

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a microscope. The upper part of the microscope, including the eyepiece and part of the body tube, is in focus and appears in the upper left. The lower part, including the objective lenses and the stage, is blurred and occupies the lower half. The background is a solid light blue color.

AWIS-PHL Mentoring Circle Program 2026-2027 Mentor Bios

Please reach out to Amy Ott and Ankita Patil at mentoring@awisphl.org if you have any questions or concerns!

Monday Evenings, University City / CHOP (Page 1 of 2)

Samar Chehimi

Sr. Research Specialist, University of Pennsylvania

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Professional development

I am a Senior Research Specialist at the University of Pennsylvania. I have a PhD in Human Genetics from the University of São Paulo (Brazil) and completed my postdoctoral training in Molecular Neuroscience at UPenn. In my current role, I lead multiple lab projects, run wet lab experiments, validate new protocols, mentor undergraduate and grad students, and write scientific papers. I have been a (proud!) member of AWIS for four years, and this will be my second year as a mentor. I am excited to share my experiences as an international researcher in the U.S, and I am especially happy to discuss academic career paths, both within and outside the PI track. I want my mentoring circle to be a safe and supportive environment for others navigating their own journeys in science.

Aliza Abbasi

Business Analyst, PECO-Exelon

Mentoring Interests: Mid-career development

I'm Aliza Abbasi, a Business Analyst at PECO-Exelon, currently completing my degree at Drexel University's LeBow College of Business. Through my co-op experience, I'm building skills in data analysis, financial modeling, and cross-functional collaboration within the energy sector. Outside of work, I'm passionate about cooking, nutrition, and fitness, and I enjoy mentoring students navigating the transition from academics to the professional world. I'm looking forward to supporting mentees in this cycle of the AWIS-PHL Mentoring Circle Program.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a co-ed circle where 1 of the mentors is male.

Monday Evenings, University City / CHOP (Page 2 of 2)

Matthias Recktenwald

Chief Scientific Officer, HydroPep Therapeutics

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Mid-career development, Professional development, Biotech startup / academia

Matthias Recktenwald, PhD, earned his BS and MS in biomedical engineering at Drexel University, including an engineering co-op at Johnson & Johnson supporting a Class III insulin pump. He then spent three years as a design engineer at Rex Medical, where he worked on a rotational atherectomy device that completed a 121-patient pivotal trial and received FDA 510(k) clearance. He completed his PhD in biomedical engineering at Rowan University in 2025 and is now Chief Scientific Officer of HydroPep Therapeutics, a Rowan spin-off developing an injectable peptide hydrogel for bone regeneration, where he leads research, regulatory strategy, and fundraising. He is currently pursuing an MBA at Boston University.

Maithili Sawant

PhD Candidate, Drexel University

Mentoring Interests: Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Mid-career development, Navigating academics and life as an international PhD student

Hi, I'm Maithili Sawant, a third-year Ph.D. candidate in Biology. I work in the Afify Lab, where I study mosquito olfaction and am developing a novel repellent based on hexagonal boron nitride. We predict that this compound can prevent mosquito attraction and biting on human skin. Unlike commonly used repellents such as DEET - which can dissolve plastics and rubber - our repellent offers a much safer alternative. I look forward to pursuing postdoctoral research in similar areas of mosquito olfaction and sensory biology. I would like to guide incoming Master's and PhD students, particularly international students, as they navigate their academic journey and adapt to a new environment during their first year. Having benefited greatly from the guidance of mentors at my university when I first arrived, I am eager to extend the same support and guidance to others. I believe I can best assist incoming students with navigating international paperwork, understanding the lab selection process - especially for those completing multiple rotations, and offering guidance on coursework that aligns with my areas of knowledge and experience.

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Monday Evenings, Suburbs (King of Prussia)

Sara Bender

Principal Scientist, Johnson & Johnson

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Professional development, Pharma industry

Sara Bender, PhD is currently a Nonclinical Safety Lead at Johnson & Johnson. In this role, she is responsible for overall nonclinical safety strategies to support drug development from early stages through marketing. She collaborates with toxicology subject matter experts and multidisciplinary, cross-functional teams to advance compounds across the development pipeline. Prior to that, Sara worked at GSK for 5 years as a developmental and reproductive toxicology (DART) subject matter expert. She has a strong foundation in neurodevelopmental biology and earned her PhD in neuroscience from Drexel University.

