

Thomas Jefferson University

# Speed Networking Event

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Jefferson College of Life Sciences

**Hosted by the Graduate Student Association, Jefferson Postdoctoral Association, Business and Biotechnology Group, the JCLS Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and the Jefferson Career Development Center**

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

## Biotechnology #1

### Thomas Charpentier, PhD

Research Scientist

**Integral Molecular**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-charpentier-74231675/>



Dr. Thomas Charpentier is currently a project leader of molecular biology at Integral Molecular. He has been with Integral Molecular for the past three years. Integral Molecular is a biotech in Philadelphia at the University City Science Center. They specialize in antibody discovery to membrane proteins and are the leading experts in membrane proteins. They have several antibodies in their drug discovery program for several different targets including pain, immunology, and metabolism. Dr. Charpentier has a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. His studies have focused on protein biochemistry with a

specialization in GPCRs. His studies have included small molecule and peptide drug discovery using structural biology.

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## Biotechnology #2

### Kern Chang, PhD

Associate Director

**Janssen R&D**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kernchang/>



Kern Chang, Ph.D. is Associate Director at Janssen Pharmaceutical R&D, a pharmaceutical division of Johnson & Johnson. His role as Scientific Integrator in three new drug development comprises of leading teams of analytical scientists for the drug development and as well as interfacing external collaboration partners and contract manufacturing organizations. Kern has 20 years of experience in CMC (Chemistry and manufacturing control) of biologics drug including recombinant proteins and monoclonal antibodies. Before his tenure at Janssen, he was manager at GSK Biopharm R&D and project leader at BMS (Bristol-Myers Squibb). Kern received PhD in biological

science at KAIST (Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), completed his post-doctoral training at the Johns Hopkins University of School of Medicine for immunology and vaccines.

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## Clinical Labs

### Amanda Oran, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow

**Penn Medicine**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amandaoran/>



Dr. Amanda Oran is a postdoctoral fellow on the Research and Development team at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Personalized Diagnostics. After completing her undergraduate studies at Syracuse University, she graduated from Thomas Jefferson University in 2017 with a PhD in the program of Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Biology. She performed her graduate research in the lab of Dr. Steven McMahon. Dr. Oran's current role is to develop and validate clinical assays for next

generation sequencing of tumor samples from cancer patients. This work involves testing protocols in the lab and optimizing laboratory practices in order to increase efficiency and meet the ever-evolving needs of their facility. After a method has been validated, it is passed on to their clinical team to perform the tests on patient samples. These genetic tests provide information to clinicians for diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic purposes.

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## Clinical Research Associate

### Jason Healy, PhD

Clinical Research Scientist

**Akros Pharma**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/healyjason/>



Since November 2016, Jason has served as a Clinical Research Scientist for Akros Pharma in Princeton, New Jersey, where he oversees the development of Phase I and II clinical studies in the Cardiovascular, Pulmonary, and Metabolic therapeutic areas. Prior to his tenure at Akros, Jason was part of the Thomas Jefferson University and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia joint NIH-sponsored fellowship training program in Clinical Pharmacology. As a fellow, Jason's research focused on drug-drug interactions in critical care Cardiology as well as novel therapeutics in pediatric Oncology. Jason received his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences from West Virginia University in 2014 with a focus in pain therapies with reduced side effect liabilities. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Iowa in 2004 and worked as an analytical chemist for Castrol

Industrial North America prior to graduate school.

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## Clinical Scientist

### Hsing-Yin Liu, PhD

Senior Scientist

Frontage Laboratories

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To transition into clinical research, Dr. Hsing-Yin Liu is currently working in a CRO (Frontage Laboratories) as a clinical sample analyst for a big pharma, as well as serving as a technical consultant to another subdivision in the same company. Prior to this, she has worked in a private pharmaceutical company as a team leader who initiated and led drug discovery platforms in a cross-functional environment. She also served as a scientific member of the IACUC in the same company, ensuring the proper AUPs were created and followed according to the guidelines. As to her academic research experience, Dr. Hsing-Yin Liu has a PhD in cell cycle/DNA damage research (yeast, Rutgers). She received one postdoctoral training in neuroscience (rat, Rutgers) and the other in lipid/glucose metabolism

(zebrafish, TJU). She worked as a laboratory manager/research assistance right after she graduated from college before moving to the United States for her PhD studies.

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## Contract Research

### Lila Mukhtarzada, MS

Scientist II

Eurofins Lancaster Labs

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Lila Mukhtarzada is a Scientist II at Eurofins Lancaster Labs working in the Cell banking department, where the process is to preserve the integrity of the cells by expanding them into master and working cell banks. Lila went to Albright College where she received her B.S. in Biology, and then pursuing her scientific career received her M.S. in Microbiology at Thomas Jefferson University. Lila Mukhtarzada worked in the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous biology here at Jefferson University doing research in Hypoepidermolysis Bullosa where

she contributed to the publishing of Alexeev, Vitali, et al. **“Pro-Inflammatory Chemokines and Cytokines Dominate the Blister Fluid Molecular Signature in Patients with Epidermolysis Bullosa and Affect Leukocyte and Stem Cell Migration.”** *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, vol. 137, no. 11, Nov. 2017, pp. 2298–2308., doi:10.1016/j.jid.2017.07.002.

