Tips for Career Planning in Drug Discovery

Sucheta Mukherjee, PhD
October 19, 2020
Disclaimer

• The opinions expressed in these slides are of the author and do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of Aligos Therapeutics, Inc.
My research background led me towards drug discovery

- **BS in Nutritional Science, Cornell University**
  - Thesis: establish mouse models of DNA damage checkpoints supported by internal research scholarship
  - Two summer internships at Pfizer

- **PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology, UC Davis**
  - Thesis: validate a novel anti-cancer target in DNA repair supported by TRDRP and NIH-NIGMS
  - Collaboration with Small Molecule Discovery Center at UCSF
  - Designated Emphasis in Biotechnology
My research background led me towards drug discovery (continued)

• Postdoc in Pediatric Oncology, UC San Francisco
  – Research: uncover mechanism of action of novel anti-cancer small molecule inhibitor supported by DoD
  – Collaboration with industry partner that licensed the drug

• Toxicologist, Aligos Therapeutics, Inc.
  – Support small molecule and oligonucleotide discovery and development programs for antivirals
Tips for career planning in drug discovery

• Conduct translational research
  – Find professors and labs that enable drug discovery
  – Search through lab funding, patents, industry or government collaborations and publications
  – Apply to research grants that support translational research
  – Intern outside of your academic lab
Tips for career planning in drug discovery (continued)

• Manage your own career development
  – Prepare Individual Development Plan
  – Seek out mentors outside of your research specialty
  – Visit career development offices and events
  – Attend conferences and webinars
  – Remember that it’s never too early to start career planning
Tips for career planning in drug discovery (continued)

• Establish your online presence
  – Use LinkedIn to manage professional presence and contacts
  – Google yourself

• Network to share scientific ideas
  – Present at every opportunity you get
  – Join SOT regional and specialty subsections
  – Check out funding agency events
  – Conduct informational meetings
  – Add connections on LinkedIn and touch base every now and then
Thank you for listening!

• Acknowledgements
  – DDTSS and SOT
  – Mentors throughout the years

• Any questions?

• Stay connected: smukherjee@aligos.com