Intra-European Fellowship for career development – A personal perspective

Margherita Coccia

IEF Fellow, GSK Vaccines, Rixensart, Belgium

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My journey

Oxford University
Oxford

San Raffaele University
Milan

La Sapienza University
Rome

GSK Vaccines - Rixensart
Who am I?

- IEF Marie Curie Fellow since 2013
- Scientist at GSK Vaccines in the Vaccine Discovery and Development unit
- My work focuses on vaccine adjuvants
- Adjuvants are compounds that enhance the immune response to vaccine antigens
Why an IEF with GSK Vaccines

- Strong commitment to R&D
- A lot of activity in my field of expertise

Professional Fit

- Commitment to external collaboration
- Possibility to have high impact on human health

Opportunities for growth

- Intra European fellowship

Values

- Transparency
- Integrity
- Respect for people
- Patient focus

Funding

GSK CONFIDENTIAL 25 November 2013
The opportunities of an Intra-European Fellowship

• Strong focus on career development
• New skills
• Bridging academia and industry
• EU mobility
Vaccines are the main scientific breakthrough of the 20th century

“With the exception of safe water, no other modality, not even antibiotics, has had such a major effect on mortality reduction...”

GSK Vaccines
Facts and figures 2012

More than 2,600 people working on the research and the development of our vaccines

- Over 900 million vaccine doses to 170 countries
- Over 30 marketed vaccines available worldwide
- Over 15 vaccines in clinical development
- Over 12,000 employees worldwide
- £3.3 billion sales
- £498 million invested in vaccines R&D
GSK Vaccines
Achieving our R&D objectives through collaborations

Collaborating for scientific excellence with the best partners

> 110 scientific collaborations
- 80 with academic institutions
- 50 with Biotechs
- 15 involving public funding
- 25 are with Belgian Organizations
- 40 are with EU Organizations
- 12-15 PhD and post-docs

94% of GSK Vaccines projects / products rely on collaborations.
What do scientist with an international academic background bring to industry?

- Fresh perspective
- Knowledge of the academic system – how to increase academic visibility: conferences, publications, etc.
- Strong focus on science and scientific rigour
- Innovation focus
- “Can do” attitude
- 2 years hard graft on a specific action plan
What do scientists with an international academic background bring to industry?

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Fostered by the IEF fellowship:
- Peer-reviewed scientific programme
- Set milestones and deliverables
- Risk assessment
What are the major hurdles in the way?

• Long application process
  – Application in 14/8/2012
  – Invitation to negotiate 27/11/2012
  – First possible start 01/05/2013

• Postdocs are different:
  • Credibility of supervisors is important
  • Contracts are different – impact on HR

• Different departments need to work together to make this work:
  – R&D
  – HR
  – External R&D (Opportunities and Innovation)
So far so good…

- Fully integrated in GSK Vaccines R&D department
- Collaborating with researchers at 3 Universities
- On track with my research plan

![Career development plan diagram]
Thank you