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## Drug Discovery #1

### Kim Vo, MS

Scientist

Janssen

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Kim Vo is a Scientist at Janssen Research and Development, Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. Kim is the formulation lead for low dose program in Drug Product Development. Prior to her existing role, she conducted scientific research at Merck, GSK including Janssen. Kim has nearly 17 years of research experience in academic and industry settings supporting small and large molecule projects in upstream and downstream processing. Kim obtained her B.S in Biology from Albright College, M.S. in Microbiology from Thomas Jefferson University and Certificate in Project Management from Temple University. Kim enjoys staying active by taking fitness classes, running, practicing Yoga and ballroom dancing.

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## Drug Discovery #2

### Suparna Paul, MS

Senior Associate Scientist

Janssen

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Suparna Paul is a protein purification scientist at Janssen Pharmaceuticals. She is currently working on monoclonal antibody purification process development and technical transfer to manufacturing sites. Previously she worked on purification and analytical characterization of monoclonal antibodies to support large molecule discovery. She has worked extensively on the development and introduction of bispecific antibody technology to the company. She started her career at Thomas Jefferson University working on HIV-1 entry and its inhibition.

Suparna received her master's degree in Pharmacology from, Thomas Jefferson University. Outside of work, her interests are cell phone photography of anything of beauty in day-to-day life and exploring food.

## Entrepreneurship

### Jonni S. Moore, PhD

Co-Founder

**CytoVas**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonnimoore/>



Jonni Moore, Ph.D. is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Scientific Director of the Abramson Cancer Center Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting Shared Resource and Emeritus Director, Founder and currently Senior Advisor of the Clinical Flow Cytometry Laboratory of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently the President-Elect of the International Society for the Advancement of Cytometry and the 2018 winner of the ISAC Member Award for Distinguished and Transformational Contributions to the field of flow cytometry.

She received her Ph.D. from Jefferson and is the immediate past president of the Jefferson College of Life Sciences alumni board.

Dr. Moore has more than 30 years of experience in laboratory medicine, cellular immunology and cytomics. One of the world's leading experts in flow cytometry, she is looked to as a thought leader in cutting-edge applications of deep phenotyping flow cytometry in translational and clinical settings. She has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and is a frequent invited speaker at national and international meetings. She holds several patents for unique applications of flow cytometry in cardiology, toxicology and oncology. In 2016, she received the Wallace H. Coulter Distinguished Lecturer Award for lifetime contributions to the science, education and practice of Clinical Cytometry.

Dr. Moore received her Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and did a post-doc with Peter Nowell, MD in the Immunology Graduate Group at the University of Pennsylvania. She has served as Director of the Abramson Cancer Center Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting Shared Resource since 1991, a facility that has consistently been recognized as one of the largest and most comprehensive academic flow cytometry resource laboratories in the US, winning the designation of exceptional from the National Cancer Institute of the NIH. She was appointed the first director of the Clinical Flow Cytometry Laboratory at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and developed the first dedicated clinical flow cytometry rotation in pathology residency training programs. Her research activities have evolved along the path of technology development with a focus on complex technologies, in particular cytomics. She has pioneered new technology in flow cytometry liquid biopsies including the detection of extracellular vesicles as a rich source of prognostic and diagnostic information and is co-founder of a start-up to commercialize this technology in diagnostics for cardiovascular disease and relapsing breast cancer.

## Faculty Teaching

### Frank Wilkinson, PhD

Associate Professor

**Thomas Jefferson University- East Falls Campus**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/frankwilkinsonphd/>



Dr. Frank Wilkinson earned his B.A. in Biology from LaSalle University (1992), Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Temple University (2000), and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at UPenn Veterinary School (2006). He had a one-year Visiting Assistant Professor position at LaSalle University (2000-01). Dr. Wilkinson has been teaching at Philadelphia University since August 2006. He teaches several courses (Biology I and II, Genetics, Biochemistry I and II, and associated lab sections) and he is the administrative representative of the Biology Program. Administrative duties include scheduling courses, staffing sections, and assessment. Dr. Wilkinson's research area includes molecular genetics of animal embryogenesis and currently starting to investigate phytochemical anticarcinogenic mechanisms.

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## Government

### Jenni Firman, PhD

Research Molecular Biologist - Dairy and Functional Food Research Unity

**United States Department of Agriculture**



#### **Education:**

Ph.D. Microbiology and Immunology- Temple University School of Medicine

M.S. Biology Georgian Court University

B.S. Biology Ramapo College of New Jersey

#### **Research:**

Current research is focused on analysis of the human gut microbiota utilizing in vitro technology. The objective is to study the effects of different gut microbiota mediators [diet, environment, genetics] on the overall gut microbial composition and function. The results of this project will help define the relationship between what is being ingested and

their possible effects on the gut microbiome and overall human health.

