

Dr. Kevin Bateman

Written by Liandrah Gapare, M.Sc. Trainee



Kevin is a Scientific Associate Vice President at Merck. After spending thirteen years at Merck Frosst in Montreal he relocated to Merck in the USA in 2010 where he is currently based.

How did his professional career start?

Kevin did his undergraduate studies at Dalhousie University where he received his B.Sc. Hons. in chemistry and his B.Ed. He then went on to do his M.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Waterloo in Ontario from 1991 to 1993. After completion of his Masters, Kevin returned to Dalhousie University where he pursued his PhD in Chemistry collaborating with the Institute for Marine Biosciences from 1994 to 1997. After graduating Kevin was fortunate to land his first job at Merck as a Visiting Scientist and has risen through the ranks occupying many important positions over the years.

What are his roles as a Scientific Associate Vice President?

He is a Scientific lead for Merck's Global Bioanalytical function within the Pharmacokinetic, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism Department. He focuses on drug metabolism using analytical capabilities to support drug discovery and development programs. As the Scientific Associate Vice President in this department, he oversees multiple laboratories in multiple sites and has a lot of people under his supervision and the coolest thing is he doesn't do any laboratory work. Here are some of his roles just to mention a few:

- provide strategic scientific leadership for the Bioanalytical organization through oversight of bioanalytical activities.
- drug discovery and identifying, developing and implementing new analytical capabilities for Merck to successfully execute the future portfolio.
- Clinical trials- overall strategic plans to improve and develop analytical capabilities.



- Initiates and manages external collaborations with world leading experts.
- Influences new technology development through interactions with external vendors and academia.
- Identify gaps and capabilities to fill the gaps.
- Mentor junior scientists

What is a typical day like?

Just like any other job there is a lot of pressure associated with his work. There is a lot of internal competition for resources, normal dynamics and bureaucracy a big company. Some of the main things that a normal day brings are meetings, one on one mentoring people, review of program science, meeting with external people, putting presentations together, writing and publishing papers. The job can be overwhelming and challenging and there can be more work than time to get it done but with passion Kevin and his team are always above the waves.

Advice for a graduate student?

Do not get into a narrow area that makes the opportunities narrow as well, so try to broaden your spectrum. Connect with a lot of scientific people starting with other fellow students and collaborate with other people and disciplines so you learn things outside your discipline which is very important. Publish papers and articles, as this shows that that you can complete a project and write a story about it.