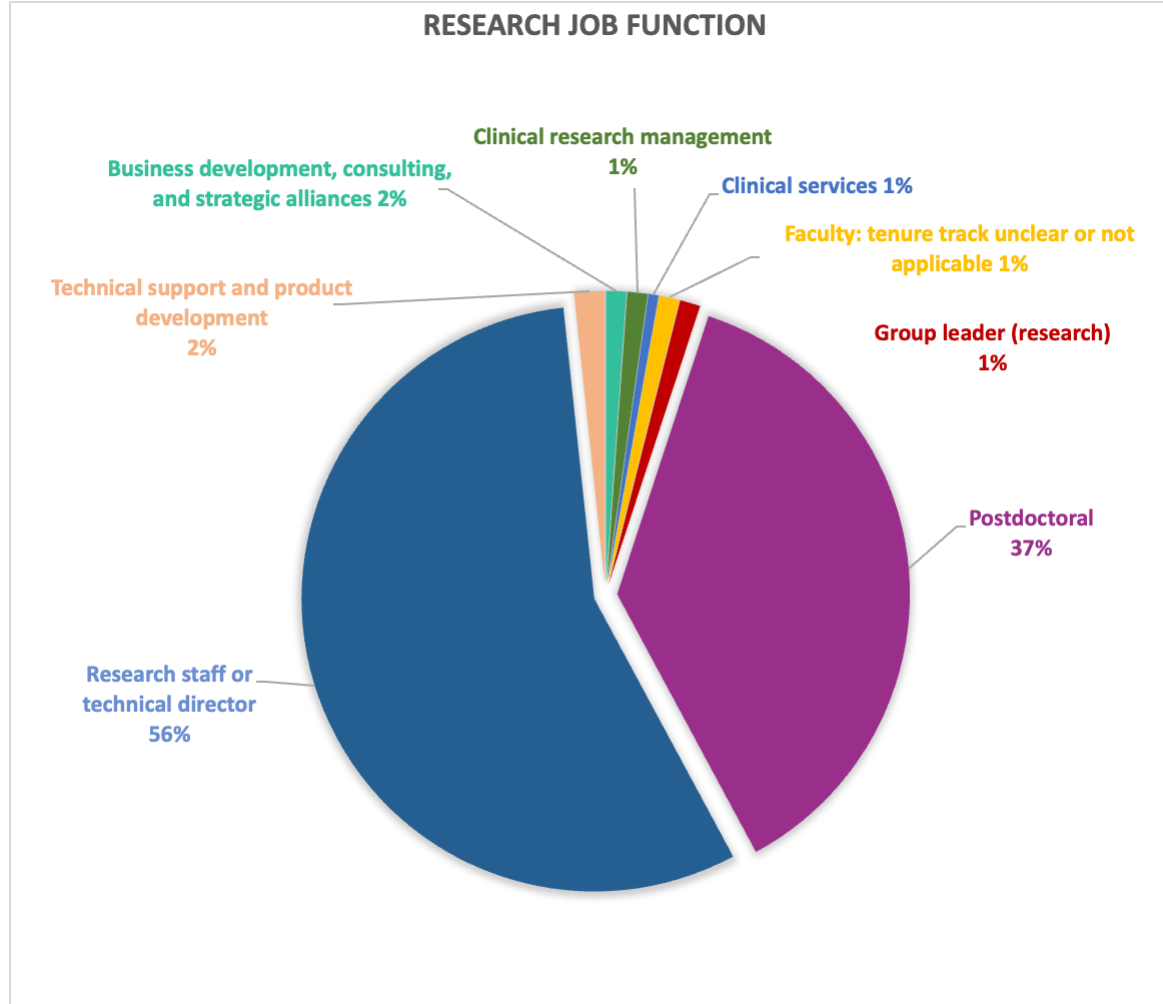
Current Position

FOR PROFIT >> ALL CAREER TYPES

