

Getting a PhD – an asset or liability?



Dr Chee-Wai FONG
(PhD, BSc Pharm)

Director RD&A (Nutrition)
for Kerry APMEA

The academic race today is intense & unrelenting. Getting a degree from a good university is no longer sufficient, or so we think. So is it worthwhile spending more of our precious time to pursue postgraduate programs including a PhD? Does it guarantee more job opportunities after you get your PhD? These are questions that every graduating PhD student have in their mind. In this talk I will share my experience whereby my PhD was an asset to my career but also a liability at times.

Dr Chee-Wai Fong graduated with a pharmacy degree at the National University of Singapore and did his postgraduate studies at the University of Glasgow UK in Molecular Pharmacology specializing in G-protein coupled receptors, which encompasses receptors involved in human taste perception for sweet, bitter & umami. He had worked in drug discovery & cancer research in the industry and academia for more than 10 years before specializing in nutraceuticals and nutrition research & development for the past 6 years. He had published over 25 scientific papers in international peer reviewed journals and filed 4 patents.

Dr Fong is currently the Research Development & Applications Director for Kerry APMEA (Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa) and an active member of Kerry's global Health & Nutrition Institute. His key function is to support customers to develop products for General Wellness & Nutrition by providing nutrition science advice, product recommendations & formulations, and market trend information so that they can meet the needs of the ever demanding & well-informed consumer.