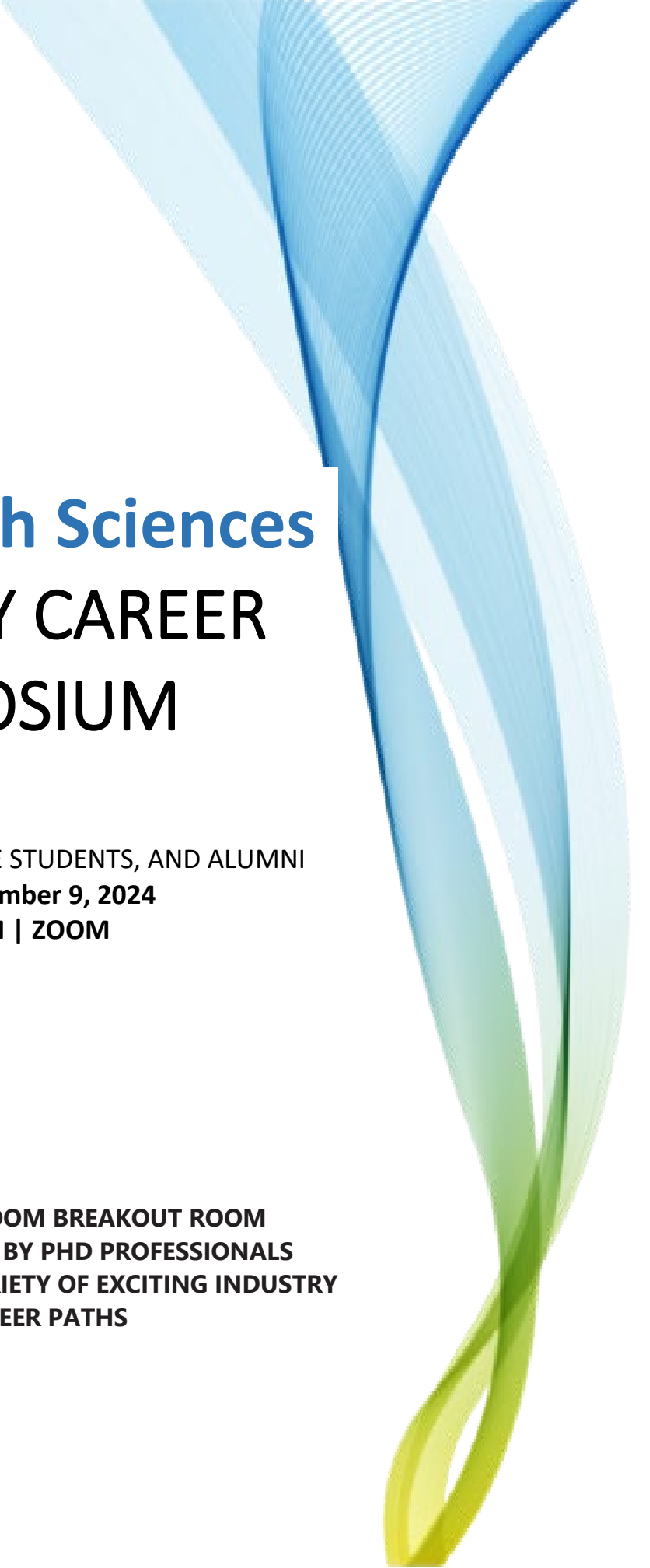




2024 Health Sciences **INDUSTRY CAREER** **SYMPOSIUM**

FOR POSTDOCS, GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

Monday, December 9, 2024

3:30 – 5PM | ZOOM

**FEATURING ZOOM BREAKOUT ROOM
DISCUSSIONS LED BY PHD PROFESSIONALS
REPRESENTING A VARIETY OF EXCITING INDUSTRY
CAREER PATHS**



Whether you are a medical or graduate student just starting advanced study in your chosen field; a postdoctoral fellow, resident, or clinical fellow embarking on even more specialized training; or a junior-level faculty member serving as a teacher, researcher, or clinician, we want to help you achieve your professional potential.

Visit oacd.pitt.edu or email oacd@pitt.edu to learn more about the academic career development programs and resources available to help guide you on your journey toward a professional life.

2024 Health Sciences

INDUSTRY CAREER SYMPOSIUM

PROGRAM

3:30 pm Zoom

WELCOME

Katie Homar, PhD
Assistant Director,
Office of Academic Career Development

BREAKOUT ROOM DISCUSSIONS

Participate in four, 15-minute virtual roundtables where you will meet and interact with PhD professionals from science-related fields who will discuss their careers across a range of industry roles. Review the table and bios below to plan out your individualized experience.

