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FOCUS ON CAREERS

Western U.S. Bioclusters: Western U.S. Bioclusters

Before the science-backed job site on patent searchable, there’s the question of global health. By Chris Tachibana

There’s a health professional in Los Angeles, a wine maker in Napa, and a startup founder in Santa Cruz. Each has a story to tell about how they got where they are, and what they bring to the table. In California, it’s the most popular state, and its biotechnology companies are trailblazers.

Global health

However, where each biocluster is different, there’s a guide to medical research and industries that support it. We interviewed four California-based entrepreneurs, slipped into their labs, and asked them what’s next in global health. Here’s what we found.

1. Gail Maderis, president and CEO of BayBio, San Francisco-based Life Sciences Innovation Center
2. Dennis O’Neill, president and CEO of Burrill & Company, San Francisco-based financial services firm
3. Chris Tachibana, journalist and author of "The Pioneer Spirit: Western U.S. Bioclusters"

The Pioneer Spirit

Bioclusters: Western U.S. Bioclusters

The Bay Area: Gold Rush Granddad

The Bay Area: Gold Rush Granddad

If you’re in the job market, Maderis has suggestions. The Bay Area has an acute shortage of certified clinical laboratory technicians. Consider going into green tech—bioremediation, biofuels, and bio-based chemicals—a field that saw 8 percent annual job growth over the past five years in California. In fact, the Bay Area has more than 7% of the global market for biotechnology.

Entrepreneurs in the Bay Area are also looking into nanotechnology, health information technology, and industrial biotechnology.

By Chris Tachibana

The Pioneer Spirit

FOCUS ON CAREERS

Science's entrepreneurs and educators in the Western U.S. bioclusters are trailblazers.
Bioclusters: Western U.S.

Francisco. Its incubator system, the QB3 Garage/Innovation Network, currently houses 45 startups, some in micro labs as small as 200 square feet. Director Regis B. Kelly says, “We’re down in the weeds doing early lean startup with people who just have an idea and a credit card. Our best customers are not faculty members who already have jobs, but grad students and postdocs. We get them started at as little cost as possible.” Resources are geared toward novices, such as QB3 Startup in a Box, a package of services for new entrepreneurs that includes mentoring, legal and business support, and assistance in getting small business grants. In its five years of existence, QB3 has had 10 companies graduate from the incubator, with an 80 percent success rate. QB3 also does funding through Mission Bay Capital, a seed-stage venture fund of which Kelly is a director. So far, QB3 companies have brought in $230 million in small business grants and venture funding and created about 250 jobs.

Graduate students and postdocs can take advantage of biocluster opportunities now, says Kelly, who was executive vice chancellor at the University of California, San Francisco before directing QB3. He says that 15 years ago, faculty members at Bay Area academic institutions noticed that more than half of their graduate students and postdocs were going to industry and changed their curriculum in response. Dana Andersen benefitted from this change. He participated in Stanford University’s NIH-funded graduate training program in biotechnology, including an internship at Genentech, where he is now senior director, pharmaceutical development. Seeing the contrast between academia and industry helped him refine his career goal of working on scientific problems with practical relevance, and brought him back to Genentech after postdoctoral research in Switzerland. The benefits of a biotechnology training program go beyond finding a potential job, he says. The program gave him experience in the multidisciplinary teams that are typical in life science industries. He says, “The training gave me regular meetings with people across the spectrum of biotech disciplines, and I worked with people in a lot of different fields. That’s important because industry teams are highly cross-functional.”

No matter what your role on a life sciences team, Andersen stresses the advantages of an education in science, technology, and engineering. “I run into people all the time with a science or engineering Ph.D. who are in marketing, planning, commercial analysis, project management, patent law—there are always opportunities for people with good scientific fundamentals and a technical background, at Genentech and similar companies.”

SAN DIEGO: A GROWING FAMILY TREE

South of the Bay Area is the San Diego biocluster, whose history goes back not to the Gold Rush, but to a single company: Hybritech, which made monoclonal antibody-based diagnostics and therapies. Steven Burrill explains that when Hybritech was acquired by Eli Lilly in 1986, “former employees began starting other companies that emanated around Hybritech like a family tree.”

