

Careers in the Pharmaceutical Industry

IDSA INFECTIOUS DISEASES
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
FOUNDATION

When it comes to pharmaceutical careers in infectious diseases, the options are endless. From developing life-saving vaccines and diagnostics to ensuring equitable access to treatment, there are plenty of ways to make a difference that align with your career interests.

Developing an Infectious Diseases Career in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Define your career goals

There are several focus areas you can explore when pursuing a pharmaceutical career in ID, including:

- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Epidemiology
- Vaccine research and development
- Diagnostics and devices
- Clinical research
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Medical education
- Marketing/access
- Management

Consider these career factors

- Size, structure, history and financial outlook of the company
- Product pipeline and portfolio
- Department type (i.e., clinical research, medical affairs, etc.)
- Professional development opportunities
- Opportunities for travel and advancement (with or without relocation)
- Administrative support
- Compensation, including salary, bonuses, stock options, cost of living and housing and moving assistance (if relocation required)
- Science-focused vs. business-focused work
- Willingness to work outside of ID or across various areas of focus within ID
- Effect on appointments with academic institutions/professional organizations

Network with industry professionals

- Identify and meet people through professional organizations
- Network with the help of your mentor(s)
- Connect with employees at the institution/corporation you are interested in and inquire about the company culture