



2025 Career Expo

March 27, 2025 | 8:30am - 5:00pm | Center for BrainHealth - Dallas, TX

8:30am - 9:30am **Registration and Breakfast**

9:30am - 9:45am **Opening Remarks (15 minutes) (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)**

- **Oyinade Adefuye, PMP**, Director of Program Management, Solid Biosciences
- **Natalie Bell, PhD**, Postdoctoral Researcher, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Drew Strutevant, PhD**, Scientist, CAGE Bio

9:50am - 10:30am **Maximizing Your Career Potential: Networking, Resumes & LinkedIn (40 minutes) (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)**

Success in today's job market requires strong self-presentation. This session will provide practical tips for crafting standout resumes, optimizing LinkedIn profiles, and mastering networking. Additionally, you will learn how to build a personal brand that aligns with your career goals, effectively showcasing your skills and values across platforms and in interviews.

- **Adriana Almodova**, Program Coordinator, UT Southwestern Medical Center (moderator)
- **Leah Banks, PhD**, Director of the Graduate Career Development Office, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Cyonna Holmes, PhD**, Global Pharma Strategy Leader, Ophthalmology, Rare Diseases and RNA, Celanese
- **Andrew Klein, MBA**, Chief Revenue Officer, Spike Neuro

10:35am - 11:15am **Navigating the Current Job Market (40 minutes) (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)**

Navigating the evolving biotech landscape is essential for professionals facing job market challenges. In this session, industry leaders and recruiters will discuss trends, layoffs, and emerging opportunities. Attendees will gain practical insights and strategies to effectively approach today's job market and capitalize on new career prospects.

- **Andrew Dickhaut**, Director of Life Sciences, Catapult Solutions Group
- **Trey Putnam, PhD, RAC**, COO, Osteal Therapeutics

11:20am - 12:00pm **Concurrent Session (40 minutes)**

Session 1: Financial Wellness: Planning for the Future (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)

Navigating financial planning requires a solid understanding of retirement benefits, including 401(k) plans and other savings options. This session will provide valuable insights into how to make the most of your retirement savings, with strategies designed to help you maximize employer contributions, manage investment choices, and plan for long-term financial security.

- **Andrell Adams, CFP, CPWA**, Vice President, Financial Planning Director, Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management

Session 2: Navigating the Job Market as an International Student (Executive Training Room)

Finding a job as an international student can be challenging due to visa requirements, work authorization, and cultural differences. This session will explore strategies for overcoming these hurdles, including how to effectively network, leverage internships, and position yourself for success in the biotech industry. Learn practical tips for navigating the job application process and maximizing your opportunities.

- **Kristi Taylor, JD**, Partner, Fragomen
- **Paige Taylor, JD**, Partner, Fragomen

Session 3: Balancing Act: Managing Work-Life Integration (Hogland Training Room)

Balancing a career and parenting/caregiving can be tough, however with the right strategies, it is possible to thrive in both areas. This session will offer practical tips for managing work-life balance, setting boundaries, and staying organized while pursuing career goals. Learn from professionals who have successfully navigated this balancing act and find ways to achieve success without compromising well-being.

- **Oyinade Adefuye, PMP**, Director of Program Management, Solid Biosciences (moderator)
- **Christopher Edwards, Sr.**, Assistant Director, EDA – Biotech Grant, Dallas College
- **Lorena Saelices, PhD**, Co-Founder, AmyGo Solutions

12:05pm - 1:30pm **Lunch & Networking Break (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)**

1:35pm - 2:15pm **Concurrent Session (40 minutes)**

Session 1: AI and Automation: Future-Proofing Your Skills (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)

Discover how AI and automation are reshaping the biotech industry and learn how to adapt your skills to stay competitive in this evolving job market. This session will offer actionable insights on leveraging emerging technologies and ensuring long-term career relevance in a rapidly advancing field.

- **Pamela Dannheim**, Corporate Trainer, Catapult Solutions Group



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Session 2: Success and Challenges of Building a Biotech Startup (Executive Training Room)

Starting a biotech company comes with its unique set of opportunities and obstacles. This session will dive into the realities of building a startup, from securing funding and navigating regulatory hurdles to scaling innovations and managing risk. Hear firsthand experiences from entrepreneurs who have faced these challenges and find out what it takes to turn a vision into a successful biotech venture.

- **Vaibhav Bommareddy**, Co-Managing Director, Nucleate Texas (moderator)
- **Lauren D'Angelo, MBA**, COO, Alpha Cognition
- **Cara Forsberg, PhD**, Director of Commercialization & Business Development, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Rose Pedretti, PhD**, Co-Founder, AmyGo Solutions

Session 3: Building Careers Opportunities in Bio-Pharma Manufacturing (Hogland Training Room)

Explore the growing opportunities in North Texas' biopharma manufacturing sector and the factors driving innovation within our industry. This session will highlight key trends, challenges, and growth potential in regional biomanufacturing, offering valuable insights into how our sector is evolving and creating new opportunities for professionals in the field.

- **Jon Weidanz, PhD, MPH**, Senior Associate Vice President for Research, The University of Texas at Arlington
- **Joseph Payne**, President & COO, Scorpius BioManufacturing

2:20pm - 3:00pm

Maximizing Opportunities with Staffing Agencies (40 minutes) (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)

Partnering with a staffing agency can open doors, however it is important to approach the process strategically. This session will highlight key do's and don'ts, from how to communicate your needs clearly to avoiding common pitfalls. Gain insights on building a positive relationship with recruiters and making the most of staffing agency services to land the right job.

- **Taylor Culbertson**, Account Executive, Catapult Solutions Group
- **Andrew Dickhaut**, Director of Life Sciences, Catapult Solutions Group
- **Chris Lester**, Chief Sales Officer, Catapult Solutions Group

3:05pm - 3:45pm

Resilience & Triumph: Stories of Growth in Uncertain Times (40 minutes) (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)

Join a panel of biotech leaders as they share personal stories of overcoming career setbacks, adapting to the industry's uncertainties, and finding opportunities for growth. This session will explore how resilience plays a crucial role in navigating the evolving biotech landscape and turning challenges into pathways for success.

- **Drew Strutevant, PhD**, Scientist, CAGE Bio (moderator)
- **Lauren Adegoke, MS**, Member Engagement Facilitator, BioNTX
- **Michael Dugan, PhD**, Integrated Product Development Associate, Rho, Inc.
- **Saif Nirzhor, PhD**, Medical Science Liaison, Tempus AI
- **Carly Wilder, PhD, MS**, Business Development Manager, UT Southwestern Medical Center

3:50pm - 4:00pm

Closing Remarks (5 minutes) (AI G Hill Ellipse Room)

- **Oyinade Adefuye, PMP**, Director of Program Management, Solid Biosciences

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Employer Meet & Greet (1 hour) (Lobby)

Connect with biotech and healthcare innovation employers to explore job opportunities and understand the qualities they seek in candidates. This session provides the chance to build relationships with industry leaders, gain insights into company cultures, and discover potential career paths.

5:00pm

Adjourn