

February 13, 2025, 5 pm online

Career Perspectives

with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences



Dr. Markus Thunecke

Doctorate:

Dr. rer. nat. from Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg, 1997,
Diploma in Biochemistry at FU Berlin, 1994

Current Position:

Senior Partner and Co-founder of Catenion, Berlin

Markus Thunecke is a founding Senior Partner of Catenion who lives in Berlin, Germany. Markus started his consulting career in 1997 at Mercer Management Consulting (now Oliver Wyman) before joining a strategy consulting boutique, Theron, and setting up Catenion in 2003. Catenion is a science-driven strategy consulting firm with an exclusive focus on the biopharma industry. Markus has helped >200 clients around the globe in the biopharma industry create competitive advantage. Markus works with C-level executives on their most pressing strategic questions that require an in-depth understanding of science, technology & medicine.

What was the biggest challenge in starting a job after your PhD studies?

Learning about a completely new field – business and how companies operate. Also, the fact that in management you tend to have imperfect information and never enough time to explore everything in detail before you have to decide.

What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?

The most important skill is the ability to structure complex problems, to break them down into manageable pieces and to be able to consolidate actionable solutions. The generalist training in bio-science that I received is still relevant in my day-to-day business when it comes to understanding the science underpinning drug discovery & development.

What skills do you need now that you did not learn during your PhD studies?

Being able to combine all the scientific and technical information and to judge whether there is a business opportunity.

How large organisations work and how culture can have a great influence on outcomes. There is a saying “culture eats strategy for lunch”.

JOIN NOW



<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin/j.php?MTID=mea1ea217394f4846392527566e794d6e>

