

# WIAS Workshop 'Career Coaching'

Tuesday 18 September 2007, Zodiac room 41



The workshop is intended for PhD students, postdocs and staff in WIAS. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the student's future career and the steps which need to be taken now to help you get the job you want. PhD students and supervisors (2:1 ratio) will discuss their experiences and share their learning about career development. Frank Little, known by most students as excellent facilitator in the WIAS Introduction Course, will lead the workshop. Participation is limited to thirty persons. By the end of the workshop, students will have clearer ideas of what they seek in a job, and what knowledge, skills and experience such a job might require them to have developed already during the PhD study. Supervisors will have learnt how to help students to prepare for the job they want.

## 13:00 Opening by Frank Little:

*Introduction:* 'Why I do what I do' or: 'Is it possible to plan a career?' (10 min)

*Individual and group work:* 'What would your perfect job look like?'

Motivators and demotivators (20 min)

## 13:30 Part 1

- *Talk* by Arjen van Tunen (director Keygene) on what his company seeks in a future employee (10 min + 5 min questions)
- *Talk* by Annet Velthuis (alumnus) on balancing professional and personal demands (10 min + 5 min questions)
- *Work in small groups:* Analyse CVs for a potential job advertisement\*:  
What are knowledge, skills, attitude and experience needed for this job? and  
Decide which one of five applicants you would call for an interview (30 min)
- *Plenary discussion:* Learning from the group work  
If you think about your own (or your student's) CV, what does this exercise tell you about improving it (30 min)

## 15:00 Break and changing groups' composition

## 15:20 Part 2

- *Talk* by Sjo Koumans (alumnus) on how to turn personal interest into a full-time job (10 min + 5 min questions)
- *Talk* by Martin Verstegen (supervisor) on how he helps students to prepare for their future career (10 min + 5 min questions)
- *Work in trios:* Building your CV – tutorials on practical, short term actions. A supervisor (not the own supervisor) mentors two PhD students to identify three specific actions each in the next six months which will help 'build their CVs' (40 min)
- *Plenary discussion:* Sharing with and learning from people in the other tutorials:  
What kinds of practical actions could I consider in the next six months (30 min)

## 17:00 Closing words:

'What can WIAS do to help and what can you do to help yourself?'

\*material stems from a workshop titled 'Identifying and selling your employability skills', organised by Sarah Blackford and Peter Lumsden and held at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Experimental Biology, Canterbury 2-7 April 2006.