

GWEN Z. ACTON, PhD

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EMPLOYMENT

VIVO GROUP, Concord MA

Founder and CEO, 2003-present

- Lead consulting firm that improves leadership practices in innovative organizations.
- Expertise in developing leadership skills of scientists and engineers so they can be more productive and innovative working in industry
- Services include management consulting, keynote seminars, multi-day workshops, executive coaching, meeting moderation, and strategic planning facilitation
- Clients have included: Novartis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Harvard University, MIT, Pfizer, Mass General Hospital, AstraZeneca, ThermoFisher, and others.

NATIONAL SPEAKERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND (NSANE) MA

Board of Directors, 2018-2019

- Board of directors member for non-profit organization for experts who speak professionally.
- Awarded the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) by the National Speakers' Association, the highest-earned designation by the 5000+ member global organization.

THE BIOSCIENCE NETWORK (TBN) Boston MA

Chair, Board of Directors, 2013-2015

Board of Directors Member 2011-2017

- Led board of directors for non-profit organization that hosts professional development and networking events for individuals in the biosciences.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (WEST), Boston MA

President, 2007-2011

- Led non-profit organization that develops women as leaders in science and engineering.
- Increased revenues and membership by over 10-fold.

FORSYTH INSTITUTE Boston MA

Board of Trustees Member, 2003-2011

- Board of directors member for non-profit organization which is an innovative leader in oral health research and clinical care.

WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, Cambridge MA

Director of Scientific Development, 2002-2003

Assistant Director, Functional Genomics Program, 1997-2002

- Established institute strategy to build long-term relationships with industry
- Initiated multi-collaborator scientific research programs with industry
- Managed 50-person sponsored research program with \$40 million budget related to the Human Genome Project under direction of Program Director Eric Lander.
- Oversaw operations for program's four scientific teams focusing on innovative large-scale, high throughput molecular and genetic approaches to determining gene function
- Managed relationships with senior management at three funding companies (Affymetrix, Inc., Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb) for five years
- Directed portfolio of over 60 patent applications, and identified patentable inventions

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge MA

Faculty Member, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, 1991-1997

- Lectured and served as Course Head to introductory molecular biology class of 350
- Designed course on Policy and Ethics of Biotech at Kennedy School of Government

Resume
Acton

AUTHOR & JOURNALIST, 1983-present

- Author of the book *The Bluffers Guide to Genetics* published by Oval Press in 2009.
- Wrote over 50 freelance articles for Associated Press Wire Service (AP), National Public Radio, *Technology Review Magazine*, *Pittsburgh Press Newspaper*
- President and Executive Editor of *Daily Pennsylvanian* college newspaper (circ. 10,000 copies)

EDUCATION

**MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (M.I.T.), Cambridge MA
Ph.D., Molecular Biology and Genetics, 1991**

Laboratory of Bob Horvitz, 2002 Nobel Prize Winner in Physiology and Medicine.

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA
Biology and Biological Basis of Behavior, Honors B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, 1985**

BOARD POSITIONS

Board Chair & Board Member, The Bioscience Network (TBN), 2011-2017

Member of the Board of Trustees, The Forsyth Institute, 2003-2011

Board Member, National Speakers Association of New England, 2018-2019

BOOKS

Principles of Leadership for Scientists and Engineers: Strategic Guide to Help Brilliant Technical Experts Become Inspiring Managers by Gwen Acton, PhD due 2024.

The Bluffers Guide to Genetics by Gwen Acton, PhD published by Oval Press 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

From Academic Solos to Industrial Symphonies by Gwen Acton, Alicia Gómez-Yafal and Emily Walsh. *Nature Biotechnology* May 17, 2012.

Be Strategic When Advancing in Science, Technology by Gwen Acton, PhD. *Boston Herald* January 1, 2010.

Impeding Scientist's Productivity by Gwen Acton PhD and Tim Andrews. *Journal of Industrial Research Institute, Inc.* September/October 2006.

Tips for Your First 5 Years Out of Grad School by Gwen Acton, PhD. *American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists* (AAPS), January 2006.