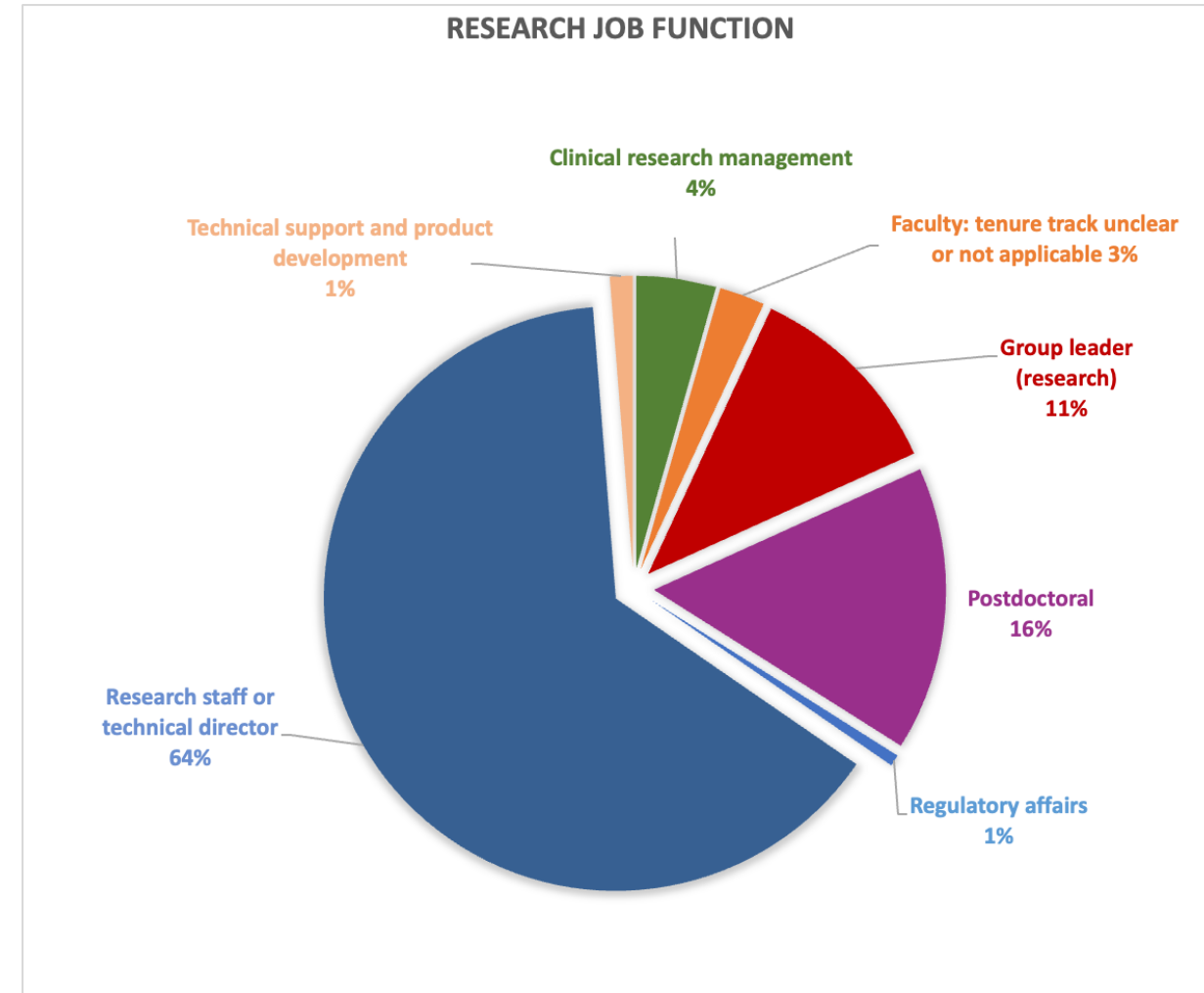


Research Job Functions

First Position



