**Where Do I Go From Yale**

**Pre-Conference Dinner and In-Person Sessions**

**Friday, April 12, 2024**

**6:30 – 8:30 pm**

**14th Floor of Kline Tower**

**Nourish & Network: Student & Alums Dinner**

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

**8:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**Linsly Chittenden Hall on Old Campus**

**In-Person Sessions**

**Logistics:**

**Friday, April 12, 2024 @ 6:30 – 8:30 pm, 14th Floor of Kline Tower**

**Nourish & Network: Student & Alums Dinner**

Yale Graduate Students in any year and in any department or program are invited to a casual buffet dinner with Graduate School Alumni Association Board (GSAAB) members and Where Do I Go from Yale panelists spanning 6 decades of graduates and a diverse representation of professional expertise. This informal gathering promises an evening of engaging conversation and delectable cuisine. Discover the diverse, sometimes unexpected, journeys of our alums as they share their post-Yale experiences and the paths that led them to where they are today. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity for one-on-one discussions, table hopping, and mingling in intimate groups. Whether you can join us for a short time or stay for the entire two-hour event, your presence is valued.

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ 8:30 am – 2:00 pm, Linsly Chittenden Hall**

**WDIGFY In-Person Sessions**

The doors open at 8:30 am for breakfast and the Welcome Address begins at 9:00 am.

**WDIGFY In-Person Sessions**

**Entering the Corporate World: STEM @ 10:50 am – 11:50 am**

**[Concurrent Session with Humanities and Social Sciences]**

Agenda Description of the Panel: Join a discussion with industry professionals and alumni in the corporate world who have successfully leveraged their graduate school training to enter corporate life. Learn about effective networking and job search strategies, mastering interviews, and adapting to corporate culture. Also learn how to understand and present the value of the knowledge and skills you have acquired in your specific field of study to market yourself most effectively to corporate employers.

**Panelists:**

Emily Cohen (’14 PhD, Genetics

Marisa Dolled-Filhard (’05 PhD, Genetics)

Erling Donnelly (’05 PhD, Pharmacology)

Jun Wang (’07 PhD, Physics)

**Moderator:**

Sandy Kuzmich (’89 PhD, Pharmacology)

Regarding our panel, we are running in parallel with a panel discussing issues related to the humanities and social science.

For your consideration, below is a draft outline of questions/topics to generate not only information flow from the alumni panelists to the graduate student audience, but also to generate conversation among the panelists as well as between the panelists and the audience.

**Draft Outline:**

1. **Introductions (about 5 - 10 minutes)**
   1. Name, Yale department/year/degree, current job title and company, and a very brief overview of your journey between Yale and your current role
2. **Guided Panel Discussion (about 45 minutes)**
   1. Why did you decide to take a career path that led you into the corporate world?
      1. Consider including in your discussion: (i) when you made this decision; (ii) whether you even considered staying in academia; (iii) whether you even explored academic opportunities; and (iv) whether the decision was to intentionally leave academia, or rather to take a particular job/career opportunity that was in front of you that was very attractive.
   2. What do you really do in your current role?
      1. This was a topic that some panelists last year thought was important to address in order to de-mystify what each of us does every day. This gives us the opportunity to get into the details/responsibilities of our positions, including who we interact with, both internally and externally. Consider including in your discussion corporate/reporting structures and opportunity for advancement/upward mobility.
      2. This may be a place to compare/contrast taking a position in start-ups versus established corporations (e.g., start-up biotech as compared to big pharma).
   3. What was the most challenging aspect, if there was one, of going from academia to the corporate environment? Alternatively, was there something you found particularly positive in the transition that you may not have anticipated/expected?
      1. One purpose of this question is to address the part of the description of our panel in the agenda that says we will discuss “adapting to corporate culture.” It could generate conversation around aspects of your corporate career that may have surprised you, in either a positive or negative way.
   4. Work-life balance is almost always a consideration when making a job/career choice. How would you describe the work-life balance in your particular job/career?
      1. Possible points for discussion around corporate culture include remote versus in-person requirements, maternity/paternity leave, flex hours, corporate values on issues such as the environment/climate change and DEI.
      2. Consider whether a discussion around compensation could be included here.
   5. In your field, what is the corporate world looking for in terms of background or experience from recent graduate students?
      1. This topic goes to the part of the description of our panel in the agenda that says we will discuss “how to understand and present the value of the knowledge and skills you have acquired in your specific field of study to market yourself most effectively to corporate employers.”