

Comment on „Still a scientist”, Nature 500, 369 (2013)

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I felt personally touched after reading the paper of Chandrika Nair [1]. And I am sure I am not alone since many people find their promotion by changing an academic position to an industrial one.

I spent seven years performing research work in various stages (as an undergraduate student, Ph. D. student and later as a postdoc) before I shifted to the pharmaceutical industry almost ten years ago. The first year was very strange due to the different approach and attitude to completely different practical problems, which I met in the area of pharmaceutical quality assurance. Time by time I missed the „smell” of research laboratory. Once in a blue moon I still supervise a student, give advice to a B. Sc. work or comment on a master thesis. I am always glad to review a scientific manuscript, even nowadays.

After a short adaptation period I became a validation expert. I concentrate on my daily work and I am glad to be a responsible person of my area. However, it can be found that scientific background can be useful in some special situations of industrial practice. It is good to use communication skills not only to gather information from the colleagues in plants day by day but I also to serve with representations sometimes when need arises. Cooperativity is always valuable in any situation, at any assignment of responsibility.

But in my opinion, the most useful and practical advantage that I still use is creativity. I am happy to feel the success after finding solutions in strange situations. I always enjoy the whole way itself as we manage to solve the problem no matter if it is a research question or a production problem. Scientific background can broaden horizons while problemsolving. It helps to proceed toward many people's pursuit: excellence.

I am at a different phase of life (being more than forty years old and a mother of two children) than the author Chandrika Nair but I deeply agree with her – hopefully together with many others. Indeed, I am still a scientist.

Note: This comment was originally submitted on 8th September, 2013.

Reference:

- 1) Chandrika Nair: Still a scientist, Nature, 500, 369 (2013)
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