

From Getting a Ph.D. to Getting a Job:

Annual Career Fair Helps Doctoral Students Move From School to World of Work



Steve Goldstein, interim associate dean for research and graduate studies, applauds the efforts of the members of the Graduate Student Council in putting on the Career Fair.

The Third Annual Graduate Student Career Fair for the Biomedical and Health Sciences: Serving Science in Many Ways attracted more than 200 Ph.D. students. The annual event is sponsored by the Graduate Student Council of the Medical School to meet the career-planning needs of graduate students pursuing Ph.D.s in the biomedical sciences. There are 11 Ph.D. disciplines offered at the Medical School through the Horace Rackham School of Graduate Studies, including biological chemistry, biophysics, cell developmental and neural biology, cellular and molecular biology, human genetics, immunology, microbiology and immunology, neurosciences, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology. Students from all the disciplines, and from other health science schools at the University of Michigan participated in the day-long fair held in the Towsley Center at University Hospital.

The morning began with break-out sessions on: “From Getting a Ph.D. to Getting a Job,” and “The Search Process.” Other workshops included “Science Policy, Science Education, and Regulatory Affairs,” “Finding a Post-Doctoral Position,” “Proctor & Gamble: A Global Research and Development Corporation,” “Serving Science Outside Academia,” and “Serving Science Within Academia.”

“The central theme of this event – Serving Science in Many Ways – brings together an outstanding group of professionals from both traditional and non-traditional career paths,” stated Rupak Rajachar, chair of the Graduate Student Council. The Council invited many alumni/ae to the event, which also served as a “reunion” of sorts, particularly for the alumni members of the Association of Multicultural Scientists, a graduate student organization for underrepresented racial and ethnic groups at the University of Michigan whose goal is to assist its members in successfully completing their doctoral degrees. [m](#)



(From left:) Graduate students April Smith, (medicinal chemistry), Ligi Paul Pottenplackel, (biophysics), and Marilez Ortiz- Maldonado, (biological chemistry) enjoy a light-hearted moment as the busy day begins.



Rupak Rajachar, chair of the Graduate Student Council, welcomes attendees to the Third Annual Graduate Career Fair. Rupak is a fourth year graduate student in biomedical engineering working in the area of orthopaedic biomaterials.

Irwin Goldstein, former associate dean for research and graduate studies, talks with alumna Avril Geneve Holt (Ph.D. 1997), and his stepdaughter, Mira Hinman, Ph.D., a medicinal chemist at Abbott Labs in Chicago. Goldstein retired this year after serving as associate dean since 1986, but continues his research in the Department of Biological Chemistry.



Graduate students Carol Fawler, medicinal chemistry, Karen Gregson, medicinal chemistry, and Wendy Davis, biological chemistry, ponder their choices at the Career Fair.

