Summer Workshop

Careers in Toxicology

July 18 – July 20, 2012

Background: Toxicology stands out as the most multidisciplinary of the biomedical sciences. From its origins as a specialized area of pharmacology, toxicology as a scientific discipline has expanded greatly in its scope to include a wide variety of topics in the environmental, biomedical and basic sciences. The modern practice of toxicology spans a remarkably broad range of activities that reach far beyond the academic research setting where toxicologists receive their training. However, the exposure of toxicology trainees to career tracks outside of research is very limited, which in turn restricts their ability to make early career choices in order to adapt to emerging opportunities.

Aim: This workshop seeks to expose toxicology students and fellows to employment paths beyond traditional academic research settings. The primary goal is to increase their awareness of the broader training and skills that they need to develop in order to be competitive in different job markets upon completion of their training.

Scope: Lectures and round-table discussions will focus on the applications of toxicology in different settings, such as chemical and pharmaceutical industries, and regulatory agencies (EPA, FDA and OSHA). Leaders working in these applied fields across the US will provide insights on the scientific challenges of their chosen careers and the training and background required to address typical problems. In addition the faculty will provide personal perspectives on their own career paths.

Target Audience: This workshop is primarily intended for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in toxicology in the local university community. Space permitting, enrollment will be expanded to include interested students and trainees in related disciplines, such as pharmacology and environmental sciences, as well as to students seeking careers in public health and policy in areas where toxicology plays a critical role.