• When was the CCD formed?
The Committee for Career Development was founded in 1996.

• What factors led to the development of this committee?
The CCD was created to address recent graduates’ lack of preparedness and career development skills needed to secure jobs. The CCD focused on equipping graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with the knowledge and expertise to successfully pursue the variety of careers available to them in the professional field.

• How often does CCD meet?
The committee meets every 3rd Monday of the month from 12-1pm in 4.438 Levin Hall, Dean’s Conference Room.

• Discuss the structure of the CCD committee.
The CCD is a very collaborative group which is composed of deans, faculty, postdocs and students at UTMB. The deans and faculty serve as advisory members to the CCD whereas the postdocs and students serve as officers or active members of the committee. The CCD promotes the interactive efforts and innovative partnerships of students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and GSBS deans. Below is an organizational chart depicting what we believe the CCD encompasses.
What are the goals and objectives of the CCD?
The goal of the CCD is to expose students and postdocs to career opportunities and help them acquire the skills needed to further their professional lives. 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.

Talk about the success of the March 18, 2013 event that featured 5 GSBS alumni and other events—was it valuable to have the alumni on the discussion panel discussing their varied career paths?

This past year, the Committee for Career Development (CCD) has emerged as one of the most active and well recognized entities on the UTMB campus. The CCD organized a wide variety of seminars and workshops targeted at improving life skills as well as specific needs for career advancement, such as CV and resume writing, interviewing skills, and career opportunities. In 2013, the CCD organized several events which were attended by over 350 students and postdoctoral fellows.

- In March 2013, the CCD hosted a “Finding your Career” seminar which featured 5 UTMB alumni from diverse background who shared their experiences and career paths with students and postdocs. The goal was to make the students and postdocs aware of the various career opportunities available to them with a degree in science. The alumni each presented a brief presentation on various careers paths and potential jobs in the healthcare, consulting, and administrative, industry and education field and served on a Q&A panel for the audience.
- The following week, the CCD hosted a “CVs and Resumes” seminar with guest speakers Dr. Darrell Carney, CEO of Chrysalis Biotherapeutics, Inc. and Mrs. Teresa Nangle, Director of Talent Acquisition and Retention in the Human Resources at UTMB. Students and Postdocs were given
tips and insights on what companies and employers look for in a CV/Resume, in addition to an in depth overview of the selection process through HR.

- **In July 2013**, the CCD hosted an “Interviewing Skills” seminar with guest speaker Dr. Kevin Wooten, professor of management and human resources at the University of Houston Clear Lake. This event combined both a lecture and interactive interviewing exercises which allowed students and postdocs to develop and strengthen their interviewing skills.

- **In August 2013**, the CCD hosted a “CV to Industry Resume” seminar by Dr. Charlotte Mitchell, a scientific recruiter at the National Association of Personnel Services. This event attracted approximately 100 students/postdocs and provided them with the skills required to prepare a professional and eye-catching resume tailored for corporate jobs.

- **In early September 2013**, the CCD organized a small interactive meeting with Dr. Avindra Nath, Clinical Director at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health. Students and postdocs had the opportunity to converse with Dr. Nath about their future career aspirations and received guidance and insight into the workings of the National Institutes of Health and the necessary steps to acquire a government position.

- **In later September 2013**, the CCD presented a poster at the 2013 GREAT Group Annual Professional Development Meeting in Atlanta, GA. The poster was entitled “The Committee for Career Development: A collaborative group promoting the careers and development of Students and Fellows.” The goal was to emphasize how the CCD combines the interactive efforts and innovative partnerships of students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and GSBS deans at UTMB.

These events were very successful as can be seen by the positive feedback the CCD has received from students and postdoctoral fellows.

- “The CCD is providing a commendable service towards career planning and preparation for students and postdocs at UTMB by encouraging interaction between students, alumni, faculty, and staff.” Thangam. V. Postdoctoral Fellow.

- “The workshop ‘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.
What is the average attendance at the workshops?
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. 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.

Discuss the CCDs efforts to identify careers outside of the academic/medical fields?
It is a very collaborative effort which combines information and recommendations received from the GSBS Associates Executive Committee, the Office of Postgraduate Affairs and active UTMB alumni. Deans, faculty, postdoctoral Fellows and students also share their acquired knowledge and provide us with personal connections for potential job opportunities and speakers for our seminars. This, in turn, expands our network and allows us to provide students and postdocs with the most accurate and up to date career opportunities. The feedback and positive responses this past year has made the CCD a well-recognized committee on campus. The UTMB community has increased interest in the CCD and has commended the committee for their leadership in guiding students and postdocs towards a successful career path. The UTMB community has become more involved in helping the CCD to grow and expand its networking community.

What can GSBS alumni do to help the CCD with its ongoing efforts?
Our alumni are valuable resources and advisors for our students and postdoctoral fellows. Their support and active participation is very important to our students’ and postdocs’ success. Alumni can help by providing us with insight into their current fields as far as required training for specific jobs; leads for new job opportunities, and/or helping us build connections to broaden our network community so that the CCD can better assist our students and postdoctoral fellows.

What are the CCD’s upcoming events?
The CCD is currently planning additional events for fall 2013 and spring 2014. Some of which include:

- A presentation by Dr. Steve Green, a UTMB alumnus and toxicologist at Eastman Chemical Company. The seminar will focus on job hunting, CV preparation, and interviews and will include a short Q&A session.
- Community service involvement, such as the Halloween Carnival for children in partnership with the Student Government Association at UTMB.
- A panel of Army, Navy, and Marine officers who will present a seminar describing the available job opportunities for scientific PhDs in their respective branches. This event will give insight to students and postdocs on possible non-combat alternative careers in the U.S. Military.
- A presentation by Dr. Martin Wasserman, UTMB alumnus, focusing on job opportunities in Pharmaceutical companies and providing insight on building networking skills.

Scheduling for these events is still to be determined.

For additional information about the CCD, please contact Dr. Carla Kantara at cakantar@utmb.edu.