

Cecilia Jimenez Weng (Analytical scientist and consultant)



Cecilia Jimenez Weng works as an Analytical Chemistry consultant under the Chemistry Manufacturing and Control (CMC) department of a small biotechnology company in the San Francisco Bay Area. Before this job, she was an Analytical Development Scientist working in various Pharmaceutical/Biotech industries for over 30 years. She is married to Steve Weng, another Biotech scientist who works as Vice-President in Pharmaceutical Drug Development at a Biotech startup company. They have two children, Matthew, a Senior majoring in Systems Biology and who is graduating in May 2025 from Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio and Jon, who is a freshman at Mission San Jose High School in Fremont, California. She has two older children from her first marriage.

Her science journey began when Cecilia Jimenez Weng was born in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines in 1954. She is the third of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Jimenez. Cecilia's dream was to be a doctor because she has a passion for helping people and has a great interest in science, specifically biology in high school. However, when she got to college, she realized her parents cannot afford to send her to medical school because they have 6 children. She enrolled instead in chemistry at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) since chemistry is the



most challenging degree in the field of science. UST is the Pontifical, Royal, and Catholic University of the Philippines. It is a Dominican institution of learning founded in 1611 and is the oldest university in the

Philippines and Asia. Cecilia was challenged academically at UST! The BS Chemistry degree at that time was a 5-year program, a block system per class section and students in the BS Chemistry course need to take a full load of 21 units per semester to graduate on time. The chemistry and math subjects were hard, and she also had some personal distractions at that time, so the BS Chemistry course became a struggle physically and mentally. But she persevered and with hard work she was able to graduate after six years.

WORK AFTER COLLEGE

Cecilia, who is known by her friends and classmates as Cecile, graduated in March 1977 and found her first job after three months. She got a job as a quality control (QC) analyst at Wintrop-Stearns, a multinational Pharmaceutical Company in the Philippines. She was promoted three times to QC analyst 2, QC analyst 3, and senior QC analyst in a span of 8+ years in the company. Then in 1986, she changed job and worked as a senior research associate at the Bioanalytical Research and Development Department (BRDD) of United Laboratories Inc., the largest Filipino owned pharmaceutical company in the 1980's. After working for United Laboratories, Inc. for more than 5 years she decided to apply to graduate school at Fresno State University in Fresno, California. Together with her two young children she immigrated to the United States on a student visa in 1991. Then she got a work permit while in her first year of graduate program for a master's degree in Analytical Chemistry. Cecile didn't finish her MS degree due to the difficulty of being a single parent with two small children, so when in 1992 she got a job offer, she decided to accept it and move with her children to the San Francisco Bay Area.



Her first job in the United States was as an Associate Scientist in a small Biotechnology company called Liposome Technology which became SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. after FDA approval of one of its products, the cancer drug Doxil. Doxil (doxorubicin liposomal) is a chemotherapy drug used to treat certain cancers, including ovarian cancer, AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma, and multiple myeloma by interfering with the growth of cancer cells. SEQUUS

Pharmaceutical valued her talents and contribution and sponsored her to have a permanent resident visa in 1995. Working in the United States was a different experience than working in the Philippines. Her experience at the two biggest pharmaceutical companies in the Philippines helped her get the job at SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals but working in the United States was very



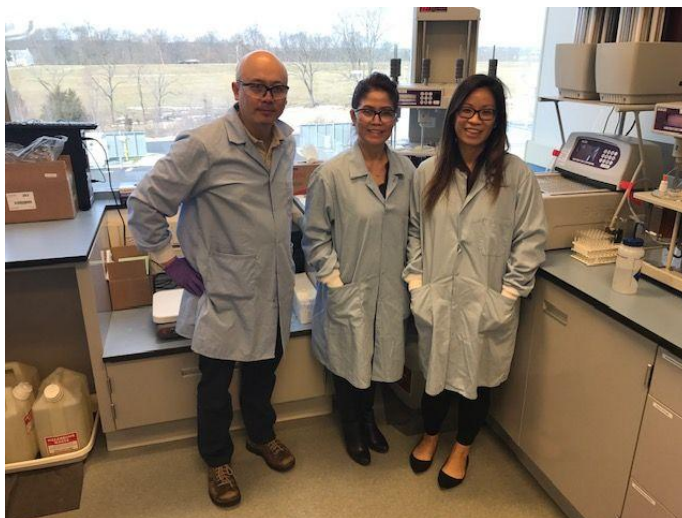
competitive! At SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals she learned a lot more in the field of “Pharmaceutical Science”, working in developing drugs and testing them to treat various kinds of cancer in the United States. SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals was acquired by Alza Corporation in 1998. In 2000, Alza Corporation was acquired by Johnson & Johnson.

