



Biotech, Pharma and Healthcare Career Pathways

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021, 4:30pm to 5:30pm

PANELISTS



Dr. Sydney Lavoie, GSAS '19 completed her B.S. degree in biotechnology at the Rochester Institute of Technology. In 2010, she moved to Boston to work as a research technician in Dr. [Michael Carroll's lab](#) where she conducted research on ischemia reperfusion injury in mice using two-photon imaging. Sydney completed her Ph.D. in immunology with [Dr. Wendy Garrett](#) at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Sydney's graduate research focused on the effect of a Crohn's disease polymorphism (*ATG16L1* T300A) on the gut microbiota and the immune system in mice as well as the role of the short-chain fatty acid receptor, *Ffar2*, in regulating dendritic cells and CD8⁺ T cells in colon cancer pathogenesis. Since graduating in 2019, Sydney has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at [Pfizer](#) in [the Inflammation and Immunology Research Unit](#) focusing on the role of the microbiome in response to immunotherapy in inflammatory bowel disease.



Dr. Surge Biswas, GSAS '20 is co-founder and CEO at [Nabla Bio](#), a recent spin-out from [George Church's lab](#) at Harvard. Nabla uses cutting-edge machine learning to design novel protein therapeutics, food ingredients, and enzymes for biomanufacturing. Surge obtained his PhD from the Church lab where he developed early versions of Nabla's core platform. He loves synthetic biology, and in his free time enjoys hanging out with his wife and dog.



Peony Banik, HES '20, recently completed her [Masters in Bioengineering and Nanotechnology](#) in which her thesis focused on CYP inducibility and inflammatory response via cytokine release in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. While completing her master's degree, she conducted research at Massachusetts General Hospital at the [Center for Engineering in Medicine](#). Her research focused on the isolation of liver cells for in vitro elucidation of fatty liver diseases, liver cryopreservation, and drug metabolism. Previously, she completed her bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and minor in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Rochester. She is currently working at [Janssen Pharmaceuticals of Johnson and Johnson](#) in San Diego in neuroscience drug discovery for neuropsychiatric disorders.

Biotech, Pharma and Healthcare Career Pathways

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021, 4:30pm to 5:30pm



Danielle Wall AB Neurobiology '15. Danielle began her career in the biotech industry as a clinical research associate at [Halo Neuroscience](#), a San Francisco-based startup creating brain stimulation headsets to improve athletic performance. She then shifted her focus to academic research, working as a clinical research coordinator at [Stanford's Pediatric Mood Disorders Program](#), where she managed a study investigating the link between pediatric depression and obesity. Now she works at [Gilead Sciences](#) in the Clinical Operations department where she manages clinical trials in inflammatory diseases, including chronic hives, non-alcoholic liver disease (NASH), and the orphan disease primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC). She is also a part of Gilead's tech and innovation team, where she is working on a project to set up decentralized, direct-to-patient clinical trials and educate the company on opportunities for innovation within pharmaceutical research. Danielle is passionate about health and wellness and promoting

innovation within the healthcare industry. She works remotely and lives outside Atlanta, GA, where she enjoys exploring the Appalachian mountains, discovering local farmer's markets, and getting involved in Atlanta's bustling film industry.



Dr. Sergine Brutus (GSAS) '20 is a recent graduate of the Biological Sciences in Public Health program where she studied in Timothy [Mitchison's Lab](#) and the [Laboratory of Systems Pharmacology](#). She is currently a Scientific Program Manager at [PathAI](#), a biotech startup that develops AI-based digital pathology technologies with the core goal of improving patient outcomes..