



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 7
6:30–8 p.m.
Virtual Event

Featured Speakers



Kiran Bijlani '07GP, '11Ph.D.

*Director of Research and Development
Metrex Research, LLC*

Dr. Bijlani currently serves in a leadership role as Director of Research and Development at Metrex, a company focused on infection control solutions, located in Orange, CA. She manages a product portfolio ranging from surface disinfectants, high-level disinfectants, instrument reprocessing, hand hygiene, and infection prevention

solutions. These products are specifically designed for health-care markets such as acute care, primary care, ambulatory surgery centers, emergency medical services, fire departments, police departments, extended care, and public sectors.

Dr. Bijlani earned a doctorate and a master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacology) from St. John's University. She earned her bachelor's degree in Pharmacy and postgraduate diploma in Contract Clinical Research at the University of Mumbai in India.

Her prior roles have been Senior Director of Research and Development and Quality Control at Collision, Inc., and Associate Director of Cell and Microbiology at Emery Pharma. Dr. Bijlani has been working in the industry in drug development, program management, and managing individuals for nearly a decade. She has experience working for a contract research organization (CRO), as well as working on the sponsor side for a pharmaceutical company, and has taken products from research and development to the commercial stage. She has experience working on medical devices, small molecules, as well as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-regulated products. She worked with more than 100 clients across the globe during her time working with the CRO.

Following her graduation from St. John's University, Dr. Bijlani was hired as full-time faculty in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She taught Doctor of Pharmacy students in undergraduate and graduate courses focused on the pharmaceutical sciences, including pharmacology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and clinical immunology.

Dr. Bijlani has also presented and published her work in peer-reviewed journals and at national meetings, and has been a speaker at Women in Biology and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) events, as well as the Society of Toxicology.



Benjamin Kisting '12P, '14GP, '22Ph.D.

*Research and Development Senior Scientist
PepsiCo*

Dr. Kisting is a St. John's University triple alumnus in the Toxicology program in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. During the last year of his Ph.D., he accepted an internship with PepsiCo to become a part of the Scientific Affairs team. This led to a full-time job offer with PepsiCo after completion of his Ph.D. With PepsiCo Scientific Affairs,

Dr. Kisting focuses on ingredient safety and compliance within the beverage portfolio, in addition to partnering with other food industry toxicologists on the Calorie Control Council and International Food Additives Council.

He is an active member of EQUAL, an LGBTQ+-focused employee resource group at PepsiCo, where he leads the partnership with Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS by facilitating in-kind snack and beverage donations and volunteers for their flagship fundraising events. Outside of work, Dr. Kisting enjoys doing theater, knitting, reading, and hanging out with his husband and two cats.



Adedayo (Dayo) Oduwole, M.D. '13P

*Director of Research and Development
Diagnostic Radiology*

Dr. Oduwole is completing her final PGY-5 postgraduate year as a radiology resident physician with Hofstra Northwell at Mather Hospital. She graduated from the Medical College of Georgia with her doctorate in Medicine in 2019 and graduated from St. John's University with her Bachelor of Science in Toxicology and minor in Chemistry *cum laude*

in 2013. While at St. John's, she was involved with the Watson Pre-Health Honor Society, serving as both Community Service Director and Vice President.

She is a first generation Nigerian American and Atlanta native involved with several organizations, including the Long Island Radiological Society, RAD-AID, and National Medical Association. Her passions include bridging the gap of health-care disparities pertaining to breast cancer diagnoses in minority populations. Dr. Oduwole will be completing a breast imaging fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Her interests include candle making, home improvement projects, philosophy, and community service.



Vivek Patel '11GP, '16Ph.D.

*Toxicologist
Institute for In Vitro Sciences*

Dr. Patel earned his master's degree in 2011 and doctorate degree in 2016 in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Toxicology) from St. John's University. He is a Toxicologist (Respiratory Group) at the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS) located in Gaithersburg, MD. Trained as an inhalation toxicologist and

immunologist, he advises sponsors and collaborators in designing respiratory studies for their products/test materials and serves as the Study Director for client projects.

He also leads the respiratory *in vitro* method/assay optimization and development efforts at IIVS, including the development of respiratory sensitization assay and characterization of cryopreserved human precision-cut lung slices as a test model. He is part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Expert Group on Respiratory Sensitization and has served as an expert panelist at inhalation toxicity testing workshops.

Prior to IIVS, Dr. Patel was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Tennessee and Louisiana State University, where he investigated the effects of exposure to combustion-derived particulate matter on asthma in adults and influenza infections in neonates. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and also serves as a reviewer for respiratory and toxicology journals.