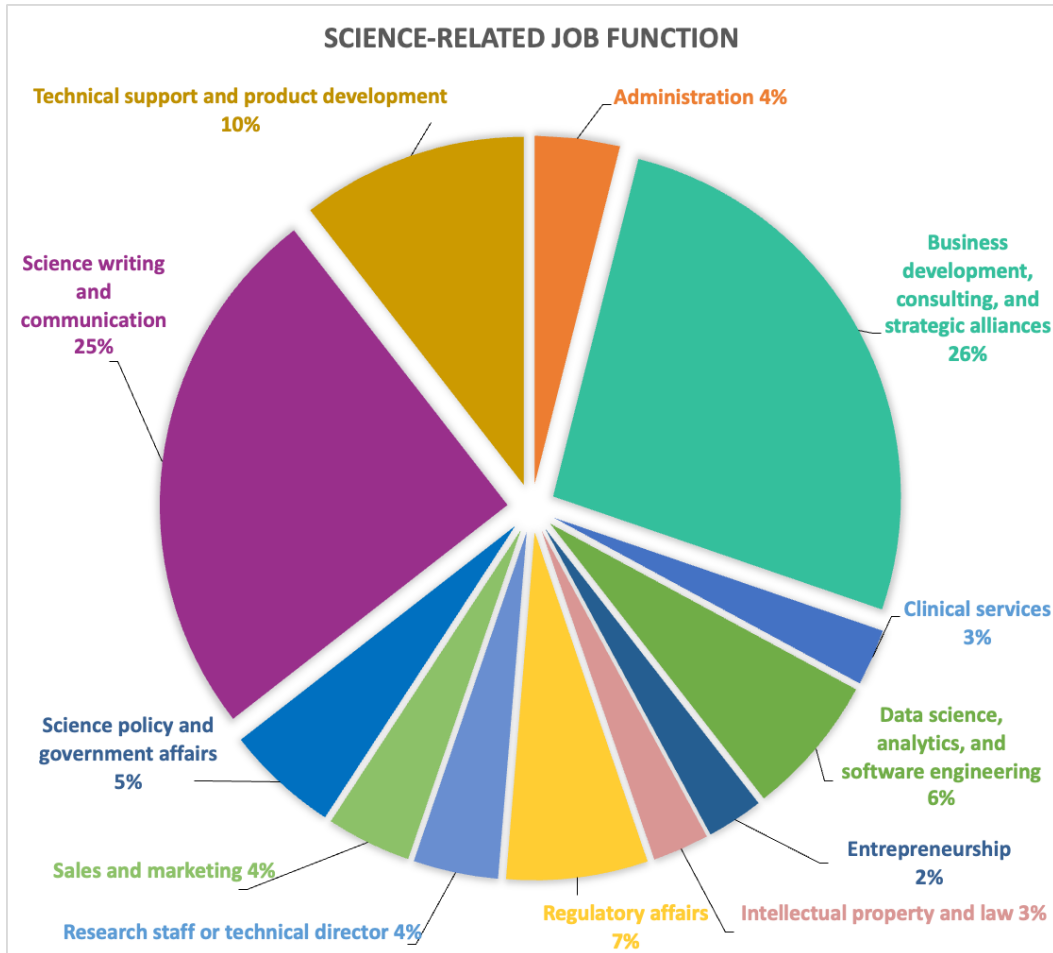
Current Position



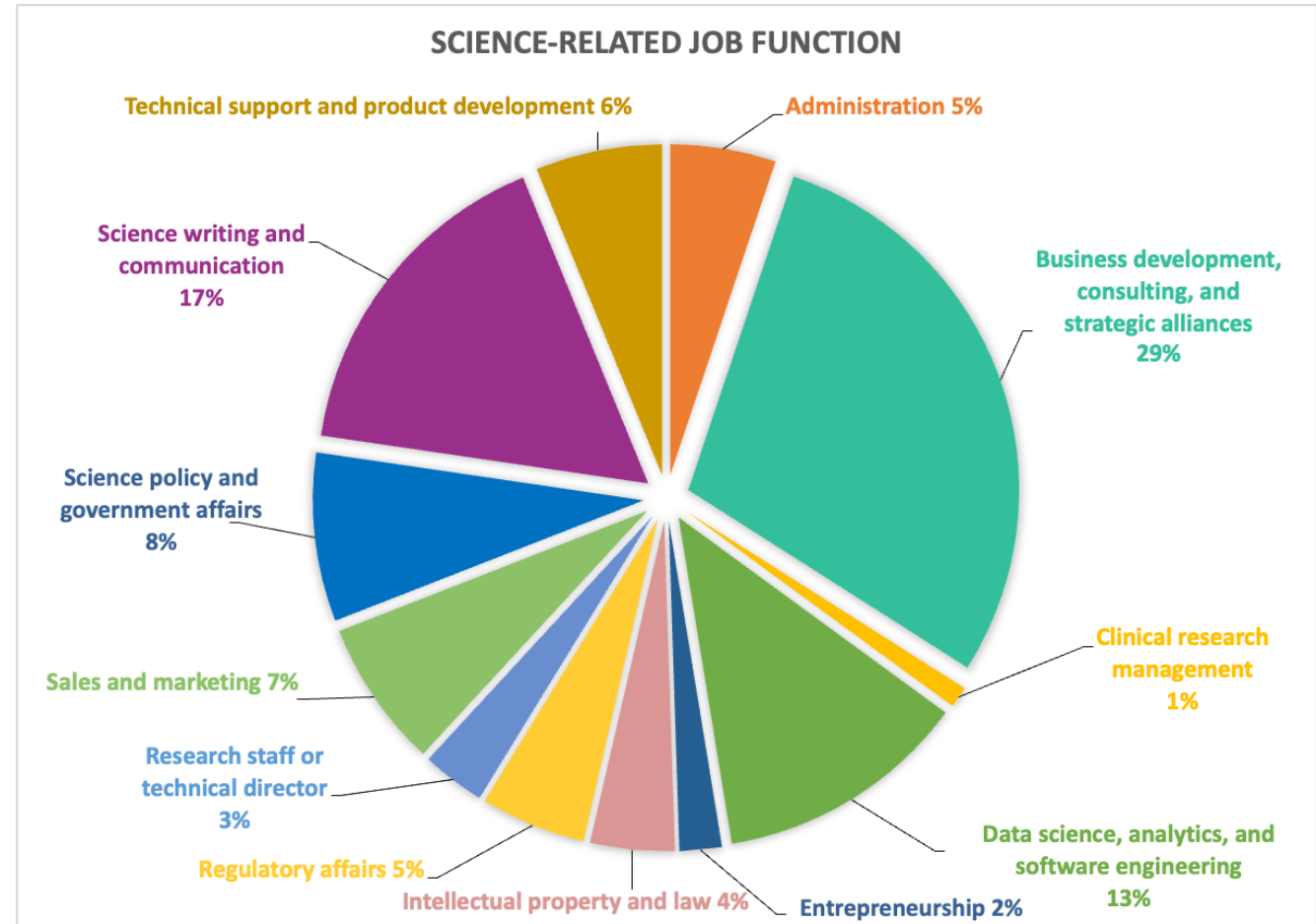
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Science-Related Job Functions