Parin Mehta

Primary Analyst, SAI MedPartners

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions

I am a Primary Analyst at SAI MedPartners, a healthcare consulting firm focused on primary market research for pharmaceutical and biotech companies, helping them make informed business decisions. Before this, I spent seven years in cell and gene therapy at Castle Creek Biosciences, working my way from the bench into a management role overseeing development, manufacturing, and quality. That role involved a lot of both people and project management, coordinating across teams to keep multiple work streams moving under tight deadlines. I received my Master of Science in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Genetics from Drexel University College of Medicine, where I researched the role of Sp1 overexpression and centrosome amplification. I'm drawn to the Mentoring Circle because I like the idea of building a network of like-minded women in science, and navigating the field together rather than figuring it out alone.

Ankita Patil

Sr. Scientist, Johnson & Johnson

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Professional development

I am a Senior Scientist in Bioassay Method Development at Johnson & Johnson, where I develop cell-based assays to assess the biological functionality of therapeutic targets, supporting programs from early development through commercialization. My role involves extensive cross-functional collaboration and project management, coordinating across teams to drive projects forward and ensure key milestones and timelines are met. I received both my MS and PhD in Neuroscience from Drexel University, where I researched molecular mechanisms contributing to cytoskeletal organization in neurons. I have been a member of AWIS-PHL for nearly 10 years and have held numerous Board positions during that time. I particularly enjoy participating in the Mentoring Circle program because it gives me the opportunity to support future generations of women in STEM, just as I have been (and continue to be) supported by women who came before me. I also value the opportunity to learn and grow from the insights and experiences of my fellow participants.

Wednesday Afternoons, Fully Virtual (Page 1 of 3)

Elise Mosser

Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology, Medical Educator, Drexel University College of Medicine at Tower Health

Mentoring Interests:

Dr. Elise Mosser, a member of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (M&I), is an experienced educator committed to enhancing the learning experiences of both medical students (M1/M2) and graduate students (M.S./PhD) through face-to-face and online modalities. Her teaching philosophy embraces active learning, the flipped classroom approach, and case-based learning, fostering deep engagement and comprehension among students. She currently serves as the course director for Foundations of Disease in the Phase I curriculum and has directed numerous courses in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies. She has introduced a variety of innovative tools for fully online course delivery, including Hypothes.is, PeerMark, Turnitin, MindMup, VoiceThread (for case-based learning), and interactive eBooks, significantly enriching student interaction. Dr. Mosser has designed and developed 20% of M&I's online courses at Drexel University College of Medicine, creating eight new online courses (including directing and teaching) and three new face-to-face courses. These offerings are integral to all M&I MS online programs. She has also contributed to the Division of Biomedical Science Programs MS and PhD curricula by substantially updating "Responsible Conduct of Research," allowing for nearly 100 student enrollments across DUCOM campuses. Her interest in curricular and program development has led to the creation of six new programs, including three post-baccalaureate certificate programs, a new MS in Biomedicine and Cell and Gene Engineering, and the redesign of the Infectious Disease MS program to be delivered entirely online. She also facilitated the former Elizabethtown College 4+1 program, which generated over \$700,000 in tuition revenue and achieved 100% job placement or PhD acceptance for graduates. As a leader on the M&I MS Advisory Committee (MSAC), Dr. Mosser has been instrumental in identifying students in need of support, mapping program curricula, maintaining program quality, and establishing internal policies. As a peer mentor, she has encouraged the department-wide adoption of innovative educational tools, resulting in increased student satisfaction and some of the highest enrollments for M&I's online master's degrees within the Division of Interdisciplinary and Career-Oriented Programs. Dr. Mosser's passion for teaching has earned her internal honors, reflected in exceptional student evaluations and teaching awards. She is also recognized internationally for her contributions. Her educational scholarship includes abstracts presented at national and international meetings, the development of widely used educational materials at Drexel University College of Medicine, and internationally award-winning educational games: Hep-BWare, CRISPR CutOut, and TickAttack!, all available on iTunes and Google Play.

