

Women In Science Scholars Program Spring Conference - Friday, March 2, 2018

Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club

Marilyn Foote-Hudson, executive director of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, welcomed attendees to the Women in Science Scholars Program spring conference.

She reported that the Foundation's annual report would be released later this month and will highlight the accomplishments of 2017, including the awarding of new Traditional Grants, Ribbon of Hope Grants and continued strong support for the Child Health Recognition Awards program, which recognizes public health professionals for bettering the lives of children, and the Women in Science Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to students studying science and provides mentors to help guide them.



The annual report will be available online at ncgskfoundation.org.

She recognized the volunteer mentors, faculty advisors present, and congratulated scholars who are graduating this spring and introduced the keynote speaker, Marty St. Clair, clinical virologist for ViiV Healthcare.

Marty St. Clair, "Thirty-Four Years of HIV Drug Development". Marty St. Clair has spent much of her scientific career at GSK, and was instrumental in discovering the anti-HIV activity of AZT, the first drug approved for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. She traced the development of HIV/AIDS research since the disease was first reported as pneumocystis pneumonia in 1981 and took on urgency as the number of deaths associated with it rose quickly (it had an extremely high—nearly 50 percent—fatality rate). She explained the HIV retrovirus, and how the infection progresses in the human body.



In 1984, Dr. St. Clair worked for Burroughs Wellcome (now GSK), screening compounds for anti-HIV activity, and in November of that year, discovered the anti-HIV activity of AZT. By July, 1985—just eight months later—the Phase I Safety Study began and researchers learned that AZT was well tolerated in patients and crossed the blood/brain barrier. She further explained the research and discovery process. When she presented her discovery along with

collaborators in the fall of 1985, interest was so intense that they filled a basketball stadium in Minneapolis, and it was standing room only!

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave AZT top priority status, and on March 19, 1987, the FDA approved AZT for use in HIV-positive people—just 2½ years after the discovery was made in the lab. This is, she noted, a very fast track for drug development and approval.

She said researchers continued exploring several aspects of the disease treatment, such as considering whether one drug was enough, or were two or even three drugs needed? They also discussed whether drugs from different classes should be considered and whether resistance would be an issue.

Today, scientists have discovered that integrase inhibitors are most effective, and Dr. St. Clair spends her time in these drug discovery programs. She said it is exciting to continue working in this area, looking for ways to reduce the number of drugs that people take, which also reduces toxicity and cost.

Several times, she encouraged students to take opportunities in college that can be life-changing, such as research or lab work. She emphasized that they should not put off opportunities until graduation, that many choices they make now while in college can put them on life-altering paths. Marty also talked about her work as a volunteer, and on her farm working with llamas.



Scholars enjoyed their time at lunch getting to know the mentors at their tables, while faculty advisors talked with their colleagues.

Liz Nulton-Bodiford, MS; Manager, Pharmacovigilance Quality Assurance, GSK. The first afternoon speaker was Liz Nulton-Bodiford, manager of pharmacovigilance quality assurance in the GSK Global Quality Assurance area. Her job helps to ensure patient safety and protection as she independently plans, leads and conducts assessments to assure compliance with GSK policies, procedures and applicable local regulations. She has conducted audits in five of the six continents which sell GSK products, including South America, North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. She also shared the background of GSK, a history that is over 300 years old.



She described her career path—while earning her master’s degree, she and her husband were thrilled but surprised to find out she was pregnant and she didn’t know how she was going to manage it all—and told scholars that she figured out how to balance family and career and they can, too. She talked about how her course work at Campbell University provided important hands-on clinical work.

Her tips:

- Stretch yourself!
- Be open to new activities. Sign up for them.
- Her first international trip helped her learn about new cultures, meet new people, and sparked a lifelong interest in international travel.
- Consider volunteer work, she volunteers with the Science in Schools program and loves it.
- Network, network, network!



Ms. Nulton-Bodiford is an adjunct professor at Campbell, teaching pharmaceutical compliance and quality assurance in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as part of the master of science in clinical research curriculum. She also volunteers as publicity chair for the North Carolina Chapter of the Society of Quality Assurance.

Renee Wooten, University Recruitment Account Manager at GSK. Renee Wooten talked to scholars about internships and other opportunities to gain experience and learn more about various aspects of science careers. She told scholars that they should be looking now for internships and hope they have attended spring work fairs or career fairs, including attending some at other universities.

Other tips:

- Think outside the box about who’s hiring? Currently, look at biotech, pharmaceutical, the food industry, cosmetics, U.S. government, and universities.
- Go to job fairs, visit your school’s career services center, leverage university contacts like professors and key advisors, join professional student groups and organizations.
- She strongly suggested online resources such as LinkedIn (“connect with me on LinkedIn; I always accept and I always respond!”) and Indeed, a company that provides job listings and allows you to set filters to find what you need.
- Be flexible with locations you are willing to work, whether you’re looking for an internship or full-time job.
- Read the job description and apply **often!** “Apply and interview until someone gives you a job. Get to where you want to go.”

- Build your resume: get research experience (do you know your way around a lab?), classroom experience, work study, case studies, job shadowing/externs, volunteer and extracurricular activities all look good on a resume.
- You should be looking for full-time jobs this year for 2019. She said students starting with GSK this summer had job offers by last Thanksgiving, so get out there early if you are a rising senior. Start your job search at least a semester in advance.
- Accept invitations (info sessions, site visits, webinars).
- Gather a list of references and get their approval to use their names.
- Polish your resume and practice interviewing.
- Research the company and their hiring practices. To do research, hit Glassdoor, LinkedIn, leverage your contacts to get insights from people who work there. And Google! (i.e., Google “interview with GSK and you’ll be surprised at what you can learn”) so take a moment and Google interview techniques. Get prepared before you go.
- Know your goals and passions and then pursue them.



She explained ***GSK’s Future Leaders Program*** and the application process. She encouraged all scholars to reach out to her because if GSK doesn’t have an opportunity for them, she will share information she learns about other companies.

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Internships: <http://us.gsk.com/en-us/careers/internships-and-co-ops/>

Future Leaders entry level: <http://us.gsk.com/en-us/careers/undergraduates>

As a University Recruitment Account Manager at GSK, Renee is responsible for developing and implementing recruiting strategies for the company’s early talent program. She has more than 25 years of Human Resources experience, including in the Healthcare, Finance and IT industries. Her career focus has been on college and diversity recruitment.

Marilyn Foote-Hudson wrapped up the spring conference by thanking all of the speakers and wishing the scholars well in finishing up the school year.

SAVE THE DATE for the Women in Science Annual Meeting on **Monday, October 1, 2018**. Details will be sent closer to the date. For more information contact Dawn Lloyd at Dawn.L.Lloyd@gsk.com.