

**Advice to a Scientist** (*AtaS*, [www.advicetoascientist.com](http://www.advicetoascientist.com)) is an initiative that was co-founded by Dr. Nika Shakiba (University of British Columbia, UBC) and her postdoc supervisor, Dr. Ron Weiss (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) with the mandate to provide open-access advice-sharing in the science, technology, engineering, math and medicine (STEM) community. It is now co-run By Dr. Jennifer Ma (Science and Visual Communication Specialist) who is the creative director and project manager.

Our initiative strives to provide open and equitable access to resources and mentorship in scientific training. **AtaS is built on the core belief that advice and mentorship are key ingredients that empower individuals to succeed in STEM. By breaking down borders and barriers, we want to make this accessible to everyone.** To achieve this, *AtaS* has developed a website that serves as a hub where scientists, scientists-to-be, and future-scientists can find and share advice on topics relevant to the scientific training and development pipeline. This online hub is composed of several concurrent projects that allow us to work towards achieving our mandate.

**1- Articles.** Our website features articles that follow a scientific review-inspired format in which authors summarize the current best practices and relevant resources on topics, such as “[work-life balance and how to prevent burnout](#)” and “[how to study for an oral comprehensive exam](#)”. These articles aim to distill the collective wisdom of the scientific community. All of our articles follow a defined format, including a section in which key messages from cited resources are synthesized as easily-accessible advice—so-called “tangible tips”.

Articles are prepared by members of the scientific community at all stages of their career. Writers reach out to us regularly to propose topic ideas and follow an editorial process, where they submit their manuscript for review by our editorial team. Following revisions, the articles are submitted to our illustrator(s) and a unique art piece is created to accompany each article before publishing on our website.

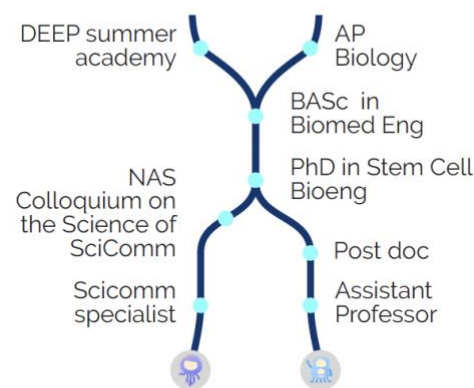
**2- Resource database.** The scientific community lacks a central hub which archives and organizes the plethora of resources available for all STEM disciplines. *AtaS* seeks to fill this void by being a gateway for easy access to existing useful resources—whether they be articles, books, websites, podcasts, etc.—that provide information to guide scientists on their journey. This database is now under construction and expected to launch by 2023.

**3- Exploring Science.** Scientists-in-training often look to examples of their peers and predecessors to inform their own career trajectory, yet the scientific community does not have a centralized database to explore career paths and the experiences (formal and informal training, mentors, and other experiences) that drove individuals on those paths. Our new initiative, “Exploring Science” will be an interactive and visual database on which the career trajectories of members of the STEM community can be visualized and searched.

As part of the STEMCELL-SBME Mentorship Program, **you will be leading the launch of our database.** Through your interactions with members of STEMCELL Technologies, you will conduct interviews to map the career trajectory of your mentors.

## "Exploring Science" Database of training & career trajectories

Interactive visualization of training trajectories & career outcomes of people in STEM around the world



### Evaluation strategy

- Number & diversity of career paths
- User engagement & feedback

### Future development

- Analysis of training trajectories & career outcome