



Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

Profiles of Chemists



Karen Miller

**Research Scientist
Analytical Research and Development
Amgen, Inc.**

Education:

B.S. - Chemistry, University of Denver
Ph.D. - Chemistry, Purdue University

Job Description:

Research Scientist

Advice to Students:

"It's helpful to have a biochemical background from either coursework, research projects, or internships."

Interview:

The expanding analytical needs of the biopharmaceutical industry and the increasing utility of instrumentation and techniques based on the integration of electronics and immunoassay-related techniques are creating a demand for analytical chemists with backgrounds in biochemistry and related areas.

The booming biotechnology industry has also created a need for measurements designed to provide quality and other information about proteins and other biomolecules. Though those with training exclusively in biochemistry and the analyses unique to the discipline perform many analytical functions in the biotechnology industry, analytical chemists who have backgrounds or training in protein chemistry can find satisfying employment in this area. "It's helpful to have a biochemical background from either coursework, research projects, or internships," Karen says. "As an analytical chemist, you become familiar with different kinds of instrumentation, but it's important to understand the chemistry of biomolecules, too."

Miller also points out that though it is not possible for an analytical chemist to be adept at all methods of analysis, it is important to know the capabilities of as many methods as possible so as to choose the best one to address a problem.

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