

Professional Development Workshop Speaker
Monday, June 18, 2018



Christine Kampen-Robinson (PhD): Professional Career Development Specialist, University of Manitoba

If the word “networking” makes you cringe, this is the right workshop for you! During this workshop, you will learn how to make networking work for you (so that it is neither scary nor gross) by evaluating what approaches and strategies are authentic for you. You will gain practical tips and techniques to successfully network at conferences and events, including managing small talk and keeping the conversation going after the event is over. In hands-on activities and exercises, you will practice approaches, plan for informational interviews, and walk away with an action plan to get you started in broadening your professional circle, both inside and outside academia. **Biography:** Dr. Christine Kampen Robinson is a professional and career development specialist with experience coaching graduate students and postdocs through the process of finding and building meaningful careers inside and outside academia. Her particular focus is facilitating transitions—both transitions into graduate school and out of it again—working to make sure that students and postdocs have the tools, strategies and information they need to make the decisions that are right for them. She holds a PhD from the University of Waterloo.

Panel Discussion Participants



Lori Reimer (MSc): Business Manager, The Climate Corporation

While originally from a small town in Manitoba, Lori travelled to Ontario to obtain her B.Sc. from the University of Waterloo. There, she discovered her love of biology, specializing in plant biology and microbiology. After graduation, she moved back to MB and obtained her M.Sc. at the University of Manitoba. While graduating from the Plant Science department, she also spent time in the Microbiology and Biological Sciences departments while working on her thesis involving bacteria biologically controlling fungal canola pathogens. After graduation, Lori began working in the agriculture industry. She currently works for The Climate Corporation as a Business Manager in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She works to help farmers understand and make decisions based on their farm data.



Brett Dalman (BSc): Territory Manager, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Brett graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Major Microbiology with a minor in zoology in the Co-op Program from the University of Manitoba. During university, she participated in the co-op program gaining experience with Miraculins (a biotech company working on cancer), and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Upon graduation she continued to work at the CFIA as a permanent technician working with high containment viruses for research and diagnostics applications. In 2010, Brett began the next stage in her career and became a Sales Representative, for the distribution company VWR, dealing with a variety of accounts and product lines. In 2014, she was approached to join a more specialized company as a Territory Manager for Thermo Fisher Scientific where she relies on her scientific degree to better support research labs.



Nancy Freitag (PhD): Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Associate Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program, and Assistant Dean of M.D./Ph.D. Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine.

Dr. Freitag's NIH-funded research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms by which pathogenic bacteria interact with mammalian hosts to cause disease as well as the host immune responses that limit infection. Her lab uses a combination of genetic, biochemical, structural, and cell biological techniques as well as animal models to understand the molecular physiology of bacteria inside and outside of the infected host. Dr. Freitag serves as an Editor for the journals *Infection* and *Immunity* and *mBio* and is a standing member of the 'Host Interactions with Bacterial Pathogens' NIH study section. She has mentored scientists at many stages of career development and has received multiple teaching awards. She is a member of the American Academy of Microbiology and has served as an ASM Distinguished Lecturer.



Patrick Chong (PhD): Biologist, National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg MB

Patrick Chong received his BSc and PhD from the Department of Microbiology at the U. of Manitoba. Patrick moved to the University of South Dakota and then the University of Kansas Medical Center studying virulence and gene expression in the oral pathogen *Streptococcus mutans* as part of his first postdoctoral fellowship (PDF). He completed a second PDF at the Antimicrobial Resistance and Nosocomial Infections unit at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML), Public Health Agency of Canada. Since October 2011, Patrick has been a member of the Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Core at the NML, using these techniques for better detection and characterization of biological agents and infectious diseases.