PLEASE NOTE: Afternoon Circle meetings will be held within the noon-4 pm window.

Wednesday Afternoons, Fully Virtual (Page 2 of 3)

Sohini Sarkar

Optical/Quantum Communication Researcher, Nokia Bell Labs

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Challenges as a working parent

Sohini Sarkar is an Optical/Quantum Communication Researcher at Nokia Bell Labs, developing technologies for distributing quantum information over long distances and enabling scalable quantum networks. She leverages expertise in ultrafast spectroscopy and photonics while expanding into optical communications and quantum information science. Her multidisciplinary research spans solar energy materials, interfacial spectroscopy, biomedical imaging, and quantum communication, united by a passion for using light to probe and transmit information. Beyond her research, Sohini is actively engaged in mentoring, outreach, and science communication initiatives that inspire and support the next generation of STEM innovators.

Samira Abdulai-Saiku

Assistant Professor, Temple University

Mentoring Interests: Diversity, equity, and inclusion

I am an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department of the College of Science and Technology at Temple University. My research focuses on how sex chromosomes influence resilience/ susceptibility to cognitive aging. My research focuses on using cell culture methods, animal behavior experiments, and integrated omics approaches to identify how sex chromosomes contribute to cognitive aging. Our group's goal is to identify genes and pathways that can be targeted to extend the period of cognitive resilience in aging. My lab is committed to developing critical thinking, scientific communication, and analytical skills in an environment that emphasises inclusivity and encourages trainees to ask questions and develop research questions that align with the lab's mission and focus.

PLEASE NOTE: Afternoon Circle meetings will be held within the noon-4 pm window.

Wednesday Afternoons, Fully Virtual (Page 3 of 3)

Kayla Socarras

Senior Scientist, Industry

Mentoring Interests: Diversity, equity, and inclusion, career transitions, professional development

Bio: Kayla Socarras is senior scientist at Eurofins working within the pharmaceutical industry. Before, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Broad Institute within the Translational Genomics Group of the Medical and Population Genomics Platform. Her research there focused on developing a federated network for variant matching and enhancing pipelines for rare disease analysis. Prior to her post-doc, Kayla earned her Ph.D. in Garth Ehrlich's lab in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at Drexel University College of Medicine. There she created a nationwide surveillance platform for vector-borne diseases, developing microbiome analysis pipelines, and identifying biomarkers for tick-borne diseases. In addition, her master's research at the University of New Haven centered on the pathogenesis of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium responsible for Lyme disease.

Beyond her research, Kayla is actively involved in science communication, mentorship, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. She is affiliated with the NextGeneration Association as a board member at the Broad Institute and the Black Microbiologist Association as a programming officer.

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Wednesday Evenings, Fully Virtual

Nicolette Heinsinger

Sr. Scientist, Merck

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Challenges as a working parent, Mid-career development, Professional development

Nicolette is a Senior Scientist in Neuroscience Early Discovery at Merck, where she leverages in vitro and in vivo disease models, translational biomarkers, and pharmacological approaches to evaluate novel therapeutic targets and advance treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. She enjoys mentoring early-career scientists as they navigate the transition from academia to industry, explore diverse career paths, and develop as future STEM leaders. As the mother of a young toddler, she is also happy to discuss the challenges and rewards of balancing a scientific career with family life.

Allison (Ally) Cote

Senior Computational Biologist, Altius Institute for Biomedical Sciences

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Professional development, Chronic illness

My name is Ally, I graduated with my PhD in 2020 from UPenn in the Cell Biology, Physiology, and Metabolism subgroup of Cell and Molecular Biology program. I started out as a purely wet lab focused biology graduate student, and switched over the course of my grad school years and the pandemic to be purely computational (and now I hope I don't have to go back!). I worked on a variety of projects throughout grad school, with a focus on RNA in different contexts (cartilage tissue engineering and splicing/nuclear diffusion). I now work entirely remotely as a computational biologist at a hybrid academic/industry non profit called Altius. My research now focuses on investigating regulatory DNA elements via sequencing. Between graduating and my current position I worked as a pharmaceutical scientist at a small biotech/pharma startup. I am happy to discuss career transitions, as well as discuss coping strategies for working while having chronic illnesses.

