

# “The potential to help many people who are suffering...”

## Bio-economy Career Profile

**Position:** Associate Director,  
Pharmacokinetics and Toxicology

**Name:** Rostam Namdari

**Company:** Xenon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

**Salary Range:** \$120,000 and up per year

## What I do:

Xenon Pharmaceuticals develops new drugs for a variety of diseases, and disorders including metabolic disorders, such as obesity. We also develop drugs for pain management. We are trying to find a more effective pain cure than what is available today.

My day is divided into scientific and managerial responsibilities, and most of my time is spent overseeing program and staff activities. On the science side of my day, I am involved in data analysis and interpretation, problem solving, and understanding how the regulatory agencies, such as Health Canada or FDA, will interpret our data. As a manager, I manage internal staff and CROs (Contract Research Organizations), and work with a range of consultants and experts to solve very specific and complex scientific issues.

It is also important for me to maintain a professional and productive relationship with our collaborators and business partners.



## What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

Although it is possible, it is very difficult to come into my position without a degree or academic training in toxicology and pharmacokinetics. You need a Ph.D. degree in toxicology with substantial training in pharmacokinetics or visa versa. Alternatively, a Ph.D. in pharmacology or related branch of biological sciences with proper training and experience in toxicology could be adequate.

If you are an independent thinker and a team player with good people skills, you have the basic elements for this job. In order to excel, you need to be creative, results oriented, and be able to play a leadership role. As a leader, you are required to present, rationalize your strategy, support your team and push the projects forward.

## What are the best parts of your job?

This job is very exciting and rewarding. As a team, you experience success and failures on a day-to-day basis. It is very rewarding that we have the potential to help many people who are suffering from pain and other disorders. With an element of good luck, we can bring new drugs to the market to help these people.