

Mentor Program Biographies



Annie Bargsten

**Field Application Scientist, STEMCELL Technologies
Longmont, CO**

After graduating from medical school, I pursued a PhD which led me to a non-bench position in the industry. Later, I went back to the bench and left it again with a better understanding of what I am passionate about and what works for me. If you aren't sure what you want to do when you grow up, let's talk!

Industry: Biotechnology
6 years of experience

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Briston Foster

**Principal Strategy Lead Complex Spine, Medtronic
Grand Junction, CO**

My journey has spanned across Clinical and Medical Affairs functions, encompassing traditional clinical trials and working on cross-functional new product development teams representing the clinical function. I have experience navigating early career exploration within Medical Device industry, walking through your potential strengths & how that might translate to a career, as well as hands on practical support with interview preparation or resume building. My mentoring is tailored to help mentees achieve their unique aspirations, whether that's seeking career guidance, skill development, or navigating a transition. I'm here to be your mentor, guide, and perhaps even your cheerleader (virtual pom-poms included!).

Industry: Medical Device
9 years of experience

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Lance Ashbrook

**Manager of Analytical Development, Tolmar
Fort Collins, CO**

I am a Ph.D. chemist who can help advise on graduate school decisions and on the various career paths available. My particular career path has taken me down the road of pharmaceutical R&D but it started in inorganic solar cells. My background is in analytical and materials chemistry, which has served me well no matter what industry I am in. I am also happy to give lab tours of our primary R&D facility in Fort Collins.

Industry: Pharmaceuticals
8 years of experience

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, PhD Students, Postdocs

Mentor Program Biographies



Julia Beattie (she/her)

**Research Engineer, Highridge Medical
Westminster, CO**

I work in the mechanical test lab of a spine medical device company. This is my first job out of college after getting a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from CU Boulder. I can provide a tour of the company (which also includes a biomechanical research lab, a manufacturing center, a cadaver lab, and office spaces, in addition to the mechanical test lab), and I can share about my experiences in college, applying for jobs, and starting this job.

**Industry: Medical Devices
2 years of experience**

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate Students



Mike Bojanowski

**Principal Engineer and Partner, K1C Consulting LLC
Denver, CO**

Over the last 20 years, I have held several roles in executive management, research and development, engineering, and manufacturing. I am a founding member of four bioscience companies and an active mentor to early-stage startups. My engineering experience includes the development and launch of a number of medical devices such as surgical implants, drug delivery systems, electrosurgery, surgical robotics, and connected at-home devices.

**Industry: Medical Device
20 years of experience**

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Kori Jew

**Senior Director Corporate Clinical Research
and Medical Science, Medtronic
Boulder, CO**

I took a winding path to get to my current role, but it is a great fit for all of my experience and skills. I received my PhD in Integrative Physiology in 2001 and worked as a research scientist for several years before going back to school to get my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I was an ICU nurse for 4 years before joining industry in the clinical research space and over the years have moved into strategic roles providing medical and scientific intelligence to the business.

**Industry: Medical Device
13 years of experience**

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, PhD Students

Mentor Program Biographies



Chris Lewis

**Head of Quality, Umoja Biopharma
Louisville, CO**

Increasing responsibilities across multiple global biotechnology/biopharma companies over a 20 year career. Has built and led organizations to deliver innovative therapies to patients and their families in clinical and commercial settings around the world”

**Industry: Biopharma
20 years of experience**

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students, Happy to support any group



Kylie Kemp

**Sr Development Engineer, Highridge Medical
Westminster, CO**

I've worked in the Medical Device field as a Development Engineer for almost 8 years, specifically with implants/instruments for spinal surgery. I attended CSU for both undergrad and graduate school, receiving my BS in Mechanical Engineering and my MS in BioEngineering where I focused on Clinical Biomechanics for my Masters thesis. I've worked on a variety of projects in my career, ranging from specialty instrument design, to minimally invasive technology and 3D printed Titanium implants. As a mentor, I can help provide help with resume reviews, interview prep, facility tours, insight into graduate school (if you're in undergrad), and advice on shifting from academia into industry.

**Industry: Medical Device
8 years of experience**

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students



Scott Davie

**Chief Technology Officer, Alio
Broomfield, CO**

This will be my 5th group of mentees. Typically I spend a lot of time on networking and job finding skills, industry vs. academia, industry segments. Beyond that I let the group drive the direction. My background is biomedical engineering, large company and small companies, innovation, team leadership, clinical experience. I've lived in 4 states and 3 foreign countries. See my LinkedIn profile for details.

**Industry: Medical Device,
Digital Health
32 years of experience**

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students

Mentor Program Biographies



Industry: Analytical Instrumentation
26 years of experience

Kevin Aumiller (he/him)

**Technology Director, Veolia
Boulder, CO**

My current role is associated with R&D and product development of analytical instruments serving pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, and medical device companies. This includes things like rapid microbiological methods and other analytical testing equipment from a design perspective. However, I have 5+ years experience directly in industry, working as a consultant and principal engineer for biopharmaceutical manufacturing operations as a whole. That included work in Colorado at Amgen and its various changes over time, KBI, Hospira/Pfizer and in the bigger hubs of the Bay Area, Boston, Philadelphia, North Carolina, San Diego, and elsewhere.