Sudha Moorthy

Assistant Professor, Arcadia University

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Challenges as a working parent, Professional development

I completed my Ph.D in Bacterial Genetics in India and moved to the US for my post-doctoral training at Tufts and later, at Rutgers. Before I started teaching full time, I did a short stint at a biotech start up. I love teaching! I have taught a variety of courses in microbiology and microbial physiology. My research interests include ecological and evolutionary aspects of bacterial infectious diseases particularly host-pathogen interactions. When I'm not teaching or working in the lab, I like to experiment with cooking and gardening. I also enjoy singing and participating in community choirs. This is my first time as mentor for AWIS PHL. I look forward to sharing my experiences in industry, and in academia, my challenges in maintaining my work-life balance and networking with women scientists in Philadelphia.

Mary Barnette

Retired Scientist from Pharmaceutical Industry

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Mid-career development, Professional development

Retired from a 30+ year career in the pharmaceutical industry with experience in drug discovery, clinical development and translation medicine. Areas of research include gastrointestinal disorders pulmonary disease and oncology. Lead both small and large groups and developed strategic plans for senior management. Enjoy discussing both science and organizational skills. This is my 3rd year participating in the mentoring program.

Wednesday Evenings, University City / CHOP

Jadwiga “Jani” Bilchak

Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Professional development

I'm a senior postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania, where I study sleep and sensory processing in Drosophila models of neurodevelopmental disorders. Before joining Penn, I completed my PhD at Drexel University, studying spinal cord injury in rodent models, so I have firsthand experience navigating a major transition between research fields. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, I lived in London, so I also know what it's like to settle into a new city and academic environment. I'm happy to chat about research, career transitions, and life in Philadelphia, and I look forward to supporting new trainees as they find their footing.

Adetoun Adeniji-Adele

Associate Director of HR, Integral Molecular

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Professional development

Adetoun Adeniji-Adele, PhD, is Associate Director of HR at Integral Molecular, a 135-person biotech in Philadelphia. She has mentored in academic and industry settings since 2015. She earned her PhD in Pharmacognosy from the University of the Sciences (now Saint Joseph's University), moved into recruiting in 2018, built Integral's talent acquisition function, and transitioned into people and leadership development in 2023. She speaks on making the pivot, resume design and interviewing, and managing people. Come to her with the decision to leave the bench, a resume that isn't landing, or a team you're managing for the first time or through changes.

Taylor McCorkle

Postdoctoral Associate, CHOP

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Professional development

Taylor McCorkle, PhD is a first-year Postdoctoral Associate in the Amado Lab at the Center for Cellular and Molecular Therapeutics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her research focuses on using in vitro and in vivo models to understand how cryptic splicing can be therapeutically targeted to ameliorate cellular and behavioral defects associated with ALS pathology. Taylor received her PhD in Neuroscience from Drexel University College of Medicine in 2023 and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Temple University prior to joining CHOP. She earned her BA in Biology from The University of Pennsylvania in 2018. A Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, Taylor has over 6 years of mentorship experience and is passionate about helping students navigate career transitions, burnout, institutional systems, professional development/CV building, and networking. She is especially committed to supporting trainees from diverse backgrounds and is excited to begin mentoring through AWIS!

Wednesday Evenings, Suburbs - Arcadia University

Amy Ott

Assistant Professor, Drexel University College of Medicine

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Challenges as a working parent, Professional development

Amy Ott is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Drexel University College of Medicine. She conducts research in the laboratory of Dr. Jim Burns, with a focus on the development of multi-stage, multi-antigen vaccines for Plasmodium parasites using both recombinant protein and mRNA platforms. She mentors graduate students within the Drexel community and has participated in the AWIS-PHL mentoring program as both a mentee and mentor. Prior to her current work, she earned a PhD from Drexel University in Microbiology and Immunology, and an MS from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She lives in the Philadelphia area with her husband and two children.

