

Junior careers in Academia

Discussion leaders

Room 315.1

Natacha Turck
OPTICS group
University of Geneva

Dr. Natacha Turck is the group leader of the OPTICS group at the Faculty of Medicine in Geneva (Switzerland). After a PhD in Life sciences at the Louis Pasteur University (Strasbourg, France), she joined the Translational Biomarker Group (head: Prof. JC Sanchez) in the Faculty of Medicine in Geneva, as post-doctoral researcher in 2005. Her independent team is now focused on the exploration of human ocular fluids (mainly tears) as potential source of biomarkers for a variety of human ocular and systemic disorders. Beside sciences, she has also institutional and teaching responsibilities in the Faculty of Medicine but also internationally. Natacha will focus on topics related to work/life balance and dual career couples



Melanie Blokesch
School of Life Sciences
EPF Lausanne

Melanie Blokesch holds a PhD degree from the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich (Germany). From 2005 to 2009 she worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of Stanford University (USA). In 2009 Melanie was appointed as tenure-track assistant professor within the School of Life Sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. There, she is currently leading the Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology. Among other awards and grants, Melanie has been honored with the Prize for Junior Scientists of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in 2005, an ERC Starting Grant in 2012, the Research Award by the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (Germany) in 2015 and the EPFL teaching award "Polysphère" for best teacher in the School of Life Sciences (academic year 2014-2015). Melanie will focus on questions concerning applications for fellowships and going abroad



Ekaterina Rostova
PhD student EPFL
Laboratory of Physics of Living Matter



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Luis Lopez-Molina
University of Geneva

Luis Lopez-Molina is an associate professor in the department of Botany and Plant Biology of the University of Geneva. Luis will discuss the next step in your career in Academia with you.

Urs Albrecht
University of Fribourg

Urs Albrecht started his scientific career at the University of Zürich by graduating in the department of Biochemistry. He finished his PhD in 1993 at the University of Bern and continued with a postdoc at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, USA. Here, he was nominated assistant professor in 1998, but moved back to Switzerland 3 years later where he became associate professor at the University of Fribourg. Urs will discuss the next step in your career in Academia with you.



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Dominique Soldati-Favre
Department of Microbiology and Molecular Medicine
University of Geneva

Dominique Soldati-Favre obtained her PhD degree at the University of Zürich in 1990. She was then a postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, Assistant Professor at the University of Heidelberg and Reader at Imperial College London. In Geneva, she was appointed Associate Professor in 2004 at the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Medicine, then full Professor in 2010. Dominique Soldati-Favre is Vice-Dean of the Faculty since 2011. Dominique will focus on career development after Phd/postdoc.

Monica Gotta
Department of Cell Physiology and Metabolism
University of Geneva

Monica Gotta did her undergraduate studies in Turin, Italy. She then moved to Switzerland and performed her doctoral studies on chromatin organization in the laboratory of Susan Gasser at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC). She received her PhD from the University of Lausanne in 1997. In 1998 she joined the group of Dr Julie Ahringer at the Wellcome CR/UK Gurdon Institute to study the mechanisms of cell polarization and mitotic spindle positioning during asymmetric cell division of the *C. elegans* embryo. In 2002 she went back to Switzerland as a SNF Assistant Professor at the Institute of Biochemistry, ETH, Zurich. In 2008 she became Associate Professor at the Medical Faculty of the University of Geneva. Monica will discuss any subject of your choice concerning senior academic careers.



Laurent Keller
Department of Ecology and Evolution
University of Lausanne



Laurent studied Biology at the University of Lausanne, continued with a PhD and his first postdoc at the University of Lausanne, followed by a 2 year postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard. He came back to Switzerland to do a START fellowship (Swiss Talents for Academic Research and Teaching) at the University of Lausanne, became associate professor in 1996. Since 2000 Full professor of Evolutionary Ecology and Head of the new Department of Ecology and Evolution. Laurent has received numerous awards for his research and is an EMBO member since 2010. Laurent will discuss your questions about a career in Academia and its obstacles with you.

