Abeona
THERAPEUTICS

Careers in Biotech: My Start at Abeona Therapeutics

February 1st, 2019

About Me

- I was born, raised, and am currently living in Cleveland, OH
- I graduated from ND in 2017 with a degree in Biology
- While on campus I was part of: BP Hall, Flaherty Hall, Uplift, The Career Center, Dr. Vaughan's Lab, Club Swimming, and I was a TA (Freshman Bio Lab, IUR, Genetics Lab)
- I studied abroad in Perth, Australia
- During summers in college I interned at Case Western Reserve University and Abeona Therapeutics
- I'm engaged to my genetics lab partner
- I work as a Regulatory Affairs Associate at Abeona Therapeutics

What is Abeona?

LEIGHTON
Living with CLN1

Working together to deliver cell and gene therapies for people impacted by serious diseases

- Clinical stage viral-mediated gene and cell therapy company
  - Clinical programs in recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEB), Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IIIA and IIIB
  - Pre-clinical programs in CLN1 disease, CLN3 disease, Cystic Fibrosis and others
- Offices located in Cleveland, New York, and Madrid
- Rapid growth: 147% in 2018 alone
  - Hiring to manage clinical sites and programs
  - Opening on-site manufacturing facility
  - Expanded leadership team for our expanding scope and stages of growth

Patient-Focused Drug Development

- Abeona employees do extraordinary things to support our patient communities
- Climbing Mt. Rainier (google "The Weight of a Mountain" trailer)
- At the Edge of Hope Trailer
- (Half) Tough Mudder 2017
- Spartan Race 2018
- Charlotte Half Marathon 2018
- Next? Plunge for Elodie 2019
  - Abeona employees will be jumping into frigid Lake Erie on March 2nd to raise awareness for EB research

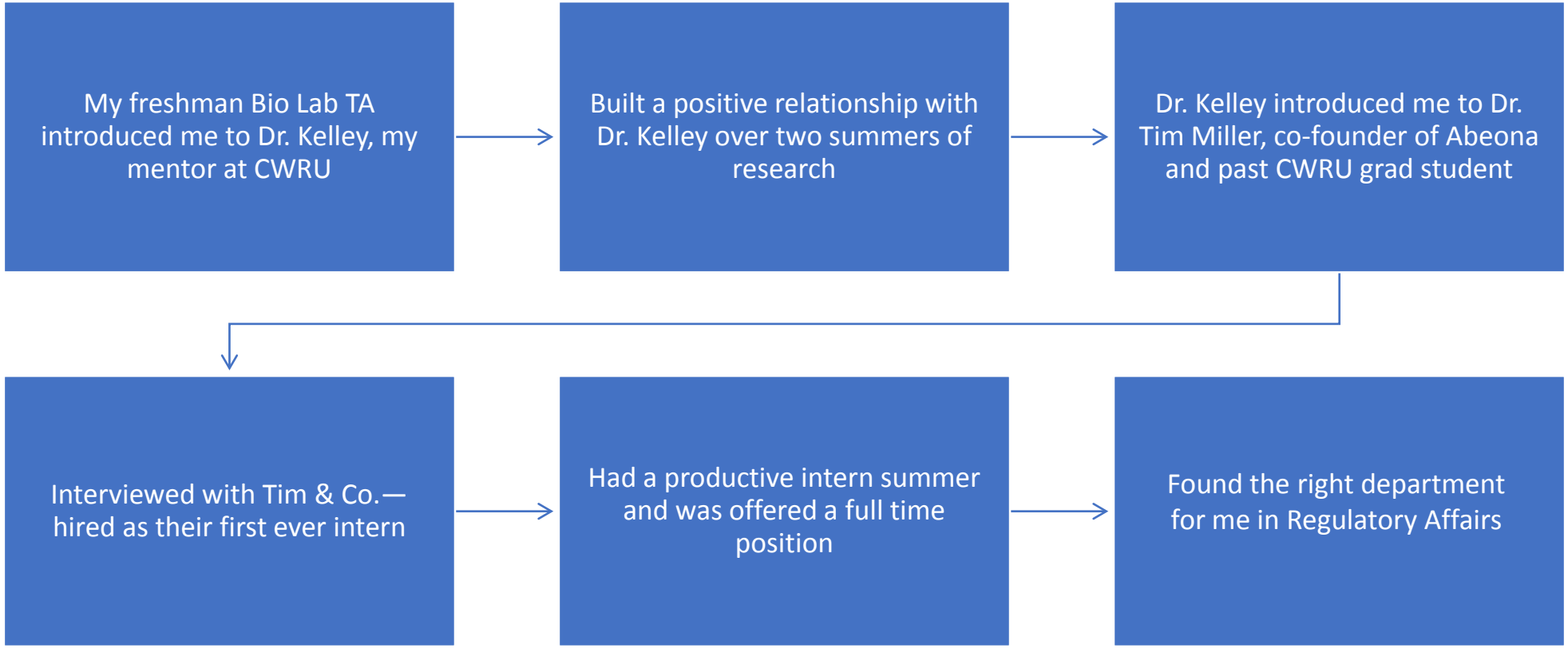
Office Life at Abeona

- Relatively small
  - Opportunities to take on expanded responsibilities
  - Close friendships are made with everyone
  - Visibility with company leadership
- Exciting
  - Gene therapy is getting to be fast-paced as the first programs have just reached the market
  - I come to work with an important mission everyday
  - Company culture has a family feel, I'm excited to see my coworkers everyday and you never know what you're going to get in terms of the latest jokes and shenanigans
  - Travel!
- Benefits
  - Free food seriously all the time
  - Fully covered healthcare benefits
  - 401k/FSA/Equity
  - Regular social activities

How did I get the job?

The Elisa Linton Center for Rare Disease Therapies

Networking! It's not just for business majors.



Regulatory Affairs

- Communicate with FDA and other regulators on behalf of the company
  - Designations, meetings for information on drug development, applications to start clinical trials, applications for licensed drugs
  - FDA communication is very formal and regulated, so it requires a developed skill set to do.
- Write, read, edit, & present data
- Host teleconference and in-person meetings with FDA and other regulatory agencies
- Gain and implement regulatory feedback from ongoing dialogue, some of which is afforded by special designations
  - Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy
  - Breakthrough Therapy Designation
- Strategize approval pathways for drug products at various stages in development

Up Next for Me?

- Regulatory Affairs keeps many doors open as you have to understand all parts of drug development
  - Continue to advance in regulatory? At Abeona? Elsewhere?
  - Graduate school?
    - PhD, MBA, MHA, MPH, etc.
    - Medical School?! (nah…)
  - Switch departments at Abeona or elsewhere?
  - Work in the hospital setting in regulatory or clinical research?
- Starting in biotech has opened countless doors for my future career

Some Tips for the Search

- Utilize and maintain your network
- Know appropriate entry-level job titles
  - Clinical Trial Assistant
  - Clinical Research Associate (these are sometimes more advanced)
  - Clinical Research Coordinator (most site-side/hospital)
  - Regulatory Affairs Associate/Specialist
  - "Operator" in Manufacturing/Process Development/Assay Development/Product Development
  - Quality Control/Quality Assurance Associate
- Follow what gets you excited
- Tailor your resume and cover letter to match the desired qualities in the job description
- Take a chance on a position—you may love it, and if not you may be able to move around internally once you're in the door.

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