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By: Dave Ehmman (BBS Alum)

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[Where do we go from here?](#)

By: Jill Lokere (G2)

"You get your Ph.D., how happy you will be, when you get a job at Wendy's and are honored with employee of the month!"

Jill Lokere

--- "Never is Enough",
Barenaked Ladies

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[The World Cup](#)

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[How you can improve graduate school and lobby for change at Harvard.](#)

[An introduction to Graduate Student Council](#)

By: Rebecca Spencer (G3)

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Rebecca Spencer

Faculty Profiles:

[Nancy Andrews](#)

[The Stem Cell Debate](#)

By: Peter Kim (G5)

On December 3rd, 2001 the Division of Medical Ethics held a forum titled "The Stem Cell Debate:

Stem Cell Cartoon

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Recent Publications by BBS Students

Asai T, Tena G, Plotnikova J, **Willmann MR (G3)**, Chiu W-L, Gomez-Gomez L, Boller T, Ausubel FM, Sheen J. MAP kinase signalling cascade in Arabidopsis innate immunity. Nature, 2002; 415:977-83.

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The prospective grads were all very busy writing theses, interviewing for positions, moving across the country, and even running businesses. Several, however, took the time to be interviewed about their career goals and thoughts on graduate school. Ken Bradley (G6), Rani Dhavan (G6) and James Wohlschlegel (G5) are all heading on to postdoctoral fellowships, although their long-term career goals range from staying in academia to "making money". Not all are taking the traditional post-doc route, however. Gael McGill (G6) is hoping for an independent researcher appointment (e.g. Whitehead Fellow) that he could integrate with his current biotechnology positions, while Jodi Smith (G6) is trying to break into the technology transfer field. Technology transfer involves working with both private companies and academic

and government researchers to bring new technologies to business. "I have always been interested in the industrial application of science," says Jodi, who moved with her advisor to Connecticut in 2000. "Technology transfer seems to be ideal for working at the interface between academia and industry."

When I asked the grads for their opinions of their BBS experience, the unanimous answer was - "Great!" Ken remarked, "I have the ability to contrast BBS with another graduate program, as I moved with my advisor in 1999. BBS is a fantastic program whose primary strength is the community of classmates, peers, post-docs and faculty that exists at HMS." And tips for grad school success? Gael reminds, "It is important to never stop learning about other areas of science and technology which might be of interest for your post-doc or setting up your own lab." Your lab environment is important too, according to James: "You should find a lab that you feel comfortable in and where you are surrounded by people who want to see you do well". On the ever-elusive "box check" and finishing up, Jodi cautioned, "Your committee usually doesn't have any clearer an idea of when you should graduate than you do. There will always be 'just one more thing' to do. Remember that in order to graduate, you need to be able to step away from your own work and say 'I'm done'."

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How you can improve graduate school and lobby for change at Harvard.

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Rebecca Spencer

Graduate Student Council (GSC) acts as a lobbying organization for GSAS students using several approaches. The council meets monthly with the deans of GSAS to discuss concerns students have brought up in GSC meetings. At these meetings, representatives from Harvard housing, food services, or other organizations may communicate their response to student requests. The GSC also has arranged meetings with President Larry Summers, and Summers agreed to meet with the GSAS community on a yearly basis. GSC selects students to serve on a variety of committees, such as the Committee on Graduate Education and the Graduate Student Health Advisory Committee. GSC provides us access to the ear of the administration, and is a major mechanism by which the decision makers of the university learn about graduate student issues.

GSC has been active in a variety of ways that benefit GSAS students, and increased BBS involvement will ensure that the

administration recognizes the needs of students in the medical area as well. One issue that GSC has been working on is the lack of adequate graduate student housing. President Larry Summers now says that graduate student housing is a top priority, and he mentioned plans to add 500 graduate student beds in the next several years. However, all discussion of housing has focused on the possibility of building in Allston. While DMS students comprise about 18% of GSAS, the dominant voice of the GSC comes from the Cambridge campus. In addition to DMS students, in the medical area there are approximately 800 public health students and several hundred medical students. Our voices need to be heard by GSC and the administration if we want GSC's success in lobbying for increased housing availability to extend to us.

