



3rd Annual Dow Chemical Graduate Research Symposium 2014

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The Ohio State University

We are pleased to announce this year's keynote speaker!

Michael Dickens, PhD, will be joining us from Battelle, where he is currently General Manager of Identity Management. After graduating with his BS in microbiology from the Ohio State University, Mike had to make a choice between professional/grad school or industrial R&D. He initially chose the industrial route, becoming the lead microbiologist for J.M. Smucker for two years. Mike started his graduate career first at Case Western Reserve working on his MS in biochemistry studying cystic fibrosis, but transferred to OSU to work on his PhD focused on the microbiology, molecular biology and biochemistry of daunorubicin biosynthesis. His research, which resulted in 10 publications and 2 patents, helped him to avoid the post-doc route even though he was offered two. He landed at Merck & Co. right out of grad school working in vaccine manufacturing and later in bioprocessing R&D in the eastern PA/NJ area for 5 years, where he built and led a team of molecular biologists to enhance production processes. After 9/11, which he watched from the rooftop of the parking garage at Merck, he decided to get back to his Ohio roots. Mike's route took him to his current employer, Battelle, where he has worked his way up over the past 12 years from a Research Scientist to General Manager of a new start up business focused on applied genomics. Mike has also been a visiting lecturer at OSU's Dentistry School for the past 7 years, delivering lectures in Medical Biochemistry and Medical Microbiology.