



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences

Dean's Hour: Careers in Toxicology

The event is sponsored by the Office of the Dean in the
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Tau Omega Chi.



Tuesday, November 8
6:30–8 p.m.
Virtual

Featured Speakers



Trudi Denoon '08P, '12GP, '20Ph.D.

Regulatory Toxicologist Consultant

Gad Consulting Services

trudi.denoon@gadconsulting.com

Trudi Denoon '08P, '12GP, '20Ph.D. is a Regulatory Toxicologist Consultant at Gad Consulting Services (GCS) in Raleigh, NC. She earned a B.S. and M.S. degree in Toxicology, and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences, from St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Queens, NY.

Her doctoral research, under the tutelage of Sue M. Ford,

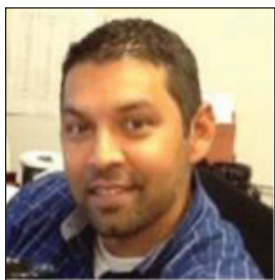
Ph.D., DABT, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, provided extensive academic training and research experience in multiple disciplines such as renal toxicology, bioenergetics, and metabolic reprogramming.

As a result of her academic work at St. John's University, Dr. Denoon served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Rogosin Institute in New York, NY, from December 2019 to June 2021. Her research focused on developmental biology and explored the role of bioenergetics and metabolic reprogramming of stem cells during various phases of directed differentiation. Her academic pursuits focused on improving the quality of kidney derived organoids that would make them a viable alternative for organ replacement therapy and a useful tool for toxicological screening.

At GCS, her current area of expertise focuses on evaluating drug impurities for potential toxicity including mutagenicity, qualification of impurities in drug products and substances, performing toxicological risk assessment for leachables and extractables, and establishing occupational exposure limits. Additionally, her other roles include editing and authoring book chapters for the *Encyclopedia of Toxicology*.

Previously, Dr. Denoon was awarded First Place at the 2018 Student Research Month at St. John's University. She was also the recipient of the Certificate of Academic Excellence for outstanding achievement in completing the Doctor of Philosophy at St. John's University.

Dr. Denoon is an alumna and former participant of the New York Academy of Sciences' Science Alliance Leadership Training program. She served as a graduate student representative for the Ethical, Legal, Forensics and Societal Issues Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) from May 2017 to May 2020. She was also a member of the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology and the Graduate Student Leadership Committee, Society of Toxicology (May 2017–May 2020). She is currently a member of subgroups, including SOT, Toxicologists of African Origin, Women in Toxicology, the Medical Device Combination Product Specialty Section, and the Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section. She has authored one publication and two published abstracts.



Dave Gossai '05GP, '08Ph.D.

*Director of Safety
L'Oréal USA*

Dave Gossai '05GP, '08Ph.D. joined L'Oréal USA in July of 2012. He leads the product safety group within skin care. He is currently leading a group of five toxicologists, each of whom is responsible for individual skin care brands within L'Oréal. He is engaged in various external collaborations, including with the Personal Care Products Council and Sunscreen Consortium.

With respect to his roles, Dr. Gossai is responsible for ensuring the safety of individual ingredients and formulations that will be marketed to the consumer. He is responsible for strategically performing the necessary in silico, in vitro, and human clinical trial programs to support the safe use of the ingredients and formulations.

Prior to L'Oréal, Dr. Gossai worked at the Medical Education Institute and Avon Products, Inc. During his one-year stint at the Medical Education Institute, he wrote scientific presentations for medical doctors. These presentations were to inform the medical community of the drugs used, their efficacy, and possible side effects. Following this time, Dr. Gossai spent the next eight years at Avon Products, Inc., where he was responsible for ingredient and formulations review and approval. He has experiences in in-silico modeling, in vitro testing, and human clinical evaluation.



Nathalie Jean-Charles '07P, '11GP

*Molecular Laboratory Manager
P4 Clinical, LLC*

Nathalie Jean-Charles '07P, '11GP earned her B.S. degree in Toxicology, with minors in Chemistry and French, at St. John's University in 2007. She went on to complete a M.S. degree in Toxicology at St. John's in 2011.

Ms. Jean-Charles is a molecular laboratory manager at P4 Clinical, LLC, where she uses her expertise as a scientist specializing in molecular genetics and the high-throughput detection of molecular biomarkers in the detection of infections, cancer, and genetic diseases. She is involved with design study metrics of all molecular laboratory-developed tests to improve testing sensitivity and accuracy.

Ms. Jean-Charles previously worked with the US Department of Homeland Security in the early detection of select agents that can be used in bioterrorism. During her time at the department, she developed and managed QA/QC programs for molecular testing.



Andrea DeSantis Rodrigues, Ph.D., DABT '05P

*Ocular Toxicologist
AbbVie*

Andrea DeSantis Rodrigues, Ph.D., DABT '05P graduated from St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences with a bachelor's degree in Toxicology in 2005. During her undergraduate studies at St. John's, she was

Vice President of Tau Omega Chi and worked with Blase C. Billack, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, on the "Effects of Distamycin A and Mechlorethamine on Yeast Cells."

Dr. Rodrigues went on to earn her Ph.D. in Toxicology from Rutgers University/University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology (New Brunswick, NJ) in 2011. Her dissertation, "Countermeasures Against Vesicant-Induced Corneal De-adhesion," was under the advisement of was under the advisement of Marion Gordon, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Rutgers University's Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute. She has been a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology since 2015, has published research in peer-reviewed journals, and serves as a peer reviewer for ophthalmology and toxicology journals.

Dr. Rodrigues is currently a Senior Principal Research Scientist at AbbVie in Irvine, CA, where she works as a preclinical safety representative on pharmaceutical development project teams, mainly focused on eye care therapeutics and aesthetic therapies. She was previously the Director of Toxicology and Head of Nonclinical Development at PYC Therapeutics (San Diego, CA) where she helped develop oligonucleotide-based therapies for inherited retinal diseases, and was also a Managing Scientist at ToxStrategies, Inc. (Mission Viejo, CA), a toxicology-focused consulting firm.

Dr. Rodrigues started her career after graduate school as a Toxicology Scientist at Allergan LLC, and gradually moved into the role of Associate Director of Toxicology while gaining expertise in regulatory toxicology for various drug development programs, the animal care and use committee, and drug impurity guidance and assessments.

Dr. Rodrigues has been an active member of the Society of Toxicology since 2008 and was a former Student Representative for the In Vitro and Alternative Methods Specialty Section. She was a Councilor and is the current Vice President of the Ocular Toxicology Specialty Section.