One Hybritech alum with deep roots is Abhay Kumar, who started at Hybritech in 1992 as a research scientist. He is now associate director of corporate development at Life Technologies, a global biotechnology products, equipment and services company based in nearby Carlsbad, which he says maintains the culture of innovation that he remembers from Hybritech. San Diego still feels like a small town, he says. “When I attend a seminar, I spot dozens of familiar faces. It’s sort of a reunion. The industry has grown but still has that family feel.” Life Technologies is part of that family, sponsoring regional conferences and meetings and donating reagents to local school laboratories. The company hosts a global volunteer day, when the entire Life Technologies workforce worldwide does community volunteer work.

Family trees grow, and the San Diego biotech industry is now so large and diverse it’s hard to keep track of, says Duane Roth, CEO of Connect, a regional life sciences networking organization. Connect held 300 educational and mentoring events last year and Biocom, the regional life science trade association, has nearly 500 member organizations. Despite these numbers, Roth says, the San Diego biotech community is unique for its compactness. “The Torrey Pines Basin has 81 research institutions in a three-mile radius,” he says. These include the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, the Scripps Research Institute, and the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). “You can almost walk across the street to meet with...continued>
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your external collaborators," says Roth. "We’re all right on top of each other." Moving into the neighborhood in 2013 is a new building for the J. Craig Venter Institute for research on human and microbial genomics and synthetic biology.

Common roots, close proximity, and networking have resulted in stellar collaborations. An example is the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, part of the state’s stem cell research efforts, which required coordination between Salk, Scripps, Sanford-Burnham, UCSD, and the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology. "They got together to put up one building for scientists from five different organizations to work together," says Roth. "That’s the kind of thing we’re able to do here."

The San Diego life sciences industry is influenced by the local military base and wireless communications industry, says Roth, making wearable, wireless health sensors a growing field in San Diego. Like health IT, these fit national priorities to reduce health costs, allowing patient monitoring outside of hospitals, and creating opportunities for cost-saving preventive medicine.

Mary Walshok, UCSD associate vice chancellor of public programs, says interaction between local technology experts and business leaders to address national needs shows how San Diego is an innovation ecosystem. This includes academic institutions such as UCSD and San Diego State University, whose faculty enter research partnerships with industry and whose graduates provide businesses with educated employees. In turn, local biotech expands the job market, and gives universities insights into future technologies to guide the curriculum, especially for continuing education. Walshok is also UCSD dean of extension, which has 57,000 enrollees annually in practical programs such as clinical trials management and biotechnology production. She says these are "bridges to tech jobs—they respond directly to life science industry needs, helping mid-career adults retool their skills or new graduates gain the training they need for a job not only in biotech but in areas like marketing, management, and international trade."

Walshok, who has been involved in the San Diego technology culture for four decades, says the local innovation ecology includes the general public. "Industry and academia are connected to the larger community and our presence raises the public appreciation of science and understanding of the value of research."

SEATTLE: GOING GLOBAL

The core strengths of the Seattle biocluster also stem from its history, but the story is different from the California Gold Rush or the Hybritch family tree. Successful bone marrow transplantation was developed at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, so Seattle is strong in medical therapies, devices, and health research. “Three of 21 drugs approved by the FDA in 2010 were discovered and developed in Seattle,” says Chris Rivera, president of the Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association, the Washington State life science trade association. The University of Washington has a top medical school, nearby Bothell is a medical development and manufacturing hub, and Lee Hood’s Institute for Systems Biology leads in personalized medicine.

Seattle has two new research centers funded by international pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk, known for insulin formulations and delivery systems. In 2009, the company opened an Inflammation Research Center investigating conditions such as chronic inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatoid arthritis. These are autoimmune diseases, so in summer 2012, Novo Nordisk is opening a complementary research center for type 1 diabetes, also an autoimmune condition. Eventually the two centers,
housed together in the South Lake Union neighborhood, will have over 100 employees. Novo Nordisk Chief Scientific Officer Mads Krosggaard Thomsen says, “If we hit our milestones—our intention with type 1 diabetes is two projects in clinical trials in the first five years—we’re willing to expand.”

