

# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual NIH Career Symposium May 18, 2012

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## [Panel Descriptions](#)

### **Keynote Panel**

#### **Following the Leaders: Career Advice from Experienced Scientists**

We will open the day this year with a panel of leaders from government, industry and academia to discuss their career highlights and mistakes. The conversation will focus on steps you can take to make sure you have a successful career as you become leaders in the next generation of the biomedical workforce.

### **Academic Sessions**

#### **Academia: Understanding Your Options**

Knowing the right time to transition from postdoc to independent investigator or professor can be challenging. This panel will highlight faculty jobs across the spectrum of academic institutions and review key points you need to be aware of before taking the next step in your career. The speakers will discuss how to determine your strengths and weaknesses, and tips on understanding the job qualifications for each academic sector.

#### **Academia: Job Packets and Interviews**

Are you working on obtaining the next job that will catapult your career forward? This session will provide tips on the job application and interview process. Professors from both sides of the interview process will talk about their experience and share their insight. In addition, the panelists will also discuss how to formulate a research plan, and how to integrate this plan effectively with the institution to which you apply.

#### **Academia: Negotiating and Transitioning**

You aced the first interview, the university wants you, but can it give you all that you need and want? This session will cover techniques that will help in negotiating the specifics of your new position including salary, start-up funds, space, and personnel. The panelists will also discuss the new responsibilities that follow, whether they are setting up a new lab, designing new collaborations, managing budgets, or balancing administrative duties.

## **Careers in Science Education**

Science educators foster scientific literacy in students from elementary to college levels, along with teachers and the public, by making science fun and engaging. As science education constantly improves, careers in this versatile field require innovative and enthusiastic scientists to lead the next generation of young scientists and communicate science to the public and other professionals. This panel includes science educators and scientists who will discuss exciting career avenues that ultimately help shape our advancement in science.

## **Non-Bench Sessions**

### **Careers in Government**

The federal government offers careers for scientists from various backgrounds and disciplines. This panel features scientists employed in a variety of non-bench jobs, including project managers for complex research programs, grants administrators, and scientific reviewers. In this panel, scientists from the NIH, the United States Patent Office (USPTO), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will discuss their individual career paths, the various opportunities available for Ph.D. scientists in the government. The panelists will also provide insights into the scientific skills they employ everyday at their respective jobs.

### **Careers in Scientific Communications**

Are you interested in applying your scientific skills to writing, communicating, and disseminating scientific information? Science communications and medical writing careers are broadly available to Ph.D. scientists. The panelists will describe the different types of science and medical writing, including communications, editing, and technical writing. Topics to be discussed will include: how do I become an editor for a journal, what is science writing, where are the opportunities for science writers, what skills should one cultivate in order to be a desirable candidate, and what should postdocs be doing now to prepare for a career in science writing.

### **Careers Protecting Public Health**

This panel features scientists directly impact public health, locally and internationally, by protecting the public from epidemic diseases and global health crises. The panelists are from various aspects of public health, including research, biosecurity, policy, and health analysis. Topics to be discussed will include: how to transition careers from bench training to public health, safety and security, what skills are required to make this transition, and what categories of jobs are available for doctoral level scientists to apply their training to protecting the public.

### **Innovation: Careers Behind the Scenes**

Behind every ground-breaking discovery is an extensive team working to bring scientific innovations to the public. Accordingly, there are a myriad of career opportunities for scientists to utilize their skills and training away from the bench to support scientific research. This panel is comprised of scientists who apply their scientific expertise in strategic planning, technology transfer, patent law, and health care consulting. The panelists will discuss how they use their training in very different yet complementary ways, all for the common goal of supporting scientific discovery.

### **Careers in Science Administration**

Keeping science running requires more than just people doing experiments. We need to make sure that we fund science, follow all the rules and regulations, set up laboratory and office space for investigators, have the appropriate faculty assigned to teaching responsibilities, manage projects and more. This group of panelists works in all sectors to do the tasks that keep science moving ahead.

### **Industrial Sessions**

#### **Industry: Discovering a New Drug**

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies provide scientists with opportunities to continue their careers in experimental research with a primary focus on understanding mechanisms of diseases and identifying novel therapeutic targets. This panel includes Ph.D. scientists involved in the initial stages of drug discovery, including basic research and development (R&D), *in vitro* assay development, preclinical research, and project management. The panelists will discuss career opportunities in these fields, and the skill sets needed to successfully transition into industry.