First Position

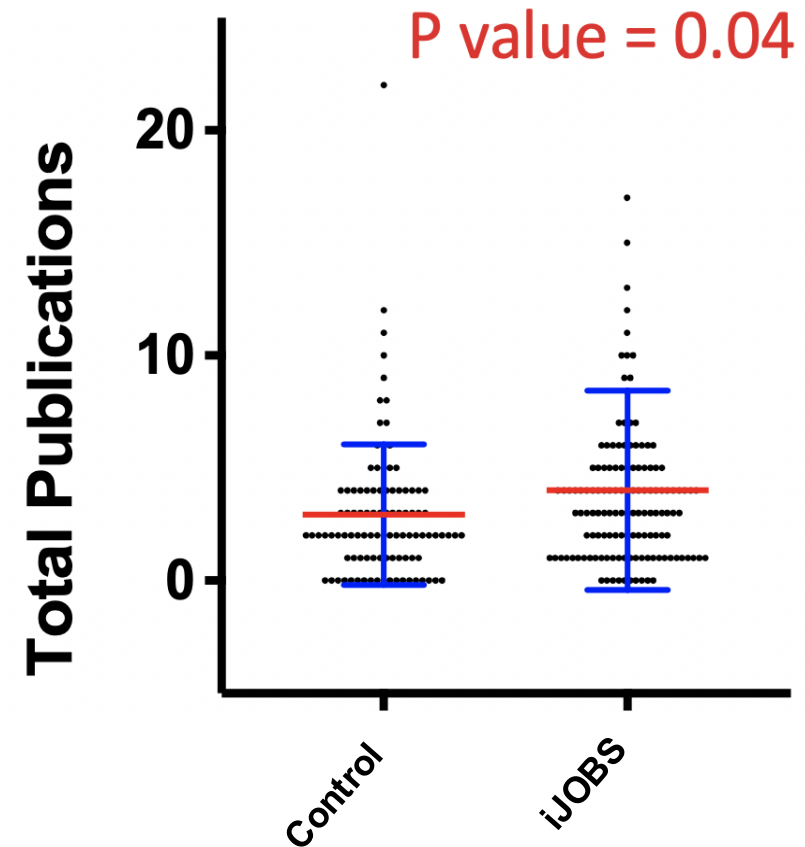
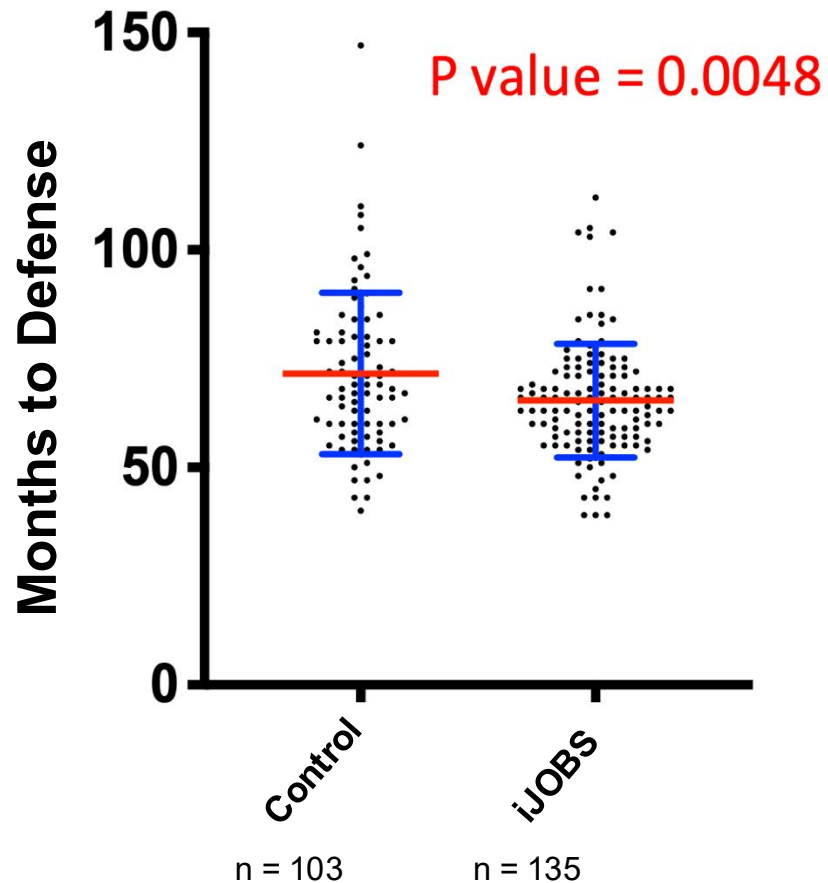