Julie Schaub

PhD Candidate, Drexel University

Mentoring Interests: Professional development

Julie is a Ph.D. candidate in Neuroscience at Drexel University. She studies the neuronal cytoskeleton, specifically investigating a newly discovered isoform of a microtubule-associated protein. She worked as a lab technician for seven years at Johns Hopkins University. During that time, she earned a MS in Biotechnology also at Hopkins. She began as a clinical/research technologist in an autoimmune disorders lab for two years. Then, she switched to a fully research position in a lab studying glaucoma. She rose through the ranks to a Senior Research Specialist prior to starting her Ph.D. program. After participating in the circles as a mentee for the past two years, this year she is joining as a mentor. She is looking forward to offering advice to (and learning from!) mentees.

Megan Wright

Professor of Biology, Arcadia University

Mentoring Interests: Professional development, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Challenges as a working parent

I earned my Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Drexel University and completed my postdoctoral training Neurology department at Johns Hopkins. I have been a faculty member at Arcadia University since 2010 and teach a variety of courses in Neuroscience, Physiology, and Pathophysiology. My area of research expertise is in central and peripheral nervous system regeneration. I was recently promoted to full professor at Arcadia and enjoy teaching and training undergraduate students in my research lab. This is my 6th year as a mentor for AWIS PHL. Participating in this program has been rewarding on so many levels and I look forward to meeting with new mentees and offering support as they continue in their career paths.

Thursday Evenings, Center City/Old City/Fairmount

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Sandra Saouaf

CEO, Science Answers LLC

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Challenges as a working parent, Mid-career development

I am an immunologist, grant consultant, medical writer, scientific writer and scientific consultant, at Science Answers, LLC. My immunology PhD is from the University of Pennsylvania Perleman School of Medicine where I studied immune tolerance mechanisms. During my postdoctoral fellowship in the oncology department at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute in Princeton, NJ, I studied cell signaling pathways through oncogenic src family proteins, discovering relevant oncology targets for therapeutic intervention. I then held research and supervisory positions in the Glaxo SmithKline department of protein biochemistry and the University of Pennsylvania department of pathology and laboratory medicine. Later, I was CEO and founder of Atlantic Bio Sci, LLC, a biopharmaceutical company developing drugs to treat autoimmune disease. Currently, I am the CEO and founder of Science Answers, LLC, a scientific consulting company I founded in 2007 that strategically advances therapeutics, diagnostics, and devices. Through the years I have adjusted my scientific career to fit my life as a parent, spouse, and daughter. I look forward to continuing to support scientists through mentoring and sharing strategies and mindsets that align with life and excellence in science.

Larissa Ishikawa

Senior Scientist, Translational Medicine, Cabaletta Bio

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Mid-career development, Professional development

I am a passionate scientist originally from Brazil, where I obtained my master's and doctorate degrees by studying immunomodulatory strategies in experimental models of autoimmune diseases. In 2018, I moved to the United States for a postdoctoral position at Thomas Jefferson University to study mechanisms of immunopathogenesis of multiple sclerosis in animal models. I transitioned from academia to industry in 2022, by joining the preclinical team at Carisma Therapeutics, a small company in Philadelphia focused on the development of myeloid cells therapy against solid tumors. Despite having no oncology background, I successfully developed a syngeneic model for an IND submission. In 2024, I took on another career challenge by joining the translational team at Cabaletta Bio, another local company focused on CAR-T therapy to treat autoimmune diseases. Currently, I'm excited to contribute to the advancement of cell therapy for autoimmune diseases by analyzing patient's samples from various clinical trials.

Thursday Evenings, Center City/Old City/Fairmount

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Michelle Cully

Life Sciences Economic Development Specialist, Pennsylvania
Department of Community & Economic Development

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Mid-career development, Professional development

Michelle Cully is the Life Sciences Economic Development Specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), where she provides strategic guidance to statewide leadership on the life sciences industry. In this role, Michelle leads initiatives to promote innovation and drive the growth of life sciences businesses across the Commonwealth. Michelle brings diverse product development experience spanning medtech, diagnostics, and AI-enabled tools, and holds a doctorate in Immunology from the University of Pennsylvania. Michelle offers a perspective on how policy and public-private collaboration can strengthen and scale a more resilient life sciences ecosystem in Pennsylvania.