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate Students



Industry: Medical Device
27 years of experience

Tim Schaewe

**Research Engineer, Consultant, Self Employed
Nederland, CO**

Timothy J. ("Tim") Schaewe is an imaging scientist and clinical researcher with over 25 years of experience in the biomedical field. His experience in both academic and industry R&D led to a unique specialization in translational research and academic-industry collaboration. In 2017, he was named a Medtronic Technical Fellow, an honor that recognizes not only deep technical expertise but also engagement with the technical community within and outside of Medtronic to advance knowledge and support professional development in the bioengineering field. He retired from Medtronic in 2021 but remains active as an advisor and mentor.

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate Students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Industry: Medical Technology
10 years of experience

Rasool Rahmanian (he/him)

**Strategic Partnerships, Program Manager, Medtronic
Portland, OR**

I manage strategic partnerships at Medtronic, that means that I assess new technologies that are developed outside of our company, usually by startups or research teams, and find opportunities where we can partner to accelerate innovation in our space. Once we find those opportunities, I take lead in structuring the partnership and negotiating the contract. I've been in similar roles in different parts of Medtronic for the past 4 years. Prior to that, I was a product development engineer at Ford Motor Company. I have a Masters in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA.

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students

Mentor Program Biographies



Industry: Biotechnology
25 years of experience

Kevin Marhenke (he/him)

Director, External Medical Engagement, Amgen (Retired)
Aurora, CO

I began my career as a pharmacist primarily working in hospitals for 18 years, where I focused on critical care medicine. Following my hospital career I was hired by Amgen, the world's largest biotech company, where I worked for 25 years. My roles at Amgen consisted of serving as a Medical Science Liaison, Training Director, Medical Director and finally Director of External Medical Engagement. I feel that my broad experience in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as my clinical experience would serve to benefit mentees that I would have the privilege of working with.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Industry: Biotechnology
22 years of experience

Kristine Young (she/her)

Principal QA Specialist, Quality Engineering, KBI Biopharma
Boulder, CO

I am an experienced Quality Assurance and Validation specialist bringing experience in small molecule sterile injectable pharmaceutical, solid and liquid oral dose pharmaceutical and therapeutic protein biotechnology manufacturing environments. I have a BS in Biology and found myself in the pharma industry right after college. I have about 10 years doing Validation, a few years in recruiting for life science positions and the rest of my experience is in Quality Assurance. Almost all of my time has been supporting manufacturing facilities in one fashion or another.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students



Industry: Diagnostics
20 years of experience

Becky Yacht-Yhap (she/her)

Sr. Director Commercial Effectiveness and Sales Training
Bioesix
Louisville, CO

I am happy to be of support as you are going through your educational journey. I didn't know a job like the one I have existed when I was in college. There are so many opportunities in the Biotech and diagnostics space. I have experience in diagnostics across commercial specialties (marketing, sales, and commercial training), and am happy to provide any insights that may guide someone interested in learning more about leadership within a commercial team.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate Students, Masters Students

Mentor Program Biographies



Industry: Biotechnology
16 years of experience

Shlomo Harnas (he/him)

**Managing Director, Akrolyth Advisory
Westminster, CO**

I have particularly extensive experience in Life Sciences - firsthand across consulting and industry, and working closely with entrepreneurs and investors. All after having started off thinking that I would spend a lifetime in academia and "falling to the dark side" along the way. My career path has been a combination of planning and serendipity, and both professionally and personally I have a particularly broad range of experience and knowledge about career and professional paths, advantages and pitfalls. Happy to share perspectives, so hopefully others can benefit from my experience without having to attain it the hard way.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters students, PhD students,
Graduates/Entrepreneurs



Industry: Pharmaceutical
8 years of experience

Daniel Buehler (he/him)

**Intellectual Property Manager, Tolmar
Fort Collins, CO**

Daniel began his career with a robust academic path, progressing from undergraduate studies to a postdoctoral fellowship. He then transitioned into the start-up world before moving into intellectual property at a law firm. Daniel further advanced his career by joining a pharmaceutical company, where they managed both branded and generic drug portfolios and gained extensive experience in business development, including mergers and acquisitions and new product development programs.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Industry: Biotechnology
3 years of experience

Sarah Lehman (she/her)

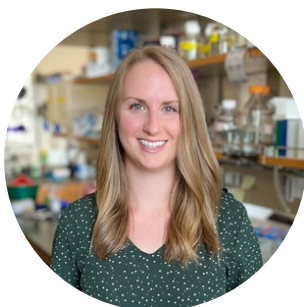
**Principal Scientist, Biochemistry, Edgewise Therapeutics
Boulder, CO**

I am a biochemist working in drug discovery for cardiac and skeletal muscle diseases. As a collegiate athlete, I wanted to find a career that would connect my love for science and sports which led me to muscle biology. After a change of career interests during my junior year of college, I pursued my PhD and have never looked back!

