



**Women In Science Scholars
Spring Conference Highlights
Friday, March 1, 2024
Rizzo Center, Chapel Hill**

Marilyn Foote-Hudson, Executive Director of the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation welcomed the audience to the Women in Science Scholars Spring Conference. All Women in Science scholars, mentors, faculty and staff representatives were recognized.



Marilyn highlighted the program and it's components. Benefits include multiple activities: two meetings for all scholars, the opportunity to network and meet colleagues and build friendships, scholarship funds from an endowment at each college or university, and the opportunity to be mentored by an industry STEM professional.

Marilyn encouraged the audience to set goals when they attend a conference. She suggested one goal for today could be talking with someone outside of your network, meeting someone from a university you are thinking about attending. When you plan to attend a conference or meeting, know what you want to take away. Our scholars presenting posters this afternoon have set a goal to build their presentation skill set and bump up their resume by presenting a poster about their research.

After highlighting the agenda for the day, Marilyn encouraged participants to take a fresh look in the mirror, see yourself as we see you – full of potential! You are the next generation of innovators and critical thinkers. Our world needs great researchers with visions, innovators, and intellectuals and you, our scholars will fill that need.

Marilyn introduced and welcomed the keynote, **Liz Nulton-Bodiford**, Director of Compliance, US Safety, at GSK. She highlighted Liz as one of the volunteer mentors in the Women in Science Scholars program.

Liz Nulton-Bodiford, shared her career and education during the keynote “*Twists, Turns and Learnings in a Pharma Career*” while providing great examples of networking. She demonstrated climbing the corporate ladder and making lateral moves while building her career. Her soft spoken leadership style was relatable to the audience, as she highlighted her current roles:

- Compliance Director in US Safety (*pharmacovigilance*) where she is evaluating and monitoring risk management, creating management monitoring requirements, and delivering training while supporting GSK’s Internal Controls Framework. She understands the impact of Serious Quality Incidents, and how to implement business continuity plans. She is the local compliance point of contact for audits and regulatory authority inspections (Food & Drug Administration).
- Adjunct Professor, Campbell University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, teaching Pharmaceutical Compliance & Quality Assurance.
- NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Women in Science mentor, supporting two Campbell University students annually.
- Director, North Carolina Chapter of Society of Quality Assurance.
- GSK Science in Schools, program volunteer.

Liz highlighted her unique educational path. Her undergraduate degrees, Bachelor’s in Art, and a Bachelor’s in Mass Communications failed to secure a great first job right out of college. She landed a contractor entry level position at Burroughs Wellcome in data management and continued to grow her value with the company. The position came with opportunities where she volunteered to write the department newsletter, and then to develop a training manual. Writing the manual led to her providing staff training and created her first international travel opportunity.

“Look for Opportunities to Contribute”

Liz highlighted the value of mergers, and how that created opportunities for her. But, she was deliberate in looking for new opportunities. She enrolled and completed a Master’s Degree in Clinical Research at Campbell University, College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences. It was an added benefit that GSK paid the tuition for the degree. Growing her family and working part-time were also career moves highlighted.

New Degree, New Job and New Adventures!

- After earning my Master’s degree, which exposed me to the end -to-end clinical development process, I joined Global Quality Assurance as an international Regulatory Affairs auditor.
- After four years, I became an international Pharmacovigilance auditor
 - Led, conducted and reported audits to assure compliance with GSK policies, procedures, applicable local regulations and that contractual obligations were met.
 - Assist with regulatory authority inspections (e.g., FDA, TGA, Health Canada, EMA, MHRA)
 - Audited in 25 countries across 6 continents



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Liz shared the challenge of networking, and how it is more comfortable to her thinking about it as connecting with people and staying connected. She shared great examples of connecting with others, and how those relationships are sustained today. From joining a book club, building relationships with academic advisors, research advisor and professors, former colleagues and classmates, neighbors, multiple organizations, and your hobbies are great opportunities to build friendships and your network. And most importantly, your current work relationships, even if you audited their department.

The audience had a lot of questions after the presentation. A few of the responses are highlighted below:

- Developing a great relationship with your neighbors can help with childcare issues when both parents are working.
- When it's hard to advocate for yourself in the moment, follow-up with an email once you have had time to develop what you want the other person to know.
- Try to do an internship or Co-op during undergraduate.
- Have someone record you during a practice presentation, to see where you need improvement.
- Think about examples of your skills, before you go into an interview.

After a picnic lunch in the Meadowmont Grill, the Scholars Poster Session allowed great opportunities for attendees to learn about seven of the current scholar's research. The Scholars Poster Session was engaging, and each presenter highlighted their research and fielded questions during the session.