Current Position



Data analyzed by Janell Mason and Tracy Scott

iJOBS Participants Have Decreased Time to Defense and Increased Total Publications



Measuring Effects of Trainee Professional Development on Research Productivity:
A Cross-institutional Meta-analysis, Brandt et al., PLOS Biology, 2021

iJOBS Benefits

Rutgers University

- Recruiting of graduate students
- Takes burden off of faculty for advising towards careers with which they are not familiar
- Student mental health, motivation, productivity
- NIH Training grants require career development component
- Increased interaction between Rutgers and industry

Industry Partners

- Access to highly trained local talent pipeline
- Ability to influence curriculum
- Vet potential hires through shadowing/externship
- Promotion of company brand
- Interactions with academia
- Community and education outreach/service

**Teaches leadership, business, teamwork,
and communication skills necessary for
ALL careers.**

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Adrianne Wong, PhD Senior Director Oncology Search and Evaluation, Global Business Development, Daiichi Sankyo, “Scientific Opportunity to Strategic Priority, How Pharma Builds a Portfolio”

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Industry Professionals and fellow trainees share advice during networking lunch.

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Congratulations to Our Current Phase 3 Trainees!



- Shilpa Akella*
- Lamyaa Alsarkhi
- Nikita Amin
- Pamela Barnett *
- Toni Bravo
- Laura Byron *
- Krupa Chavan
- Rouba Houbeika
- Priyanka Kolli
- Jiayi Liu
- Noah Mac
- Ghata Nandi *
- Rachel Ofer
- Joycelyn Radeny *
- Safreen Sain
- Mayra Tuiche

* will present about their experience

Jyothi Shilpa Akella PhD – Rutgers ijobs Phase II experience

Career path of interest: Medical Affairs



Course

Business of Science: Drug discovery from molecules to medicine

- Learnt the process of drug development from concept to market
- Learned about different career paths in industry via lectures from industry professionals who ranged from those involved in R&D to portfolio management and venture capital
- Assignments and breakout sessions promoted collaboration and interaction between students



Shadowing

Karin Nicholson PhD

Principal Scientist/Associate Director
Medical and Scientific Affairs, Haleon

- Learnt the day-to-day activities of office-based medical affairs professionals
- Made educational content for cross-functional members of the pain relief and respiratory health teams
- Observed Medical/Legal/Regulatory review of promotional materials
- Engaged with key opinion leaders
- Met with and got advice from people across other functions, such as R&D, Pharmacovigilance, and commercial



Mentor

Pinelopi Kyriazi PhD

VP, Medical Strategy Director
21 GRAMS

- Met regularly to discuss career aspirations, how to get started, and worked on individual development plan
- Received advice on tailoring my resume based on the positions I was applying to
- Received advice on how to find opportunities of interest to me
- Received introductions to people at companies I was applying to
- Ongoing supportive relationship

iJOBS Phase II Experience: Laura Byron

Course: Drug Development From Concept to Market

- Learned the process of drug development
- Was introduced to different career paths within drug development

Shadowing: Bristol Myers Squibb

Dr. Graham Yearwood and
Cynthia Inzano

- Observed antibody development and testing
- Observed assay testing

Mentoring: North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

Dr. Scott Shone

- Spoke about what skills are needed for public health research
- Talked through the expectations of a scientist in this career



NCDHHS
Division of Public Health

Ghata Nandi, 6th year Ph.D. Candidate

How training, mentorship, and industry exposure shaped my career choice toward Medical Affairs

01 / COURSE



FSTP (*from science to pharma*)

BOARD-CERTIFIED MSL TRAINING

- MSL role and responsibilities, scientific exchange, and KOL engagement
- Clinical evidence interpretation and compliant communication
- The importance of balanced, credible HCP relationships: identifying unmet scientific needs, unbiased discussions

Scientific rigor is the foundation of trust.

