

Wei-Chieh Mu (biotech scientist)



Wei-Chieh Mu is a biotech scientist from Taipei, Taiwan. She is a Business Development Manager at Biocytogen, a Contract Research Organization (CRO) company providing gene editing services, animal models, and pharmacology services to academic, biopharma, and biotech clients. She has a PhD in Endocrinology from the University of California at Berkeley.

Her science journey began when Wei-Chieh Mu was born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1990. She is the oldest of two girls of Shou-Yung Mu, a retired soldier in the military, and Tsung-Chih Shen, a stay-at-home mom. In 2008, she graduated from Taipei Municipal Zhong-Lun High School, a newly established high school known for its liberal and open-minded atmosphere. In 2012, she received her undergraduate degree from National Taiwan University (NTU) and majored in

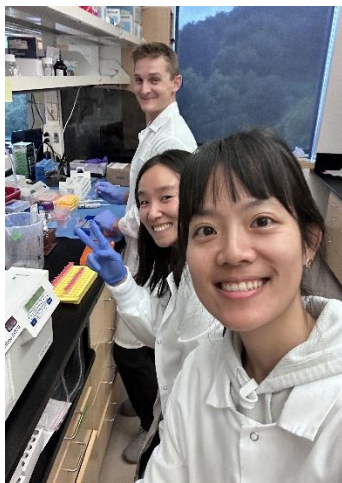


Biochemical Science and Technology. She is the first one in her family to go to college.

She got interested in biology when she was in middle school. Her biology teacher encouraged her to take part in a science project which deepened her interest and solidified her passion for the life sciences. She was intrigued by the complex processes that govern living creatures. After college, she worked as a research assistant in the laboratory at National Taiwan University where she received her master's degree in Nutritional Biochemistry in 2014. Then in 2015 she was accepted for a doctorate program at Purdue University in Indiana. When her doctoral thesis adviser left Purdue to work in industry, she finished the coursework and received a second master's degree in nutrition science at Purdue University. Later she moved to UC Berkeley in Berkeley, California, where she received a PhD in Endocrinology in 2023. Throughout her research career, Wei's work remained closely tied to Nutrition Science with a focus on metabolic diseases and aging. She felt lucky that after her first thesis adviser left academia for industry, she was able to find another thesis adviser at UC Berkeley who became her mentor and gave her guidance so she can finish her doctorate.



WORK AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL



Wei's first job after graduate school was as a Postdoc researcher at Buck Institute for Research on Aging. The institute is a pioneer in the study of the biology of aging. It is the world's first biomedical research institution devoted solely to research on aging. Everything the institute does revolve around its commitment to helping people live better longer. One of her key accomplishments while working for the institute was establishing a platform to simulate aging signatures in 3D human organoids-a type of mini organ-like cell culture. Her team believes that

this platform has a strong potential for screening compounds with anti-aging properties.

Currently, Wei is working as a Business Development Manager at Biocytogen.

This is her first corporate role, and she is really enjoying it. It's a client-facing position where she acts as a liaison between clients and their internal scientific and operational teams. It is a big shift from the past 10 years where she spent her time exploring the unknown in science, but so far it has been a rewarding transition because she gets to hone new skills in client-relationship management, business, and sales.



One of her proudest moments so far has been designing a pharmacology study that resulted in a six-figure quote-and the client decided to move forward with the proposal. She really enjoyed being able to apply her scientific expertise to help clients meet their needs while also contributing to closing deals for her company.

Wei's long term career goal is to transition into strategic and business-oriented roles within the biotech or biopharma industry. She is currently reflecting on the gaps she needed to fill in and plan the next steps to move closer to that goal.

At UC Berkeley, she had the opportunity to mentor three female undergraduate research assistants. She enjoyed working with them and did her best to share everything she could to support their growth in science.

ADVICE TO NEW GRADUATES

Given the current economy and job market, Wei believes building strong connections is key to a successful job search. Attending networking events, joining professional organizations, and participating in relevant conferences are all valuable ways to expand your network. And this was exactly how she landed her current job, through a referral from her connection in a Taiwanese Biotech Association.

HOW CAN WE GET GIRLS INTERESTED IN STEM?

“That’s a great question!” Wei said when asked how we can get girls interested in STEM. Looking back, encouraging girls to pursue science wasn’t really emphasized when Wei was in middle or high school. To get young girls interested in science, Wei thinks it’s important to start early and build a supportive, engaging environment. This can include hands-on experiments, storytelling that highlights real-world impact, and showcasing diverse female role models in STEM. When girls see that science is not only accessible but also exciting and meaningful, they’re much more likely to stay curious and confident in pursuing it.

HER SCIENCE JOURNEY

1990- Wei-Chieh Mu was born in Taipei, Taiwan

2008- Graduated from Taipei Municipal Zhong-Lun High School

2012- Graduated from National Taiwan University majoring in Biochemical Science and Technology

2014- Finished her master's degree in Nutritional Biochemistry from National Taiwan University

2015-Moved to the US and started her PhD in Nutrition Science at Purdue University in Indiana, USA

2017-Thesis advisor left Purdue and moved to industry. Received her second master's degree in nutrition science from Purdue University

2023 -Received her PhD in Endocrinology from UC Berkeley

-Started Postdoc work at Buck Institute for Research on Aging

2025- Started current job as Business Development Manager at Biocytogen