

Christopher Brenzel

Biotech Professional | Preclinical & Translational Drug Development

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Biotech and translational research professional with experience in scientific project management, preclinical research services, gene editing technologies, client-facing research coordination, stakeholder communication, and research administration. Background includes supporting scientific teams and external partners through complex technical projects involving cell line engineering, transgenic mouse and rat model creation, preclinical oncology models, pharmacology/toxicology studies, and translational drug development.

Brings a practical combination of scientific communication, operational follow-through, project coordination, documentation discipline, budget awareness, and cross-functional stakeholder management. Particularly interested in research environments where strong organization, clear communication, and careful execution help advance meaningful clinical, translational, and patient-centered research.

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati

James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy

M.S. Pharmacogenomics Personalized Healthcare

(Part-Time/Evenings) Completing Spring 2028

Graduate coursework focused on pharmacogenomics, precision medicine, genomic medicine implementation, drug response, molecular biology, clinical research, and the application of genomic data to improve therapeutic decision-making and patient outcomes.

University of Notre Dame

B.S. Biology

Minor: Science, Business & Technology

2014

SELECTED RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Hera BioLabs, Inc. | Lexington, KY

Executive Director, Gene Editing Solutions | 2020-2024

- Led client-facing project management for cell line engineering, custom gene editing, and transgenic mouse and rat model creation projects, coordinating scope, timelines, scientific requirements, client communication, and internal execution.
- Managed scientific and operational workflows for custom model creation, including project intake, technical scoping, feasibility discussions, milestone tracking, documentation, and delivery coordination.
- Hired and supervised scientific team members, expanding the gene editing team from 4 to 7 reports to support increased project volume and service expansion.
- Led the strategic pivot from research-focused cell line creation toward CHO bioprocessing and cell line development service offerings.
- Implemented GLP-like quality controls, SOPs, and documentation practices to improve consistency, traceability, and client-ready project records.
- Coordinated cross-functional communication between scientific staff, external contractor service providers, clients, and company leadership to keep complex technical projects organized and on schedule.

- Oversaw gene editing service development involving CRISPR/Cas9, Cas-CLOVER, piggyBac transposon-based technologies, cell line engineering, and transgenic rodent model generation.
- Supported proposal development, technical documentation, pricing inputs, and project planning for custom gene editing and model creation services.

The START Center for Cancer Research / XenoSTART | Remote

Director of Business Development | 2025

- Supported external partnership development for XenoSTART preclinical oncology research services, with emphasis on patient-derived xenograft models, translational oncology, and drug development decision-making.
- Managed account and project development plans while tracking progress against relationship, proposal, contract, and study-planning milestones.
- Coordinated internally across scientific, operational, contract review, and purchasing workflows to support client research projects.
- Met with clinical cancer research stakeholders, including oncologists and clinical trial leaders, to better understand the connection between clinical research needs and preclinical model selection.
- Gained exposure to clinical trial operations and IRB review concepts through discussions with clinical research leaders, while supporting projects primarily focused on the preclinical and translational research side.
- Communicated the translational relevance of patient-derived xenograft models and preclinical oncology platforms to scientific and industry stakeholders.

GemPharmatech | Remote

Sales and Business Development Manager, Mid-Atlantic Territory | 2024-2025

- Supported client relationships involving genetically engineered mouse models, preclinical research services, and biomedical research applications.
- Communicated technical capabilities to scientific stakeholders across academic, biotech, pharmaceutical, and preclinical research organizations.

Hera BioLabs, Inc. | Lexington, KY

Executive Director, Business Development | 2020-2024

- Managed strategic research accounts and ongoing service initiatives, including regular communication with scientific, operational, and external stakeholders.
- Coordinated proposal development, pricing strategy, and project planning for preclinical toxicology, pharmacology, oncology, and gene editing services.
- Served as a project manager for ongoing client initiatives, helping align client goals, internal capabilities, timelines, pricing, and documentation.
- Managed external contractors supporting marketing, technical communication, documentation, SEO, digital advertising, and business development initiatives.
- Expanded and trained the technical sales and client-facing team to improve communication, follow-through, and support for scientific service projects.
- Negotiated commercial and research licensing agreements for gene editing technologies and preclinical research services.
- Created and executed business development and marketing plans that contributed to sustained company growth.

