

## *Lunch-N-Learn: Bioscience and Technology – August 2009*

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### **Presented by:**

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[www.fredcobio.wordpress.com](http://www.fredcobio.wordpress.com)

- A science degree is not always required for employment in the bioscience field with the exception of upper management positions. For example, a PhD in nuclear biology may be required for a VP position.
- It is a rapidly emerging, evolving field with a lot of staff turnover.
- The three largest local employers are Mediumimmune ([www.mediumimmune.com](http://www.mediumimmune.com)), Lonza ([www.lonza.com](http://www.lonza.com)) in Walkersville, and Life Technologies ([www.lifetechnologies.com](http://www.lifetechnologies.com)) formerly known as, Invitrogen, one of the largest biotech firms in the world).
- Life Technologies has new emphasis in hiring for their distribution center – will employ 400.
- ImQuest ([www.imquest.com](http://www.imquest.com)), on Executive Way is an emerging company that has a government grant to develop a cream for HIV.
- DynPort ([www.csc.com/dvc](http://www.csc.com/dvc)), also located in Frederick, is a biotechnology company focusing on vaccine and biological therapeutics development. It is a large company that executes contracts for the federal government.
- Lifeline Cell Technology has been in the media recently for stem cell research to “re-grow” the cornea. This company went from 5 employees to 15-20.
- Fort Detrick has \$2 billion of capital improvement projects including a 730,000 square foot facility for the National Cancer Institute. There is a networking group called Fort Detrick Alliance.
- Hiring trends: in the past applicants would apply through HR. Now recruiting for many positions is outsourced. Aerotek Scientific Staffing has an exclusive contact to recruit for Lonza. Randstad hires distribution center employees for the Life Technology distribution center. Direct hire is a thing of the past – temp-to-hire is the current trend. Note: several of the temp agencies do offer benefits.
- To find a job in the bioscience field networking is key. Biobeers, a networking opportunity, is held at the Flying Dog Brewery. Information about the next event and Frederick County biotech news can be found at [fredcobio.wordpress.com](http://fredcobio.wordpress.com). Also, check Linked In and Twitter. Use Linked In to research opportunities, get to know people in the field, send out articles of interest. This may lead to getting to know the person hiring.
- Frederick County is “now, the stem cell capital of the world” with Lonza and Life Technology located in the area.
- It was noted that the bioscience community is very close-knit and that “you cannot afford to burn bridges.”
- Another tip was to have business cards printed with your name, contact info and details. Write what you talked about, or what you have in common when you give it out so that afterwards the person you networked with will remember you.
- The soft skills necessary to succeed in this area are communication skills, patience, the desire to learn new things, and the ability to work with a variety of management styles. Flexibility is key when working in the biotech industry.