Scholars Poster Session Presenters:

- Anna Braaten, Campbell University
- Izzie Meyers, Davidson College
- Aurora Coffey, UNC at Asheville
- Asia Rogers, Bennett College
- Sarah Hudson, UNC at Greensboro
- Aaliyah Washington, UNC at Greensboro
- Aiman Jamadar, Meredith College

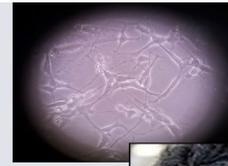
Following the poster session, **Ana Tognasoli, PhD**, a Scientist at BioAgilytix, presented "*Lessons Learned as a Woman in STEM: How Your Struggles and Fears Can Build You Up*". Ana shared her background and many of her lessons learned while building her career. Her humor was wrapped into the presentation and highlighted her perseverance for life. Sharing her fears, and her actions centered on her perceptions, demonstrated the value of dedication to attaining her goals.

Completing high school in Brazil, and moving to the US, she set her course of action to attain an associate degree at the local community college. She shared how hard work, being persistent and curious created success for her. After completing her associate degree, while managing a family she attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she majored in Biology and minored in Mathematics.

Pivotal moments in her career were shared and it was touching to hear how her participation as a Women in Science Scholar, and meeting Marty St Clair are highlights in her career. She shared that she still gets goosebumps when she thinks of Marty's story.

Pivotal Moments

- Research in Molecular Virology
- Presented at an International Conference on Mathematical Biology
- Became a Women in Science Scholar – GSK, and watched Dr. Marty St. Clair speak
- The flame was ignited....



Where Did My Fear and Struggles Take Me?

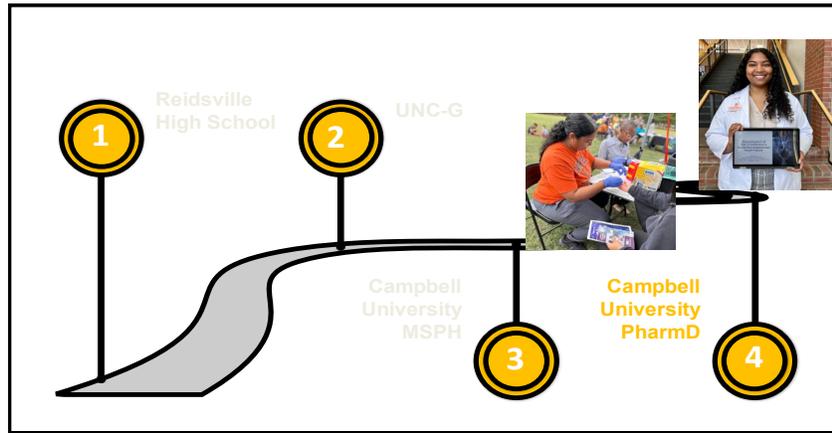
Things I learned in my 2 years in Industry (and from my fears and struggles):

- Never stop networking
- Always have a mentor, and it takes a village
- Women are STILL paid less and Patriarchy is not dead
- Take time to think about what is next but ALWAYS look back to see how far you came
- Don't think about "career ladders" think about "career mosaics" and how to weather the job market
- Be a part of something bigger: did I mention networking?

Ana encouraged and demonstrated the value of asking questions of your professors, and advisors, and to seek opportunities. She talked about building friendships, connections, and networking. Her message to try new things that push yourself outside your comfort zone was seen with her minor in mathematics, and her work in research labs. Challenges and opportunities tied to fears and actions

allowed for self-awareness on many levels. After completing her undergraduate degrees, and working as a high school instructor, she decided to attend graduate school at UNC Greensboro. She received her Doctor of Philosophy, Environment Health Science – Molecular Virology in 2022. Securing employment at BioAgilytix, she is excited to continue building her “career mosaic” instead of a common view “climbing a career ladder”. She has taken risks, moving from virology to bioanalysis, moving from academia to industry, and encouraged the audience to take risks.

Alexis Davis, a PharmD and Master's in Public Health candidate at Campbell University presented “*Unleash Your Potential: Embracing Risks for Personal & Professional Growth*”. It was exciting to hear that Alexis and Ana were at UNCG during the same time, and that they both worked in a lab there. Alexis shared her journey as a small town girl graduating high school and graduating from University of North Carolina at Greensboro, traveling to Ghana, and deciding to attend graduate school.



Alexis shared her experiences, and how words of affirmation help along the journey. However, it's great that other people believe in you, but that you must believe in yourself. She highlighted being more involved at school, and how taking more opportunities has worked in her favor during graduate school, helping her develop her soft skills.

“Believe in Yourself and Take Risks”

She encouraged the audience with her real life experiences, that didn't always turn out like she wanted. Knowing what you want will help you decide where to focus your education. Alexis has four key components that helped her set the goal to attain a Masters in Public Health and a PharmD:

- The desire for her work to have a healthcare impact
- Enjoys problem solving
- Desires job satisfaction and work life balance
- Diverse career path with lots of avenues

It was clear, Alexis has assessed her weaknesses and worked to make them strengths. The value of networking, of having multiple mentors, knowing your values, along with perseverance is leading her to attain her goals.

Marilyn and the audience thanked all the presenters and invited attendees to save the date, October 7, 2024 for the Annual Meeting.