GSC advocates for electronic registration, administers a mentoring award, gives student group funding, and awards grants to cover travel to meetings. Add your interest to that list! For information about GSC meetings, go to the GSC webpage, <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~gsc/>. For those of you who would like to lobby directly, email Larry Summers at lawrence_summers@harvard.edu

If you have questions about GSC, you can email Rebecca Spencer at Rebecca_Spencer@student.hms.harvard.edu

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**From BBS to Big Pharma:
Reflections on the transition from grad school to the
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By: Dave Ehmman (BBS Alum)

Two years ago, I was in a position that each of you will face in the coming years - scheduled to graduate in six months but not sure where to go next. It was both a liberating and terrifying feeling. The one thing I did know was that I did not want to pursue the traditional post-doc-to-academia career path. This still left me with more than a few options.

Dave Ehmman

After considering just about every possibility - including management/ pharmaceutical industry consulting, patent law, and biotech, I decided to explore jobs in pharmaceutical industry, either as a consultant or working as a scientist at a drug company. As I soon learned, looking for jobs is hard work. Fortunately, there are resources out there to help, and I used many of them. I searched for job listings on both science and corporate websites, as well as in the newspaper. I used a network of people including participants in the BBS career fair, BBS alumni, friends, current labmates, and former members of my PI's lab to find opportunities and learn interviewing skills. As my search continued, I decided that the consultant's lifestyle was not for me and focused on industry jobs. In the end, I received offers from a large biotech company and a pharmaceutical company.

By this time, however, I had already defended my thesis and was in the uncomfortable position of having to tell my friends and family that after 20 years of education and a Harvard Ph.D. I was unemployed. This brings me to my first piece of advice: *start planning your next step after grad school as soon as possible.*

Especially as you near the end, try to make deadlines that are reasonable to and stick to them. I landed my job through a connection to a former post-doc from my lab, which brings me to suggestion number two: *use the force* (of those who have gone before you). Your labmates, friends, and BBSers, both past and present, are the single most powerful resource at your disposal. Use them often and wisely. That brings me to the present. For the past year and a half, I have worked in the biochemistry department of the Infection Division of AstraZeneca R&D in Waltham. Our goal is to discover novel antibacterial and antifungal drugs. Most people haven't heard of AstraZeneca, but we are one of the top ten largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. I've found that adjusting to life as a scientist in big pharma was not too difficult. The science remains the same - it just takes place in microtiter plates now instead of Eppendorf tubes. In a typical week I spend about a third of my time in the lab running experiments, a third analyzing those data and entering them in my notebook, and a third attending meetings to talk about the results with my colleagues. It's true that projects come and go much faster than in grad school and that one has less freedom to choose what to work on, but for me it's equally rewarding to be part of large multidisciplinary team who can generate results quickly with a common goal to discover drugs.

One of the main adjustments I've had to make, though, is to be more efficient with my time. Working for a company, I feel I have to be getting something done all the time. This brings me to my last bit of advice: *enjoy yourself in grad school*. One of the few perks of the grad student lifestyle is the flexible schedule. Once you enter the "real world" you will have all kinds of pressure on your time, and you'll remember fondly the days when you could set up a gel in the afternoon and head out to the quad to toss the softball around. I know I do.

Dave Ehmann is a 2000 BBS graduate from the lab of Christopher T. Walsh. He now works at AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals in Waltham, MA.

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The Stem Cell Debate

By: Peter Kim (G5)

[Stem Cell Cartoon](#)

On December 3rd, 2001 the Division of Medical Ethics held a forum titled "The Stem Cell Debate:

Ethics and Science in the Political Arena". There were four panelists, two of which focused on science, and two on social issues. Since all were in favor of stem cell research, there wasn't much of a debate between the panelists. However, it was educational, as different angles concerning the impact of stem cell research on society were examined. The participants were Joseph Antin, an oncologist at Dana-Farber, Michael West, President/CEO of Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), which announced the first human cloned embryo in November, Walter Robinson, a pulmonologist at Children's Hospital and medical ethicist, and Robert Kuttner, editor of The American Prospect, a liberal publication.