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students

Mentor Program Biographies



Industry: Biotechnology
2 years of experience

Lindsey Lee (she/her)

**Scientist, Biochemistry, Edgewise Therapeutics
Boulder, CO**

I'm a scientist at Edgewise Therapeutics, a company that develops therapeutics for muscle diseases. I completed my PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from CU Boulder and went straight into industry with the goal of pursuing a research job focused on improving human health. As a part of the biochemistry team at Edgewise I'm able to apply my lab training and translational skills to complex problems and company goals. I'm excited to be a part of the mentor program, and I'm happy to share my career experiences, answer questions, and learn from the mentees.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Industry: Biotechnology
20+ years of experience

Rita "Ruta" Sanzgiri (she/her)

**Member of Board of Directors Executive Council, CBSA
Boulder, CO**

With over 20 years in the life sciences industry, my career has spanned from research to law, providing me with a unique perspective to guide emerging talent. I began as a scientist in India, pursued a Ph.D. and postdoctoral work in Genetics and Neuroscience in the US, then transitioned to patent law. I have worked as a patent lawyer in law firms and as in-house counsel, including as Associate VP and Assistant General Patent Counsel where I worked closely with scientists and business development teams to protect the company's intellectual property. Now, I aim to support and grow Colorado's life sciences community, leveraging my passion for education and mentoring to help young professionals succeed.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students, PhD Students



Industry: Medical Device
4 years of experience

Ma Luo (he/him)

**Data Science Manager, Medtronic
Louisville, CO**

Ma is a solution-oriented leader with a strong track record in cross-functional roles, currently managing advanced technologies at Medtronic for image-guided surgical navigation and robotics. Ma leads the Medtronic Enterprise AI Working Group and oversees the company's AI series, engaging with leading experts on cutting-edge AI/ML technologies. Passionate about STEM outreach, Ma received the Medtronic 2022 STEM Outreach Award and serve on the Industry Advisory Board for Biomedical Engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder. With a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University, his expertise includes computational modeling, data analytics, and medical imaging.

Open to Mentoring

Masters Students, PhD Students (Preference for CU Boulder)

Mentor Program Biographies



Industry: Medical Device
3 years of experience

Anna Haugen (she/her)

**Manufacturing Engineer, Highridge Medical
Westminster, CO**

As a mentor, I think I could offer some unique insight not only into the world of manufacturing engineering and its nuances, but also the entire lifespan of a medical device, from idea inception to implantation. I also work as a female in a very male dominant sector of engineering, so I think that would be fun to share my perspective, as well as give students a great example of a supportive workplace and coworkers. Lastly, I would definitely be able to give them a tour of the facility (specifically the machine shop I work with often), which would hopefully be a very fun experience and a sneak peek into the world of med devices!

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students



Industry: Medical Device
12 years of experience

Matthew Long (he/him)

**Senior Manager of Customer Focused Quality, Terumo Blood Cell
Technologies
Lakewood, CO**

I have experience across R&D, Commercial, and Quality organizations within the medical device space, and can help guide students on all of the different possible career paths they can pursue within the industry. After spending 4 years within R&D in both New Product Development and Sustaining roles, I've spent most of my time in Quality leading teams who have responsibilities ranging from technical root cause analysis to customer/regulator conversations. I can also speak to my experience with a career outside of the bioscience industry, following a 2-year stint working in clean technology for heavy industry - and ultimately, why I choose to come back to medical devices.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students, Masters Students



Industry: Medical
17 years of experience

Ravi Narayanan (he/him)

**Senior Principal Product Manager, Nordson Medical
Loveland, CO**

Passionate Life Sciences professional with 25 plus years of leadership experience in small & large sized organizations skilled in Product Management, Market Development, Strategic Planning & Deployment, Engineering and New Product Development. Ravi is in the medical and biopharma division of a \$2.6B Nordson Corporation. Proven record of building organizational capability, talented teams, and achieving profitable growth.

Open to Mentoring

Undergraduate students

Mentor Program Biographies



Hee Young Yi (she/her)

**Project Engineer II, AGC Biologics
Boulder, CO**

I graduated with a bachelor's in Chemical and Biological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 2019. Shortly after I started my career in the biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry. My role has been ever evolving, providing me diverse experience including hands-on manufacturing, process improvement, and change control; specifically in the viral vector/cell therapy/mammalian realm. Currently, I am a project engineer at AGC Biologics, where I manage all types of projects throughout the site to implement changes and improvements.

Industry: Biopharmaceuticals
5 years of experience

Open to Mentoring
Undergraduate students