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Victor KREIS

Digital Innovation Project Manager & European Program
Genopole

Interviewed by [Eka Putra Gusti Ngurah Putu](#)

Armed with a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Paris-Saclay, he entered the healthcare industry, honing his skills as a medical writer at a consulting firm. Simultaneously, he trained to become a Medical Science Liaison at the Institut Léonard de Vinci. Despite a setback in the Shaker incubation challenge at Genopole, he persevered securing a role as a Project Manager in innovation for digital health and European programs. Concurrently, he pursues entrepreneurial ambitions and plans to launch a biotech project after concluding his contract at Genopole.

Q: Could you walk us through your career path and key transitions?

Navigating my career path wasn't easy. Departing from my initial academic trajectory was neither quick nor linear. Despite completing my PhD, I discovered that academic research didn't align with my aspirations, primarily due to environmental constraints and limited resources. My interest in healthcare steered me towards the pharmaceutical R&D sector post-PhD, but joining this field without a postdoc or having a profile perfectly aligned with industry needs was difficult.

Unwilling to pursue a postdoc route, I explored alternative avenues and found promise in the Medical Science Liaison (MSL) role. I enrolled in a training program at the Institut Léonard de Vinci, while also working as a medical writer at Public Health Expertise (PHE).

After completing my MSL training and my tenure at PHE, I ventured into entrepreneurship, driven by a desire for self-improvement and having both the time and savings to invest. Starting a project with four friends, we aimed to develop a sustainable biodegradable alternative to plastics. This period was rich in personal growth, but also involved mistakes typical of new business ventures. A significant misstep was a poor choice of associates, which led to our rejection from Genopole's Shaker incubation program.

This setback, however, led to a new opportunity. Through a contact, I joined Genopole as a project manager in innovation for digital health and European programs. In this role, I'm constantly learning about management, business, and innovation, all while laying the groundwork for my next career phase - a return to entrepreneurship.



Victor KREIS

Digital Innovation Project Manager & European Program Genopole

Interviewed by [Eka Putra Gusti Ngurah Putu](#)

Q: What led you to your current role, and how did you handle the associated challenges?

Transitioning to my current role was primarily driven by a desire to improve my management skills and deepen my understanding of the innovation sector. Surprisingly, the opportunity arose after my entrepreneurial project was rejected by Shaker. Seeing a chance to integrate into Genopole's ecosystem, expand my network, and hone my entrepreneurial abilities, I seized it. Each day brings new challenges, pushing me beyond my comfort zone—an exhilarating prospect! My innate thirst for learning and being challenged finds fulfillment in every task and mission at Genopole.

Q: Could you share one important career moment that significantly influenced your professional growth?

The most influential moment in my career, I believe, was the setback I experienced with my startup project. This failure ignited a powerful sense of determination and an obsessive drive to bounce back and chase my goals. It's often in our lowest points that we find the greatest impetus to rise and fight back. I've found these challenging times to be incredibly productive and beneficial for growth.

Q: How do you stay adaptable in this evolving industry, and any advice for career transitions?

The innovation industry is inherently a dynamic ecosystem, continually reshaped by new participants (almost daily!). To stay adaptable, I believe it's crucial to foster a sense of curiosity and commit to learning something new regularly. It's important to be in perpetual motion, actively engaging in your field by consistently meeting new people and forging fresh collaborations. As a microbiologist, I often link this industry to a growing multi microbial biofilm, where each member is interdependent, collectively building something larger. For anyone considering a career transition, my advice is to carefully cultivate and maintain your contacts list. Building a robust network is essential, as it can provide invaluable support when you most need it.



Victor KREIS

Digital Innovation Project Manager & European Program
Genopole

Interviewed by [Eka Putra Gusti Ngurah Putu](#)

Q: Could you briefly outline your current role's day-to-day and unique aspects of the role?

My job is divided into two primary missions. The first involves coordinating a European postdoctoral fellowship program called ApogeeBio. My responsibilities include overseeing the recruitment process through several selection stages in collaboration with others and managing the ongoing support and career development of the selected postdocs. This entails tracking and supervising multiple independent projects, ensuring progress through reports and regular personal interviews. The second aspect of my role focuses on advancing the field of digital health at Genopole. This involves collaborating with various partners, particularly startups within Genopole's immediate ecosystem in digital health. Our goal is to assist these startups in project development by acting as a connector among various entities that can contribute expertise. We work closely with healthcare professionals to foster innovation in digital health and assist with fundraising for these projects. I'm also involved in organizing a hackathon event in digital biology, which brings together students, researchers, and startups for 48 hours to develop innovative healthcare and environmental solutions using digital tools like AI. In a nutshell, my role is best described as a “connector”, bridging different players in the field of innovation.

Q: Could you share a fun or memorable career experience that impacted your perspective?

While I can't pinpoint a single defining moment, my perspective has been profoundly influenced by a series of encounters and experiences during the six months I spent developing my startup project. During this period, I had the chance to travel extensively and meet various individuals in the field. Each of these encounters was with successful men and women, well-established in their careers and holding senior positions in their companies. Remarkably, they all took time out of their busy schedules to assist me with my project and answer my questions, despite my being a newcomer in their field and possibly not having anything immediately beneficial to offer them. The generosity and positivity of these people deeply touched me and instilled a strong belief in the spirit of innovation.

Meet our 2024 Bureau!



[Radi Khodr](#) - **President** for the 2nd year

Hey there! Having traveled from Lebanon to Paris where I earned my master's degree in R&D Biotechnology at Sorbonne Université, I moved to Strasbourg to start my PhD on the discovery of enzymes that break down chemical compounds called PFAS using droplet-based microfluidics. Elected President, I am looking forward to valorize the communication and collaboration between biotech enthusiasts all over France and to offer everyone in the ecosystem a very pleasant experience. I am very fond of Lebanese cuisine and I can convince you cooking isn't very far from scientific experiments. My goal is to spread a little bit of my lebanese spices wherever I go.



