

First Contact Program Overview

Mission:

The First Contact Program assists students and young professionals in their networking by providing the *first point of contact* with experienced industry professionals in order to obtain their insight and knowledge into that facet of the diverse life sciences industry.

Philosophy:

By providing students and young professionals with introductions to experienced, knowledgeable professionals, they will gain necessary insight through exposure to one or more areas of the life sciences industry. Industry professionals will be provided with the opportunity to impart their advice and experiences to aid in the development of a student or young professional.

Goals/Purpose:

To expose young professionals and students to an area of the life sciences industry through direct exposure to an experienced professional.

First Contact participants are not expected to develop a mentor/mentee relationship, nor will the match be monitored as in a mentoring program. The program is intended only to provide an introduction between the participants.

Program Guidelines:

All students and young professionals in ELN are eligible for potential matching with a First Contact advisor. A general questionnaire, indicating field of interest, will be used upon induction into the program to assist in matching. Each participant of the match (i.e., the ELN member and potential advisor) will be provided with contact information and a brief bio of the other involved person, and given the opportunity to accept or decline the match (no explanations required).

The pair is only required to contact each other once. Ideally, a meeting (e.g., lunch, breakfast, coffee, etc.) would be scheduled. The ELN member will be able to ask questions pertaining to the area of the life sciences industry, and the First Contact advisor will be able to provide advice and feedback pertaining to the career plans of the ELN member.

Follow-up meetings and conversations are not required or expected by participation in the First Contact program, but certainly encouraged in situations where both participants are interested and willing (note that further interaction is not monitored or evaluated by First Contact).

Contact Information:

ELN@gabio.org

(Please use "First Contact" as the subject line)

Partner Information:

The Emerging Leaders Network (ELN)

The Emerging Leaders Network is designed to meet the needs of young professionals in all areas of the life sciences. In addition to fostering the growth of tomorrow's leaders, ELN provides opportunities for developing industry contacts, mentoring and career enhancement through networking and educational programs. To learn more, please visit www.gabio.org.

Georgia Bio (GaBio)

Georgia Bio's mission is to foster an environment in which life sciences companies can succeed in Georgia. To accomplish this mission, GaBio conducts business and economic development activities; advocates on behalf of the industry on public policy matters; educates the public about the benefits of life sciences research and product development; and provides a network for the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities. To learn more, please visit www.gabio.org.