Joseph Antin began by defining three levels of "stemness" for stem cells. A totipotent cell, such as the zygote and embryonic cells that immediately follow, can regenerate an entire organism. A pluripotent cell can regenerate tissues from multiple germ layers such as nervous system, endothelium or muscle, but not an entire organism. The most limited stem cell is the multipotent cell, such as those found in bone marrow, which regenerates different cell types from the same germ layer. Surprisingly, bone marrow has been shown to have some pluripotentiality since it can also lead to new cardiac myocytes, glial and endothelial cells. Dr. Antin believed that investigating these more general capabilities of multipotent cells has great potential. He concluded that it is not debatable whether stem

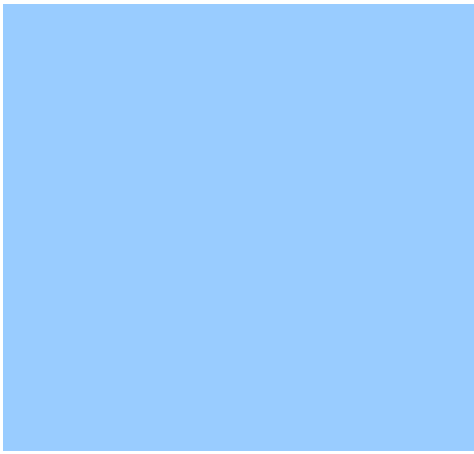
cells should be used in medical research. The question for him is what will be the limits of that use.

Michael West began with a video of the nuclear transfer technique used to create the first human cloned embryo. ACT removes the nucleus from an oocyte and replaces it with a somatic cell nucleus. While ACT has not yet made human stem cells, it achieved cell division and formed a human embryo with eight cells. Dr. West proposed using nuclear transfer to create ES cells which could then manufacture any cell in a patient's body. He also showed parthenogenesis (virgin birth) for a nonhuman primate, where an oocyte is activated to a diploid state and forms ES cells with an all-maternal genome. These cells were then able to form dopaminergic neurons, cardiac myocytes and ciliated epithelium. ACT is now trying this for human cells. Dr. West concluded that the moral status of a ball of cells made by nuclear transfer should not override the needs of patients.

Walter Robinson argued that the media is presenting the stem cell debate incorrectly as a question about ethics versus science. The scientific community is portrayed as only caring about facts, and not concerned with values. He argued that science does indeed have values: skepticism, reliance on reproduction, open sharing of information, and concern about whether conclusions are supported by theory. Ethicists are seen as being more concerned with the moral debate as opposed to the practical implications of stem cell research. Robinson made the point that ethicists are concerned about real people suffering from real diseases.

Robert Kuttner commented on President Bush's logic for federal funding of ES cell research. He believed it was faulty because 1) of different rules for publicly and privately-funded research, and 2) the arbitrary cutoff date of August 9, 2001 by which ES cell lines must exist for support. He proposed that Bush didn't want to alienate the right-to-life movement on the one hand, and on the other hand, did not want to appear to oppose research on cells that could relieve human suffering. Mr. Kuttner was also troubled by the lack of public attention on different rules for publicly and privately-funded research. He felt that this disparity intensified the trend for entrepreneurially-motivated research, and he was concerned about serious decisions being made based on profitability. He concluded that the debate on stem cell research should come less under the control of the religious right and commerce, and more under public control with rules set by scientists and ethicists.

