

TIBBS Career Blitz - January 2012

Career Profile of Technology Transfer Associate: Karthik Gopalakrishnan, PhD

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

Assoc Director – Duke Univ Office of Licensing & Ventures; 7 yrs.

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

TIFR in Mumbai (Bombay); Biochemistry

Did you do a postdoc?

YES – at NIEHS in the Triangle

What are your main daily responsibilities?

Evaluate inventions for patentability, deal with office actions and attorneys. Market technologies, negotiate licenses, help start up companies.

What are the keys to success in your career field?

Attention to detail, interest in science in general, people skills, ability to prioritize.

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

Continuing interest in science – so still wanted to be involved with some science related career. Being a part of the “translation to bedside” process, learning new skills, interacting with a diverse set of people

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

Try to get an internship so you know what you are getting into (its not for everybody). Get additional skills beyond a science degree (in this present day and market that’s becoming valuable), NETWORK constantly to get a foot in the door.