

Preparing for Private Sector Careers

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As Chief Executive Officer of SAIC-Frederick, Inc., Dr. Heimbrook leads a technology-driven Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) supporting the NCI's mission at Frederick, MD. Upon joining SAIC-Frederick in 2011, he assumed responsibility for the comprehensive management and oversight of all scientific and business activities conducted on the contract. He leads SAIC-Frederick's staff of approximately 1,900 scientific, technical, and support professionals who perform basic and applied research in cancer and AIDS and maintains a full suite of advanced technologies in areas such as nanotechnology, genomics and biomedical imaging.

Dr. Heimbrook brings more than 20 years of experience and progressive responsibility in cancer research, translational medicine and organizational management to this position. Dr. Heimbrook earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Duke University and a Ph.D. in molecular biophysics and biochemistry from Yale University. Prior to joining SAIC-Frederick, he was the global head of Discovery Oncology for the Pharma Research and Early Development (pRED) organization at Roche, where he worked for 8 years. Based in Nutley, NJ, but also leading research efforts in oncology in Germany and Switzerland, Dr. Heimbrook was responsible for developing and implementing Roche's oncology research strategy, including personalized healthcare and partnering relationships, and transitioning compounds through clinical proof-of-concept. Prior to joining Roche, Dr. Heimbrook was the head of Cancer Research at Merck, based in West Point, PA, where he worked for 16 years. Dr. Heimbrook has helped transition over a dozen molecules from research into clinical development and led internal discovery efforts at Roche supporting the development of vemurafenib, which was recently approved for the treatment of patients with metastatic melanoma harboring a specific genetic mutation. He has co-authored 6 patents and over 70 scientific publications.

His topics will include:

- Making the choice: rewards and tradeoffs
- Industry vs. academia
- Pharma vs. Contract Organization vs. Startup
- Career progression in Pharma
- Opportunities and landmines
- Making a move – Do you want to work at the bench all your life?
- Scientist, manager, business development
- Expect the unexpected
- Merger, acquisition, downsizing
- Future Pharma
- Off shoring and outsourcing