

To: T. Michael Duncan
From: Sarah Parrotte
Re: Sarah Miller, Genentech

Sarah Miller obtained her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University in 2007 as a Merck fellow. While at Cornell, she was a member of the Steen research group, a teaching assistant for CHEME 1120, and a member of the Kappa Delta sorority. She worked one summer at Merck, and entered a job at Genentech after her graduation. She recently ~~obtained-earned~~ her MBA ~~from-at~~ Berkeley in 2014, and is currently working in Clinical Demand and Supply Planning.

Miller started with her discussion of her personality as a planner- and her pre-graduation decision to pursue industry for a few years before obtaining her Ph.D. Her previous internship at Merck had cemented her interest in the pharmaceutical industry, and when a job opportunity at Genentech presented itself, she joined a Process Development rotational program. At this point, she stressed the importance of flexibility in planning and in life, as she discovered that research was no longer her pursuit, and her plans to obtain a Ph.D. were no longer relevant.

After the rotational program concluded, Miller pursued a variety of other roles, including Pilot Plant Scheduling, a Clinical Planning Position in 2011, and her EWMBA at Berkeley, which concluded in 2014. Her plans for the future are yet unknown, but she is considering pursuing ~~supply-supply~~-chain work, expanding from Genentech to Roche, or entering more ~~finance-financial~~ or commercial positions.

Genentech was founded in 1976 by a biochemist and an ~~ad~~venture capitalist, aiming to be a leading biotechnology company involved in the development, manufacturing, and commercialization of bio pharmaceuticals. It is a global company with over 13.3K employees, 11.3K patents received, and headquarters all over the world. It became a member of the Roche group in 2009. Some of its more recent developments include Kadcyla and Gazyva, drugs for metastatic breast cancer and leukemia, respectively.

Along with discussing her own path, Miller touched upon the lives of other recent Cornell alumni. Parry Grewal ('10) entered a role in Cell Culture Process Development, and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at CalTech. Some of his responsibilities included cell source development, and mass and product accumulation. She stressed the availability for individuality in one's path or role due to the abundance of positions and opportunities that are open. In addition she stressed how vital it is to maintain important relationships in the road to success because one cannot rely on results and numbers alone.

Miller found that her time at Cornell was beneficial in the positions she entered in many ways. The technical skills she acquired: excel usage, basic unit conversions, biochemistry, and communication with varieties of people helped her in her job. Additionally, soft skills like her motivation, work ethic, desire to succeed, stress and time management, and desire to be challenged made her a better employee and a better person. Her opinions on Genentech are mainly positive, and she was adamant about her love of the Bay Area, work "perks," and the people she is surrounded by.

Overall, Miller described her daily life and the life of a Genentech employee well while stressing the importance of a life routine outside of work. She advised that one's working life is long, and the need for balance is essential. I particularly enjoyed her truthfulness about the difficulties of planning ahead and the need for flexibility in one's future.

Edited by: Kelsey Weber [Superb memo!](#)