A testy exchange occurred between Mr. Kuttner and a pastor in the audience over ethics. Mr. Kuttner believed that a hard core religious



right is using its political influence to restrain science, while the pastor believed these comments were too broad and failed to address important metaphysical questions. When the panel was asked by audience members if the stem cell debate was one with unresolvable ethical issues, or a result of lack of understanding about scientific issues, the panel predictably said that educating the public would help resolve the debate. However, when asked how scientists might do this, the panel didn't have a clear idea of how to accomplish this.

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The World Cup

By: Bedrick Gadea (G3)

I still remember playing soccer in the streets of my old neighborhood in Nicaragua. Everyone would come out of their homes on Saturday evenings to watch and cheer. In our minds, we were playing for the biggest prize of all- THE WORLD CUP! Today, as the World Cup fast approaches, I get chills up my spine, recalling this excitement and knowing that the men representing their countries are living my dream and the dreams of millions of kids in neighborhoods all over the world.

The World Cup began in 1930 and has been played once every four years in a different country. May 31st of this year will mark the day when Japan and South Korea open their doors to the world's best soccer players from 32 nations. All of the participating countries, except for the hosts and the defending champions (France), have earned their spots by playing elimatory matches against other countries in their region. Teams are grouped into eight groups of four, and the best two of each group advance to the second round. A team that placed first in a group will face a second place team from a different group. The winners continue on until June 30th, when the final two teams meet eye-to-eye in Yokohama, Japan to prove who is truly the world's best team.

This year, experts pick Argentina as the country that will take home the Cup. The Argentine team dominated the South American elimination tournament and even outclassed the four time world champions Brazil in one of the final matches. They bring a skillful side with some of the most powerful goal scorers in the world, such as Hernan Crespo and Gabriel Batistuta. However, things will not be easy for Argentina, since they were drawn in to the "group of death,"

so named because every team in it is very solid. England, Nigeria, Sweden, and Argentina will fight it out to see which two teams advance to the next phase. If you chose to see only one game of the World Cup, I suggest you watch Argentina vs. England. These two teams are bitter rivals and for them, losing to the other is simply not an option.

Other teams to watch for are Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and Uruguay. These countries have long traditions in soccer and each has won the Cup at least once. Although Brazil barely qualified this year, they are the only country to have participated in every World Cup and captured the cup four times.

After the U.S. hosted the 1994 World Cup, the sudden rise in popularity of soccer in the U.S. has led to the creation of a professional soccer league, named Major League Soccer (MLS). MLS has allowed new players to gain experience playing professionally with players from all over the world. In fact, young players such as Landon Donovan, Brian McBride, and Eddie Lewis have been very impressive in recent preparatory matches and will greatly help the U.S. team this summer. The U.S. team qualified third in the North American /Central American region and will face South Korea, Poland, and Portugal in the first round. Portugal is one of the strongest teams in the competition and thus the U.S. will probably need to beat Poland in order to have a chance of proceeding to the next phase. Surprisingly, the U.S. is currently ranked 13th in the world, ahead of many South American and European teams that have more of a tradition in this competition, showing that soccer in the U.S. has grown tremendously.

African teams have previously been thought of as weaker teams. However, in recent years, African soccer has grown tremendously. In fact, most of the players on Nigeria and Senegal's national team play in the best leagues in Europe and it would not be a surprise if an African nation goes very far in the competition. Cameroon, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia will represent the African continent in the World Cup and their fast pace and impressive ball control will probably give the more traditional teams big problems.

This summer, a large part of the planet will stand still as the world's greatest and most popular sport showcases some of its best talent. Univision, Telefutera, Galavision, ESPN, and ABC will telecast this monumental event.

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Damelin M., Simon I., **Moy TI (recent grad)**, Wilson B, Komili S, Tempst P, Roth FP, Young RA, Cairns BR and Silver, PA. The genome-wide location of Rsc9, a component of the RSC chromatin remodeling complex, changes in response to stress. *Molecular Cell*, 2002; 9:1-20.

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Ge H (G3), Liu Z, Church GM and Vidal M. Correlation between transcriptome and interactome mapping data from *S. cerevisiae*. *Nat Genet*. 2002; 29:482-6.

