Meet Our Team & Collaborators

The Office of Career & Professional Development Team:

- **Sara Ayazi, JD, MS.** Program Manager/Career Counselor, Clinical Careers
- **Laurence Clement, PhD.** Program Director, Academic Career Development
- **Anna Correa, MS.** Program Director, Clinical Careers, Career Development
- **Trish McGrath, BA.** Event Planner
- **Patti Meyer, PhD.** Program Director, Non-Academic Careers
- **Naledi Saul, MPM.** Director, Office of Career and Professional Development
- **Allyson Spence, PhD.** Program Manager, Academic/Non-Academic Careers
- **Dona Khoshabafard, BS.** Student Worker
- **Uche Mordi, BS.** Student Worker
- **Amy Schultz, BS.** Student Worker
- **Matthew ("Sugi") Sugidono, BS.** Student Worker
- **Hailey Taylor, BS.** Student Worker

Key Collaborators:

- **Jennie Dorman, PhD.** Co-PI, Motivating INformed Decisions (MIND) Program [1]
- **Bill Lindstaedt, MS.** Assistant Vice Chancellor, Career Advancement, International and Postdoctoral Services
- **Thi Nguyen, PhD.** Career development consultant, and PI, Burroughs Welcome Fund Career Guidance for Trainees Grant [2]
Sara Ayazi serves as the Career Counselor/Program Manager at the Office of Career & Professional Development. She provides one-on-one career counseling to students pursuing clinical careers, and designs and presents career and professional success programs and resources tailored to these students.

Sara has over five years of experience in higher education, and has worked at career centers at UC Berkeley, City College of San Francisco, and University of San Francisco School of Law. Prior to commencing her position at UCSF, she served on the Engineering Team at the UC Berkeley Career Center where she provided counseling and developed programs for students majoring in engineering and the physical sciences. In addition to her career counseling experience in higher education settings, Ayazi has also provided job search assistance to nurses while at JVS, a workforce development agency in the Bay Area.

Prior to entering into the career counseling field, Ayazi served as an attorney for the University of Connecticut where she advised the institution on a wide range of issues relating to higher education law.

Sara earned her Master of Science in Counseling at San Francisco State University, a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Vassar College.
Laurence Clement directs the Academic Career Development Program at the Office of Career and Professional Development. Her role at OCPD involves developing and teaching courses and workshops to prepare research trainees for academic careers at both research- and teaching-intensive institutions. She also offers individual advising sessions to students and fellows.

Her mission is to use an evidence-based approach to increase diversity in academia. Her goal is to provide future faculty with the tools to not only succeed in academia but also create a more inclusive culture. Laurence is particularly interested in helping graduate students and postdoctoral scholars develop the knowledge and the skills to navigate the faculty application process, to become of effective undergraduate and graduate educators, and to be prepared to mentor and supervise research trainees in their new faculty position.

Laurence is also a Principal Investigator on a Burroughs Wellcome award which focuses on refining, evaluating and disseminating a career readiness tool for research trainees. She has experience developing curriculum, teaching underrepresented students, developing educational video and web-based resources, and managing grant-funded projects in academia through her positions as Associate Director of iBiology and Adjunct Faculty and Program Manager at City College of San Francisco and at Bio-Link.

Laurence trained as a science education researcher through the American Society for Microbiology's Biology Scholars Program (BSP). Her research has focused on barriers to success for underrepresented students in the life sciences, particularly on metacognition and motivation. She also trained in Scientific Teaching through the SEPAL lab at San Francisco State University. She holds a Ph.D. in Endocrinology and Cell Interactions from Université Paris-Sud, France. Laurence was an international postdoctoral fellow at UCSF and briefly worked with a biotechnology company as a postdoc.
Anna Correa, MS  
Program Director, Clinical Careers, Career Development  
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Anna Correa has been assisting motivated students prepare for, and launch health and science related careers for over five years. In addition to seeing students individually for counseling, she also designs and facilitates customized interactive programs for students on clinical career paths. Additionally she creates online resources and develops operational strategy for how to better serve graduate students.

Previous to joining UCSF, Anna was a Pre-health Advisor/Career Counselor at the University of California, Berkeley's Career Center. There she co-led a campus wide pre-health advising council, edited the Pre-Med Guide, and developed successful strategies for timely programing based on student needs and campus concerns. She also served on the Diversity team assisting first generation college students bridge the gap between the classroom and the job market. Prior to Cal, Anna also enjoyed working with diverse clients at the Oakland Private Industry Council, San Francisco City College and the University of San Francisco. Before becoming a Career Counselor, She spent over ten years honing her presentation, organizational and multitasking skills in the corporate sector working in various fields including: real estate accounting, merchandising, production and office management.

Anna holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Behavior from the University of San Francisco and earned a Master of Science in Counseling, specializing in career and college, from San Francisco State University.
Trish McGrath, BA  
Event Planner  
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Trish McGrath has over 9 years experience in planning and executing events in corporate, not for profit and university settings. She has managed a wide range of events, including professional workshops and seminars, career fairs, vendor fairs, stakeholder meetings, staff orientations, receptions and company-wide holiday gatherings. She partners with senior leadership to envision, implement and closeout events, including establishing and managing timelines.

