

Newsletter

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Margarita Arango, Medical Science Liaison at Lunit Global

Interviewed by [Katia Villion](#)

During her career path, Margarita started in academia then transitioned into the private sector. Diving back again in a master's degree helped her with this transition.

Let's find out more with Margarita:

Can you describe your studies and academic career path?

I am from Colombia and I went to the French School, then I came to Paris to pursue my studies. I carried out a PhD thesis in neurobiology working on a neurodegenerative disease (obtained in 2006). After that I went to New York to perform a postdoc to study comorbidity of addiction and depression on animal models. Back in France (2013), I helped with the setting up of a research group as a postdoc. We were working on the effect of stress on memory.

When I was searching for a secure job position, I found that the public sector did not offer enough opportunities. I quickly became frustrated and started looking into the private sector. However, I didn't know where to start, how to sell myself, which companies to target and more importantly: what did I like? All I knew was that I didn't want to work in R&D after having spent 15 years in research labs with so much freedom. So, I thought about following training to acquire the knowledge I missed about the private sector and to know more about what was beyond academia. It was also a way of learning while having the necessary mental space to transition to a new career.

What was the training you chose to do your transition?

My search led me to the Mastère Spécialisé en Innovation Santé at Kedge Business School in Marseille. I thought it was the perfect match, because it allowed me to acquire business and management notions, while specialising in the healthcare industry and giving me a good perspective on the local actors. I liked the idea of keeping a medical aspect that still was linked to the neurobiology field. It enabled me to discover the healthcare industry, that it is not necessarily linked to drug discovery, but also engulfed medical devices for example. I joined this Mastère the year it was opened! At the time it wasn't possible to do an apprenticeship, so I decided to perform an internship.

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Can you tell us more about your carrier path in the private sector?

The internship I did for the master's degree at the business school was at Olea Medical. I stayed there for my first job. There, I was a project manager, then a clinical collaborations manager, and finally became a solution owner. I liked the dynamism of the development of softwares and the rigorousness of the healthcare industry.

After 5 years at Olea Medical, the company Feet-Me contacted me to become the program director managing a team of project managers working on clinical studies. I stayed there 1 year.

For 7 months, I have been a Medical Science Liaison at Lunit Global. I work with the clinical evidence team and clinical collaborators to generate strong clinical research on Lunit's innovative products. Lunit develops softwares using Artificial Intelligence to detect breast cancer and chest abnormalities on chest X rays.

What is your work about ?

I manage clinical studies for North Europe and the UK. I work with hospitals for example on quite ambitious projects. I work with other team members that have similar positions to mine but deal with other regions of the world. I coordinate the players so that the project works out nicely: I work with the business team, the technical team, the product team and the marketing team. I participate in all aspects of a research project from the research protocol to the publication. I also work with the marketing team on how to highlight the resulting research.

On a day to day basis my work is very diverse, some moments I am reading papers and trying to understand methodologies and on the other hand I network with scientists, or collaborate with the BD team ; I like having those different aspects.

What do you like about your job ?

The fact that I am very called upon intellectually. We ask me questions that are of a high scientific level, I am constantly learning new things. I didn't know anything about the

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screening breast cancer, and I learned about it. Another thing is that I am in contact with very talented professionals, researchers. These people truly want to do their best and that is appreciable. It's really motivating to work in that environment.

What did the Mastère Spécialisé en Innovation Santé bought you?

Of course, it enabled me to do the transition from the academic sector to working in a private company. Furthermore, I discovered the entrepreneurial landscape of the region. Thanks to this degree, I learned a lot. I learned about quality certifications and European regulations. The design thinking curriculum and the User experience methodology helped me a lot during my product manager role.

I would like to add that the speakers invited to intervene in the training were very interesting and talented, the combination of backgrounds among the students enriched me, and gave different problem-solving perspectives.

Do you have a last word for young scientists reading us?

It is not a failure if it turns out that you don't work in academia. Generally, people working in academia think that it is the only thing they can do, especially when you are surrounded by professors, researchers, ... But tons of other positions exist out there. I think that being a researcher is the loveliest job in the world but it is not the only job that exist. Be conscious of the things you learn in academia. For me, what I retain from my academic journey is the capacity of analysing and to link concepts that are not linked at first sight. Work on that!

Margarita path shows that you can transition whenever from academia to the private sector. Do not hesitate to pursue a degree even after starting working!

The Newsletter team warmly thank Margarita for her time for the interesting discussion and her feedback. If you want to know more about the Mastère Margarita took, go on <https://etudiant.kedge.edu/programmes/master-sante> (the website is in French, courses are held in French).