Novo Nordisk began autoimmunity research because of the company’s expertise in therapeutic proteins and chronic conditions with injected therapies, says Thomsen. Seattle was chosen because the company had a connection to Zymogenetics in the 1980s, and the city has the Benaroya Research Institute studying autoimmune diseases and an autoimmune therapy success story in ENBREL from Immunex (acquired by Amgen in 2002). Thomsen says, “Type 1 diabetes research is part of our vision. Our scientists helped discover that it’s an autoimmune disease and we’re perceived as a diabetes leader, so we needed to do something about type 1.”

Many bioclusters have outstanding research and development, though. A unique feature of the region, says Rivera, is that outside of Geneva, Switzerland, home of the World Health Organization, Seattle has the world’s highest concentration of global health institutions. Besides the Novo Nordisk research centers, South Lake Union has Seattle Biomed, a nonprofit infectious disease research institute; PATH, an international global health organization; and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the global health and development philanthropy directed by the family of the Microsoft cofounder, Bill Gates, and the businessman Warren Buffett.

The global health focus extends 300 miles east of Seattle, to Washington State University. There, a $25 million Gates Foundation grant contributed to a new building for the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, named for the other Microsoft founder who contributed $26 million to the enterprise. Research focuses on livestock diseases that impede economic progress in developing countries, and the 70 percent of human infectious diseases that are transmittable from animals to humans, such as influenza.

Graduate programs at the Allen School for Global Animal Health include a traditional infectious disease and immunology degree, and an interdisciplinary option that reflects a broader goal, expressed by Guy Palmer, the school’s director. “We see human health as including human equity and opportunity and having economic resources,” he says. The interdisciplinary degree encourages students to explore science implementation and policy, and become social entrepreneurs, for example, developing both effective vaccines and sustainable programs to introduce them into low-income countries. The school, which is less than 10 years old, plans to grow to more than 100 graduate students by 2020. Half of the current 35 students are international. Many are scientists and veterinarians who will take their new expertise to their home country. On the dry, eastern side of the Cascade Mountains, Palmer says the School for Global Animal Health is connected to the drizzly Seattle biocluster in western Washington through partnerships with its infectious disease institutes and a complementary relationship to the biotech sector. With a focus on animal vaccines and health, says Palmer, “we fit into a different but related market sector.”

AWAY FROM THE EPICENTERS

The biocluster epicenters of San Francisco, San Diego, and Seattle offer the excitement of a high concentration of people with common interests, professions, and goals. However, opportunities—and sometimes a lower cost of living—are found nearby, at Washington State University, or in California at UC Irvine, a hub for medical devices, or UC Davis, with expertise in agricultural biotechnology. Matthew Hudes, U.S. managing principal, biotechnology for Deloitte Consulting, says the Bay Area biocluster extends to San Jose and Santa Cruz, and Orange County has a significant medtech industry. “There are tremendous pockets of innovation across California,” he says, “And a great deal going on at Oregon Health & Science University. These all have different characters and that diversity is important for the future of science.” Another area to watch is the University of Utah. Its successful startup initiation program could seed a local biocluster.

You can tap into the western U.S. biocluster energy from anywhere. Gail Maderis advises scientists to get experience in managing outside contractors, especially in another city or country. Working with someone across the globe to design protocols and interpret data is a valuable skill with the growth in international collaborations and outsourcing. For now, however, a western biocluster is still the best place for a life sciences trailblazer to explore new territory. Even a true believer in cloud connections like Steven Burrill says, “I still have to go see people. Personal relationships are important and nothing is better than being in the Bay Area where you have everything around you.”

Chris Tachibana is a science writer based in Seattle, USA, and Copenhagen, Denmark.

DOI: 10.1126/science.opms.r1200118
The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) and the Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research are seeking outstanding, innovative candidates for the position of Scientist. We will consider applications from established Scientists for the position of Senior Scientist. Candidates must be involved in the use of advanced biomolecular technologies including genomics and proteomics to study stem cell biology. Candidates with an interest and demonstrated expertise in human pluripotent stem cells including induced pluripotent stem cells with interests in translational research directed at brain repair, regeneration and recovery are particularly encouraged to apply. The successful candidate is expected to work at the OHRI Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research and hold an academic appointment in the relevant Faculty of the University of Ottawa.

