Never want to leave college?

Career Exploration Panel

Careers in Higher Education Administration for PhD Scientists

Come hear from our esteemed panel about the varied career paths at colleges and universities beyond (and including) faculty positions for PhDs

Sponsored by the BioMed Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies
Career Exploration Panel
Careers in Higher Education Administration

Amy Shapiro, PhD
Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Psychology, U. of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Amy Shapiro received her BA in French and BS in Psychology from Tufts University in 1988. She then attended Brown University where she earned her MA in Psychology and PhD in Cognitive Science in 1992. She was awarded a 2-year James S. McDonnell Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to conduct research at the University of California at Berkeley in the School of Education. In 1994 she took a position on the Department of Psychology faculty at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where she has happily remained. Her research program has two branches. In one she explores the cognition underlying learning in complex domains, with a focus on the interaction between learner characteristics and technology such as multimedia and clickers. In the other she studies the formation and persistence of false memory. Her work has been funded by the James S. McDonnell Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. In 2013 she took a position as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in UMass Dartmouth’s College of Arts and Sciences. She still remains active in grant writing, research and teaching.

Chelsea (Epler) Barbercheck, PhD
Program Director, BEST Program, Graduate Medical Sciences at Boston U. School of Medicine

Chelsea Barbercheck, PhD, is the Program Director for BU’s BEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training), an NIH-funded biomedical professional development program. BU’s BEST exposes trainees to a number of career options that reflect the range of opportunities that doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees can pursue and that are required for a robust biomedical workforce. She oversees strategic implementation of program initiatives, directs the aims of the grant, guides program evaluation, and builds deliberate professional relationships. As a product of the current biomedical pipeline she is well versed in the landscape and pressures that doctoral and postdoctoral trainees are facing with regards to their career options.

In addition to her role with BU’s BEST, Chelsea serves on the Boston University Graduate Women In Science & Engineering (GWISE) Advisory Board, is a member of the BEST National Consortium Annual Meeting Planning Committee, and facilitates discussion sections for first year graduate students enrolled in Foundations in Biomedical Sciences at BU School of Medicine.

Prior to her current role, Chelsea earned her PhD in microbiology and molecular genetics from Oklahoma State University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Physiology & Biophysics at Boston University.
John Lopes, PhD
Associate Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Professor of Microbiology, U. of Massachusetts Amherst

Dr. John Lopes, was named Associate Dean for Operations and Graduate Programs for the College of Natural Sciences (CNS) at the University of Massachusetts, September 1, 2015. He oversees the CNS budget and facilities (24 buildings and labs) that serve 13 departments, one school, and 6,000 undergraduates. CNS is the largest recipient of grant funding on campus, and its 400 tenure-track faculty members are awarded two-thirds of all research grants. Dr. Lopes also has responsibility for CNS graduate programs.

Dr. Lopes served as Head of the Microbiology Department since 2007, when he came to UMass. Prior to this, he was Associate Chair of the Biological Sciences Department at Wayne State University (WSU) for 7 seven years. He was promoted to Full Professor at WSU in 2002. Dr. Lopes started his career in the Biochemistry Department at Loyola University of Chicago Medical School in 1991 and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1997.

His research focuses on the transcriptional regulation of phospholipid synthesis in yeast and how phospholipid synthesis is coordinated with other biological processes. His research program has been supported by the National Science Foundation and the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Lopes holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of South Carolina. He did his postdoctoral research at Carnegie Mellon University. His BA in Zoology is from the University of Rhode Island.

James Gould, PhD
Director, Office for Postdoctoral Fellows, Harvard Medical School

Jim is the director of the HMS/HSDM Office for Postdoctoral Fellows at Harvard Medical School where he builds programs and policies for research, career, and professional development. Jim has published or contributed to articles in Nature Immunology covering CV to resume conversion, interviewing strategies, and manuscript writing. He is also a guest expert on Naturejobs Blog and Naturejobs Career Community. Prior to HMS, Jim was at the National Cancer Institute of the NIH where he did two postdoc fellowships and developed an internship with the NCI’s Office of Training and Education. He chaired the NCI’s Postdoc Association and is a member of the National Postdoctoral Association, Graduate Career Consortium, and AAAS. Jim received his BS at Clarion University of Pennsylvania in Biotechnology/Molecular Biology and his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Louisville. Connect with Jim at linkedin.com/in/jamesgouldphd.