

panel descriptions

Academic Careers: What's Really Out There?

Many, if not most, postdocs and graduate students aspire to an academic career. If you are one of those individuals, it is important for you to understand how the academic sector is organized and what that means for your career. For example, did you know that, of the 4400 post-secondary educational institutions in the U.S., only 282 grant more than 20 PhDs a year? This workshop aims to provide you with a foundation for thinking realistically about a career in academia. We will survey the types of institutions that provide formal education beyond high school; and crunch the numbers, looking at PhD production and employment trends for biomedical researchers.

Teaching for a Living

Teaching takes place in a variety of settings. The session features faculty members at colleges, universities, and predominantly undergraduate institutions; K - 12 teachers; and leaders in informal community science outreach. The panel aims to provide participants with insights into the lifestyles of teachers in each of these settings, including the balance between teaching, research, and service activities. Panelists will also touch on the unique aspects of the hiring process for each setting.

Now What Do I Do? – Making the Faculty Transition

Congratulations! You successfully earned a faculty position at one of your dream institutions. Now you have all sorts of questions and are wondering: What is my next step? Did I negotiate a good deal? How do I survive as a junior faculty member? With these questions in mind, we have designed this session to ease your concerns and provide you insider tips on faculty transitions. The panelists are junior faculty and department heads from a variety of institutions. They will draw on personal experiences to discuss adapting to a new research environment, managing a lab, balancing teaching and research, and successfully navigating the tenure process.

Catching the Translational Wave

Many scientists want to combine basic and translational research in order to reduce the time it takes for laboratory discoveries to reach the patient. This session will describe opportunities for non-clinical research scientists to participate in translational research. Speakers will include PhD scientists in clinical departments, an extramural administrator of Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSAs), and a faculty member who has taken a drug to market. They will discuss the requirements and expectations for a basic science PhD engaged in this rapidly expanding field.

Industry Careers: What's Really Out There?

Companies come in many sizes, and deciding whether to work in a small, medium or large company can be difficult. Additionally, the differences between pharma and biotech are often confusing. Individual company cultures are also important characteristics to consider when deciding which job would provide the best fit. Our speaker will help you figure out what questions to ask yourself and a prospective company so that you can make informed decisions in your job hunt.

Research Careers in Industry

Do you like working in a lab environment and want to become involved in generating science in the private sector? Biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies offer a wide variety of employment opportunities for scientists interested in bench careers. Panelists from various companies will provide perspectives on corporate careers.

Industry Careers Away from the Bench

For those seeking science careers that do not involve bench work, industry offers many possibilities in areas like management, finance, sales, marketing, regulatory affairs, and intellectual property. Postdoctoral fellows already possess many of the skills required for the successful pursuit of these types of careers. Representatives from different industries will talk about the non-bench careers that are available and will provide guidelines on how to effectively build and present your skill sets in order to obtain these jobs.

To Market We Go: Patents and Technology Transfer

Most research labs are not equipped to translate their scientific breakthroughs into market-ready products and services; they depend on experts to facilitate the process for them. Patenting and technology transfer deal with the ownership and transfer of intellectual property from one institution to another. Often, intellectual property is transferred or licensed to entities better able to develop useful commercial products and services. The panelists will provide insight into all aspects of patenting and technology transfer and how a researcher can pursue a career as a patent examiner, patent attorney, or technology transfer agent.

From Bench to Bank: Breaking into the Business World

Biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industries increasingly recognize the utility of individuals with formal scientific training in solving business problems. Scientists' rigorous analytical skills are highly applicable to equity assessment, business model development, and identifying new opportunities. This panel will address the career options for scientists interested in consulting, business analysis, and venture capital investment. The panel will also discuss typical projects, sought-after skill sets, and how to break into the field.

International Opportunities

This panel will share information for scientists about opportunities that can take you outside the U.S. or offer the possibility of combining science and international relations. Panelists will include an embassy science counselor, a bioinformaticist working in Latin America, representatives from non-government organizations, and a scientist working at the European Commission.

Overview of Science Policy

How is the yearly NIH budget determined? How are national policy positions on global warming and embryonic stem cell research developed? How will the medical benefits of the coming personal genomics revolution be maximized while safeguarding the privacy and health of consumers? Science policy analysts work in both the public and private sector to advise policy makers on such critical issues. This session will provide a general overview addressing the 'Who, What, When, Where, and Why' of science policy.

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What's Science Got to Do With It? The Impact of Scientific Knowledge on Policy Making

This Q&A-intensive session will feature panelists who apply their scientific backgrounds to help develop policies that impact society in major ways, from how we manage global health and infectious disease to how we ensure the safety and effectiveness of exciting biomedical and technological advancements as they move into the clinic. The panelists will describe how they became interested in science policy, their career paths, and their current work.

