

Women In Science Scholars Program

March 6, 2020 Spring Conference Highlights

Rizzo Center, Chapel Hill, NC



Marilyn Foote-Hudson, Executive Director of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, welcomed everyone to the Spring Conference. Marilyn recognized the 40 volunteer mentors and the scholars in the 2019-2020 Women In Science Scholars program. Graduating scholars were also recognized and reminded to keep in touch as they begin new chapters in their lives. Marilyn reminded the

scholars that they would always be a part of the Women in Science family.

Marilyn highlighted several grants the foundation supported last year.

- The North Carolina Aquarium Society received a grant for the Aquarium Scholars program that provides educational opportunities for Title I teachers and their students. Title I teachers apply to one of three educational avenues for educational outreach programs for their students.
- A grant with NC State University for their Community College Collaboration C3 program. The C3 program supports students in a dual-admission program with eight community colleges. Students start their education at their local community college and transfer to NC State to obtain their bachelor's degree.
- A new grant with Science Festival will work with all the NC Community College campuses and help those campuses provide events that focus on two-year degrees and certificate programs in STEM. This grant program will bring to light the STEM careers that don't need a bachelor's degree. Additionally, Marilyn highlighted the 2019 Ribbon of Hope grants supporting educational programs enhancing STEM, STEAM, health, literacy, at-risk youth and underserved children.

Marilyn continued the program and introduced the keynote “My Career: Not the Path I Planned,” by Dr. Dominika Wiktor-Brown, a past mentor in the Women in Science Scholars program. She is currently a field vice president at GSK for Benlysta and leads a sales team that educates health care providers about Lupus.

Dominika shared that her family moved to the US when she was five from Poland, as her father was active against the communist regime at the time. Her parents were very influential on her growing up as they were both electrical engineers.

Dominika moved through her education and career path

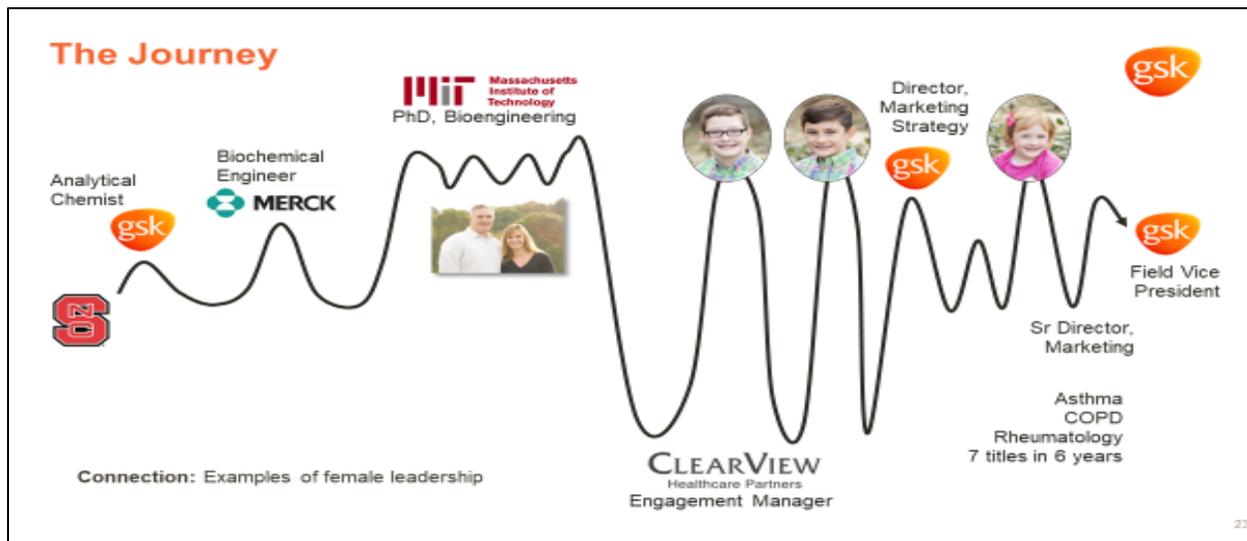
with lots of great takeaways. She completed an internship at GSK as an analytical chemist prior to receiving her BS in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University.



She worked as a bioprocess engineer at Merck before attending MIT. She was considering going back to school to obtain a PhD, and while working with a colleague that had attended MIT, he built the interest for her to go to MIT. She applied to MIT and was accepted. She shared that while she never thought she would work in an animal lab, at MIT, she studied DNA damage and repair in a mouse model.

Once she completed her PhD in Bioengineering, she knew that if she worked as a professor, she would need to commit to one city and one university for the long term. That commitment, or the lack of wanting to commit to one area long term, was outside her comfort zone. That led her to a position with a startup consulting company. As a consultant at the boutique life science consulting firm, she led the development of strategies for multiple global pharmaceutical companies working across therapeutic areas, functions, and in different stages of product development.