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Interested candidates should send their CV with a cover letter to Dr. Jaroslaw Maciejewski with a copy to Victoria Mineff.

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**Dr. Zhong-Yin Zhang, Professor and Chair**

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Full Professorship (W3) of Molecular Biosystems (6 years/tenure track)

commencing as soon as possible.

The successful candidate will represent the emerging field of molecular biosystems in research and teaching. He/she will be located on the campus Großhadern/Martinsried in the southwest of Munich, and will be affiliated with the LMU Gene Center, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, and the new Research Center for Molecular Biosystems.

The successful candidate will play a key role in the quantitative and mechanistic investigation of biological systems, and will complement and extend existing research activities in Munich. The newly appointed professor will have a strong, biomedically relevant and internationally visible research program in the broad area of genomic and cellular regulation and deregulation, preferably in higher eukaryotes. He/she will be active in the development of quantitative experimental and theoretical methods to describe biological systems. Active participation in local research networks such as national clusters of excellence in research, research network grants, and international graduate schools is desirable.

Prerequisites for this position are a university degree, a doctoral degree, teaching skills at university level, additional academic achievements and a productive and promising research program.

The initial appointment will be for six years. After a minimum of three years it may be converted to tenure pending a positive evaluation of the candidate’s aptitude for teaching and research as well as the candidate’s pedagogical and personal aptitude if all legal conditions are met. In exceptional cases involving candidates with outstanding qualifications who have already established an active research group, a tenured position may be offered from the outset.

Candidates for this position should be aged 51 or under at the time of appointment. Exceptions thereto may be considered in the case of outstanding candidates.

The LMU is an equal opportunity employer and aims to increase the number of female faculty members. Therefore, female candidates are explicitly encouraged to apply for this professorship. The LMU supports dual career couples. Information concerning equality of treatment may be obtained from the women’s representative of the faculty (Martina.Rueffer@cup.uni-muenchen.de). Disabled candidates with essentially equal qualifications will be given preference.

Please submit your application comprising a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, a short research summary and proposal, a summary of teaching experience, and a list of publications and invited lectures as a single pdf-file and in printed form to the Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Butenandstr. 5-13, 81377 Munich, Germany, email: Dekanat@cup.uni-muenchen.de; no later than 30 September 2012. Informal enquiries may be sent to Prof. Patrick Cramer, email: cramer@genzentrum.lmu.de.

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**Professor of Quantitative Imaging**

The Department of Biology (D-BIOL) at ETH Zurich invites applications for a professorship in the area of Quantitative Imaging.

Candidates are expected to build a research programme focussing on the imaging of dynamic cellular and molecular processes. They may combine quantitative wet-lab experiments with mathematical simulation and modeling, or address the underlying biophysics, nanomechanics, biochemistry, and spatio-temporal control of cell function. Candidates with a strong focus in the development and usage of biosensors, image analysis and innovative imaging approaches are encouraged to apply. The professorship will ideally be installed in the Institute of Biochemistry, taking advantage of its strengths in light microscopy and its close vicinity to the light- and electron microscopy facilities (LMSC/LMC-RISC and EMEZ). She or he will be expected to teach undergraduate level courses (German or English) and graduate level courses (English).

Major strategic areas of the Department of Biology include cell- and molecular biology, systems biology, and molecular health sciences. Together with Life Science Zurich, the Department offers outstanding opportunities to participate in interdisciplinary research programmes and to establish close interactions with the local community through the Centre for Advanced Imaging (CIMST) and Systems Physiology of Metabolic Diseases (SPMD), Neuroscience Zurich, the National Centre for Competence in Research “Neural Plasticity and Repair”, and the SystemsX.ch initiative.

Please apply online at [www.facultyaffairs.ethz.ch](http://www.facultyaffairs.ethz.ch). Your application should include your curriculum vitae, a list of publications, and a detailed research plan. The letter of application should be addressed to the President of ETH Zurich, Prof. Dr. Ralph Eichler. The closing date for applications is 15 August 2012. ETH Zurich is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. In order to increase the number of women in leading academic positions, we specifically encourage women to apply. ETH Zurich is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples and qualifies as a family friendly employer.
Get a Career Plan that Works.

