

TIBBS Career Blitz - January 2012

Career Profile of Academic Research Associate: Allison Schorzman, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

Clinical Pharmacology Research Associate, 7 months.

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

PhD in Chemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University

Did you do a postdoc?

Yes – at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

What are your main daily responsibilities?

Develop, validate and implement LC-MS/MS assays to measure chemotherapeutic drugs in blood and tissues
Data analysis/ writing reports
Meet with collaborators to discuss projects
Supervise and train graduate students in laboratory procedures
General lab management duties

What are the keys to success in your career field?

Good technical skills (bench position)
Time management (typically managing multiple projects)
People skills (there is a lot of interaction with collaborators)

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path?

Academic environment
To stay at the bench
Flexibility

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

Finding a job typically involves your network. Let your network know what you are looking for and when. Once you have gotten the word out, always have an updated CV ready to go.

Make sure your experience and skills (especially translational skills) match the career you pursue.