**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer:

Diana Chong, NIBR (Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research)

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

Started as a postdoc in 2018, was hired on as a Principal Scientist I in 2021, and was promoted to Principal Scientist II in 2022

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

UNC, Genetics and Molecular Biology

1. Did you do a postdoc?

Yes, 1 year at Duke and 2.5 years at NIBR

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

My position is essentially a PI in industry. I am responsible for making sure my project is moving forward, keeping up to date with literature and technologies, analyzing data, developing new screening assays, presentations, mentoring associates, and contributing to objectives and strategic goals for my department

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

Networking and being able to convey priorities to obtain the necessary resources to further a project or idea.

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

Scope of research and resources available as well as work culture

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

My company offers many leadership training programs. They have helped me become a better mentor and learn how to lead in a matrixed environment.

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

Networking is important and continuing relationships. The research community is smaller than you think, and many jobs are offered due to a specific skillset one has. Also, learn how to market yourself to get your foot in the door. Ask someone who is in pharma to edit your resume/CV.

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

Work/life balance is very important and one of the reasons I chose this job. There are some moments that will be busier than others, but overall family time and days off are very well respected.