



# UGA Life Sciences Career Day

Professional development conference for graduate students and post-doctoral associates in the life sciences and related fields



## Keynote Speaker

Dr. Scott Nordstrom specializes in immunology, vaccine research and development, as well as post-approval pharmaceutical and vaccine studies in cattle. Dr. Nordstrom played principal roles in bringing numerous products and vaccines to the US and Global cattle industry. After practicing dairy and equine medicine privately for ten years, he joined Merck Animal Health Cattle Technical Services in 2001. He served for 14 Years as the Director of Technical Services and is currently the Director of Development and Innovation, US Livestock, Merck Animal Health.

## Agenda

- 9:00**  
Main Hallway  
**Registration, Light Refreshments**
- 10:00**  
Alumni Hall  
**Welcome and Introductions**  
Karen Burg, Vice President for Research, University of Georgia
- 10:15**  
Alumni Hall  
**Keynote Fireside Chat: Looking Forward in Life Science Industry**  
**Moderator:** Crystal Leach, Associate Professor of Practice, College of Engineering, University of Georgia  
**Speaker:** Scott Nordstrom, Director of Development and Innovation, US Livestock, Merck Animal Health
- 11:00**  
Alumni Hall  
**Panel Discussion: Exploring Careers in the Life Sciences**  
**Moderator:** Aynsley Eastman, Global Business Manager, R&D Animal Health - Development, Boehringer Ingelheim  
**Panelists:**  
Jamie Deeter, Senior Director, Scientific Relations, Research and Development, Roche Diagnostic Solutions  
Izabela Galeska, Director, Formulation Development, Merck Animal Health  
Courtney Law, Managing Director, Biology, Emory University, and Georgia Institute of Technology  
Jan Spaas, Global Head of Research, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
- 12:15**  
Cafeteria  
**Table Talks: An Opportunity for Informal Networking Over Lunch**



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# Agenda

1:15

## Concurrent Breakout Sessions:

Room 1907

### What Next? Practical Considerations and Tools for Your Career Search

#### Panelists:

Megan Brock, Assistant Director of Graduate Student Services and Faculty Engagement, UGA Career Center  
Stephanie Pearl, Co-founder and CEO, Adaptive Roots Consulting

Room 1915

### Uncle Sam Wants You: Opportunities for Career in Government

**Moderator:** Kasey Smith, Research & Development Associate, SimpleC, LLC

#### Panelists:

Hunter Johnson, Deputy Director, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Laboratory Services & Applied Science Division  
Adrienne Madison, Chief, Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention and Protection Team, US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, Fort Rucker, AL  
Heidi O'Donnell, Project Manager for CDC and HHS, ORISE  
Bill Scheib, Project Manager for FDA, ORISE

Alumni Hall

### Beyond the Bench: Roles in Industrial Research & Development

**Moderator:** Lisa Renzi-Hammond, Director, Institute of Gerontology, Co-Director, Cognitive Aging Research and Education (CARE) Initiative, Associate Professor, College of Public Health, University of Georgia

#### Panelists:

Brian Adams, Rare Disease Global Insights Lead, UCB, Inc.  
Sam Bell, Senior Director, External Alternative Drug Development, Boehringer Ingelheim  
Kalen Cookson, Director of Clinical Research, Zoetis  
Chantal McMahon, Senior Finance Manager of Digital Platforms, Intuitive

2:15

## Break

2:30

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Alumni Hall

### Translation Station: Careers in Technology Transfer, Start-ups, and Incubators

**Moderator:** Ian Biggs, Director of Startups, UGA Innovation Gateway and Director of Programming, UGA Innovation District, University of Georgia

#### Panelists:

Emily Baker, Director of Nonclinical Research, Aruna Bio, Inc.  
Jesse Goodwin, Chief Innovation Officer, Medical University of South Carolina  
Emily Krach, Technology Analysis and Marketing Fellow, NCI Technology Transfer Center  
John Mitchell, CEO, Athens Research and Technology

Room 1915

### The Road Less Traveled: Opportunities in Regulatory, Consulting, and Non-profit Organizations

**Moderator:** Mary Goll, Associate Professor, Department of Genetics, University of Georgia

#### Panelists:

Flo Behn, Director of Research Affairs, Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology  
Matt Eby, Chief Scientist, Booz Allen Hamilton  
Melissa O'Conner, Chief Quality & Regulatory Officer, StimLabs  
Lauren Pittenger, Vice President, Human Services Portfolio, Abt Associates

3:40

## Wrap-up and Thank You

Alumni Hall

Ron Walcott, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Georgia

4:00 - 5:00

## Reception and Networking

Cafeteria



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