Scientific Careers in the Life Science and High-Technology Industries

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Bryce Nelson

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Lunch provided by



An advanced degree in chemistry enables an enormous variety of scientific career paths in industry, but these opportunities are not always evident to those pursuing a graduate degree. An industrial career for a Ph.D. scientist can include not only work in an R&D department, but can also include roles in marketing, manufacturing and operations, product management, business development, and sales. I will discuss my career journey starting with a small Madison start-up company and later moving to a highly diverse, global life science and high-technology company at the interface of life science and chemistry. The talk will include discussion of the skills and job titles involved in developing, manufacturing, supporting, and marketing products for research in life sciences, chemicals, and materials science. Experiences, opportunities, challenges, and career development paths available at both large and small companies will be discussed.

Biography

Bryce received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison working for Professor Robert M Corn, where he developed novel methods for the characterization of surface chemistry and bioconjugation. His thesis combined physical chemistry, materials science and bimolecular assay techniques for use in new bioimaging methods, contributing to the commercialization of a new label-free biomolecule detection instrument. After his Ph.D., he performed postdoctoral research in the Department of Plant Pathology in the laboratory of Robert Goodman. Bryce then helped to found a biotechnology company to develop and sell protein-array based products for life science research. He first served as Vice President of R&D and later as Vice President of Technology and Business Development. In 2011, Bryce joined the Sigma-Aldrich Materials Science division in Milwaukee, WI as a Senior Technology Transfer Manager and in 2013 became head of Materials Science Product Management and R&D. After the acquisition of Sigma-Aldrich by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Bryce became the global head of the Materials Science franchise for MilliporeSigma.