4:45 - 5 pm Zoom

FINAL DISCUSSION

Return to the main room to share insights gained from this experience with your peers. What surprised you? What reaffirmed or changed your thoughts about a future career? What steps do you plan to take that came from ideas you heard today?

SPEAKER INDEX

#	Topic	Speaker	Title & Company	Contact Information
1	Data Science Research	Alexandra Hames, PhD	Senior Research Scientist, Humana	ahames1@humana.com
2	Pharmacovigilance	Karen Schmidt, PhD	Senior Manager, BeiGene	karenlyneschmidt@gmail.com
3	Regulatory Affairs	Julie Cramer, PhD, MS	Associate Director of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs, Clinical Research Strategies	julie@clinicalresearchstrategies.com
4	Research, Applications	Paul Dascani, PhD	Online Technical Applications Specialist, Cytex Biosciences	pdascani@cytekbio.com
5	Research, Assay Development	Aidan Huene, PhD	Research Scientist I, BioAgilytix	alhuene@hotmail.com
6	Research, Clinical Pharmacology	Daisy Zhu, PharmD, PhD	Associate Director of Clinical Pharmacology, Pfizer	jing.zhu@pfizer.com
7	Research, Start-Up	Kien Tran, PhD	Scientist, Cellino	ktran@cellinobio.com

CAREER TABLE DISCUSSION LEADERS

Julie Cramer, PhD, MS, is the Director of Clinical & Regulatory Affairs at Clinical Research Strategies, a contract research organization and executive management consultancy for start-up and mid-size life sciences companies. In her role, she supports clients in developing and implementing clinical and regulatory strategies for both drugs and medical devices. Dr. Cramer earned her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in Pathology, with a focus on intestinal stem cells and their link to intestinal cancer. When the opportunity came to join a local life sciences startup that had licensed an in vitro diagnostic for cancer from the University of Pittsburgh, she embraced the challenge and quickly came to understand how it takes careful management of a cross-disciplinary team to navigate the often-turbulent entrepreneurial waters. Dr. Cramer then returned to her alma mater to work in commercial translation at the University of Pittsburgh's Innovation Institute. Acting as liaison to the University's close clinical partner, UPMC, Dr. Cramer managed diverse programs, including digital health and immunotherapy, to enable nascent technologies to mature into valuable intellectual property ready for licensing. Dr. Cramer is passionate about supporting companies through the entire life cycle of commercialization. Dr. Cramer is also an active member of the Pittsburgh chapter of Women In Bio, serving as a mentor for their Mentorship, Advisors, Peers, and Sponsorship (MAPS) program and as co-chair of the Executive Women In Bio committee.

Paul Dascani, PhD, is an Online Technical Applications Specialist at Cytex Biosciences. In this remote-work role, he provides support to Cytex customers by conducting training, troubleshooting data and technical experiment issues, designing flow cytometry panels, and any other science-side applications of using Cytex instruments. He also leads the production of educational video content for Cytex's website, and is involved in the creation and testing of other tools and aspects of the company's online presence. Prior to joining Cytex, Paul was Operations Director of the Hillman Cancer Center Flow Cytometry Facility at the University of Pittsburgh where he oversaw the daily operation of the shared resource cytometry facility, trained users in instrument use, and provided assistance with experimental design and troubleshooting. Paul holds a PhD in Immunology from the University of Louisville, in which he studied the impact of B cell receptor signaling in mouse lupus models, as well as allergy-related B cell class switching pathways.

Alexandra Hames, PhD, is a Senior Research Scientist at Humana Healthcare Research. At Humana, she leads pharmacy-based observational research studies to improve health outcomes for Humana's Medicare Advantage members and guide pharmacy strategy. Her role includes developing study objectives and design, conducting analyses, and disseminating findings to leaders in the organization and externally. Prior to joining Humana, Alexandra earned her PhD in Health Services Research and Policy in 2024 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Management. While at Pitt, her research utilized quasi-experimental methods to study the impact of insurance benefit design and cost-sharing in health care programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. Alexandra received a federally funded R36 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for her dissertation research, which examined health insurance affordability and access to care for older adults. She also worked on Medicare prescription drug policy implementation as Summer Associate at RAND Corporation. Prior to starting graduate school, Alexandra worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury as a research analyst, where she developed statistical programming skills and gained an interest in applied research. Alexandra completed her undergraduate education at the University of Virginia.