Cecile left Johnson & Johnson in 2004 and became Manager/Senior Manager in QC Analytical Chemistry of Telik Inc., a biopharmaceutical company that focused on developing and commercializing small molecule drugs, particularly for cancer and other serious diseases. It was acquired by MabVax Therapeutics, Inc. through a reverse merger in May 2014. One of its main drug candidates was Telintra, an investigational agent for myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and idiopathic chronic neutropenia.

In 2007, Cecile changed job and worked as an Associate Director in Analytical Development/Chemistry Department of Proteolix, Inc., a private, biotechnology

company located in South San Francisco, California. Its lead product candidate, carfilzomib (PR-171), is a tetrapeptide epoxyketone for treating multiple myeloma, a blood cancer. The drug carfilzomib works by preventing proteasomes from breaking down other proteins. Proteolix focused primarily on the proteasome as a therapeutic target. In 2009, Proteolix, Inc. was acquired by Onyx Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Amgen.

Cecile continued working for different biotechnology companies in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2010, she worked as Head of the Analytical Development and QC at Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy R&D (a subsidiary of Johnson&Johnson). The company is involved in developing and testing Alzheimer's immunotherapy treatments, including anti-tau antibodies and vaccines. They are also collaborating with AC Immune on the development of JNJ-2056, an active immunotherapy targeting pathological tau protein.



In 2013, she worked as Associate Director and then Director in Analytical Development at Adamas Pharmaceuticals Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company focusing on developing and commercializing treatments for central nervous system (CNS) disorders. The company was located in Emeryville, California. Their lead product candidate, ADS-5102, was being evaluated in a Phase II/III clinical trial for Parkinson's disease.



In 2019, she worked as an analytical development and QC principal consultant at another biotech company in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2020, she worked at her last full-time job as Director of Commercial QC at Coherus Biosciences, a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on

the research, development, and commercialization of novel immunotherapies to treat cancer. In 2024, she resigned from Coherus Biosciences and started her partial retirement job as a consultant under the Chemistry Manufacturing and Control (CMC) department of a small biotechnology company in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Cecile has enjoyed multiple promotions in stages from up to 7 different companies in the more than 30 years she has worked in the Pharmaceutical and Biotech industry. She developed her career through hard work, learning new types of medicines, attending seminars and industry conferences, taking public speaking classes, and doing presentations in front of senior management. Despite not having a PhD, she earned the respect of her colleagues and senior management. She became a director and received a high salary with benefits and stock options. She has had up to 6 direct reports that she mentored during her career. She enjoyed a 15-20% bonus, travelled both domestically and internationally and has received awards for her hard work. She also met her husband and life partner in one of the companies she was employed in. Steve Weng has a BS degree in Molecular Cell Biology, major in Biochemistry and Immunology from the University of California in Berkeley. His parents were immigrants from Taiwan. This scientist was captivated by the beauty, intellect, and hard work of Cecile, a single mother with two young children.



They got married in 1997. It was the single most important decision Cecile made in her life! Steve was her partner in every sense of the word. He was loving, supportive, and very reliable, attributes Cecile was looking for in a husband. She said that life with a husband and two children is very hard and hectic, but the support she receives from Steve makes life more manageable.

Cecile is now in partial retirement, working as a consultant only up to 50 hours a month. Her last full-time job was in September 2024 as Director of Commercial Quality Control (QC-Analytical) working in a mid-size pharmaceutical company. The job was so hectic, political, and stressful! She worked 45-55 hours a week or

180-220 hours a month (as an exempt employee). She was so burnt out and resigned in September 2024. She plans to retire in a few years and travel more with her husband. She also plans to continue working as a volunteer at her parish, St. Joseph Church in Fremont, California. The Mission San Jose is also located in this parish. Currently Cecile is the President of the Filipino Community at St. Joseph Parish.