Prior to working at UCSF, Patti spent six years at the California Academy of Sciences where she planned and executed both small and keystone events, both professional and social. She earned her Bachelors Degree in English from the University of San Francisco.

Patti Meyer, PhD  
Program Director, Non-Academic Careers  
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Patti Meyer serves the PhD and PostDoctoral Scholars at UCSF who are seeking non-
academic careers. She is interested in meeting the needs of the life scientists and the social and population scientists by providing well-timed relevant programs, useful web-based resources and one-on-one counseling that helps students take action to move along their career path.

Patti has delivered services to students at a variety of colleges and universities for over twenty years. These included her work with an NSF-funded, Bay Area-based initiative to improve science training for K-12 teachers, and as coordinator of the Women’s Health Internship program at the National Center in Excellence in Women’s Health at UCSF. During her five years at UC Berkeley, where she worked with pre-health and pre-medical students, she was introduced to an array of career services for PhD students. After obtaining her PhD in medical anthropology and engaging with undergraduate students in the classroom as a professor of anthropology, Patti returned to UCSF and student affairs.

Patti earned her PhD in Medical Anthropology at the University of Kentucky, her Master’s degree in Anthropology from San Francisco State University, a Master of Science in Higher Education Administration from Southern Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Nebraska.

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Naledi Saul, MPM
Director, Office of Career and Professional Development
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Naledi Saul is the Director of the UCSF Office of Career and Professional Development. She leads the university’s efforts to teach biomedical trainees professional skills for career success. Naledi has also served as an advisor to the Career Forum at Science magazine’s online resource, Sciencecareers.org [10], and frequently presents career-related workshops at ABRCMS and FASEB on CV writing, networking, and effective interviewing for biomedical trainees.

Naledi is deeply interested in supporting institutions in establishing, building and integrating high-functioning career services at the graduate level, as well as teaching the professional
development skills required to engender high functioning and healthy teams. She was selected in 2015 for the UCSF Chancellor's Award for University for Exceptional University Management in recognition for her efforts.

Prior to UCSF, Naledi was an Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant Director of the Career Center at Amherst College, and an Assistant Director of the Career Development Center at Mount Holyoke College. She holds a Master of Public Management degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Spelman College.

Allyson Spence, PhD
Program Manager, Academic/Non-Academic Careers
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Allyson Spence is the Program Manager for Researchers at the Office of Career and Professional Development. She serves graduate students and postdocs interested in both academic and non-academic careers by organizing and planning programs, developing workshops, and creating resources tailored to this population. Her goal is to support trainees in exploration of a variety of career options and help them develop the skills necessary to succeed in those careers.

Allyson trained as an educator through both the STEP-UP program at UCSF and the SEPAL lab at San Francisco State University. She focuses on student-centered methods to engage all students in learning and promote diversity in science. She has experience teaching undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students at community colleges, primarily undergraduate institutions, and R1 universities in the Bay Area.

Allyson holds a PhD in Immunology from UCSF and a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Texas, Austin.
Dona Khoshabafard, a second year pharmacy student, serves as a student worker at OCPD. Dona collaborates with OCPD program directors to establish and develop a resource page for pharmacy students who need a baseline information about career options in biotech/pharmaceutical industry.

Before attending UCSF, Dona worked as a research scientist in a pharmaceutical company headquarters located in San Diego. There, she worked within the drug discovery department identifying lead compounds for pre-clinical and clinical selection. In her research, she designed and optimized novel active site engagement assays, and implemented them in high-throughput hit-to-lead targets, yielding compounds that advanced into preclinical development. While she enjoyed working as a researcher, Dona?s passion for patient care and therapeutics led her to pharmacy school.

Dona received her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from University of California, San Diego.
Uche Mordi, BS.
Student Worker

Uche Mordi, a third year pharmacy student serves as a student worker at OCPD. Uche works with OCPD program directors to design online career resources for pharmacy students interested in non-clinical pathways. Her desire for non-traditional pharmacist roles stems from her interest in the intersection of economics and health care.

Before attending UCSF Uche served as an undergraduate researcher examining S&P 500 stocks alongside USC Economics Department professors. Her area focused on reviewing and predicting trends within health insurance entities like Aetna, Cigna and others post-Affordable Care Act implementation in 2014. While she accepts the rigorous academic environment of a professional student, she enjoys exploring eateries around the bay and training for multiple races during the year.

Uche received her Bachelor of Arts in both Economics and Biology from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California. Fight on!

Amy Schultz, BS.
Student Worker

Amy Schultz, a third year physical therapy student, serves as a student worker at OCPD. Amy
collaborates with OCPD program directors to implement marketing efforts and update online resources geared towards health professional students.

