

CAREER PANEL - BRANCHING OUT FROM ACADEMIA

TIME: 11.30 – 12.30

LOCATION: BANQUETING HALL

In this session, you will have a chance to interact with professionals, spanning a range of different scientific careers, discussing their journey to their current profession. It is an opportunity to explore areas outside of academia, and the highs and lows of this career choice. It is an interactive session, where delegates are encouraged to ask questions and lead the discussion to what is most beneficial to them. Thanks to Dr Richy Hetherington, of Newcastle FMS Postgraduate development, who will be chairing this session.



**Dr Anna Stanton;
R&D Scientist, Leica
Biosystems**

I am a Scientist in R&D at Leica Biosystems and I have been working at Leica for about a year and a half. We develop antibodies for clinical diagnosis of cancer by immunohistochemistry on formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue sections (from patient biopsies) on our automated staining platform – the BOND. The stained slides are analysed by a Pathologist to determine if a patient has cancer and what type of cancer it is.

Currently I am working as the Cell Line Lead of a project, working in a small team to develop a cell line control for a new immunohistochemical in vitro diagnostic assay. My role involves identifying, optimising, testing and verifying the cell line control to make sure it is robust and gives reproducible results. In addition to lab work, my role also involves writing documents (product specifications, test plans, reports etc) to record the design process, adhering to design control and quality control procedures, and ensuring project deadlines are met. The work varies as you move

through different stages of a project and a lot more than the obvious lab testing goes into releasing a product – I am currently testing if our product packaging and labelling can withstand being handled and dropped!



**Dr Richard
Berks, Freelance
Science Writer
for Charities**

Richard Berks is a freelance science writer for medical research charities. After

completing a degree at Durham University and a PhD at the University of York, he joined a breast cancer charity to communicate the research it funds with its supporters and people affected by the disease. Richard made the jump into freelancing in February 2018 after moving to Gateshead with his wife and young daughter. He'll be discussing science communication, working in the charity sector, and life as a freelancer.



**Dr Stephanie Carr,
Trainee Patent
Attorney at
Definition IP**

I'm a Trainee Patent Attorney at Definition IP. I completed my BSc in Cell and Molecular Biology before completing my MRes and PhD in Neuromuscular

Diseases, all at Newcastle University. During my Ph.D. I worked at the Institute of Genetic Medicine studying the cardiac phenotype of a rare neuromuscular disease, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Throughout the last year of my PhD, I completed some work experience with Definition IP. I was awarded my PhD in December last year and began working at Definition IP in October, shortly after handing in my thesis.

My current role involves working closely with qualified attorneys to meet clients, draft patent applications and prepare and report official documents. I am also studying to sit exams which will enable me to qualify as a Chartered Patent Attorney in the UK. When eligible, I will also sit exams to qualify as a European Patent Attorney.



**Dr Neil Sim, Head of
New Projects, High
Force Research**

Neil joined High Force Research in 2014 following a highly successful PhD under the supervision of Prof. David Parker FRS at

Durham University, where he developed novel imaging probes for glutamate receptors. Initially joining the chemical R&D team at Bowburn, Neil quickly became more involved in all new projects at High Force, and in 2016 was appointed to lead the team at our research labs at NETPark. Neil's role involves the management of all aspects of work at the NETPark site as well as facilitating new academic partnerships and collaborations. He has expertise in multistep chemical synthesis across a range of sectors, with particular focus on Molecular Imaging and Diagnostics.