

# Careers for Scientists at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



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# NIH and NIAID are big places

- NIH is composed of 27 Institutes and Centers. Also called ICs.
- Total Budget  $\sim \$30.5 \times 10^9$  (at least last year)
- NCI, NIAID, NHLBI make up  $\sim 43\%$  of the NIH budget.
- Individual institutes control  $\sim 95\%$  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/>)

Administrative Jobs	Scientific, Research, and Clinical Jobs	Other Jobs
		
<p><b>Administrative:</b> Human Resources, Budgeting, Grants Contract Management, Public Information, Library Science, Science Policy/Legislation</p> <p><b>Information Technology:</b> Administration, Management, and Research support</p> <p><b>Administrative and Technical Support</b></p> <p>These jobs can all be found at the <a href="http://www.jobs.nih.gov/">NIH USAJobs website</a>.</p>	<p><b>Scientific Research:</b> Tenured Senior Investigators, Tenure-track Investigators, Postdoctoral Fellowships</p> <p><b>Scientific Management:</b> Review and Administrative Oversight of Extramural Research</p> <p><b>Biomedical Research:</b> Biologists, Microbiologists, Chemists, Engineers, Laboratory Managers, Computer Scientists</p> <p><b>Patient Care:</b> Medical Doctors, Nurses, Dentists, Allied Health</p>	<p><b>Other Careers:</b> Police, Fire Fighters, Utility Engineers, Mechanics, Plant Operators and other Trades</p> <p>These jobs can all be found at the <a href="http://www.jobs.nih.gov/">NIH USAJobs website</a>.</p>



# 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.

