**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer:

Ricardo Rivera-Soto, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine

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

Postdoctoral Fellow, Oncology Discovery

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

UNC / Genetics and Molecular Biology

1. Did you do a postdoc?

Current position

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

As the lead of my postdoctoral project, I am responsible for the designing, execution, analysis, and reporting of experiments.

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

Success can be a subjective term and would depend on the level of the employee. As a Discovery scientist, a robust scientific foundation is an essential skill in order to design and interpret data. Moreover, as a Discovery scientist, you must be more resilient than in any other drug development area, as it is the stage with the most failures.

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

My career path is still in the making, but having “unlimited” resources that a large multinational pharmaceutical company provides has been very appealing to me. I also wanted to work for a company that invests in the employees, cares for training, and makes them leaders.

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

Learning from other people and careers helped me decide I wanted to be at the forefront of developing the next generation of therapeutics. Being part of the Scientist Mentoring and Diversity Program exposed me to large pharma beyond the RTP.

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

To lead programs in the pharmaceutical industry, hard and soft skills are a must, as you need to be savvy in designing experiments and know how to take the proper steps to get help to push projects forward. For that reason, communication and persuasiveness is an essential skill in this industry.

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

I must choose a career where I can balance my duties and obligations as a dad and husband. I have been blessed to work in a group under line management that encourages prioritizing our health and well-being. My week is relatively standard, with 40-50 hours of work, but it is heavily dependent on the priorities of the programs.