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Ramesh Pillai
EMBL Grenoble
France

Ramesh graduated from the University of Bern in 2002. He continued research as a Postdoctoral fellow at the Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel. Since 2006, Ramesh has been appointed Group Leader at the EMBL in Grenoble. He received an ERC starting grant in 2010 and will give advise on how to develop a scientific career. Ramesh will also speak in the Molecular and Cellular Biosciences session on Monday 15th (Amphipôle A) at 10.30.

Patrick Viollier
Department of Microbiology and Molecular Medicine
University of Geneva

Patrick Viollier graduated in 1999 with a PhD in microbiology from the Biozentrum University of Basel (CH). After a four-year postdoctoral stage at the Stanford University School of Medicine (USA), he joined the Case Western Reserve University School (USA) of Medicine as assistant professor in 2004. In 2009 he was appointed associate professor in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Geneva. Patrick will give a presentation on his research on Monday 15th (Amphipôle C) at 10.30. Patrick will focus on how to apply for your next step in your career.



Non-academic careers in Science

Discussion leaders

Room 315

François Lombard
Department of Ecology and Evolution
University of Geneva

François Lombard is an educational researcher, lecturer in didactics at UniGE and a biology teacher. After research in life sciences (plant physiology and biophysics), he moved to teaching/teacher training. His research addressed the integration of Educational Technology into science teaching and major transformation of Bioscience research + teaching by IT, e.g. genomic databases and big data. After finishing his PhD in educational sciences, he studied the interactions between authenticity of resources, benefits of cooperative learning (study groups) and critical thinking. He also teaches in secondary schools, developed and participated in several (EU) projects to support science teachers understand published research (Experiment@l-Tremplins and Bio-Tremplins). François will focus on teaching Science at school.



Karl-Heinz Krause
University of Geneva

Karl Heinz Krause is Professor of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine & University Hospitals of Geneva, as well as honorary professor at the Beijing Hospital, China. He received his MD from the LMU (Munich) in 1982. He received clinical training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the Universities of Munich, Geneva and Iowa. Starting in 1984, he has been actively involved in inflammation research. Since 1998, he has focused his research further on mechanisms of aging and treatment of age-associated diseases. He is an elected member of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and the American Society for Clinical Investigation. Karl-Heinz will give you advise on how to create your own company.



Mathurin Baquie
Neurix SA
Geneva

Dr Mathurin Baquié manages Neurix SA, a Geneva-based start-up specialized in *in vitro* and *in vivo* applications of stem cell technology. Mathurin has studied biomedical sciences, biotech/medtech management and law at European and North American institutions.



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Thomas Marty
Berinfor
Lausanne



After a PhD in the Life Sciences, Thomas Marty conducted postdoctoral research at the University of New York and at the ETHZ. Following this experience in basic research, he was awarded a science policy fellowship to advise the Swiss Parliament. He then joined Swisscore, the Swiss Contact Office for Research in Brussels, as advisor for research; in parallel, he continued his education with an Executive Master of Business Administration. In 2010, he joined Berinfor SA, a consulting company specialised in Higher Education Management, where he is now Partner. Thomas will discuss options of non-academic careers.

Dr. Christophe Grundschober,
Neuroscience Discovery,

F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Basel



After his biochemistry PhD obtained in 1998 at the University of Geneva studying HLA-C histocompatibility in bone marrow transplant patients, Christophe joined Roche as a post-doc in the Neuroscience department. In 2002, he was hired as lab head and started a project on vasopressin antagonists for the treatment of psychiatric disorders. The compound he developed is now being tested in patients in Phase II studies. He is currently working on oxytocin agonists to improve social behavior in autistic subjects. He will inform us on the job opportunities available for scientists in a large pharmaceutical company.

Dr. Julie Deuquet
Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences
Project Manager



After completing her PhD in Biotechnology and Bioengineering at the EPFL in 2011, Julie has gained knowledge in Science Communication at the EPFL while doing a Postdoc. In 2012, she started to work for LS2 as scientific officer. Since 2014, Julie is working as a project Manager at the Nestlé Institute of Health Sciences in Lausanne. Julie will discuss the different career options outside of academia, its advantages and disadvantages with you.