

“Nontraditional Careers for Chemists”

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Abstract:

A chemistry background prepares you for much more than just a laboratory career. The broad science education, analytical thinking, research methods, and other skills learned are of value to a wide variety of types of employers, and essential for a plethora of types of positions. By understanding your own personal values and interests, you can make informed decisions about what career paths to explore, and identify positions that match your needs. This talk will discuss a variety of nontraditional careers for chemists, such as chemical information, patent work, technical writing, education, human resources, sales and marketing, and much more. We will discuss typical tasks, education or training requirements, and personal characteristics that make for a successful career in each field, illustrated with specific examples. Valuable tips and advice about planning career transitions will also be provided.

Biography:

Dr. Lisa M. Balbes founded [Balbes Consultants](#) (formerly Osiris Consultants) in 1992. Balbes Consultants provides scientific communications services including writing, editing, and presentations. They have more than 50 client companies, including Bausch and Lomb Surgical, Divergence, SigmaAldrich, Stereotaxis, and the FDA. They also offer custom classes in both technical writing and career development for scientists.

Dr. Balbes is the author of “Nontraditional Careers for Chemists”, published by Oxford University Press in 2006, and has been a volunteer career consultant for American Chemical Society since 1993, and a national presenter since 2001. She was chair of the St Louis Section of the American Chemical Society in 2002, and received both an Outstanding Local Section Achievement Award and a Salute to Excellence Award for her work there. She is a member of ACS's national Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, and chair of their Globalization Task Force and Professional Program Development subcommittee.

Dr. Balbes obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and psychology from Washington University in St Louis.