**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer:

Ana Cristina Puhl

Collaborations Pharmaceuticals

1. What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

I am an Associate Director and I have been working at Collaborations for 4 years.

1. Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

I got my PhD in Biomolecular Physics/ Protein Crystallography at University of Sao Paulo (Brazil).

1. Did you do a postdoc?

I did a 1-year Post-Doc at GlaxoSmithKline (Durham) in the Crystallography Group and a 2-year Post-Doc at UNC with Dr. Ken Pearce.

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

I am responsible for managing drug discovery projects, I help to write grants and manuscripts, I also develop assays for new targets, and I interact with collaborators, vendors, and other partners.

1. What are the keys to success in your career field?

I work in a start-up company, and we are exposed to many different activities and wear many “hats”. In my field I think it is important to be open to always learning something new, it is very dynamic, and people need to be willing to take on new challenges. It is desirable to have knowledge and expertise in different areas.

1. What were the most important factors in choosing your career path and current employer?

When I was a Post-Doc, I knew I would like to work in the industry, because I am passionate about drug discovery and finding treatments for diseases. I was awarded an IMPACT fellowship and I did a one-month internship at Collaborations Pharmaceuticals. I am thankful for that opportunity because it gave me the chance to know what is like to work in a small company. After the internship, they offered me a job as a Senior Scientist, and I still work for the same company.

1. What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?

When I was at UNC, I attended many TIBBS workshops that helped me understand the possible career paths and I also had help with my resume. I was awarded an IMPACT fellowship to conduct a one-month internship at Collaborations Pharmaceuticals, and that was crucial to get the job. After the internship, they offered me a job as a Senior Scientist, and I still work for the same company.

1. What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?

I think it is very important to know the career path you would like to follow and start building the required skills for it. Networking is very important, and attending workshops, such as the ones provided by TIBBS helps a lot. In my case, the IMPACT internship was crucial to get this job, and I encourage people to look for this type of opportunity because it gives you a chance to know the possible future employer and the environment, and to know if that is a good fit for you.

1. How is the work/life balance in your career field and how much of a factor was that in your career choice?

In my case, it is very important to have a good work/life balance and so far, I have been able to do it. I feel I can be very productive during regular 40h/week, and I am able to prioritize tasks and accomplish goals with no need to dedicate extra hours.