A new initiative, the *Regeneron Science to Medicine Forum*, was held for the very first time in 2016 all day on Friday, June 10.

**The origin...**

Regeneron gets frequent requests from local academic institutions to bring cohorts of graduate students or postdoctoral fellows onsite to learn more about the industry environment, careers in biotech, and/or its Postdoctoral Training Program. Regeneron also receives many requests to hear more about its research, or to synergize scientifically with academic institutions in the New York metropolitan area. This year, the *Science to Medicine Forum* launched to offer NY metropolitan area academic institutions an opportunity to bring a group of trainees to visit Regeneron for a day of invigorating scientific exchange, and to hear more about Regeneron’s environment and programs. Sixteen PhD-granting institutions in the NY Metro Area were invited to send a select group of participants.

**Why this forum?**

This one day conference was developed to encourage interaction between area academic trainees, give students and postdocs a chance to explore Regeneron, and encourage synergies between the industry environment at Regeneron and academic institutions like Cornell.

**Q: How will trainees learn more about Regeneron, its careers, and its programs?**

A: Except for during lunch, posters, and coffee breaks, there will be non-stop scientific talks going on in the Auditorium all day. However, the science will be divided into themed mini-symposia, and trainees can sign up for optional information sessions and tours that will run concurrently. Every attendee will be able to attend the keynote lecture, hot topics, and at least two mini-symposia, even if they sign up for both the tour and the information session. In addition, our HR department will have a careers booth set up for anyone interested in speaking with them, and lunch will be hosted by our Postdoctoral Fellows, who are eager to answer questions about our postdoctoral program.
**Cornell BEST Program participation: motivations and takeaways**

Several BESTies were selected to participate: congratulations to **Siddarth Chandrasekaran** (Chemistry and Chemical Biology), **Madhura Raghavan** (Genetics, Genomics and Development), and **Evgeniya Nazarova** (Microbiology and Immunology), and **Jianjun Xie** (Biomedical Sciences).

“Regeneron is a pharmaceutical company with a lot of growth in the past few years and therefore has a lot of exciting opportunities in store for my qualifications and interests. Regeneron’s new drug for cholesterol control is connected to my research work at Cornell, so I am excited to visit the Regeneron campus.

“Further, the Regeneron Science to Medicine Forum is a great avenue to get insights into the functioning of a large pharmaceutical company. This year’s Science Forum will give me an opportunity to interact with both the scientists and the postdoctoral associates in the company. In addition to the 'official' events at the conference I am trying to set up opportunities to meet with Cornell alumni in Regeneron to get a better feel about the company.” —**Siddarth Chandrasekaran**

“I enjoyed my visit to Regeneron. I am about to graduate, and I am seriously considering joining industry afterwards either as a postdoc or as an employee. This event allowed participants to share their data, gave an opportunity to network with people from Regeneron, as well as to learn about the company and postdoc program.

I would recommend this event to anybody who is planning to do a postdoc in industry. It’s a great way to let Regeneron know about your interest, and to learn about the company.” —**Evgeniya Nazarova**.

“The Regeneron Symposium was a nice setting to get familiar with the ongoing projects as well as career opportunities at Regeneron. The day long event included a short tour of their small scale bioreactor facility and the newly established Genomics Center (RGC), an information session on their research and postdoctoral program, and lunch with their post-docs interspersed with talks by attendees/Regeneron postdocs.

The information session was quite helpful to know about their postdoctoral program. This program is for three years and the fellows are allowed to choose existing projects or new projects as well as mentors to work with. The program is quite competitive and they received around 300 applications last year for 8-10 positions. The application process begins sometime in the fall and they require applicants to submit a proposal on what they want to work on.

Overall, this was a fantastic opportunity to get a view of the happenings at Regeneron and I would like to thank the BEST program for giving me the opportunity to attend this event. ” —**Madhura Raghavan**