02 / MENTORING



MERCK

Dr. Xiaowen Wang (Associate Principal Scientist)

MERCK

- Navigating the transition from academia into pharma
- CV review, networking, and career strategy, mock-interview preparation
- Identifying how PhD skills translate to industry roles

Communicate the impact of science, not just lab techniques.

03 / SHADOWING

HALEON

Dr. Richard Petruschke

(Ex-Lead Medical Affairs Pain Team)

HALEON

- NSAID safety and risk-mitigation discussions/ clinical evidence review
- Advil Dual Action and OTC pain: clinical evidence and communication
- Medical Affairs in practice: insight into how Medical Affairs integrates scientific evidence, regulatory, and cross-functional collaboration

Good science must be useful in real-world decisions.

iJOBS Phase II Experience: Pamela Barnett

Pamela Barnett

PhD Candidate in Infection Immunity and Inflammation

Career Interest: Life Science/Healthcare Venture Capital

Course

Principles of Accounting and Finance for Science and Technology Management

- Introduction to financial and good accounting concepts
- Learn and practice calculating
 - Net Present Value (NPV)
 - Internal Rate of Return (IRR)
 - Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (EBTDA)
 - Capitalization Tables
- Lots of practice using Excel for basic financial models

Mentor

Nimisha Nandankar, PhD Venture Analyst Michigan Biomedical Venture Fund

- Candid conversations about the world of VC
- Spent a lot of time identifying
 - Gaps
 - Additional resources
- Resume review
- Reassurance

Shadow

Mike Wiley Vice President Foundation Venture Capital Group

- Introduction to VC, licensing, and term sheets
- Helped portfolio company prepare to seek next round of funding
 - Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
 - Conducted: market mapping, due diligence, competitive analysis
 - Primarily independent, with weekly check-in/ question/ mentor sessions with Mike

iJOBS Phase II Experience: Joycelyn Radeny

6th year PhD Candidate (Infection, Inflammation and Immunity)

Course: Fundamentals of Regulatory Affairs

Instructor: Raquel Mura, PharmD, J.D, MBA

- Covered importance of drug regulation, drug regulatory agencies, drug development timelines (from IND to approval), and the role of regulatory affairs at each step of the drug development process
- Learned how to prepare a drug target profile
- Case studies to practice various regulatory strategies for NDA submissions

Shadowing: Haleon

Mentor: Richard Petruschke, PharmD (Head of Pain Category for US Medical Affairs)

- Medical affairs: evidence gathering for various pain and respiratory Haleon products to support innovation strategies
- Medical affairs: attended various cross-functional planning meetings
- Regulatory affairs: performed competitive analysis profiles on oral and digestive health competitor brands

Mentoring: Rapalogix

Mentor: Madison Godesky, PharmD (Head of Medical Affairs at Rapalogix Health)

- Learned about medical science liaison (MLS) duties
- Learned about ways to engage key opinion leaders and prepare for MSL jobs
- Discussed career development strategies: conferences, presentations, MSL meetings
- Received resume feedback tailored to MSL careers



HALEON

RAPALOGIX
HEALTH



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Interdisciplinary Job Opportunities for Biomedical Scientists

Attestation of Completion

is hereby granted to

Trainee Name

to certify that he/she has completed to satisfaction

iJOBS

interdisciplinary Job Opportunities for Biomedical Scientists

iJOBS training involves exposure to academic and non-academic career options with a PhD in life sciences as well as training in leadership, business, and communication skills. Practical experience includes company externships, case studies and coursework in the area of interest.

Granted: October 16, 2026

iJOBS Co-directors:
Janet Alder, Doreen Badheka

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Career Cluster Meetings and Networking

Questions to prompt discussion:

- 1) What sparked your interest in this career path?
- 2) If I could do take one concrete action prior to my job search to help me get into this field specifically, what would that be (e.g. practice case studies, get teaching experience, get a certification, build a writing portfolio, learn a specific lab technique that is in high demand)?
- 3) What do you think is one challenge or negative aspect of this career path?
- 4) What personal attributes and transferrable skills are most essential for success in this career path?