Just do it—with an asterisk

Susan Hardin, Ph.D.
Retired, Founder & CEO of VisiGen Biotechnologies, Inc.

Fri., Oct. 19, 2018 • 11am to 12noon
Simon Hall 001

Dr. Susan Hardin received a B.S. in Biology from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology from Indiana University. She completed postdoctoral studies in Biochemistry at Brandeis University and served as the director of the Gene Technologies Lab at Texas A&M University before becoming a faculty member at the University of Houston. Her transition from academia to industry began in 2000 when she and four other University of Houston faculty members founded VisiGen Biotechnologies, Inc., to develop a sequencing platform for comprehensive, rapid, accurate, low-cost genome analysis—keys to enabling personalized medicine. VisiGen’s revolutionary sequencing technology was developed with grants and contracts from DARPA and NIH and through strategic relationships with SeqWright, Inc., and Applied Biosystems. In 2008 VisiGen was acquired by Invitrogen, which subsequently acquired Applied Biosystems and renamed the combined company Life Technologies Corporation. In 2009 Hardin resigned her position at Life Technologies Corporation. Hardin will overview considerations for career path and the process of developing a cutting-edge biotechnology company from start-up through successful exit.

More about Susan Hardin:
During her scientific career, Hardin was involved in the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF), having served as a member of the DNA Sequencing Research Group, Executive Board, Nominations Committee, ABRF Award Committee, and Corporate Relations Committee. She was a session organizer for several ABRF International Conferences and co-organized the ABRF2010 International Conference. Hardin served on NSF advisory boards, NSF and NIH proposal review panels, and reviewed manuscripts for scientific journals. She was on the BioHouston Genomics Taskforce to promote the Life Science industry in Texas and the Advisory Board, Center for Life Sciences Technology, University of Houston. She served as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board, Eberly College of Science, Penn State University. Hardin is a 2004 American Women in Computing, Houston, Top Women in Technology Honoree, an elected Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, a 2006 recipient of the Penn State Eberly College of Science Outstanding Science Alumni Award, and a 2006 World Technology Award Finalist. Hardin has served as a judge for the Rice Business Plan Competitions at Rice University for approximately 15 years and is a founding member of the Rice University Business Plan Competition OWL Investment Prize.

Hosted by the faculty of the Department of Biology
Refreshments served prior to lecture; pizza lunch for IU Biology students and postdocs in the Lieber Room after seminar