



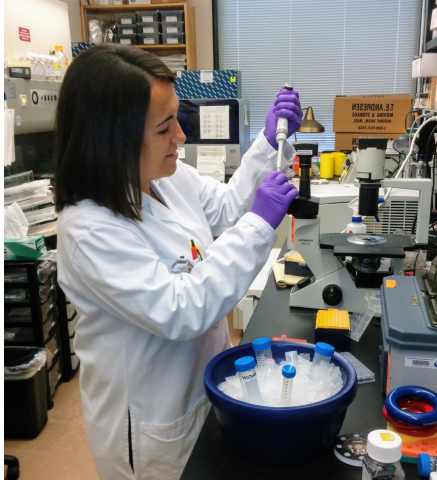
Staff Scientist Webinar

Laura Contreras-Ruiz, Ph.D.
Staff Scientist

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, MA

May 20th, 2019

Introduction: Career trayjectory



Laura Contreras-Ruiz, Ph.D.

Ph.D. in Visual Sciences

✓ *University of Valladolid, Spain*

Internship in Industry

✓ *Allergan Inc., US*

Postdoctoral Fellowship

✓ *Schepens Eye Research Institute / Harvard Medical School*
✓ *Boston Unniversity School of Medicine*

... ??

Staff Scientist... What?



- ✓ *Bench Work*
- ✓ *Teaching/Mentoring*
- ✓ *Academic Environment*



- ✓ *Looking for funding*
- ✓ *Administrative tasks*
- ✓ *Person in charge?*

Staff Scientist... What?



- ✓ Bench Work
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- Eva Guinan – Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- Overqualified !!
- What about a Staff Scientist Position?



DANA-FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE

Staff Scientist... What?

A staff scientist is a Ph.D. who wants to keep doing bench research in academia but do not want to become a principal investigator.

- Highly-trained, non-tenure researchers focused on research.*
- Permanent position (stability)*
- Better-paid & benefits*
- Academic environment (flexibility)*
- Mentoring/Teaching opportunities*
- Career development opportunities*
- Supportive environment*



What does a Staff Scientist do?

- ✓ **The Lab project**
Pre-clinical studies for a new cell immunotherapy in organ transplantation
- ✓ **Independent research project**
Scientific freedom, highly-risk projects, no pressure, ...
- ✓ **Mentoring junior lab members**
Postdocs, technicians
- ✓ **Day to day lab interactions**
Make sure than the lab runs smoothly
- ✓ **Support on lab management**
Collaborations, Interviews, lab organization, budgets, ...

Staff Scientist: A win-win

Lab

- ✓ *Technical expertise*
- ✓ *Rigorous & thorough research*
- ✓ *Scientific creativity/New ideas*
- ✓ *Mentoring junior lab members*
- ✓ *Continuity*
- ✓ *Lab runs smoothly*
- ✓ *Productivity*

Staff Scientist

- ✓ *Career development:*
 - *Translational/Clinical Research*
 - *New techniques*
 - *Management skills*
- ✓ *Mentoring / Teaching*
- ✓ *Network*
 - *Collaboration*
 - *Academia/Industry*

Definitely good... but not perfect

X For many academic researchers, the costs of hiring staff scientists are unsustainable

X How do staff scientists fund their independent research projects?

X Stigma against the role of staff scientist

What is next? ...

**Staff
Scientist**

Industry

**- College -
Teaching/
Research**

**Academia
Faculty**





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