THE COMMITTEE FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

A COLLABORATIVE GROUP PROMOTING THE CAREERS AND DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS AND FELLOWS.

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BACKGROUND: While the unemployment rate for those receiving biomedical PhDs remains low, it has become clear that most graduates find jobs outside of academia. The reality is that recent graduates are not sufficiently exposed to the different career paths available to them and lack the necessary career development skills to further their professional lives. Methods: To address these issues, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) founded a collaborative entity in 1996 known as “The Committee for Career Development (CCD)” to promote the interactive efforts and innovative partnerships of students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and GSBS dean. The CCD is focused on equipping graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with the knowledge and expertise to successfully pursue the variety of careers available to them. The CCD organizes a wide variety of seminars and workshops which target life skills (i.e., financial planning, dual career families, etc.), as well as specific needs for career advancement, such as CV and resume writing, interviewing and negotiating, portfolio building, and networking skills. The CCD hosts additional events that give its members opportunities to interact with alumni and other outside experts from diverse careers. This allows students and fellows to receive expert advice related to their potential career paths while forging new connections and promoting their networking skills. Results: This past year, the CCD has emerged as one of the most active and well recognized entities on our campus. Students and fellows have been very responsive, as evidenced by high attendance of approximately 80-90 people per event, which demonstrates the strong need for career guidance among this population. Conclusion: The CCD has grown into one of the most resourceful and innovative committees at The University of Texas Medical Branch, attracting students from the GSBS and from the Medical, Nursing and Health Profession Schools. This work is supported by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

PURPOSE: Our goal is to equip graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with the knowledge and expertise to successfully pursue career opportunities to further their professional lives.

EVENTS HOSTED BY THE CCD

• Finding your career paths (March 18, 2013)
• CV/Resumé Workshop (March 25, 2013)
• Interviewing Skills (July 9, 2013)
• CV to Industry Resume (August 1, 2013)
• Cover Letters (Fall 2013)
• Networking Skills (Fall 2013)
• Negotiating Skills (Spring 2014)
• Business Cards (Available upon request)
• Creating your Portfolio (TBD)
• Grant Writing Skills (TBD)
• Teaching Skills (TBD)

Abstract

Collaborative Group

Results

Contact Information

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Collaborative Group

Students

Social Skills
Career Options
Business Essentials
Life Skills
Teaching Skills
Grant Writing Skills
Networking

Alumni

Faculty

Deans

Postdocs

CCD Website

http://gsbs.utmb.edu/ccd/

Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Feedback

• Finding your career paths (March 18, 2013)
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• Finding your career niche was very beneficial in gaining a clear understanding of the various career options available to us in accordance with our education, experience, and personal goals.” GSBS Student.

• “I think the CCD is very timely and needed for all those pursuing a professional career in the biomedical sciences.” Charity, S, PREP Student.

• “Finding your career niche” program was very informative giving different avenues and opportunities.” Blossom, C, Postdoctoral Fellow.

Event Number of Participants

Finding Your Career Niche 76
CV/Resumé Workshop 62
Interviewing Skills 76
CV to Industry Resume 89

Average participation is approximately 35% of student and postdoctoral fellow population.

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