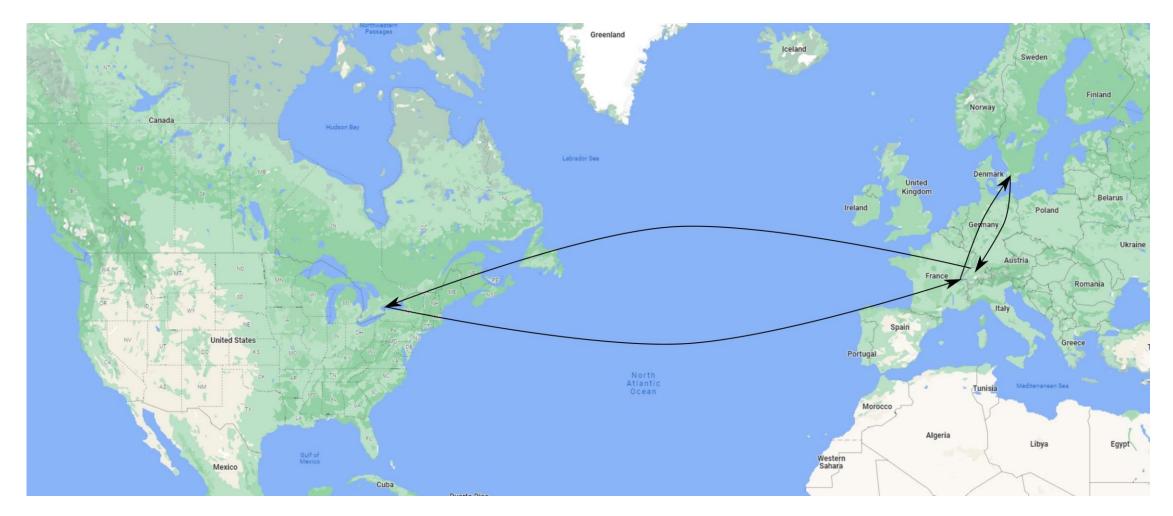


From Quantum Transport to Application Scientist

Dr. Heidi Potts

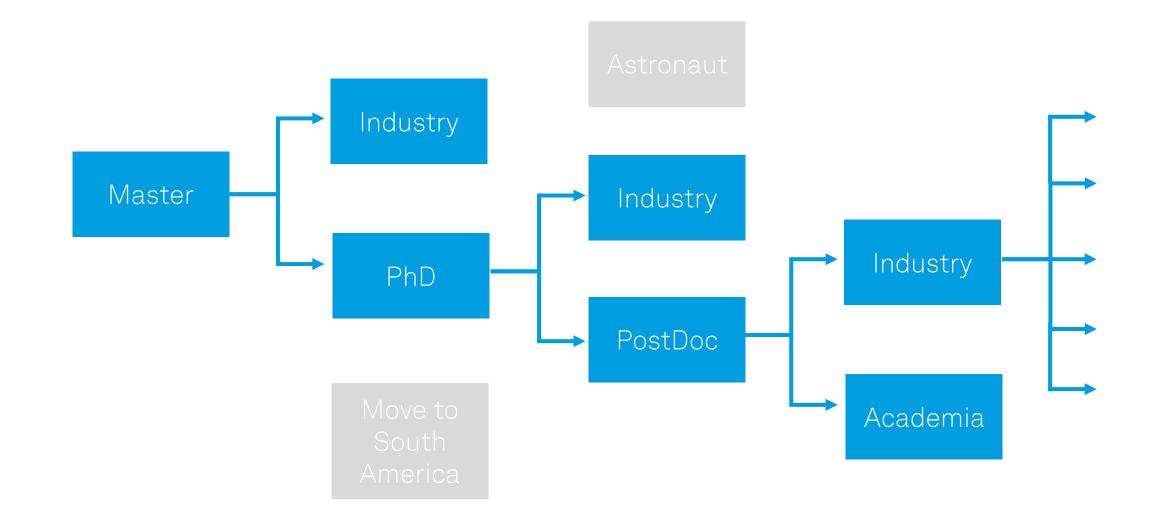
Women in Physics – Career Symposium

## My journey



Bachelor: Basel -> Master thesis: Toronto -> PhD: EPFL -> PostDoc: Lund -> Zurich Instruments

## Decisions Along the Way



## **Bachelor and Master in Nanoscience**

#### Highlights

- Great curriculum
- Teaching assistant for Mathematische Methoden
- Outreach activities
- Master thesis at the University of Toronto

#### Lesson learnt

You will not always decide for the best options but there is always a way

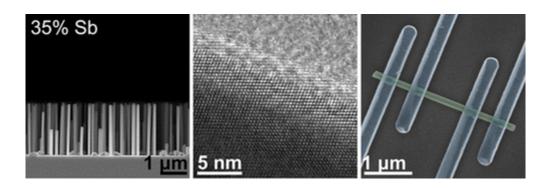


## PhD at EPFL

## Growth and Characterization of InAs Nanowires

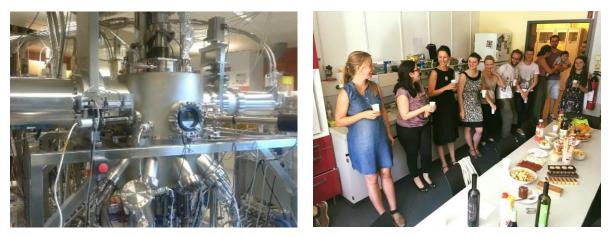
Highlights

- Excellent university and great work environment
- Lots of teaching an supervision opportunities
- Organizing the QSIT junior meeting









# How to combine a family & a career?

## PostDoc or the Private Sector

#### Private sector

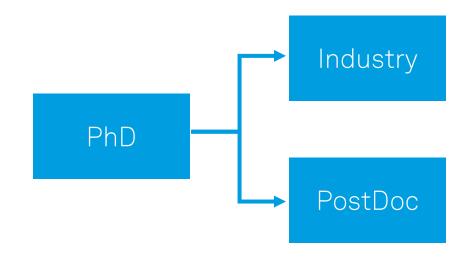
- Learn something new
- Be able to work part time (?)

