BACKGROUND

- Bachelors: Pharmaceutical Science (India)
- Masters: Molecular Medicine, Univ Of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) (2012)
  - Role of microRNA-718 in B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
- Ph.D.: Molecular Toxicology, UMB (2017)
  - Characterized a kinase inhibitor & identified combination partners for acute myeloid leukemia (*collaboration with AstraZeneca*)
- Postdoctoral Training: Boston Univ (~1.5 Years)
  - Studying the effect of non-conventional chemotherapy regimens on anti-tumor immune activation
- Current: Scientist, Pharmacology: Surface Oncology
TOPICS TO DISCUSS

While in academia

In lab & beyond lab

My experience transitioning

Interviewing steps & learnings

Qualities I look for in candidates

Skills, experience & proficiency – behavioral & technical
## IN ACADEMIA

### IN LAB - RESEARCH

### PUBLICATIONS
- Very essential: primary author, co-author & review articles
- How many?

### COLLABORATIONS
- Initiate and/or manage collaborative projects, external or within lab
- Opportunity to work as a team, enhances communication & management skills

### CONFERENCES
- AACR, SOT, SITC
- Offer great networking opportunities
- Enhances presentation skills
IN ACADEMIA
BEYOND LAB - NETWORKING

**INTERNSHIPS!!**
- Research Intern: Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- Cancer Pharmacology: Summer 2016
- Oncology Drug Discovery: Summer 2017

**LEADERSHIP ROLES**
- Society of Toxicology
  - Volunteer (BTSS, CSS)
  - Student Rep (DDTSS)
  - Post-doc Rep (BTSS)
- Home Univ: Roles in Graduate Student Association & Indian Association

**WORKSHOPS**
- During post-doctoral training:
  - D3 Project Simulation (Novartis)
  - Academia to Industry Hackathon (Novartis)
WHAT HAVE I GAINED?

- **Long-term & meaningful** connections

- Personal interaction – add face and voice to name

- Refer you for internal jobs, serve as professional references during job applications & GC application: **from internships, attending workshops**

- Opportunities to schedule job interviews, meet potential hiring managers: **from internships, attending conferences**

- Meet great people, great science, awareness of the scientific community!!
POST-DOC: OUT OF CHOICE / RAN OUT OF CHOICE?

- Limited hands-on experience in the new ‘wave of oncology’ – Immuno-oncology

- Very limited to no opportunity to bag a fulltime industry role

- Aims for postdoctoral training:
  - Lab working in the space of immuno-oncology
  - Convey your long-term goals to the PI
  - Identify trainings/skills you want to gain – aid in transitioning into the industry
  - Continue meaningful networking
  - Attend workshops & play leadership roles
THE INTERVIEW PROCESS

- Varies from company to company – company size company, role etc.

Lessons I learnt:
- **Company knowledge**: press release, product pipeline, company values etc.
- Know your interviewing panel
- Be inquisitive
- Clarity of what your ambitions: long & short-term goals
- Mock interview practice
MY ROLE AT SURFACE

Support experimental drugs that targets tumor microenvironment to stimulate anti-tumor response (currently in clinical trials)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of subject &amp; experience</th>
<th>Working in team</th>
<th>Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Perform PK/PD/efficacy/POC studies</td>
<td>• Assay-development</td>
<td>• Manage studies outsourced to Contract Research Organizations</td>
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<td>• Comparative studies with competitor molecule</td>
<td>• Identify new-indications</td>
<td>• External collaborations with academic institutes</td>
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<td>• Present findings &amp; recommendations to the team</td>
<td>• Competitive landscape</td>
<td>• Work alongside with in-vitro scientists</td>
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WHAT I LOOK FOR IN CANDIDATES

- Resume & formatting
  - Tailor it for the role. **NO errors!!!!**

- Fit for the role? Knowledge of subject
  - Answer questions. OK to say ‘I don’t know’

- Communication skills & confidence
  - Convey point/thought process clearly & succinctly

- Team work & interpersonal skills

- Company knowledge
  - Ask questions. Interview the interviewers

- Culture fit & goal alignment
THANK YOU