#### **Industry: Developing a New Drug**

Between identifying possible therapeutics in the lab and launching the final product, a potential new drug must undergo the development phase. The newly discovered drug has to pass through critical steps, including Investigational New Drug (IND) application, clinical trials, and New Drug Approval (NDA) application, before receiving the final FDA approval for market launch. The panelists of this session play some of the important roles involved at different stages of this process, such as product management, clinical trials, medical document writing, and regulatory affairs. They will discuss the various opportunities available to assist along the drug development pipeline.

#### **Industry: Launching a New Drug**

As the cost associated with bringing a new drug to market increases, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies are increasingly seeking effective and successful strategies for launching a new drug to market and maintaining a competitive edge. This panel features some of the key players in this process, including sales specialists, medical communications

personnel such as medical liaisons and medical affairs, and marketing strategists. The panelists will discuss their roles promoting the commercial success of new drugs.

### **Industry: Careers Developing Biomedical Tools and Devices**

Scientists in the research and medical devices industry play a major role in facilitating scientific discovery and medical advancement by developing tools and services for researchers and physicians. Biotechnology companies focusing on biomedical devices, tools, and services employ scientists in both bench and non-bench positions. The panelists in this session include a product development scientist, field application scientist, product manager, and operation specialist. They will discuss their roles and responsibilities in their company, how they landed their current position, and the skills required to move up the career ladder in this particular niche of the bioscience industry.

### **Research in Unexpected Places**

Biomedical research is needed in areas beyond those of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. This panel features panelists who are doing research in places you may not have thought about such as the government (non-NIH), personal care companies, food companies, and gas and chemical companies. This session seeks to open your mind to places you probably have never thought of as having career options for biomedical scientists.

### **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.

### **Still Uncertain? Come explore!**

The Career Symposium offers a plenty of information on careers, but at this point all that information may have made you more confused than ever. Join members of the OITE Career Services team in this interactive and informal session. Bring your questions about identifying the right career for you and acquiring the skills you need for the job you want, as well as any other questions about career options and opportunities.

## **SKILL BLITZES**

These short sessions are designed to give you an overview of the skills required to mount a successful job search. These will be a fast-paced, fun-filled way to end the day. Each session will be strictly limited to twenty minutes with a five minute break between sessions. Speakers,

who are our very own OITE staff, will give you the highlights of the topics, with ideas on how to follow up with additional resources. You will be able to choose three sessions from the following offerings:

- Resumes and Cover Letters
  - The top ten highlights on your job search documents.
- Find the Career for You
  - Your dream job does exist. If you are still pondering what is next, come to this session to map out a plan to determine your path.
- Interviewing
  - This session will help you to navigate the interview process.
- Making a Job Search Plan
  - The job search has common threads. Find out where and how to search for your job.
- Finding Ways to Enhance Your Resume at NIH
  - You have likely heard many speakers talk about the importance of acquiring leadership skills or other non-lab skills today. Gather information of how you can get these skills right here on campus.
- Networking and Informational Interviews
  - You have met some terrific people today (or missed their session as you went to another). Find out how to expand and maintain with your network.
- Social Media and Job Hunts
  - LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and others: how can these tools advance your job search?
- Navigating the Job Search for Non-Citizens
  - Searching for a job poses unique challenges for non-citizens. This quick overview will raise awareness of common concerns for visiting fellows.
- Managing Job Search Stress
  - Job searching can be stressful: deciding what you want to do, where you want to live, and how to manage it all. Come hear tips to navigate your career search while decreasing your stress level.
- Finding Ways to Enhance your Teaching and Mentoring Experience
  - You can get teaching and mentoring experience to add to your CV or resume; this session tells you where to look and how to best fill out this section of your job history.
- Transferable Skills
  - How do you talk about the skills you already have, or gain additional skills, so employers see you as a competitive candidate?
- Taking your Network to the Next Level
  - You have found connections and added them to LinkedIn and even have had an informational interview, but what next? This session explores keeping up with your network without being a pest.
- Top Ten Tips for Grant Writing
  - The top tips you need to be a successful grant writer.
- The Stadtman Search
  - Come learn about the NIH Intramural Research's program: Earl Stadtman Tenure-Track Investigator Recruitment.