Hera BioLabs, Inc. | Lexington, KY

Business Development Manager | 2016-2020

- Collaborated with senior scientists and internal stakeholders to develop proposals for CRO services, including efficacy, pharmacology, toxicology, and gene editing studies.
- Maintained and coordinated a pipeline of preclinical research service opportunities, including communication, scoping, follow-up, and project development.

- Developed and maintained service pricing models to support proposal generation, project planning, and client communication.
- Managed spending, invoicing, and lab supply ordering for two SBIR-funded grant projects, supporting budget tracking and research administration needs.

Transposagen Biopharmaceuticals, Inc. | Lexington, KY

Technical Sales Specialist | 2014-2016

- Delivered technical presentations to scientific decision makers on custom genetic engineering and model creation services.
- Managed logistics and marketing for company participation at scientific conferences and trade shows.

SELECTED POSTERS AND SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS

- Noto, F.K., Towobola Adedeji, B., Moody, S., Brenzel, C., Crawford, J., Narla, G., Evers, B.M., & Jamling, T.Y. **A Rag2/Il2rg double-knockout rat (SRG OncoRat) enables precision-medicine based cancer studies with cell line- and patient-derived xenografts.** Abstract B067. AACR-NCI-EORTC International Conference on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics, Boston, MA, 2019.
- Towobola Adedeji, B., Noto, F.K., Moody, S., Steffey, V., Brenzel, C., Crawford, J., Jamling, T.Y., & Narla, G. Rats support cancer studies. Abstract 6133. American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, 2020.
- Aw Yong, K.M., Eberle, C.S., Dowdy, C., Walton, G., Brenzel, C., Noto, F., & Festin, S. **The SRG immunodeficient rat demonstrates utility across multiple tumor types of different organ origins.** Abstract 51. American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting, 2023.
- Aw Yong, K.M., Eberle, C.S., Dowdy, C., Brenzel, C., Begemann, D., Walton, G., Noto, F., & Festin, S. **Comparative analysis of complete blood count, serum chemistry and immune phenotype between SRG and CD rats.** Abstract 1405. Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, 2023.
- Walton, G., Begemann, D., Dunn, C., Steffey, V., Brenzel, C., & Noto, F. **The SRG OncoRat supports tumors derived from several RAS mutant cell lines for pre-clinical testing of RAS-inhibitors.** Abstract LB_B08. AACR-NCI-EORTC International Conference on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics, 2023.

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION, CONTRACTS, AND BUDGET SUPPORT

- Supported contract review, Master Service Agreement implementation, pricing, proposal development, and purchasing-related workflows for scientific service projects.
- Managed spending, invoicing, and lab supply ordering for two SBIR-funded grant projects.
- Maintained revenue forecasts, service pricing models, and project tracking tools across product and service offerings.
- Supported budget-related documentation, client billing, and internal coordination for research service programs.
- Helped implement quality documentation practices, SOPs, and quality controls for cell line engineering and bioprocess-focused service offerings.
- Coordinated with scientific, operational, and external stakeholders to keep technical projects organized, documented, and moving forward.

RELEVANT TECHNICAL AREAS

- Drug development
- Preclinical oncology
- Patient-derived xenograft models
- Xenograft oncology studies
- Genetically engineered mouse and rat models
- Toxicology and pharmacology studies
- Gene editing technologies
- CRISPR/Cas9
- Cas-CLOVER nuclease technology
- PiggyBac transposon-based gene editing
- Transgenic rodent creation
- Humanized liver and immune system rodent models
- Cell line engineering
- CHO cell line development
- Bioprocessing service development
- In vitro screening
- Antibody discovery and production

SOFTWARE AND TECHNICAL TOOLS

- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Teams
- Salesforce
- Pipedrive
- HubSpot
- Business analytics tools
- SnapGene
- Google Analytics
- Google AdWords
- ActiveCampaign
- Constant Contact
- Video editing tools

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Project management
- Scientific communication
- Stakeholder coordination
- Technical presentations
- Proposal development
- Contract coordination
- Budget tracking
- Research administration
- SOP development
- Documentation practices
- Team leadership
- Strategic planning
- Market research
- Client relationship management
- Cross-functional communication

REFERENCES

Available upon request