Previous research focused on the development of a novel FVIII protein for use in Hemophilia A gene therapy utilizing an Adeno-associated viral vector. One complication with FVIII gene therapy is low protein expression after viral delivery. In an effort to overcome this limitation, a FVIII mutant was designed to have enhanced protein production and superior coagulation activity.

## Intellectual Property

### Cassie Tran

Licensing Associate

**Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cassietran>



Cassie Tran is a licensing associate at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and recovering post-doc eager to play a role in moving academic discoveries from the bench to the bedside. Cassie has been interested in the application of science to cure diseases and solve problems in healthcare since her undergrad days. She obtained a BS in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia, where she got her first taste of applied science, working to discover new ways to promote blood vessel growth using microspheres and implementing a sustainable water delivery system in rural South Africa. Cassie started in the Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine program at Thomas Jefferson University after graduating and worked in the Risbud lab, where she studied the molecular pathology of degenerative disc disease, publishing 5 first author papers and presenting at numerous conferences. This disease of aging led her to her post-doc lab at the University of Pennsylvania studying mammalian aging and metabolism upon completion of her degree. While delving in to a new field of research at Penn, she was chosen for a fellowship at the Penn Center for Innovation, where she learned about an exciting career that is at the intersection of academic science, business, and law. The ability to have a bigger impact on how these discoveries get to patients, the varied nature of the projects, and the people centric work drew her from academia in June of 2016 when she joined the Office of Technology Transfer at CHOP.

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## Management Consulting

### Chris Willis, PhD

Manager - Life Sciences R&D Consulting

**Accenture**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/williscd/>



Chris is part of the Management Consulting (MC) group of Accenture Scientific Informatics Services. Since joining Accenture, he has focused on projects within the research domain of Life Sciences R&D. His consulting projects have spanned internal and external strategy for using data, technology and functional expertise to drive innovation in biomedical research. His previous experience includes managing a global team of field application scientists, providing support for discovery, pre-clinical and translational informatics products and services at Thomson Reuters. In particular, this team was evangelists for taking a combination of data and knowledge driven approaches to

biomarker discovery, target identification and drug repurposing. He holds a PhD in molecular biology from the University of Maryland, School of Medicine and did his postdoc at Jefferson in the lab of Renato Iozzo.

## Market Research

### Mary Dominiecki

Vice President - Oncology

**The Planning Shop International**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marydominiecki/>

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## Medical Technical Writer

### Lauren Klayman, PhD

Medical Writer

**Arcus Medica**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/laurenmklayman/>



Lauren Klayman, PhD is currently a medical writer in hematology/oncology. This allows her to focus on the education in the healthcare industry and honing her communication skills. She is a PhD biochemist by training, and has lived/worked in Philadelphia for the last 8 years. After a 9-month postdoc, Lauren moved away from the bench. She used research and writing skills from her PhD, and enjoys translating clinical data for various audiences.

## Population/Public Health

### Laura Eyring

Laboratory Program Scientist

**Bureau of Laboratory Services; Philadelphia Water Department**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-eyring-83828921/>



Since 2002, Laura Eyring has been working in the Bureau of Laboratory Services for the Philadelphia Water Department. The Bureau of Laboratory Services tests drinking water, surface water and wastewater, along with monitoring the aquatic life in the river and tributaries. Laura is a part of the Quality Assurance Unit. Their focus is verifying that the data generated in the labs conforms to the State and Federal guidelines. The Bureau of Laboratory Services (BLS) analyzes over 2400 samples each month for a total of 4500 reported analytical results monthly. BLS is accredited under Pennsylvania's Act 25 Chapter 252 Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

# Jefferson Career Development Center

<http://www.jefferson.edu/university/academic-affairs/schools/career-development-center.html>

Chris and Juliana from the Career Development Center are at the Speed Networking event to help you practice your Elevator Pitch and check your CV/resume on the spot!

## Chris Miciek, MA

Director

Thomas Jefferson University

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/chrismiciek/>



After completing a Masters in Psychology Chris worked with an executive career coaching firm in Hartford, CT before returning to higher education. In 2002 he took on the task of building the first 100% online career center in the US at Baker College in Michigan and becoming an early pioneer in leveraging online technology and social media for delivering career development advising and instruction. Since then he has worked at Drexel University and the University of the Sciences before coming to Jefferson. He continues to stare at the horizon.

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## Juliana McDonald

Assistant Director

Thomas Jefferson University

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Juli is the Assistant Director of the Career Development Center here at the Center City campus. Juli loves helping students find not just a job but their dream job. She strives to help students with all aspects of career planning, including resumes, interviewing and the deeper, more challenging conversations, such as lifestyle or value fit of a career. Juli holds a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in Education from Rutgers University - New Brunswick. When she is not counseling, Juli also enjoys teaching and has taught over a dozen college courses. She is an avid traveler and is always looking for her next big trip or interesting places to explore in the Philadelphia area.

