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2019 Scientist Mentoring & Diversity Program for biotechnology (SMDP Biotech)

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Training Session

June 1-5, 2019 in Philadelphia, PA

about the program **who attends:** the one-year career mentoring program pairs ethnically diverse post-baccalaureate students, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers with industry mentors who work at biotechnology and consumer healthcare companies.

With their mentors, SMDP Biotech Scholars attend a 5-day training session to learn about career opportunities in industry and receive career coaching. SMDP Scholars and Mentors also attend The BIO International Convention.

how to dress, what to bring: business attire with comfortable shoes. Scholars, bring 100 business cards and 10 copies of your resume. Mentors will need business cards too.

where to go:

Host Hotel

Mentors you will arrange your own accommodation

Scholars a shared room reservation has already been made for you at this location:

[Philadelphia 201, 201 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103](#)

“Celebration of Mentoring & Diversity” reception

(Saturday, June 1st at 6pm)

Scholars and **Mentors** you're already on the guest list

[The Pyramid Club, 1735 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103](#)

SMDP training session day 1

the bus leaves the host hotel at 6:30am

Scholars you will be introduced to your

Mentors at the training session

[J&J Consumer, 199 Grandview Road, Skillman, NJ 08558 \(South Bldg. SK1912\)](#)

SMDP training session day 2

the bus leaves the host hotel at 7am

[Janssen R&D, 1400 Mckean Road, Springhouse, PA 19477 \(Bldg. 31\)](#)

Informal dinner

Scholars and **Mentors** you're already on the guest list, we

leave J&J Consumer at 5:15pm

[Ladder 15, 1528 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)

Reading Terminal Market

The bus leaves from the SMDP training session at 11:30am

[Corner of North 12th Street and Arch Street \(\\$10 will be provided\)](#)

The BIO Intl Convention registration information will be provided during the SMDP training session.

[Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107](#)

SMDP IS SPONSORED BY



to a role as the Compound Development Team Leader / Portfolio Leader, within the Established Product Group at Janssen, within the Global Medical Organization, with oversight for the Central Nervous System Established Products therapeutic area products including Concerta®, Topamax®, and Ris Consta® and continues in that role today.



Jennie Stevenson, PhD, Executive Director Process Development, Amgen

Jennie Stevenson is currently an Executive Director leading the Final Product Technologies Design & Development group at Amgen Inc. In this role she is responsible for all new and major lifecycle management of final product development. Jennie has held positions of increasing responsibility throughout her career at Amgen Inc, including leading the Pivotal Drug Product Technologies group and Process Engineering group. Jennie has partnered closely with development teams and the clinical and commercial drug product sites throughout her twelve years at Amgen. Prior to joining Amgen, Jennie worked for over two years in a medical device company, working on implantable insulin pumps.

Jennie received her Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles and her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of California, San Diego.



Richard Smith, PhD, Director, Preclinical, Amgen

Originally from the United Kingdom, Richard obtained his BA in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge and his PhD in Virology from the University of Glasgow. He then moved to California to pursue postdoctoral research at Stanford University. Richard's research focused on target discovery in tumor angiogenesis. Richard transitioned to industry in 2005 when he joined Avidia Inc., a start-up focused on the development on a novel protein scaffold, the Avimer, as a member of the assay development team. In late 2006 Avidia was acquired by Amgen. Since then Richard has held several positions, including leading the

Protein Technologies group in South San Francisco, focused on developing and delivering recombinant protein reagents to support Amgen's early pipeline. He currently is a Director, Preclinical with the Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism group, applying his experience in protein engineering to understanding the behavior of large molecule therapeutics in vivo.



Reginald Valdez, PhD, Principal Pathologist, Amgen

Reginald Valdez is a board-certified veterinary pathologist, and Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), with over seventeen years of professional experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. In his current position at Amgen, Reginald serves on drug development teams as a Project Team Representative (PTR) for the Department of Comparative Biology and Safety Sciences (CBSS). In previous roles at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research and at Pfizer Global Research and Development, Reginald provided strategic scientific leadership and pathology-related research and development support to program teams involved in

drug discovery and development functions across multiple therapeutic areas worldwide.

Reginald, a native of the state of Colorado, received his undergraduate training in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado Boulder, and earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree from Colorado State University. He also earned a Master degree in parasitology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a PhD in immunology from Washington State University. He currently serves on the Editorial Board of Toxicologic Pathology, the official journal of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology, the British Society of Toxicological Pathologists and the European Society of Toxicologic Pathology.



Behin Yektashenas, PharmD, Director, Janssen Medical Affairs

Behin Yektashenas, PharmD, is a Director within US Medical Affairs at Janssen Pharmaceuticals. She leads the cardiovascular Integrated Evidence Team (IET) where she has successfully built and managed the first, large, cross functional team responsible for optimizing the clinical development & commercialization support of the drug XARELTO in the US. Prior to this role, Behin served as a scientific publication & communications expert leading strategic global scientific analyses & publication plans, life-cycle management & launch readiness execution across a variety of therapeutic areas, culminating in 17 years pharmaceutical industry experience.

Behin earned both her Bachelor of Science and Doctorate of Pharmaceutical Science degrees from Rutgers University and subsequently completed a post-doctoral fellowship in US Medical Affairs – Infectious Disease through Rutgers University and Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Behin lives in New Jersey with her husband John where she enjoys cooking, being outdoors and travelling.



Notes
