

The professional profile of PhD-holders

Dhruv Mehrotra

Analyst in life sciences or healthcare consulting, VC, or biz dev

PhD-trained neuroscientist with a passion for translating breakthrough research into high-impact ventures

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Core business

PHASE 2 Skill development

I continuously find opportunities to be involved in various skill-building programs such as entrepreneurship, VC, and commercialization. I've leveraged mentors built through various programs to broaden my perspectives and career options. I've gone from a contributor to leadership roles in science engagement organizations, where I assist my peers by providing them valuable experience to further their career goals.

PHASE 1 Evaluation

I have performed peer-review of research manuscripts, as well as provided structured feedback to projects led by students, coworkers, and startup founders.

PHASE 2 Information management

I have performed advanced literature searches for research. I have annotated and analyzed terabyte-sized datasets. I have worked with sensitive information under an ethical framework for confidentiality. I assist my peers in using new tools to perform research.

PHASE 3 Expertise and methods

As a researcher, I have contributed to the advancement of knowledge in neuroscience. I have 5 peer-reviewed publications, and presented posters at 10+ conferences, as well as 2 invited talks. I regularly find opportunities for collaboration and thrive in fast-paced settings where I can work independently as well as in a team.

Personal and relational qualities

PHASE 3 Communication

Throughout my career, I have engaged effectively with academic, clinical and innovation stakeholders across universities, startup programs, and non-profits. I have built an online presence for myself where I disseminate information. As a senior peer and in a prior teaching assistant role, I provided structured feedback to students, researchers, and even founders with my startup support work. I am proficient in English, Hindi, and French.

PHASE 2 Collaboration

I have led collaborations in both research and innovation contexts. I enjoy leveraging my network to find the best synergies. Collaborations I was part of have led to peer reviewed publications and innovation-focused events.

PHASE 3 Analysis, synthesis and critical thinking

As a researcher, I have made original contributions to my field in neuroscience and I have defended these ideas successfully in conferences, talks, and other settings.

PHASE 2 Open-mindedness and creativity

Through my research collaborations, I have broadened my technical and transferable skillset. My work in science engagement, innovation, and VC regularly expose me to various projects outside my technical scope. These projects also require me to challenge startup founders on scientific and commercial aspects of their technology. I have also worked in 2 countries outside my culture (Singapore, Canada), and have international experience.

PHASE 2 Commitment

I have consistently put myself in contexts other than research, such as science engagement, innovation and startup support, and VC. I have grown to become a crucial member for each team that I am a part.

PHASE 3 Integrity

I set a standard of ethical principles that I abide by and uphold them. I am quick to flag violations of conduct and convey feedback respectfully.

PHASE 1 Balance

I use my technical background effectively in non-technical environments such as science engagement, startup support, and VC. In all these contexts, I acknowledge the limitations of my knowledge and leverage mentors to gain complementary perspectives. I have a diverse set of interests outside of work and can spot warning signs early to seek support when needed.

PHASE 2 Listening and empathy

As a senior peer and leader, I serve as a point of contact for teammates to voice their concerns. I've undertaken active listening training and often offer support to my peers as needed. I also ensure that I express gratitude for their contributions.

Business management and value creation

PHASE 2 Project management

I've managed multiple projects simultaneously throughout my graduate training, both inside and outside the lab. I've led these to successful fundraising, peer-reviewed publications, or social media strategies.

PHASE 1 Managing change

Most projects in VC or even in the lab are not set in stone and priorities change all the time. I'm used to this work dynamic through hands-on experience in these domains

PHASE 1 Managing risks

Through my work in startup support and VC, I have developed a structured risk management framework for all my projects that also incorporates mitigation strategies.

PHASE 3 Decision-making

Through my work in VC, I've learnt how to make quick decisions with incomplete information,

and I use my knowledge and experience to guide the rationale for decisions.

PHASE 2 Obtaining and managing funding

I have secured \$125k+ in research funding and contributed to a \$910k federal research grant. In addition, through my startup support work I built a comprehensive database of non-dilutive and dilutive funding sources for Canadian startups. Through my work in VC, I know how to analyze portfolio returns and the associated metrics, and factor the return on investment for companies under consideration.

PHASE 2 People management

As a leader in science engagement groups, I've onboarded new team members and delegated projects. I also serve as a point of contact for any questions and concerns. In my VC work, I coordinate startup due diligence and onboarding of members for this aspect of the work.

PHASE 1 Producing results

As a researcher, I have hands-on experience with transforming ideas into concrete results, and into peer-reviewed publications. My research as well as VC work instilled that failing fast and moving onto a new idea is better than failing late.

PHASE 1 Intellectual and industrial property

Through structured coursework and workshops in IP, I understand the various forms of protecting IP. Through my VC work, I've also examined patents of other startups, thereby getting hands-on exposure into what a successful patent looks like.

PHASE 1 Customer focus

I've marketed my science engagement platforms to wide audiences, and developed a social media presence to disseminate research and innovation trends. I've aided founders with structured feedback and advice regarding their companies.

Strategy and Leadership

PHASE 2 Strategy

Through my work in research and innovation environments, I have regularly brainstormed ideas, mapped whitespaces, and reflected deeply on future trends. Through my work in startup support as well as various structured learning opportunities, I have a solid understanding of what it takes to bring research from the lab to patients.

PHASE 1 Leadership

Throughout my work experiences in science engagement, VC, research, and innovation, I have balanced leadership with delegation depending on the needs of the project. I have a track record of successful collaborations in all these domains.