An exceptional career requires insightful planning and management. That’s where Science Careers comes in. From job search to career enhancement, Science Careers has the tools and resources to help you achieve your goals. Get yourself on the right track today and get a real career plan that works. Visit ScienceCareers.org.
UCL Division of Biosciences
Research Department of Neuroscience, Physiology & Pharmacology and the Institute of Structural & Molecular Biology (ISMB)

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Structural Neuroscience

We are seeking a full-time Faculty member to fill a new Lectureship/Senior Lectureship to be held jointly between the Research Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology (NPP) and the Institute of Structural and Molecular Biology (ISMB) in the area of Structural Neuroscience of Receptors and Ion Channels.

We are interested in promising candidates working at the interface between neuroscience and structural biology, an area we wish to significantly expand. Teaching undergraduates and postgraduates in the fields of Pharmacology, Neuroscience and Structural Biology is an integral part of this post.

NPP and ISMB have been consistently rated in the top category of research (5* or World leading) in all RAEs held to date. Our research is centred on the molecular neuroscience and structural biology of receptors and ion channels. We are strongly committed to an expansive research programme in this area and are able to offer newly refurbished space integrated on the Bloomsbury campus.

The salary range will be £39,818 - £46,972 per annum (Grade 8); £51,052 - £55,512 per annum (Grade 9), inclusive of London Allowance.

The successful candidate must hold a PhD in a relevant subject area and should show clear promise of excellence in structural neuroscience research and sufficient vision to sustain an active research programme. Of importance, they should be committed to interdisciplinary research in a multidisciplinary environment.

For further details about the vacancy and how to apply online please go to http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/ and search on Reference Number 1247299.

Please include a CV with three named referees and a one page research plan with your application.

Applicants can informally discuss this position with Professor Trevor Smart (t.smart@ucl.ac.uk; Tel no. 020-7679-2013) and Professor Gabriel Waksman (g.waksman@ucl.ac.uk; Tel no. 020-7631-6833).

Further information about the Departments, UCL and associated specialist hospitals can be found at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/npp and http://www.ismb.ion.ac.uk/

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Jeremy Guyer, email: jeremy.guyer@ucl.ac.uk

We particularly welcome female applicants and those from an ethnic minority, as they are under-represented within University College London at this level.

Closing Date: 25th May 2012.

UCL Taking Action for Equality

AAAS is here – promoting universal science literacy.

In 1985, AAAS founded Project 2061 with the goal of helping all Americans become literate in science, mathematics, and technology. With its landmark publications Science for All Americans and Benchmarks for Science Literacy, Project 2061 set out recommendations for what all students should know and be able to do in science, mathematics, and technology by the time they graduate from high school. Today, many of the state standards in the United States have drawn their content from Project 2061.

As a AAAS member, your dues help support Project 2061 as it works to improve science education. If you are not yet a member, join us. Together we can make a difference.

To learn more, visit aaas.org/plusyou/project2061

AAAS + U = Δ
POSTDOCTORAL POSITION in Urologic Stem Cell Therapy

The Department of Urology at CWRU is seeking two junior scientists (MD or Ph.D.) with training and significant interest in studies of stem cells to take positions as postdoctoral fellows through an NIH Institutional Training Grant (T32). The positions will focus on development of translational and clinical applications of mesenchymal stem cells in urology in collaboration with some of the most outstanding experts in the field. Competitive salary and benefits with the potential for recruitment after completion of fellowship will be offered. For additional information please contact Laurel Jeffers (e-mail: laj17@case.edu or telephone: 216-844-1451).

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION in Germline Stem Cells

Studies include culture, differentiation, and gene activity of male germline stem cells. See Science 316:604, 2007 & PNAS 106:21672, 2009. Send curriculum vitae, names of three references, and a letter describing research experience to R. L. Brinster, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. E-mail: epocc@vet.upenn.edu.

Nontraditional Careers: Opportunities Away From the Bench

Want to learn more about exciting and rewarding careers outside of academic/industrial research? View a roundtable discussion that looks at the various career options open to scientists and strategies you can use to purs a nonresearch career.

For more career opportunities, please visit ScienceCareers.org.