Her passion in physical therapy stems from her past experience in competitive athletics, where she competed as a NCAA D1 collegiate athlete at San Diego State University. She continues to foster her passion for sports by starting her own surf-specific training program in the Bay Area.

Before attending UCSF, Amy served as a student mentor at the Office of Career and Professional Development at SDSU. She provided peer counseling in academics, as well as professional development. Amy received her Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at San Diego State University in San Diego, California.

Matthew Sugidono, a third year pharmacy student, serves as a student worker at OCPD. Sugi collaborates with OCPD program directors to implement marketing efforts and update online resources geared towards health professional students. His passion in pharmacy stems from his past experience as a clinical research intern at UCLA Health in oncology/hematology.

Before attending UCSF, Sugi served as a student ambassador at Loyola Marymount University's (LMU) Office of Career and Professional Development. He provided peer counseling in resumes, cover letters, social media, and additional areas of professional development for his fellow classmates. In addition, he has created graphic and presentation designs for marketing campaigns through LMU's Student Employment Services.

Sugi received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at LMU in Los Angeles, California.
Hailey Taylor, a third year dental student, serves as a student worker at OCPD. Hailey works with the OCPD program directors to develop new programming aimed toward developing advanced leadership skills for health professional students.

Before attending UCSF, Hailey worked as a chemical engineer in the Los Angeles area. There, she aided in the creation of a young professional?s group and led the group for two years. She planned mentoring events, leadership training, and social events for all the new employees. While she enjoyed the challenging work, Hailey?s passion for people and health care led her back to school to pursue dentistry.

Hailey received her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Our Key Collaborators:**

Jennie Dorman, PhD

Co-PI, Motivating INformed Decisions (MIND) Program
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program aims to create a culture at UCSF in which 1) students and postdocs can effectively explore the broad range of career options available to them, and 2) faculty have the support they need to mentor trainees along different career trajectories. Jennie co-designed and co-teaches MIND?s curriculum (with Bill Lindstaedt and Liz Silva) and leads a system of peer teams to help participants maintain momentum with their career exploration while continuing to excel at their research. She also co-leads (with Keith Yamamoto) MIND?s work with faculty, and consults on the evaluation team for the grant. Jennie strongly believes that UCSF benefits when our alumni become leaders in a range of sectors, from biotech to intellectual property, policy to science communication, business to education.

For UCSF?s Office of Career and Professional Development, Jennie also designs courses, workshops, and online resources to train postdoctoral scholars and graduate students in the communication skills they need to be successful -- both during their time at UCSF and in their future careers. These include: Giving Effective Research Talks, Designing Compelling Posters about your Research, Writing Up Research for Publication, Designing Clear and Compelling Figures, and many facets of teaching and learning in higher education.

Before coming to UCSF, Jennie worked at the University of Washington?s Center for Instructional Development and Research as a full-time teaching consultant and coach. There, she advised faculty, postdocs, and PhD students on the design, teaching, and evaluation of courses and curricula, and on how to present their teaching experiences for the job search or promotion. She earned a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Washington and a BA in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley. 

Bill, Lindstaedt, MS
Executive Director
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Bill Lindstaedt has been helping scientists and engineers make career decisions for over twenty years. Since October 2014, he has served as the Executive Director of the umbrella unit known as Career Advancement, International & Postdoctoral Services (CAIPS), comprised of three offices: The Office of Career and Professional Development, International Students and Scholars Office and the Postdoc Office. Prior to this, he was Director of the Office of Career and Professional Development at the University of California, San Francisco.
Bill is a co-author of "myIDP" [16], a popular career development tool hosted by Science magazine's careers site. In his one-on-one practice he has developed particular expertise working with life and health scientists as they transition from academic positions to careers in biotech and other non-academic settings.

He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and a Master's degree from the joint Counseling Psychology and Higher Education/Student Affairs programs at Indiana University.

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Thi Nguyen currently serves as a consultant to the OCPD. Thi designs online resources, creates web content, and evaluates program success for projects related to the biomedical research trainee population. Thi is also the Principal Investigator [18] of two grants awarded by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. For one grant, Thi developed and evaluated a novel course model for teaching graduate students and postdoctoral scholars about basic business concepts. Thi and Dr. Elizabeth Silva were also funded to develop a workbook [2] that provides brief, true-to-life job simulation exercises that mirror the tasks associated with jobs held by PhD-trained professionals in science fields beyond academia.

Thi previously served as a career advisor for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars pursuing non-academic careers. She also served as a program director and worked with employers, recruiters, alumni, and student leaders to create workshops and host employer informational lunches specifically tailored to UCSF students and postdocs.

Thi has presented nationwide on career development topics for life science PhDs. She has been featured on NatureJobs blog for ?Ask the Expert [19]?, and served as a Guest Advisor for ScienceCareers online Career Forum. Notably, Thi works remotely from Boston. Prior to the OCPD, Thi was a postdoctoral scholar at the Gladstone Institutes at UCSF. She holds a Doctorate of Neuroscience from UT Southwestern Medical Center and a BA in Biology and BA in Psychology from the