**Build a Savvy Linkedin “About” Summary**

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Below are questions to ask yourself, to build a strong About section, or improve your existing one. Check out some examples [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fZ3suik79S1o6IkxdF-t1hTAGVnt8LAeHuHQ6PiLaXI/edit?usp=sharing).

1. **What is your dream job?** Where are you headed?

*(You don’t need to list this in your summary, but it is key to keep in mind while creating this section.)*

2. What are your key **skills / strengths / talents**?

3. What do you want to be most **known for**?

4. What are some of your **interests, values & personal traits**?

5. What makes you **unique**? Differentiate yourself from others. This could be a trait, interest or value.

6. How would some of your **fellow researchers / colleagues describe you**?

**Harvard Medical School (HMS) Postdocs**

**Before & After Linkedin Profile “About” Summaries**

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**3 Volunteers sent me their “About” summaries….**

**We then took this section to the next level**

Each volunteer HMS postdoc was asked to email me the following:

a) **Your career direction**. What are you targeting next, including example job titles, and company / organization names.

b) Find **2 or 3 job descriptions**, review these for important key words, and send me **3 to 5 of these key words**, which might be technical skills, experience related to particular types of research, softskills, etc.

**Yi Chen**

**Career direction:** Assistant Professor at an academic institution or Research Scientist at a pharmaceutical or biotech company.

**BEFORE**

**Yi Chen**

Postdoctoral Fellow at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute | Scientist in Metabolic Disorders

Extensive research experience in obesity/diabetes and metabolic disorders.

Experienced in various cell culture systems and mouse disease models.

Expertise in developing novel neuronal markers for in vivo imaging.

Rigorous scientific training in the fields of metabolism and neurobiology.

**AFTER**

**Yi Chen**

Scientist in Metabolic Disorders | Postdoctoral Researcher at Harvard Medical School

I am an innovative cell and molecular biologist with extensive research experience in the field of metabolism and developmental neurobiology.

My passion in science originates from my desire to ask questions and find answers. I find it very exciting to wake up each morning wondering what I’m going to find today.

My nature is to be very driven, persistent, and not missing a deadline. My colleagues would describe me as focused, open minded and collaborative.

Highlights from my skills and experience include:

* An established record of independent experimental design and execution resulting in high quality data and multiple publications in high-impact journals.
* Experienced in gene editing, various cell culture systems and cellular assays.
* Expertise in generation and characterization of mouse models of metabolic disorders.
* Developed new markers for live imaging of synapses in the brain with advanced microscopy techniques.
* Effective written and oral communication skills evidenced by success in grant funding, teaching/mentoring students and presentations at major conferences.

**Sara Vandenwijngaert**

**Career direction**: Not sure yet. Could be scientist in biotech / pharma, or maybe biotech research analyst in venture capital firms.

**BEFORE**

**Sara Vandenwijngaert**

Postdoctoral research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School

Biomedical scientist eager to contribute to the development of novel therapies and solutions for patients. Currently researching the mechanisms underlying cardiovascular disease with the goal of identifying novel drug targets. Interested in the process of research commercialization. Described as driven, persistent, meticulous, and resourceful. Enjoys working in a multidisciplinary, mission-driven team setting.

**AFTER**

**Sara Vandenwijngaert**

Postdoctoral researcher | Cardiovascular medicine | Interested in translation of science into healthcare innovations

Biomedical scientist eager to contribute to the development of novel therapies and solutions for patients. Currently researching the mechanisms underlying cardiovascular disease with the goal of identifying novel drug targets. Described as driven, persistent, meticulous, and resourceful.

* Extensive skill set in molecular, cell, and *in vivo* biology
* Analytical thinking honed by a decade of designing and conducting research projects
* Further developed critical thinking by peer reviewing manuscripts for scientific journals
* Written and verbal skills highlighted by successful grant applications, publishing of manuscripts and book chapter, and well-received presentations at (inter)national conferences
* Thrive in multidisciplinary, mission-driven team settings, enjoy mentoring students and establishing academic and industry collaborations

Overall interest in applying skills and knowledge to further clinical medicine. Specifically fascinated by the process of research commercialization.

**Claire Galand**

**Career direction:** I am planning to pursue my career in industry, pharma or biotech. I am looking for a job of "Scientist in Immunology".

**BEFORE**

**Claire Galand**

Research fellow at Boston Children's Hospital

Dynamic, organized and highly motivated immunologist specialized in the characterization of immune responses in inflamed tissues. Expertise in innate immune cells applied in allergy diseases. Applied knowledge of T cell recruitment in anti-cancer responses of rare diseases. Expertise in in vivo models and design and execution of new experimental approaches. Very good team spirit, especially in multidisciplinary projects. Enjoy learning new techniques and training students and staff. Experience of collaboration with academic labs and industry.

**AFTER**

**Claire Galand**

Immunologist specialized in the characterization of immune responses in inflamed tissues | Research Fellow | Boston Children’s Hospital

Cell Biology and Physiology were the topics that I was most passionate about as a student. I wanted to understand how the whole organism behaved in pathologic conditions, this was key for me and lead me to become an immunologist.

I aspire to contribute to better understanding inflammatory conditions and their regulations. I studied the inflammatory environment of cancers during my PhD and food allergy and eczema during my Postdoc.

I have expertise in innate immune cells, T cell recruitment, as well as expertise in in vivo models and design and execution of new experimental approaches.

Training students and staff, collaborating with others in academic labs and industry are both parts of my work that I really enjoy. I am seen as someone who is organized, highly motivated and has a great team spirit. As my career unfolds, I aspire to participate in developing new treatments for patients.

Specialities: immunology, flow cytometry, in vitro/in vivo studies

**Before / After for the Director of the Harvard Medical School Office for Postdoc Fellows**

**BEFORE**

**James Gould**

Jim Gould joined HMS in June 2011 and is the Director of the HMS/HSDM Office for Postdoctoral Fellows. Prior to heading the Postdoc Office, Jim was finishing his postdoctoral training at the National Cancer Institute-Frederick with Dr. James Phang on the role of the proline cycle in the metabolic regulation of cellular redox and survival in cancer. With an eye for a career in Graduate and Postdoctoral Training and Education, he took on an unpaid internship with the National Cancer Institute’s Office of Training and Education in the Center for Cancer Research. He was Chair of the Steering Committee for the CCR Fellows & Young Investigators Association and is a member of the National Postdoctoral Association, ASBMB, AACR, and AAAS. Jim received his BS at Clarion University of Pennsylvania in Biotechnology/Molecular Biology and his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Louisville. His first postdoctoral position was also at the NCI-Frederick with Dr. Michael Dean studying the roles of the Gli transcription factors on therapeutic intervention of the Hedgehog signaling pathway.

**AFTER**

**James Gould**

Career & Professional Development for PhDs | Director, Office for Postdoctoral Fellows, Harvard Medical School

My favorite moments are when the light bulb goes off for our postdocs in regards to their career and professional development. As an innovative and collaborative administrator, my work involves leveraging their training by:

Developing and executing applicable programming that adds value to the postdoc experience

• Postdoc & Research Skills

• Career & Professional Development

• Personal & Social Development

Advising and counseling trainees on personal and professional matters

• Career Exploration

• Networking & Job Searching

• Applying & Interviewing

Advocating and developing postdoc policies and guidelines

• Postdoc Hiring, Onboarding & Termination

• Benefits, Compensation & Term Limits

• Fair & Reasonable Institutional Practices