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Valentini S, **Casolari J (G4)**, Oliveira CC, Silver PA and McBride A. Genetic interactions of yeast eukaryotic translation initiation factor-5A (eIF-5A) reveal connections to poly(A)-binding protein and protein kinase signaling. *Genetics.* 2002; 160:393-405.

Wang Y, **Liu C-L (G1)**, Storey JD, Tibshirani RJ, Herschlag D and Brown PO. Precision and functional specificity in mRNA decay, *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA.* 2002, *in press.*

Wohlschlegel JA (G5), Dhar SK, Prokhorova TA, Dutta A and Walter J. *Xenopus* Mcm10 binds to origins of DNA replication after Mcm2-7 and stimulates binding of Cdc45. *Mol Cell.* 2002; 9: 233-40.

Wong JC (G6), Lee SB, Bell MD, Reynolds PA, Fiore E, Stamenkovic I, Truong V, Oliner JD, Gerald WL and Haber DA. Induction of the interleukin-2/15 receptor beta-chain by the EWS-WT1 translocation product. *Oncogene*, 2002; 21:2009-19.

Other Announcements

Elissa Lei (G5) is one of this year's recipients of the Harold Weintraub Graduate Student Award. Awardees are selected from a national pool and are invited to present their work at a symposium at the Fred Hutchison Cancer Center. Elissa was awarded for her work in Pam Silver's lab on the mechanism of movement of mRNAs out of the nucleus.

Aimee Powelka (G5) was recently engaged to Seth Major while vacationing in Crete, Greece at an organic villa surrounded by wildflowers, goats and Byzantine chapels.

BBS Calendar:

May 15 - Minisymposium on Cancer

May 23 - Genetics Training Grant Seminar: David Hess and Valerie Weaver

June 19 - Minisymposium on Cytoskeleton

July 10 - BBS BBQ!!

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Faculty Profiles:

[Nancy Andrews](#)

Nancy Andrews

Associate Professor of Pediatrics

By: Peggy Stolt (G3)

[Nancy Andrews](#)

Research Interests: The development of mouse models for diseases of iron metabolism.

Background: Andrews grew up in Syracuse, New York. She had no particular interest in science early on, but thought she would study law, social work, or education in keeping with the rest of her family. She became interested in science in high school, when she received her lowest grade in biology and took it as a challenge to improve her performance. She continued on to college at Yale, where she studied molecular biophysics and biochemistry, and worked in Joan Steitz's lab. Although she had intended to go to graduate school when she began college, Andrews' experience at the medical school convinced her to go the M.D./Ph.D. route.

Graduate School and Beyond: Andrews came to Harvard Medical School for her medical training, and did her graduate work at MIT in David Baltimore's lab, where she worked on poliovirus replication. She then completed a residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital and continued with a clinical fellowship in pediatric hematology and oncology. This was followed by a post-doc in Stuart Orkin's lab, at Children's Hospital, working on red blood cell transcription. After completing her post-doc and taking a short time off when her first child was born, she returned to Children's and set up her own lab in

1993. Andrews also spends six weeks a year in the clinic and, although she enjoys seeing patients, she says she could never imagine giving up research and doing only clinical work.

Hobbies: Andrews enjoys cooking and used to take it quite seriously. During graduate school she and some friends tried to start a catering company, but they didn't have much luck and gave it up. She has recently begun playing piano and cello again; her daughter is now learning and Andrews likes to help her practice.

What would she save if her office were on fire: This was not a light-hearted question for Andrews, as her parents were the victims of arson when she was a second year graduate student. Although her entire family managed to get out in time, losing all of her childhood possessions vividly reinforced the idea that the loss of personal belongings pales in comparison to the potential loss of loved ones. Therefore, if her office were on fire, Andrews would go straight to the lab and make sure everyone got out safely.

Dream Vacation: Andrews once traveled to a conference in Australia and brought her family along. They all had such a wonderful time she would love to go back some day.

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