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**Dr. Gina Dörpholz**

# Career Perspectives

## with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

**Doctorate:**

Biochemistry, Freie Universität Berlin, 2016

**Current Position:**

Scientific Lead | Research Officer, Charité Comprehensive Cancer Center; Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

### **What was the biggest challenge in starting a new job after your PhD studies?**

After several years of committed dedication to research in the classical academic environment during my PhD studies, it was the hardest challenge for me to figure what I really want to do. It took me some time to confront myself with possible options without giving up my enthusiasm and fascination for science. Thinking outside the box was definitely the key in this process.

### **What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?**

Besides the great scientific insights while trying to uncover the magical world of signal transduction (at least to some extent), my PhD taught me some fundamental skills: resilience, persistence, critical evidence-based thinking, a structured way of working, and a certain scientific self-confidence. These help me when it comes to e.g., conceptualization of new research ideas, implementation of large consortium projects or strategic exchange with interdisciplinary stakeholders.

### **What do you enjoy most about your current job?**

What I enjoy most about my current position is the diversity of tasks and responsibilities - apart from normal day-to-day business, every day looks different: One day I might be discussing latest findings with researchers and physicians to develop new project ideas, while the next day I will design budget plans and necessary personnel measures to allow for project success.

### **What do you find most exciting about your current job?**

This can be easily summarized as follows: even though I am no longer working in the lab myself, I feel like I am right in the middle of it all being very much involved in science and research - just from another perspective. I work with great experts of various disciplines, contribute to project design and implementation, while always being accompanied by my scientific mindset.

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