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Charbel Haber was born on April 29, 1970 in Beirut, Lebanon. He had the opportunity to live in a number of countries including Cyprus, France, and UAE. Haber immigrated to the USA to join his relatives in Tennessee. He attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he majored in Chemical Engineering. He graduated summa cum laude in 1995.

Charbel continued his education at Johns Hopkins University where he investigated the physical properties of individual DNA molecules. He published several articles in peer-reviewed journals including Nature, PNAS, and Biophysical Journal. At Hopkins, Haber received a Master’s of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and a PhD from the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department. His dissertation was entitled, Micromanipulation of DNA: Architecture, Dynamics, and Elasticity.

After graduate school, Charbel started his career at Merck in the Vaccine Bioprocess R&D department as a Senior Research Biochemical Engineer. He led the development of the cell disruption and clarification unit operations for an HIV vaccine purification process.

In 2002, Charbel transitioned into the Worldwide Regulatory Affairs Department at Merck. In his new position, he devised a global filing strategy for the rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq®. He liaised directly with Asian-Pacific regulatory agencies to discuss clinical and manufacturing vaccine development. During his tenure at Merck, Haber obtained a Master’s of Science in Public Health from Thomas Jefferson University. His Thesis addressed Health Policies and Interventions Necessary to Prepare for and Respond to a Pandemic Influenza: A Focus on Vaccine Development and Distribution. In 2006, Charbel accepted the position of Associate Director in the Regulatory Affairs department at MedImmune, Inc. In his new role, he provides regulatory support and guidance for clinical and safety plans associated with vaccine development. He currently leads the regulatory activities associated with egg-based pandemic influenza vaccines.

Charbel went through some soul-searching during a time that he was engaged in a project aimed at raising funds to build a hospital for infectious disease, especially HIV, in the Cameroon. He realized then, that he has a penchant towards public health. “The public health degree at TJU helped in many ways. Having a degree in Public Health improved my credibility as a Regulatory Affairs professional especially when working with international health agencies. Our common care for the health of the public helped in building and strengthening our relationship,” says Charbel.

Charbel completed his public health coursework by Fall 2004 and submitted and defended his thesis in August 2005.

His clerkship title was: Regulatory Policies and Public Health Interventions Necessary in the Preparedness and Response to a Pandemic Influenza. This clerkship included two goals: 1) To assess the levels of public health preparedness against an impending influenza pandemic at the city level and work with Public Health officials to develop strategies to mitigate the impact of a global pandemic on the city of Philadelphia. 2) To survey and analyze the individual countries’ regulatory approaches in the development and licensing of effective vaccines against the H5N1 strain of the Influenza virus.

(Information provided by Charbel Haber)
Are you interested in playing classical music on campus? A new chamber orchestra at Jeff is looking for students who play cello, viola, oboe, or bassoon. We rehearse once a month and perform for university receptions and other events on campus.

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