Le profil professionnel des docteurs

Antoine Mousson

Scientist in biology, pharmacology

Developing new drugs and/or therapeutic strategies is my main motivation. I am looking for a position in R&D biology - pharmacology in industry.

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Cœur de métier

PHASE 1 **Développement des compétences**

After the first year of my PhD, I realized that I wanted to leave the public research to join pharmaceutical industry. I then undertook training to discover the industry's professions and learn how to make the most of my skills. This notably involved exchanges with people associated with the pharmaceutical industry (Research, Development, Scientific Consulting). I was thus able to confirm my desire to work in R&D biology - pharmacology, whether in France or in another European country.

PHASE 2 **Évaluation**

With bibliography, I recognised the potential of protein-protein interaction inhibitors targeting FAK and identified several teams likely to work with us but also in competition. With the aim of carrying out innovative research, with my colleagues, we engaged exchanges with international teams, evaluating the contribution of our laboratory, but also discussing and judging the progress of the work at each stage of the project.

PHASE 1 **Gestion de l'information**

One of my thesis outcomes was the proposal of a therapeutic strategy targeting FAK protein using protein-protein interaction inhibitors. In this context, I conducted an extensive literature and patent search to assess the novelty and relevance of this therapeutic approach.

PHASE 2 **Expertise et méthodes**

My PhD project was at the interface between biophysics and pharmacology. I thus had to keep up to date with new methods and knowledge in these fields but also to exchange and collaborate with people working in these totally different specialities.

Qualités personnelles et relationnelles

PHASE 2 **Communication**

I developed my communication skills by making posters and orals presentations in national and international congresses but also by participating in the writing of 4 scientific articles. On the other hand, I have learned to adapt my speech to my public by carrying out two years of monitoring and by supervising several BTS, Master and Pharmacy students during their internship in our laboratory. Finally, I have deepened my communication with a naive public by carrying out popularisation exercises such as the Alsatian competition "my thesis in 180 seconds" in 2019.

PHASE 1 **Collaboration**

I had the great opportunity to collaborate with teams from different fields and different countries.

PHASE 1 **Analyse, synthèse et esprit critique**

As my thesis project involved collaborators from different fields, I had to clearly present my work and methods. To do so, I did not hesitate to ask them specific questions, especially in microscopy and image analysis.

PHASE 1 **Ouverture et créativité**

Working at the interface between pharmacology and biophysics, I have shown open-mindedness and creativity, particularly in combining the toxicity of microscopy techniques with our cell invasion models.

PHASE 1 **Engagement**

During my technical degree, I quickly developed a passion for drugs and their mechanisms of action. I then undertook a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree and finally a PhD in order to satisfy my curiosity and interest. I was fully committed to my thesis project which aimed to understand the molecular mechanisms of cancer but also to propose new therapeutic strategies. Now wishing to participate in the development of drug candidates, I am determined to carry out quality research in the pharmaceutical industry.

PHASE 1 **Intégrité**

Integrity is an essential in science. During my thesis, I never hesitated to put forward doubts or mistrust about how to quantify or analyse data or parameters. Similarly, I have always recognised and valued the work of my collaborators during laboratory meetings but also in congresses and scientific papers.

PHASE 2 **Équilibre**

The balance between professional and personal life is essential to have a clear vision of a project and to be able to take a step back. To do this, I practice several sports, especially running and hiking.

PHASE 2 **Écoute et empathie**

I supervised 9 students during my thesis. I took the time to listen to them, reassure them and explain projects and techniques again if necessary. I have also recognised and valued their work during laboratory meetings by letting them present and explain their results.

Gestion de l'activité et création de valeur

PHASE 1 **Conduite de projet**

The management of a PhD project requires to well define the objectives and to organize a schedule to reach them despite the unforeseen. For example, during the second year of my thesis, I wanted to characterise the relevance of several strategies, including protein-protein interaction inhibitors. As I did not have the necessary tools to complete this objective, I looked for and found specialised laboratories to collaborate. I was thus able to characterise several therapeutic approaches and demonstrate their relevance before the end of my contract.

PHASE 1 **Gestion des risques**

PHASE 1 **Prise de décisions**

During my thesis, I made the decision to abandon cell biology, which represented too fundamental research in my eyes, to focus on pharmacology, which seemed to me to be more promising research, more likely to be the subject of a patent application. This decision was

important because the absence of results could mean an increased risk of refusal for the main publication of my thesis.

PHASE 1 **Management des personnes et des équipes**

During my thesis, I supervised 9 students as well as laboratory technicians. I made a point of pointing out to my thesis director, the involvement of these various people in the progress of my project.

PHASE 2 **Production de résultats**

At the end of my thesis two scientific publications have been published and two others are in submission. The laboratory will be able to rely on this work to apply for funding and to promote its research. The development of models and techniques that I have carried out is also a know-how that the laboratory now masters and will be able to use later on in other projects.

Stratégie et leadership

PHASE 1 **Leadership**

My willingness to carry out pharmacology during my thesis implied that I demonstrate to my thesis supervisor as well as to my collaborators, the relevance of my project but also my ability to carry out this work with the tools at my disposal in a given time frame.