Careers for Scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
NIH and NIAID are big places

NIH is composed of 27 Institutes and Centers. Also called ICs.

Total Budget $30.5x10^9 (at least last year)

NCI, NIAID, NHLBI make up ~43% of the NIH budget.

Individual institutes control ~95% of the budget.

NIAID has a budget (or had) of nearly $5 billion.
How Did I Get to Where I am Today?

- BS- Biology, College of William and Mary
- PhD- Microbiology, UMCP- 5 Years
- Post-Doc – NCI, Susan Gottesman’s Lab
  - 5 Years
- Assistant-Associate Professor, Medical University of Ohio- 8.5 Years
- SRO- NIAID 4 years
- SIM – NIAID 2 years
What can you do at NIH with a PhD in Microbiology?

Extramural Science Administration

Health Science Administrators

- Scientific Review Officers
- Program/Project Officers
- Policy
- Scientific Initiatives Manager
What does an SRO do?

- Read Grants and Contracts.
- Recruit scientists and other professionals with the appropriate expertise to review the applications.
- Organize and run the review meeting.
  - Have to be very familiar with NIH policy. You are the Expert at the table.
What does an SRO do?

- Insure that each application gets a thorough and fair review.
- Write a summary of the discussion for each application.
What does a PO do?

- Main scientific liaison between Investigator and NIAID/NIH
- Maintain a portfolio of grants on a specific scientific discipline
- Interpret and publicize NIH/NIAID Policy
- Execute and monitor government contracts
- Periodically develop RFAs, RFPs or other NIH solicitations
What Does a Scientific Initiatives Manager do?

- Organize and run lots of meetings.
- Project Manager
- Read and edit RFAs (grants) and RFPs (contracts).
- Know and apply NIH and NIAID Policy and scientific expertise to RFAs and RFPs.
- Facilitate and mediate.
  - Great job for any middle child.
How or did my time in the laboratory prepare me for what I do now?

Writing and Reviewing Grants
- Gives me a great perspective on how an applicant “reads” and RFA.

Working with difficult people.
- They are everywhere

Managing Time and Work.

Lots of Writing and Editing and Speaking.
- This always helps you no matter what job you have.
What skills do you need to make a transition into a non-bench career easier?

- First, be sure you are ready to leave
  - Although not a one way street it is much harder to go back to the bench.

- Practice your Writing and Speaking Skills.
  - Almost every job ad I see references those.

- Try to get experience managing people.
  - New Post-docs, summer students etc.

- Try to get experience organizing something.
  - Like this symposium.

- Schmooze Network with NIHers at Meetings.
Careers at NIAID
(http://www.jobs.nih.gov/)


Information Technology: Administration, Management, and Research support

Administrative and Technical Support

Scientific Research: Tenured Senior Investigators, Tenure-track Investigators, Postdoctoral Fellowships

Scientific Management: Review and Administrative Oversight of Extramural Research

Biomedical Research: Biologists, Microbiologists, Chemists, Engineers, Laboratory Managers, Computer Scientists

Patient Care: Medical Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, Allied Health

Other Careers: Police, Fire Fighters, Utility Engineers, Mechanics, Plant Operators and other Trades

These jobs can all be found at the NIH USAJobs website.
Can I get an Extramural Job at NIH Right out of a Post-doc?

Yes, but it is harder.

• I have three colleagues who joined NIAID directly from a Post-Doc.
• You are competing against Asst. Profs and higher for the same jobs.