Aidan Huene, PhD, is a Research Scientist I at BioAgilytix supporting drug development pipelines through developing and evaluating ADA (anti-drug antibody) and PK (pharmacokinetic) assays. BioAgilytix is a Contract Research Organization (CRO) that specializes in ADA and PK assays, but also supports drug development of both small and large molecules through cell-based assays, flow cytometry, mass spectrometry, and molecular assays. BioAgilytix assists clients at any stage of the drug development pipeline, but is equipped to assist and guide clients through the regulatory process from early development through clinical stages to drug approval. She interfaces with her team's client to discuss and evaluate assay development strategies for numerous active drug programs. Aidan graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a PhD in Integrative Systems Biology in 2021. Her research focused on the protein-protein interactions of a large protein family from a colonial cnidarian which functioned as the systems allorecognition (self/non-self recognition). During her PhD, Aidan also researched the cryopreservation of germplasm through an internship in conjunction with Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, LA. Following graduation, Aidan returned to finish the internship project before starting her job at BioAgilytix in July of 2022.

Karen Schmidt, PhD, is Senior Manager, Pharmacovigilance Research and Planning at BeiGene USA, Inc. She supports the Chief of Staff for the Global Patient Safety Department. In this role, she provides business intelligence and insights for The Chief Safety Office and Global Patient Safety leadership team. Karen's doctoral research program in Anthropology involved assessing similarities in nonverbal communication across cultures and in the context of mental illness or physical disability. Specifically, she was interested in the universal nature of eyebrow raises and smiles, studying what changes illness produced in these ubiquitous facial signals. Following a faculty position at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she spent a decade at the University of Pittsburgh as a grant-funded postdoctoral fellow and research assistant professor. She then transitioned into a new role as a research administrator, also at the University of Pittsburgh (CTSI). For several years Karen led the RCR Center which provided in person training in Research Ethics, Project Management, and Research Fundamentals. In the early days of the pandemic, she departed Pitt for position as Project Manager at NSABP Foundation, which is a local non-profit academic research organization that conducts oncology clinical trials. From that role, she moved into the pharmaceutical industry and joined BeiGene, where she currently works in a fulltime remote capacity. As a secondary role, Karen serves as an Adjunct Professor in Pitt's School of Engineering, teaching graduate Bioengineering Ethics.

Madeline Schwarz, PhD, is a Scientist at the pharmaceutical company Galapagos. She earned her PhD in 2023 from the Department of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh. Her work was completed in Dr. Amy Hartman's laboratory in the Center for Vaccine Research (CVR). Her doctoral thesis focused on studying the pathogenesis of zoonotic bunyaviruses in the BSL-3 containment facility. Following her graduation she began working at Galapagos on cellular therapies for solid tumor cancers. The transition from studying how disease develops to how to cure it has allowed her to appreciate biological science from concept to clinic. Her work at Galapagos consists of antibody discovery and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell development.

Kien Tran, PhD, is a stem cell scientist with a career dedicated to advancing treatments for infertility through innovative research. With a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics and Developmental

Biology from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Kien has built a strong foundation in regenerative medicine. At the University of Pittsburgh, Kien focused on using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to treat male infertility and developed a novel culture system to support germ cell development in non-human primate testicular tissues, earning the American Society for Reproductive Medicine's Young Investigator Award in 2018. Currently, Kien works at Cellino as a Stem Cell Scientist, where her expertise in stem cell biology, cell reprogramming, and gene editing is driving the development of automated technologies to revolutionize iPSC production. In her role, Kien not only contributes deep scientific knowledge but also plays a critical part in bridging advanced laboratory techniques with industry demands for large-scale production. Her work at Cellino underscores a commitment to innovation and efficiency, with the goal of making regenerative medicine solutions more practical and impactful. By combining automation with precision in technologies like CRISPR/Cas9 for gene correction and tissue-specific differentiation, Kien is helping to set new standards in the field, addressing complex health challenges and creating opportunities for transformative therapeutic applications.

Daisy Zhu, PharmD, PhD, is the Associate Director of Clinical Pharmacology at Pfizer, Inc. She earned her PharmD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2017, and then pursued a PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy in 2021. Her dissertation research was focused on optimizing drug dosing for tacrolimus using a precision dosing model in bone marrow transplant recipients. As part of Daisy's graduate training, she was also the first non-MD trainee to be selected for the T32 Hematology post-doctoral fellowship, where Daisy completed 2 research projects focusing on hematological conditions. Upon graduation in 2021, she joined Pfizer, Inc as a Clinical Pharmacology Lead for assets in immunology & inflammation. Daisy continues to marry clinical experiences with scientific knowledge, striving to deliver the right at the right dose to the right patient at the right time. Besides work, Daisy enjoys a good hike with her husband and their Siberian husky.



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