Cecile is the only one in her family who has successfully reached this point in their career. Even in her class, though not stellar as a student, she is considered one of the most successful alumni. The journey she took from being a QC analyst to senior research associate after graduation from college in the pharmaceutical companies in the Philippines for 13 years to achieving director level role in the United States pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry in 33 years was indeed a legacy and a great accomplishment. She has always shown perseverance in difficult times. She has shown honest and good work ethics and mental toughness during adversities. She takes pride in doing her best to ensure that the drug medicine they were developing is pure, effective, and safe for human use to help cure those patients with life threatening diseases.

Ever since she started working, Cecile has always mentored women subordinates. One of them was an alumna from the University of Santo Tomas she met at a UST Chemistry Association in North America (USTCAANA) reunion in Long Beach, California in 2017. Shenley Delos Santos was looking for a job in the chemistry field having recently immigrated from the Philippines. Cecile introduced Shenley to the biotechnology industry in California and Shenley is now a successful employee of a biotech company. When she got married in Hawaii, Shenley chose Cecile as her primary sponsor.



Cecile's advice to new graduates in the science field is to develop a strong conviction, focus on doing the job you are good at so you can contribute to science and to the betterment of humankind. Not all girls will pursue science, but we should encourage them and demonstrate the opportunities it offers.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout her career Cecile has received many awards. In May 1990, she and her United Laboratories, Inc. co-worker B. Agtarap did a presentation on the feasibility of determining trace analytes in biological specimens. They used a High-Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC) for quantitative assessment of diazepam (DZP) in human plasma. The paper was part of the Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Philippine Chemistry Congress held at San Carlos University in Cebu City, Philippines.

While working at United Laboratories, Inc., Cecile received a Job Recognition Award from the Pharmaceutical Research & Development/Analytical Chemistry Division for two consecutive years, 1990 and 1991.

While working at SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Cecile was part of the group that developed Doxil, a chemotherapy drug used to treat certain cancers, including ovarian cancer, AIDs-related Kaposi's sarcoma and multiple myeloma.

In May 1996, Cecile received a Special Award from SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for overall performance in 1995.

In 2010, She received the *Encore Award* from Janssen Alzheimer's Immunotherapy R&D (a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary) in recognition of a special achievement: Devised a proposal to expedite the Fc testing for critical path drug product stability samples for Bapi BLA. Key success behaviors exhibited: Achieve results, Customer Focus, Judgement and Risk Taking. A supervisor from another department submitted this nomination to Management so Cecile will receive a cash award.

HER SCIENCE JOURNEY

1954- Cecile was born in Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

1971- Received her high school diploma from Jose Rizal High School

1977- Graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with a BS in Chemistry and started working as a QC analyst at Winthrop-Stearns Pharmaceutical Company in the Philippines

1986 -Worked as a Senior Research Associate at the Bioanalytical Research and Development Department (BRDD) at United Laboratories Inc., the largest Filipino owned pharmaceutical company in the 1980's

1990- Did a presentation on the feasibility of determining trace analytes in biological specimens. Received a Job Recognition Award from the Pharmaceutical Research & Development/Analytical Chemistry Division

1991- Received a Job Recognition Award from the Pharmaceutical Research & Development/Analytical Chemistry Division

-Moved to the United States to go to graduate school at Fresno State University in Fresno, California

1992- Started her first job in the US as an Associate Scientist at Liposome Technology which became SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. after FDA approval of Doxil

1994- Met Steve Weng when he joined SEQUUS

1995- Received her permanent resident visa through SEQUUS sponsorship

1996- Received a special award from SEQUUS Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

1997- Married Steve Weng

1998- SEQUUS was acquired by ALZA corporation

2000- Alza was acquired by a big Pharma, Johnson & Johnson. She and Steve both remained working in these three companies, SEQUUS, Alza Corporation and Johnson & Johnson

2004- Left Johnson & Johnson and worked as Manager/Senior Manager in QC-Analytical Chemistry at Telik Inc.

2007-Worked as an Associate Director in Analytical Development Chemistry Department at Proteolix, Inc.

2010- Worked as Head, Analytical Development and QC at Janssen Alzheimer's Immunotherapy R&D (a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary)

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2013- Worked as Associate Director and then Director in Analytical Development at Adamas Pharmaceutical

2019 – Analytical development and QC principal consultant at a biotech company in the San Francisco Bay Area

2020 -Worked at her last full-time job as Director of Commercial QC at Coherus Biosciences

2024-Resigned her last full-time job and started her partial retirement job as a consultant