Ph.D. and Then What?
From the Research Bench to the Innovation Incubator

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Early expectations

- No role models
- Discouraged to learn, explore, strive
- Supposed to do an apprenticeship after 10th grade
- Supposed to work in a trade job
To become who you want to be -

You first have to forget who they told you to be
Pre-graduate Background

- St. Antonius Gymnasium - Germany
- St. Louis Community College at Meramec
  - Associates in General Transfer Studies
  - Student Instructor & Ambassador
- University of Missouri – St. Louis
  - Bachelor of Science in Biology
  - Undergraduate Research identified novel DNA binding domain
Ph.D. at Baylor College of Medicine

- Department of Molecular and Human Genetics
- Joined the lab of Hui Zheng, Ph.D., Huffington Center on Aging
- Research in Alzheimer’s Disease
  - Analytics
  - Presentations
  - Mentoring
  - Communication
  - Time Management
  - Self Motivation
Consultant: Pharmacy Benefits

- Senior Analyst
- Project Leader
- Small Pharmacy Benefits consulting firm
- B2B
- Financial reporting
- Auditing of financial contract terms
- RFP Management
- Business communication
- Client services
- Project management
MBA

- University of Houston – Clear Lake
- Focus: Healthcare
- 4 years: starting with the basics (economics, accounting, etc.)
- Finance/Accounting
- Business Strategy
- Business Communication
- Networking
- Leadership
- Critical Self-evaluation
- Receiving Mentorship
Administrative Fellowship

- Houston Methodist Research Institute
- Rotation-based
  - Chief Operating Officer - HMRI
  - Laboratory Operations
  - Research Protections
  - Finance
  - Hospital Leadership
- Dive into the workings of AMC
- Business of research
- Strategy of a research institution
- Big picture to small details of ACM
Managing Director of CyBHOR Center Administrator – Center for Computational Surgery

- Engaging industry, clinicians & researchers
- Build the center
- Managing group of researchers & students
Manager – Workspaces @ Texas Health CoLab, Education & Engagement

- Startup Ecosystem Leadership
  - Startup Education
  - Startup Mentoring
  - Researchers
  - Students

Rethink INNOVATION
Building a vital and inclusive health innovation ecosystem
Career Summary
Road Map

Career Tools
Dream / Hypothesize

- Past data
- 20 year goal
- Impact
- Be outrageous: To be what you want to be you first have to forget what they told you to be
Plan

- 1 year
- 3 year
- 5 year
- 10 year
- 20 year – Outrageous Dream Goal
- Be willing to put in the work
SWOT Analysis

- **Strengths**
  - Personality/traits
  - Skills

- **Weaknesses**
  - Personality/Traits
  - Skills

- **Opportunities**
  - What’s out there

- **Threats**
  - What will keep me from it
Mentors

• Formal or informal
• Advice on
  • Culture in industry
  • Culture in organization
  • Career advice
  • Personal Development
• Criticism/suggestions
Network

- LinkedIn
- Professional Organizations
- Mixers
- Reach out
- Build Mutual Relationship
Informational Interviews

• Use your network
• Find people who do what you think you want to do
• Ask for an appointment
• Be prepared with questions
• Is this what I want my work to look like?
Take Risks/Be Flexible

• Continuous Learning
• Be ready to jump at chances
• Surround yourself with those that disagree with you
• What’s the worst that can happen?
Resources

- People!!!
- Find a Mentor outside your lab!
- Professional Organizations
- Books:
  - Managing Scientists – Leadership Strategies in Scientific Research
  - When the Little Things Count…. And They Always Count
  - The One Minute Manager
  - The One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey
You can’t do it all – at least not by yourself

- You’ll have to find allies and support
- Your advice and insight is valuable
- No person has every lived your life or taken your path – YOU ARE IN CHARGE
Patience

• It’s hard work
• It’s not a straight line
• People are like experiments: Results may vary!
• Expect much of yourself - but be patient with yourself as well. Every day is a new day for YOU to define your life.
Get Comfortable -

With being Uncomfortable!
Thank you!

Questions?