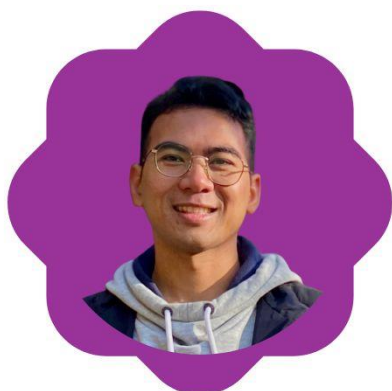
Meet our NEWSLETTER Team!

Discover who are the ones preparing the Réseau Biotechno’s Newsletter each month.



Alice Le Fric

Hi everyone ! After a PhD focusing on stem cell therapy for stroke in Toulouse and a postdoc in Denmark working on biomaterials for neural regeneration, I decided to take a new career path. I joined Toulouse University in 2023 as part of the Valorisation and Partnerships team. I help laboratories and technical platforms to develop research collaborations with external partners. This helps the mutual sharing of innovative ideas, data, equipment and results, the end goal being for research to directly benefit society. I see everyday the power of networking and am delighted to be part of the Réseau Biotechno ! We are always open for more hands on deck, don’t hesitate to join us !

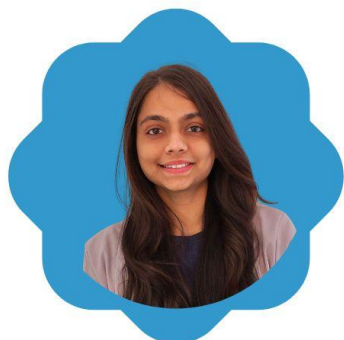


Eka Putra Gusti Ngurah Putu

My full name is rather long, but I go by Raheka. At Réseau Biotechno, I participate in the newsletter and webinar team. As the Réseau member, I hope to build my network in France and gain a collaborative working experience with different personnel from different disciplines and countries.

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Shruti Pothapragada

Hello everyone, I am currently a third-year PhD student in Marseille. I joined the newsletter team because I enjoy writing. Contributing to the newsletter helps me learn more about the field and build a network with professionals.



Katia Villion

The last 2 years I was much implicated in the Bio'M association organising Forum BiotechnoSUD. I was part of the communications team and started in the Newsletter team when I took the lead of Bio'M comms team 1,5 years ago. This year I'm still implicated in the Newsletter Réseau Biotechno team and only following Bio'M from a distance. What I like in writing the newsletter is that you come to talk to various professionals via the interviews we do.

A part from the associative part, I'm a microbiology research lab manager.

We will be welcoming 2 volunteers : Laura Cartrod and Swedha Sidharthan!

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



What you can **READ** this month ?

- ***How To Get A Job In Industry After Your PhD***

Finding a job in the industry can be scary. Learn about some tricks you can follow to help with the recruitment process [here](#).

- ***5 biotech career paths where demand is skyrocketing***

The Biotech industry is booming, but what are current sectors which are upcoming and in demand? Find out [here](#).



What you can **ANALYZE** this month ?

- ***PhD Employability and Earnings***

Understand how a PhD can shape your career prospects in and outside academia [here](#).



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

- ***This Week in Microbiology : TWiM Podcast***

TWiM is for everyone who wants to learn about the science of microbiology in a casual way. Listen on <https://asm.org/podcasts/twim> !


May
13-14th
International Conference on Biosensors & Bioelectronics
When: May 13 · 10pm - May 14 · 7:30am CEST
Where: Starbucks Centre Commercial Créteil Soleil Avenue de la France libre 94112 CRETEIL France

The conference theme revolves around “Future trends & applications in biosensors & bioelectronics research.” Biosensor conference will provide a platform to exchange ideas on the advancements in biosensors, shaping the future of this field. Register: [Here](#)


May
21st
Women in Tech Paris - OutGeekWomen
When: Tue, May 21 · 6 - 8pm CEST
Where: Startup HQ, 10785 Paris

Listen to short and sweet pitches by CTOs and hiring teams and vote best pitch (who said that corporate evaluation can't be fun?), talk all things tech, network and run speed interviews, meet faces behind our fav tech brands, and see what our local tech has to offer this season. Register: [Here](#)


May
22nd -25th
VivaTech 2024
When: 22-25 May
Where: Paris

Viva Technology, or VivaTech, is an annual technology conference, dedicated to innovation and startups, held in Paris, France. The event is open for startups, investors, executives, students and academics, and it is open to the general public on the third day.[2] More info: [Here](#)


May
29th
Week-end de Transformation Entrepreneur
When: Wed. 29 mai 2024 09:00 - 31 mai 2024 17:00 CEST
Where: Startup HQ, 10785 Paris

Do you find your lack of consistency and inefficient use of time leads to low productivity? Do you feel like your business or career isn't where you want it to be? You'll experience two packed days of effective, practical life-leveling tools and strategies to help you develop your mindset to improve your business and your life! More info: [Here](#)

