

Jumping the Canyon

Transitioning from Academia to Industry

Eric R. Samuels, PhD

Scientist, Analytical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences

AbbVie, Inc.

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Outline

- **Background**
- **Hurdles**
- **The Transition**
- **Academia vs. Industry**
- **Applying**

Background

- **BS: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology – UC Santa Cruz**



- **MS: Biotechnology – CSU Channel Islands**

- **Masters fellowship at City of Hope**



- **PhD: Pharmaceutical Sciences – UC Irvine**

- **Postdoc: USC-Allergan Postdoctoral Fellowship**

- **Small Molecule Product Development Fellowship**



- **Hired by Allergan mid fellowship**

- **Allergan bought by AbbVie 2019 – Merge complete May 2020**



The Hardest Hurdle

- **Last year of PhD applied to dozens of jobs**
 - **Hundreds of inquiry emails**
 - **Attended info sessions/resume workshops**
 - **Networked with many industry professionals**

I learned one crucial thing from this....

Networking and being proactive was incredibly beneficial for career growth. However...

Industry professionals generally do not “trust” fresh academic scientists*...

*There are exceptions to this...



The Industrial Paradox

- To get a job in industry you need industry experience...

HOW DOES THIS MAKE SENSE!?

Because industry and academia are very different



Industry sees fresh PhDs and postdocs as smart and talented, but the workflow and goals of industry are often foreign to them...

Workaround

- **Aside from networking and recruitment...**
- **Right Skill**
- **Right Fit**
- **Right Time**
- **Remember, industry knows you know how to think like an independent scientist**
- **The key is to show them you can think like a professional and be an effective team player**

The Transition

- **USC-ABBVIE FELLOWSHIP**



- **Learned key skills to build a successful industrial career**
 - **Transition from discovery to development**
- **Ultimately became a very useful transition to industry**

The Transition

- **Rules, rules, rules...**



- **Not really...just a lot of training**
- **Colleagues are there to help you learn. Remember you're part of a team**

The Transition

- **Compliance vs Science**



GxP

- **EXAMPLE: GMP**

- **Something as simple as using a pipette becomes a detailed task**
 - Calibration, documentation, etc.

- **EXAMPLE: Documentation**

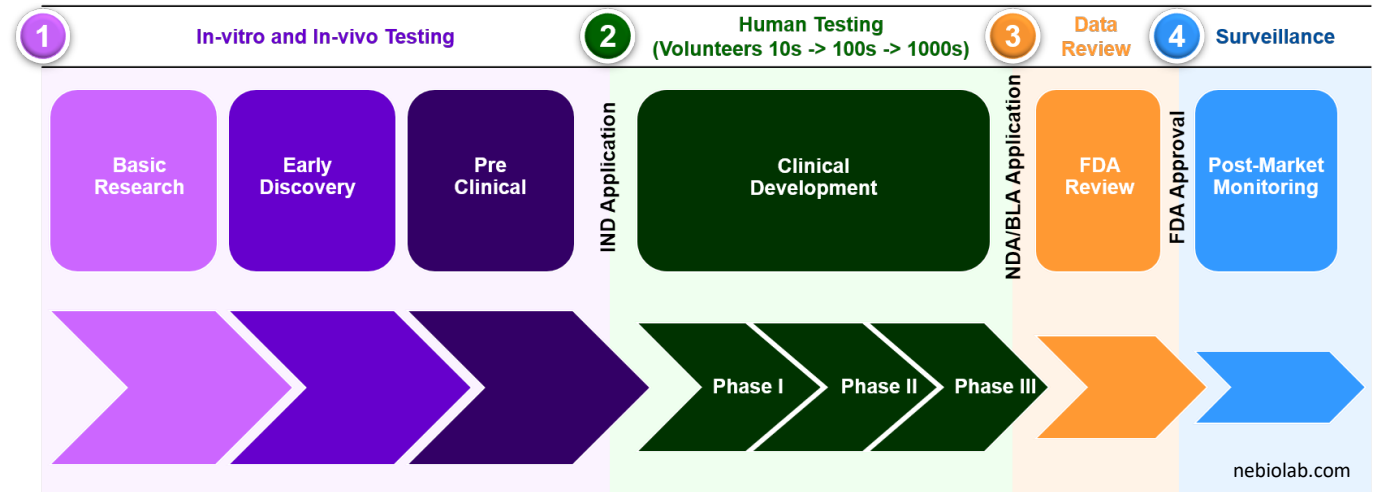
- **Lab notebook review, database management, tracking, write effective documents for non-scientists to understand, etc. etc.**

These tasks can be challenging when academia has trained us to explore and think outside the box