[Serena Petracchini](#) - **General Secretary** for the 2nd year

I am a microbiologist and cell biologist with a PhD from Institut Pasteur and Paris Cité University. Using my background and knowledge, I am now building my own BioTech company in partnership with Genopole.

I joined Réseau to do my part in bridging the gap between early career scientists and industry, a huge need today. As a member of the National Board I am doing my best to support the Association in all the administrative parts. Looking forward to a new great year to come!!!

Meet our 2024 Bureau!

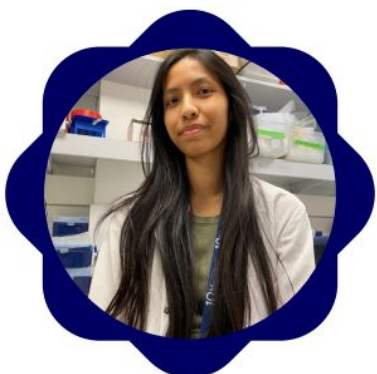


[Assia Asrir](#) - Vice President

Hi! I'm Assia, a scientist with a fervent passion for immuno-oncology, who has dedicated over a decade to academic research. These transformative years taught me the value of perseverance and the impact of groundbreaking medical research.

In 2022, I ventured into new territories by joining Opscidia, a pioneering company at the intersection of AI and scientific discovery. My role goes beyond the usual boundaries of R&D project management, embracing a spectrum of responsibilities (communication, sales, product development, training, HR etc). This stimulating environment brings new challenges every day!

In parallel, I founded Résalience, an association committed to supporting life science PhDs in their transition from academic research to the private sector. Résalience is a thriving community where scientists find guidance and resources to navigate their career paths. Building on the success of Résalience, I launched my own coaching business, a personal dream come to life. I offer ultra-personalized coaching services, tailored specifically to scientists looking to join the private sector. Through this, I'm not just a coach; I'm a companion on their journey towards fulfilling careers that align with their passions and expertise. If you're seeking to redefine your career path, I invite you to explore my website: [<https://assia-asrir.com/>].



[Darawan Tabtim-on](#) - Treasurer for the 2nd year

Hi! I am Dara. I am originally from Bangkok, Thailand. I am currently a second-year PhD student studying mononuclear phagocytes and their contribution to cutaneous immunity in the Immunity and Cancer Unit, Institut Curie. I joined Réseau Biotechno to have something fun outside the lab! A little bit of fun fact, I love to bake ! It's kind of like doing and experiment but in my own kitchen.

The **REAL** section (for **Read** – Analyze – Listen) highlights our recommendations of the month.



What you can **READ** this month ?

- ***Les trophées de la Health Tech 2024, by France Biotech***
The Health Tech trophies bring 9 innovative companies pushing the boundaries of french Health Tech into the limelight! Check out their work [here](#).



What you can **ANALYZE** this month ?

- ***Biotech in France, what's holding back progress and how to move forward ? By Jules Adam for Labiotech***
Gain insight into the achievements of the french biotech ecosystem and the challenges it faces [here](#).
- ***Tips on how to write a compelling biotech resume***
Learn about how you can tailor- make your resume for the biotech industry [here](#).



What you can **LISTEN** to this month ?

- ***Podcast "Getting into industry as a life scientist" - Elena Hoffer, Ph.D interviewed by Kenan for Better Biologist***
Kenan is a an molecular neuroscience Ph.D. student at EPFL in Switzerland. He writes about tips for students in Life Science in his Newsletter. In this [podcast](#), Elena talks about the company she set up whose goal is to help life scientist transition into industry.



Apr

Applications open for Promega's Rising Researchers Award

From the 1st

When: April 1st to June 30th

Where: online (to apply from France : [link](#))

The Promega Rising Researchers global Award aims to recognize the scientific contributions and academic journey of PhD students. This award is an amazing opportunity for career development and will broaden your horizons. The grand prize wins a trip to Promega headquarters in Madison, WI USA to meet our R&D team and present your projects. Check out eligibility and apply from France [here](#) (the Award is several other countries, see list [here](#)).



Apr

Registration opens for Pint of science tickets - by Pint of Science France

8th

Monday 8th

Where? Online

Pint of Science is a worldwide science festival which brings researchers to your local pub/cafe/space to share their scientific discoveries with you. The tickets and programme will be released 8th April, get ready to book your spot! Click [here](#) for more information! *Event held in French.*



Apr

Webinars by APEC

8th-29th

When: from the 8th to the 29th of April

Where? Online

Improve your **applications** with APEC (Association pour l'emploi des cadres) !

- 08/04 at 18.00 : The basics of the applications (CV, cover letter and spontaneous applications)
- 15/04 at 18.00 : LinkedIn
- 22/04 at 18.00 : The interview
- 29/04 at 15.00 : The Anglo-saxon CV

Register [here](#). *Event held in French.*





Apr

13th-24th

Festival Sciences pour Tous

When: from the 13th and 14th of April

Where: Musée des Arts et Métiers, Paris

Discover a library dedicated to all things science and meet the authors of fantastic science books ! This event is open to all, free (but required) registration and information [here](#)
Event held in French.



Apr

30th

Nikon Small World photomicrography competition

When: deadline for submission 30th April

Send your best original microscopy images to the 50th edition of Nikon's Small World competition and win exciting prizes! The competition is open to anyone with an interest in the complexity of life viewed through a microscope. Find all the information and beautiful images from previous editions [here](#). Remember to submit your entry before the 30th of April!