Arijita Ghosh

Research Associate, Thomas Jefferson University

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Professional development, Self advocacy, conflict resolution, communication

I am a biomedical scientist currently working as a research associate at Thomas Jefferson University. My work focuses on mitochondrial biology in health and disease. My area of expertise is designing and executing studies to identify biomarkers and answer knowledge gaps around mitochondrial dysfunction in cancer, melanoma and liver diseases.

Born and raised in Calcutta, India, I completed my PhD in cell and molecular biology from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and moved to the United States to pursue a career in STEM. I have been associated to AWIS-PHL since the past 3 years and have served on the board as the programs and outreach chair. I have learned a great deal and enjoyed my time as an AWIS-PHL member volunteer. I deeply care about mentorship and uplifting careers of diligent individuals. Along the course of my journey as a scientist I have been fortunate to have found a handful of mentors who have made profound impact on my life, career and growth as a human. Participation in this year's mentoring circle as a mentor is my humble attempt at paying it forward and to keep learning from peers.

Thursday Evenings, Northwest Philadelphia

Sheri Lordi

Senior Director Laboratory Sciences, Charles River Laboratories

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Challenges as a working parent, Mid-career development, Professional development

Dr. Sheri Lordi has been working for Charles River, a contract research organization, for over 13 years in their Drug Safety division. In her current role as Senior Director of Laboratory Sciences, she leads teams responsible for drug formulation, in vitro toxicology, clinical pathology and various analytical and bioanalytical assays required for supporting successful execution of pre-clinical toxicology studies. She is proud to be part of an organization that helps to bring over 85% of the new drugs to market each year which has a direct impact on improving patient lives. Prior to Charles River, Dr. Lordi worked for Schering-Plough in their Biotechnology Development group and was responsible for developing and validating cell-based bioassays and immunoassays to support process development, preclinical and clinical studies. She held a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and obtained her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Western Ontario, in Canada. Dr. Lordi has served as the President and Treasurer for the Philadelphia AWIS chapter and has also participated in the AWIS-PHL mentoring circles. She was a co-leader for a Girl Scout Troop for 10 years and enjoyed helping girls and young adults grow as leaders and realize their potential through outdoor adventures. Dr Lordi is passionate about driving forward AWIS-PHL mission of mentorship, professional development, inclusion, scientific communication and community outreach.

Ramesh Raghupathi

Professor of Neurobiology, Associate Dean for Health Equity Research and Innovation, Drexel University

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Challenges as a working parent, Professional development

I am a faculty member at Drexel university, doing research and teaching for over 30 years. Having never had a mentor or any guidance throughout my career, I realize the importance of having one. My goal is to provide information to the next generation of scientists. I can provide guidance on everything from career choices, to work-life balance to negotiation skills.

Alexandra Magold

Senior Research Investigator, University of Pennsylvania

Mentoring Interests: Career transitions, Mid-career development, Professional development

About Me: My STEM journey spans international academic research across Switzerland, Israel, and the US, transitioning into biotech leadership, IP consulting, and venture analytics. Most recently, I led Delivery Biology platforms at ReNAGade Therapeutics. Alongside my scientific background in neurobiology, muscle biology, and immuno-oncology, I bring experience conducting early-stage venture due diligence with the George Shultz Innovation Fund and developing IP strategies alongside the Chief IP Counsel at MPM BioImpact. Beyond the lab, I am passionate about helping women navigate non-traditional paths—from high-stakes policy simulations to astronaut candidate selections. Where I Can Support You: Navigating transitions between academia, biotech startups, and IP/venture consulting, Building cross-functional platform teams and managing complex asset/site transfers, Scientific due diligence, commercial viability evaluations, and IP landscape analysis, Assertive communication, interview strategy, and pivoting across non-linear career tracks. Mentoring Style: Collaborative, open, and candid. I focus on practical career strategies, helping mentees evaluate complex professional crossroads and convert them into clear, actionable steps.

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