#### BUT

- Our daughter was 4 months old
- We planned to move to Sweden

#### PostDoc

- Learn quantum transport experiments
- Use existing network
- $\rightarrow$  Easier to find a position and get started



## PostDoc in Lund

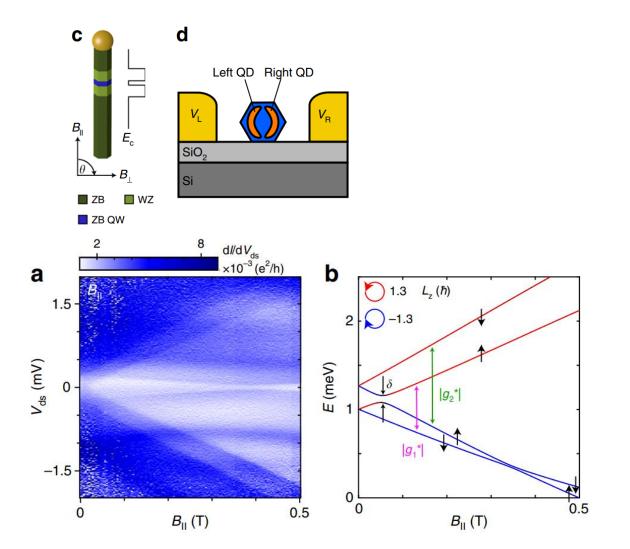
## Detecting Spin States in Quantum Dots

Highlights

- Great topic and very fruitful projects
- Great work environment
- SNFS PostDoc Mobility grant
- → Independance

### Lessons learnt

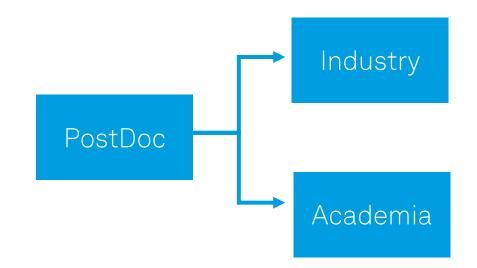
- It is possible to have a job and a family
- The environment is absolutely crucial
- → My partner
- → The group/team leader
- $\rightarrow$  The society



## What can a PhD-level Physicist do in the Private Sector?

#### Application scientist

- PhD in Physics, Electrial Engineering
- Solid scientific track record and practical lab experience
- Knowledge of measurements
- Experience in programming
- Excellent communication skills
- Sales experience and/or interest to develop skills in this area
- Entrepreneurial spirit and know-how of marketing strategies are a plus



## You don't need to have

ALL the skills

to get the job!

## Where am I now?

- Founded in 2008, 140+ people, 20+ nations
- Headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland
- Part of Rohde & Schwarz since July, 1<sup>st</sup> 2021









## **Zurich Instruments**

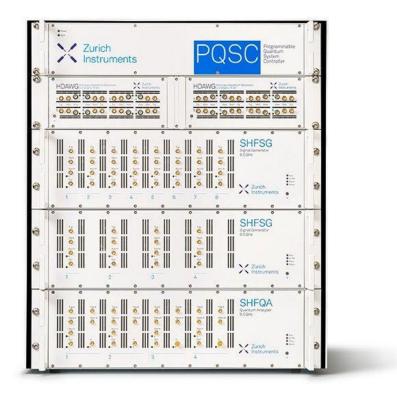
Lock-in amplifiers



#### Impedance analyzers



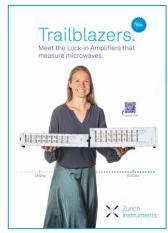
## Quantum computing control systems



## Daily Work as an Application Scientist

- Customer support
- Road trips & test measurements
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Blog posts, whitepapers, application notes
- Marketing material

















Tutorial





## Lots of Different Experiments

#### Solid state physics

- Transport
- Magnetism
- RF-Reflectometry

#### Quantum technologies

- Qubit readout and control
- Magnetometry

#### Photonics

- Spectroscopy
- Pump-Probe techniques
- Scanning Imaging

### Scanning probe imaging

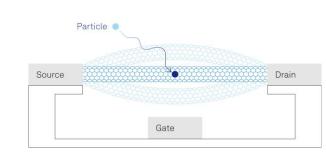
- Atomic force microscopy
- Scanning tunneling microscopy

#### Sensors

- MEMS
- Resonators

#### Impedance

Microfluidics





## «Why did Quit you Academia?»

# There are a lot of opportunities outside of academia!

## My Amazing Colleagues



Claudius Riek

- PhD in Physics, Konstanz
- Zurich Instruments
- $\rightarrow$  Application scientist
- → Managing director of Zurich Instruments Germany



Tino Wagner

- PhD in Physics, ETH
- PostDoc ETH
- Zurich Instruments
- $\rightarrow$  Software Engineer
- → Software Team Lead



### Kent Shirer

- PhD in Physics, UC Davis
- PostDoc Max Planck
  Institute for Chemical
  Physics of Solids
- PostDoc at EPFL
- Zurich Instruments
- $\rightarrow$  Application scientist



# Thank you for your attention.

#### Zurich Instruments' Ladies Night



Get in touch

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