After working there for several years, she decided it was time for a change. That led her back to GSK. She noted that adapting to change is very important as she has held multiple titles over the course of seven years at GSK.



Her career path included many turns and changes to meet her expectations. From hiking Kilimanjaro with her husband, being a mother of three children, a *Type A* personality that has learned to let things go and knowing the value of genuine conversations were a few of the personal influences that she shared, making her who she is today.

She was very passionate about her current team, the seven direct reports, and the 55 employees in specialty sales working to build awareness around Lupus. She shared that working where you are inspired and where you like the culture is the key to success.

It was refreshing to hear her talk about networking, and that networking is hard for her. She shared that opportunities come from making connections from networking. She encouraged the audience to understand the value of a genuine conversation, and asking the question do you know someone at _____? She highlighted throughout her presentation the value of her networking connections:

- **Connection:** Internship opportunity through a professor I worked with at NC State
- **Connection:** NC State Career Office
- **Connection:** Worked with a former graduate of MIT Bioengineering who introduced me to a professor at MIT
- **Connection:** A colleague in graduate school introduced me to ClearView as an option
- **Connection:** Hiring manager at GSK was a former colleague of one of the partners at ClearView
- **Connection:** Examples of female leadership

She ended the keynote talking about how she has been blessed with female leaders that are higher than she is in the company. She encouraged the audience to seek out their own leaders, and especially to find women who can be trusted to ask for advice if you are struggling with an

issue. She noted her career path reflected her decisions and choices at the time, and she was careful to note you can have it all, but you can't have it all at the same time. The session concluded with lots of audience questions.

After a buffet lunch, Dawn Wilson, PharmD, medical science liaison for vaccines at GSK introduced the afternoon sessions. She focused on the Importance of Networking by sharing personal examples and how it's not natural for introverts, but it is critical for our career success. During the networking session, mentors and scholars shared their 30 second elevator speech, interview questions, and career opportunities while also receiving feedback on what great looks like when networking and interviewing for a job. Both the scholars and mentors walked away with new skills, connections, and confidence in these areas.

<p>Room 121 Dawn Wilson, PharmD</p> <p>Jordan London Olivia Duffield Jennifer Jackson Synphane Gibbs</p> <p>Mentor: Bilikis Akindede Mentor: Sarai Faison</p>	<p>Room 122 Nicole Deschamps, PhD</p> <p>Kaijone' Martinez Gracie Perry-Garnette Frida Crossen</p> <p>Mentor: Shirley Clifton</p>	<p>Room 123 Ruolan Wang, MS</p> <p>Melany Contreras Sy'Keria Garrison Brenda Montanez Kelsey Kolar</p> <p>Mentor: April Thompson Mentor: Christine Trezza Anderson, PharmD</p>
<p>Room 124 Liz Nulton-Bodiford</p> <p>Jamie Chamberlain Laura Schumaker Elisabeth Smith Anna Altman</p> <p>Mentor: Dulce Garrido Mentor: Danna Mattocks</p>	<p>Room 125 JoAnna Brodie</p> <p>Rachel Lowe Hannah Canipe Jordan Stellar Natalie Herr</p> <p>Mentor: Susan Clemmons</p>	<p>Room 126 Theresa Haughey</p> <p>Ny'Ghea Freeman Anajali Kumari Amy Aponte</p> <p>Mentor: Sara Johnson</p>

The afternoon session for the faculty and staff began with Dr. Herman Holt, Jr, director of the Pre-Health Professions Program & Dean of Natural Sciences at UNC Asheville. He highlighted the unique Chemistry and Biology Fellows and Scholars Research program on their campus. This STEM-focused program is strengthening the development of scholars, fellows and faculty in Medicinal Chemistry, Biochemistry and Chemical and Molecular Biology on the UNC Asheville campus. He included lots of details like securing the post docs as staff members. Experiences include teaching and conducting research and the program to date has been very successful.

Brian Woodard, MS, assistant director Undergraduate Admissions & C-STEP, UNC Chapel Hill highlighted the C-STEP STEM program working with community college transfer students majoring in STEM degrees on the UNC campus. The original program worked with three community colleges and has grown to work with 14 colleges across North Carolina. Nursing students are the second largest group to come in from the community colleges as transfer students. The C-STEP program assists students to help them feel integrated into the campus culture and provides greater advising for STEM-focused students while they are taking classes on their community college campus.

Another key point taken away from the session included that if a student transfers out of a STEM major we can't always count that as "unsuccessful" because the student may discover their passion lies in another area.

The rest of the time in the faculty and staff session was designed for sharing best practices with the group.

The spring conference adjourned with Marilyn thanking the presenters and facilitators. She shared Monday, October 5, 2020 for the Women in Science Scholars Annual Meeting.