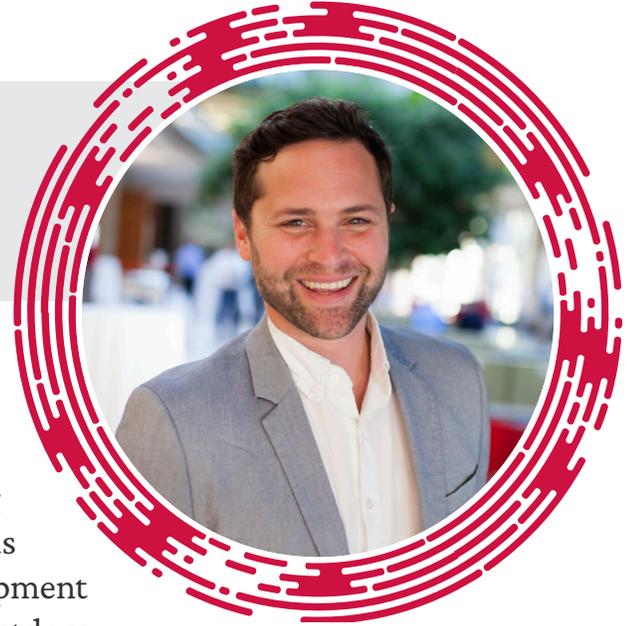




How Serious Fun (and Mild Panic) Led Me from Academia to Venture Innovation

Christopher Konop PhD

Innovation and Commercialization Specialist
Isthmus Project
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Most scientific careers don't follow a straight line—and mine certainly didn't. I've moved from academia to startups, consulting, and eventually venture innovation. I'll share a few brief stories from building WiSolve, stepping into life-science consulting, and helping develop the Isthmus Project to spark conversation and address the career-development questions that are top of mind for graduate students and postdocs. I'm glad to offer practical insights, hot tips, and lessons learned along the way. Spoiler: none of it would have been possible without great mentors and a generous network.

About the Speaker

Christopher Konop, PhD is currently the Innovation and Commercialization Specialist for UW Health's Isthmus Project- the Health System's Innovation and Venture Group. Prior to UW Health, Christopher worked as a Life Science Consultant for Charles River Associates and bioStrategies Group in Chicago. Christopher has experience in commercial strategy, product development, forecasting, and market research for global pharmaceutical, biotechnology, diagnostic, and investor clients. He also served as the Executive Director (and co-founder) of WiSolve Consulting Group, a non-profit that trains STEM graduate students and postdoctoral research consultants in business and entrepreneurship while also supporting bio-healthcare ventures with commercialization consulting services. Christopher earned his PhD in Zoology/Neuroscience and his BS in Biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison

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1003 Engineering Centers (Tong Auditorium)