SIMPLE $\neq$ EASY

The Transition

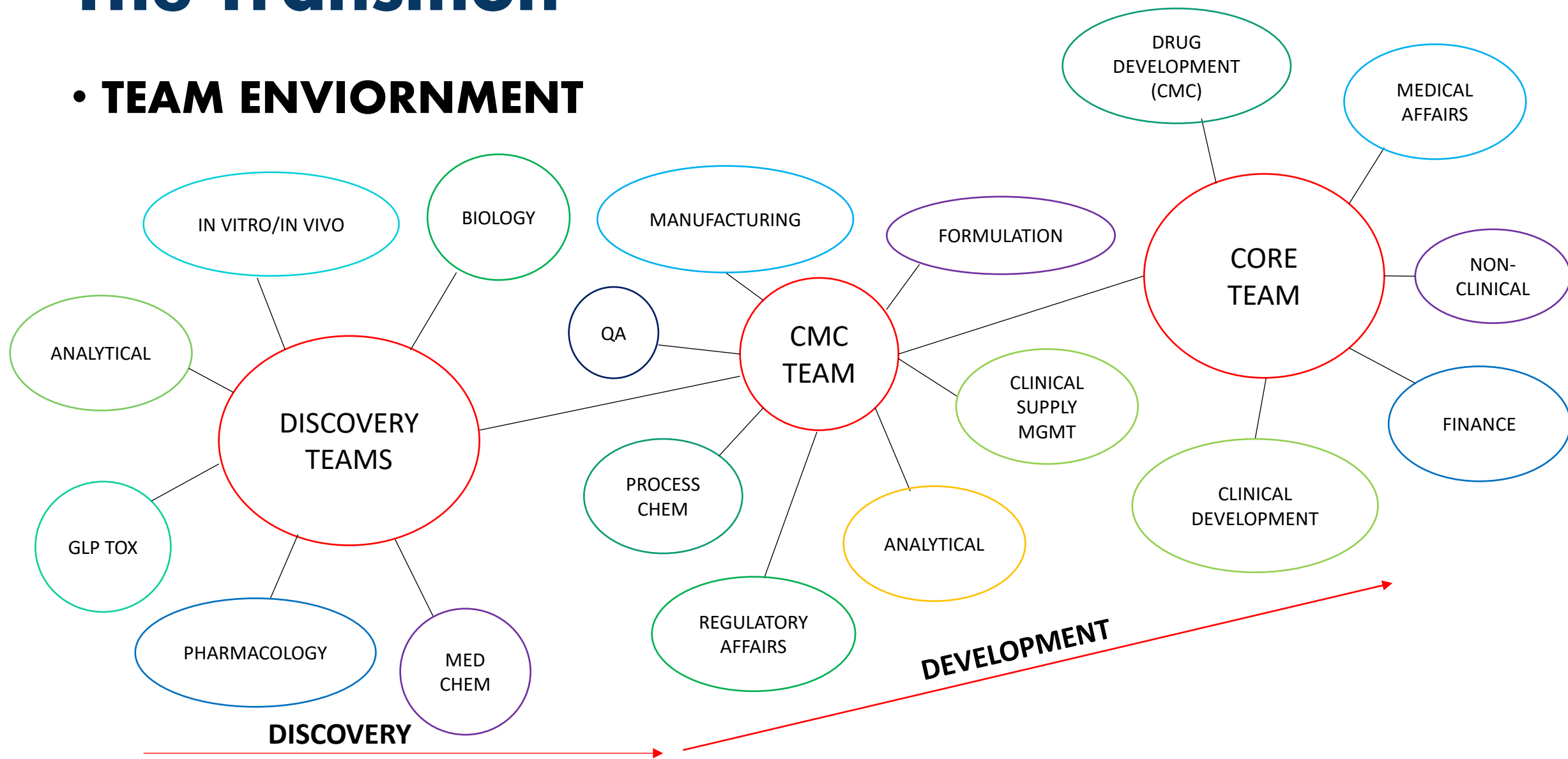
- **Project Management**
 - **As a PhD level scientist, the technical aspect is well established already**
 - **Subject matter expert.**
- **What may be new is:**
 - **Budgeting**
 - **Planning**
 - **Managing**
 - **Risk assessment**



- **In R&D, these help keep the projects afloat**

The Transition

• TEAM ENVIRONMENT



Academia vs Industry

ACADEMIA	INDUSTRY
Solo project	Team environment
GOAL: Publications (Research is done to boost knowledge of a topic)	GOAL: Product (Research is done to design and develop safe and effective products)
GOAL: Grants	GOAL: Regulatory Approval
More “free-form”	Well oiled machine

- **NOTE: The above table is not always the case, but is frequently observed.**

Applying

- **Remain diligent and proactive**
- **Build your network**
 - **Reach out to people on LinkedIn**
 - **See about recruitment opportunities on campus**
- **Find out where you can grow**
 - **Ask for feedback**
- **Be open minded and explore**
 - **Grow your skill set to make you a stronger candidate**

Contact Info

Feel free to reach out to me on LinkedIn:

[linkedin.com/in/eric-samuels](https://www.linkedin.com/in/eric-samuels)

Thank You!