

Career Professional Interview Bios

Ashley Mentlik James, PhD (she/her)

Senior Scientific Program Administrator, American Association for Cancer Research

Ashley earned her PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology with a focus on Immunology from the University of Pennsylvania. She continued on to a postdoctoral fellowship in Cancer Immunology at Fox Chase Cancer Center. Meanwhile, Ashley also got married and had two little girls. It was at Fox Chase that Ashley determined that, while she loved the science, she did not want to continue to work at the bench. Several representatives of the AACR enlightened her about a career in which she could still be involved in science but also interact with people, be involved in administration, plan meetings, develop programs, and mentor.

That is exactly what she does now.

Ashley would be happy to discuss careers at or beyond the bench with any who are interested.

Ashley.James@aacr.org

Travis T. York, Ph.D. |he/him

Director, Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity & Diversity (ISEED), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Bio & Headshot: <https://www.aaas.org/person/travis-york>

Daniela Arias-Rotondo, PhD (she/her/ella)

Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Kalamazoo College

Clive Baveghems, PhD

Scientist, Charles River Laboratories

Clive is a Scientist in the Biophysical Characterization group at Charles River Laboratories (Spring 2020-present). In this role, Clive is part of a team that develops stability profiles for antibodies, viruses, and signaling proteins. Clive was awarded a Ruth Kirschstein NIH NRSA Postdoctoral fellowship from the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at the Boston University School of Medicine in the laboratory of Professor Olga Gursky in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics (2017-2020). He earned his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut under the tutelage of Professor Challa Kumar. He holds a Bachelor's in Chemistry from the University of Maryland.

L. Maren Wood, PhD (UNC Chapel Hill, History)

Founder and CEO, Beyond the Professoriate

Dr. L. Maren Wood earned her PhD in early American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After earning her PhD, Maren worked as an adjunct for several years before deciding to leave academia. She first worked as a consultant with the American Historical Association and the Chronicle of Higher Education, researching career outcomes for PhDs.

In 2017, she founded Beyond the Professoriate with the mission of empowering PhDs to consider the range of career options available to them in the creative economy. Her work with PhDs in career transition has been featured in leading industry publications and peer reviewed books. She has also served as external advisor on committees such as the Council of Graduate Schools Humanities Advisory Committee.

Dr. Wood is a certified career coach with Strong Interest Inventory® Certification, and is regularly sought as a keynote speaker at national and international conferences. She also writes for Inside Higher Ed and The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Julie Plasencia, PhD, RDN (She/her)

Assistant Professor, Director of Bridge Scholars Program, Director of Didactic Program in Dietetics, Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Fellow, University of Kentucky

Dr. Julie Plasencia is a registered dietitian and assistant professor in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition at the University of Kentucky with a joint appointment at the College of Dentistry - Diagnosis Wellness and Prevention Clinic. She then completed a Master's and PhD in Human Nutrition at Michigan State University. Her research interests are in investigating how culture influences dietary behaviors in Mexican Americans with diet-related chronic diseases. Before her academic career, she worked as a clinical and community dietitian in diabetes education with Hispanics/Latinos in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her path toward a career in academia was not conventional, and her practical experience in the area led to her interests in research and education.

As a grant recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program, she is part of a team of five clinicians working on a primordial prevention initiative with an elementary school. She was also awarded a Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) grant by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to offer an experiential learning experience to undergraduates. Students will be gaining valuable clinical experience and completing a research project to provide nutrition-focused disease prevention education to prepare students for careers in nutrition and dietetics.