Who's Driving This Thing, Anyway? Prioritizing and Guiding the Direction of Scientific Research

This session features scientists who work in various sectors to establish guidelines and set priorities for Federally and privately funded research. As a group, they focus on the revitalization of our competitive edge in the global community, national biosecurity, public health and wellness, preservation of the environment, and improvement of public science education. The panelists will describe how they became interested in the issues they work on, their career paths, and their current work.

Show Me the Money: Grants Administration

As scientists, we know about the time, hard work, and emotional energy that goes into writing grants.... but what is it like on the other end? Professionals from granting agencies will discuss life at an institution that funds science. The panelists will discuss not only how they influence the direction of research funded by their institution, but also the steps NIH fellows can take to prepare for careers in grants administration.

Government Jobs inside the Lab

Panelists from the NIH, FBI, FDA, Navy and state labs will describe the career trajectories that led them to work for the government as well as the variety of challenging and rewarding careers that exist in the public sector.

Uncle Sam Wants Your PhD: Government Jobs outside the Lab

Many government scientists have jobs that go beyond the bench. Positions such as those in regulatory affairs and science administration often require the expertise that comes with a PhD. Panelists from non-bench scientific careers in the government will discuss their responsibilities and duties, including how they made the decision to work for the government. They will also discuss the pros and cons of leaving the bench and what you need to consider before pursuing such a career.

The Power of the Pen: Careers Combining Science and Writing

Is writing about science your favorite part of work? Science and technology have become so specialized and complex that effective written communication is essential for engagement within the scientific community, as well as with the general public. Our panel will include science writers and editors from diverse backgrounds to discuss opportunities in traditional and new media. They will also review writing opportunities directed towards various audiences, ranging from the general public to fellow scientists and clinicians. Join us to explore career options and pathways for those who love to communicate through the written word.

Let's Talk Science

Are you ever frustrated by the general public's lack of scientific understanding? Do you believe we can do a better job of communicating important scientific information to our leaders and lawmakers? Just as the world's progress is supported by scientific discovery and advancement, scientific progress depends on support from the world. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that science is broadly and effectively communicated. If you've ever considered using your communication skills to increase public knowledge of science, please join us for this panel on verbal science communication. Participants include representatives from a variety of careers, including radio/TV, media relations, publicity, and medical communications. Join us and learn how you can put your skills to work in this important effort.

Managing Up

Do you ever feel like you and your boss could communicate more effectively? It's unlikely that your boss will suddenly change communication styles, but you can change how you relate to him or her. This session seeks to help you ensure that you are getting the best results out of your relationship with your supervisor. Knowing how to effectively manage this critical relationship can help you improve both your research and your job satisfaction.

People Management

No matter what career you choose, as a PhD it is likely that you will be managing people. This seminar aims to give you the management tools you will need to ensure that your team meets its goals.

Falling Down and Getting Back Up: Dealing with Setbacks

So your experiment failed (again) or you are on the job hunt in an "interesting" economic climate. How do you continue to make progress in your career when it seems you take two steps back for every step forward? Join us to gain insights into using optimism and resilience to propel your career in the direction you choose.

U.S. Job Interview Skills for International Trainees

Having a great CV/resume and cover letter are important first steps in your job search...but what will you do when you actually get the interview for a job in the United States? At this seminar, you will hear about common problems international trainees encounter in U.S. interviews. We'll point out what you may already be doing well and what you might do better.

Negotiating Outcomes

From negotiating a job offer to negotiating instrument time, scientists spend a large amount of time trying to effectively communicate their needs. Attend this session to learn common negotiation strategies that you can use in all aspects of your career.

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Balancing Work and Life

This seminar intends to help you effectively develop a work/life balance that allows you to succeed in your career and have time for yourself and your family. Get tips on what time management means in today's busy workplace, how to assess your time management needs, and how to make the most of your time at work and at home.

Job Search 101

How long does it take to get a job, where do I look, how can I make sure my application is even looked at? This session seeks to answer these questions and provide you the tools needed to conduct a successful job hunt.

Career Options for Clinicians

Physician scientists play important roles in all areas of scientific advancement, including industry, academia, and the private sector. Such professionals truly can shape the field of translational medicine, even away from the bedside or bench. Hear from individuals who have combined their expertise in medicine with other skills to impact research, global health and drug discovery. Panelists will also discuss how physician scientists can best transition into these fields and what awaits those who choose to do so.