



Tojan B. Rahhal

Organization: College of Engineering, University of Missouri- Columbia

Titles: Director of Diversity and Outreach initiatives
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Bioengineering

Organization: Alliance Professional Development

Title: Owner and Team Leader

Dr. Tojan Rahhal is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Bioengineering and the Director of Diversity and Outreach Initiatives at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the College of Engineering. Rahhal graduated from North Carolina State University with a BS in Biomedical Engineering. She went on to pursue a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Ch), working in the lab of Dr. Joseph M. DeSimone. Rahhal's research focused on Engineering PRINT Particles for Pulmonary Delivery of Therapeutics and examined the effect of particle parameters (size, shape, composition, and surface chemistry) on residence time, cellular interactions, and immune responses in the lungs. Her work addresses the need for more efficient delivery of active therapeutics/biologics using dry powders that allow for monodisperse aerosolization and accurate deposition in the lungs for treatment of pulmonary diseases. Rahhal's work has been published in *Molecular Pharmaceutics* and *Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology, and Medicine*.

Outside of her research efforts, Rahhal demonstrated commitment to service and leadership in the academic community, promoting awareness of issues regarding equality in science. Rahhal was awarded the Thriving22 Shirley Chisolm Outspoken Advocate Award for her devotion to fighting for educational opportunities and social justice. Rahhal was inducted into Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society; the Order of the Golden Fleece, UNC's highest and oldest honor society; and the Frank Porter Graham Graduate and Professional Student Honor Society, which recognizes outstanding service provided to the University and community.

Currently, Rahhal is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Bioengineering and the Director of Diversity and Outreach Initiatives at the University of Missouri at Columbia in the College of Engineering. At MU, Rahhal focuses on facilitating outreach, recruitment, retention, and overall success for all members of the campus community, especially those from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in engineering. Rahhal also owns Alliance Professional Development (www.Alliance-Professional.com) where she works on providing customized workshops focusing on leadership, soft skills, and cultural awareness for companies and organizations.