Where are they now?
Matthew D. Anderson, PhD

Dr. Anderson graduated from Dr. Patrick Green’s lab in 2004 and now works at the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine in the Division of Manufacturing Technologies. His primary job responsibility is as a reviewer of Chemistry and Manufacturing Controls information in new animal drug applications.

How did you get this position? I guess you could say it took knowing the right person and two Acts of Congress. My wife was a graduate student in Microbiology at OSU, and one of her friends from that department had found the FDA job through the USAjobs.gov website. When my wife and I finished graduate school (about a year apart) they were still interviewing to fill a large number of positions that had opened up as a result of the Bioterrorism Act and Animal Drug User Fees Act. We were both hired by different teams in the Division and commute together to work, which has been great in greater D.C. traffic.

Did you always want this type of position? If not, what changed your mind? No, I just knew I didn’t want to stay in academia and move on into a postdoctoral position. I wasn’t really certain if I wanted the job until my interview, where I met the people at CVM and they showed me what they do and why they do it. It’s a special place.

Do you enjoy what you do? Why? Definitely. There’s been a constant supply of new things to learn, and new issues that come up that keep the job fresh. In that sense, it doesn’t fit the “government job” stereotype. Knowing we play a role in protecting the public is also very rewarding.

Do you have any advice for current students looking for a job similar to yours? USAjobs.gov is a good place to start.

How does your graduate training play a part in your everyday work life? Critical/analytical thinking skills, scientific and technical writing, and oral presentation/speaking are the skills I use most often.

Do you have any funny stories about being a VBS student that you would like to share? Yes, and the joke is at my expense. A bunch of our labs were at a retrovirus meeting in Cold Spring Harbor, and one night they served us a lobster dinner. I was at a table with a postdoc that worked somewhere at CSH, who was buying all our wine. I was sitting next to Bjorn Albrecht and I think Andrew Phipps was on my other side. I didn’t realize at the time, but they had both been keeping my glass full throughout the evening. I made my flight the next morning without any problems, but the headache I experienced from combining a hangover with sudden altitude changes is beyond description.

What is your favorite memory from being in graduate school? I’ll risk being labeled a masochist and admit I always looked forward to the weekly retrovirus center meetings and presentations. It was a great place to help or get help with a “stuck” project, work on your presentation skills, eat a few bagels, and have a little fun as well. I learned a lot in those meetings, I think the collaboration was great for everyone.

Would you mind sharing your email so that students can contact you for advice or questions? Matthew.anderson@fda.hhs.gov

Find yourself wondering “where are they now?” Email suggestions to werbeck.1@osu.edu!

Have you checked out the new GSA website? http://vet.osu.edu/GSA-homepage.htm
Questions or Comments for the Grad BIOS newsletter? Email Jillian Werbeck.1@osu.edu!

GSA Announcements!
Get involved!!
We will be holding elections for 2009-2010 GSA officers at the end of spring quarter!
Current positions include: President, Vice-President, and secretary
More information to come soon!

Graduate student tip of the month:
Be a sponge!
Graduate school is a unique time when you can be selfish with your time and develop a set of skills and techniques for the future.
Are other students in the department doing a technique that is new to you? Ask to observe or help next time they are running an experiment. Our job is to learn, so take advantage of these opportunities while you still can!

Other useful information!
• Check out the grad school sponsored events coming up! http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu/eventregistration/
• Ohio Union Activities Board: http://www.ouab.osu.edu/default.aspx
• May 16th: Columbus Komen Race for the cure! Join the CVM team by going to the Komen website: www.komenColumbus.org and registering under our team name “OSU College of Veterinary Medicine”.
  • Stay tuned for details on our 2nd annual pink week which will include events leading up to the race!

News from the Council of Graduate Studies (CGS):
Our official advocate for graduate student needs
Did you know that the CGS just passed 3 new resolutions?

1. To honor Governor Strickland and Chancellor Fingerhut for steadfast support of post-secondary education
   - In these challenging economic times, significant investments have been made in higher education despite substantial cuts in most areas of state government

2. To honor Dr. E. Gordon Gee and Dr. G. Gilbert Cloyd for significant contributions to OSU.
   - Both have contributed $1 million of personal funds to support the financial needs of OSU students through the creation of endowed scholarships

3. To require the immediate seating of Graduate Student Representatives on the Task Force on the Life Sciences and Environmental Sciences

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