CHERIÉ L. BUTTS, PHD

EDUCATION

BA (chemistry), MS (biotechnology), Johns Hopkins University; PhD (immunology/reproductive biology), University of Texas at Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; Postdoctoral Fellowship (neuroendocrine immunology), National Institute of Mental Health/NIH

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Industry: 2018 – Present, Associate Medical Director (Clinical Development), Biogen; 2016 - 2018, Adjunct Scientist/Portfolio Director (NeuroImmunology & Acute Neurology), 2015 – 2016, Associate Director/Program Manager (R&D Strategy, Portfolio, & Communications), Biogen; 2012-2015, Associate Director/Project Manager (Immunology Research), Biogen
Government: 2010-2012, Adjunct Scientist (Cancer & Inflammation Program), National Cancer Institute; 2009-2012, Senior Staff Fellow, FDA; 2004-2008, Lecturer (Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences), NIH
Academia: 2017 – Present, Adjunct Professor (Natural Sciences), University of Maryland University College; 2012 – 2017, Adjunct Associate Professor (Natural Sciences), University of Maryland University College; 2006-2012, Adjunct Assistant Professor (Natural Sciences), University of Maryland University College; 2006-2010, Lecturer (Biology), Howard University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Industry: 2017 – 2018, Portfolio Transformation Team, Biogen; 2012-2015; Director, Body Fluid Donor Program, Biogen
Government: 2004-2006 (Basic Science Co-Chair 2005-2006), NIH Postdoctoral, Research, and Clinical Fellows Committee; 2005, Job Fair Committee Chair, NIH Research Festival
Academia: 2016 – Present, Board of Overseers/Research Affairs Oversight Committee, Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center; 2011-Present, Presentation Judge/Advisor/Lecturer, Harvard Medical School Biomedical Science Careers Program; 2015-2017, CURE Advisory Committee, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Society: 2018 – Present, Nominating Committee, The Endocrine Society; 2017 – Present, Board of Directors, Keystone Symposia; 2017 – Present, American Association of Immunologists representative to FASEB Finance Committee; 2016 – Present, Committee on Diversity & Inclusion, The Endocrine Society; 2011 – Present, Women & Diversity Committee, Society of Leukocyte Biology; 2017, Lead Organizer, conference on biobetters and next-generation biologics; 2015-2017, Diversity Advisory Committee, Keystone Symposia; 2012-2017 (chair, 2015-2017), Minority Affairs Committee, American Association of Immunologists; 2009-2012, Research Affairs Core Committee, The Endocrine Society; 2006-2009, Trainee & Career Development Core Committee; 2007, Organizer, National Postdoctoral Association-FASEB Postdoc Preparation Institute at EB2007; 2005-2007, Chair (SubCommittee on Postdoctoral Training), American Society for Cell Biology; 2002-2005, Associate Member Council, American Association for Cancer Research
Grant Review: 2018 – Present, Portfolio Transformation, Biogen; 2012-2014, Immunology Research, Biogen; 2009-2011, Office of Women's Health, FDA; 2009-2011 (Special Emphasis panel), Center for Scientific Review, NIH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

OVERALL (UNDERSTANDING INNATE IMMUNE CELL FUNCTION IN TISSUE ENVIRONMENTS)

1) *Characterizing sex hormone regulation of dendritic cell functions*. Sex hormones modify immune responses and can impact the balance between homeostasis, susceptibility or resistance to such conditions as autoimmune disorders, microbial infections, and cancer. Studies using *in vivo*, *in vitro*, and 3-dimensional systems explore the impact of progesterone and other sex hormones on dendritic cell activity at the cellular (phagocytosis, cytokine production, T cell activation) and molecular (prostaglandin pathway, STAT activity) levels and how this drives or prevents disease.
2) *Evaluating neuron-microglia interactions*. Microglia contribute to pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disorders. Studies using acute and chronic neurological disease models assess the impact of chemical cues on microglial activity and how this impacts neuronal function.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Having held research and non-research positions in academia, government, and industry, I appreciate what each can offer and see a tremendous opportunity with partnering across all sectors to propel science *forward*. To demonstrate this, I co-organized (with an academic scientist) a drug development conference for early-career scientists and clinicians from academia. The goal was to introduce participants to roles within biopharma and government that are critical for developing medicines and highlight how academia contributes to the process. As the 2019 Society of Leukocyte Biology (SLB) annual meeting co-organizer, similar activities will be provided to attendees. As a member of the SLB Council, I would focus on emphasizing the wide array of scientific career opportunities; business aspects of science; and more creative funding approaches as outlined in the following –

1) Building an "acapreneurial environment," in which we develop entrepreneurial scientists who think about research not only for publishing but also for patenting and potentially licensing;
2) Exposing scientists to opportunities beyond academia and away from the bench in order to expand our definition of what it means to have a successful scientific career; and
3) Develop more decision-makers, which is not only acquisition of leadership skills but also increasing the pool of scientists who want to make significant positive change in how science is conducted and how scientists conduct themselves.

I believe it will be important to foster more innovative approaches to conducting and funding research and that SLB provides the perfect environment to do so.