Contributing to global science development by building careers

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Special Edition VFC Newsletter Staff
Editorial

2012 Expo in a Glimpse
An Introduction for the 2014 Expo!

By Anne M. Miermont, PhD

The NIH International Opportunities Expo is an event organized by the NIH and the Visiting Fellows Committee (VFC), a subcommittee of the NIH Fellows Committee (FelCom), every two years on the NIH campus. At the Expo, exhibitors such as international organizations, embassies, and agencies hold informational seminars and booths for fellows interested in science careers and funding, and research opportunities abroad.

Attending the Expo is an excellent opportunity for postdoctoral fellows and graduate students to learn more about these international opportunities, which they may not be aware of, and to meet and network with the representatives of these different organizations as well as with colleagues from the NIH.

This special newsletter edition is a sample of the content of most of the seminars of the last Expo, which occurred in September 2012. Many grant mechanisms, fellowships, etc. depend on their success and budgets, therefore please note that some information may not be fully up-to-date. However, attending this year’s Expo will allow you the chance to explore what changes have been implemented in various programs and what new opportunities are available.

Happy reading and see you in September!

Navigating the International Job Search

Sunny Skies for the Well-prepared

Job Hunting Success from NIH Postdoctoral Fellows with International Background

By Jeffrey Zhao, PhD

Three former postdoctoral fellows shared their successful job hunting stories at the 8th NIH International Opportunities Expo held in September 2012 at the Bethesda campus. All of them had joined the NIH after receiving their PhD outside the US. Featured in the “Navigating the International Job Search” session, they explained how they obtained job offers in diverse career arenas (i.e., faculty, industry research, and non-bench). These three panelists - an assistant professor in Toronto, a scientist in Singapore, and a science policy officer in Washington, DC - answered some popular career questions through a recorded video.

Dance in the end zone

A common recommendation was to allow oneself ample time to find the right position. Dr. Amit Nayyar, visiting fellow at the NIAID, sent out around 200 resumes before finally landing a job as research scientist at Albany Molecular Research Inc., Singapore. His resumes were always specifically tailored, to portray him as the best fit for the advertised position. Dr. Dale Stevens started to look for faculty positions one year after he joined the NIMH in 2010, after completing his first postdoc in Harvard University. He got an offer from York University in early 2012. Dr. Matt Wenham almost immediately started planning his next move after becoming a research fellow at the NIDDK in 2010, and landed his dream job -
Dr. Shawn Mullen, deputy director of the NIH Office of Postdoctoral Services, advises that postdoctoral fellows should shift their focus to “finishing up and the job search” one year from the end of their training. He suggested a two-year timeline for the job search, starting from solidifying a career goal and developing job search materials to leading an intensified search six to nine months prior to departure. Extra time may be necessary for visiting fellows who often walk the tricky terrain of visa applications. “It would be beneficial to familiarize yourself early with the visa issues for the intended countries,” Dr. Mullen notes.

The importance of planning the next step while training as a postdoctoral fellow was highly emphasized. “I felt I was ready to run my own lab after I had learned how to budget research funds, write grants, and supervise students and assistants,” said Dr. Stevens. He gave credit to his PIs for giving him independence, and considered developing management skills just as important as designing experiments and writing papers in running your own lab. For fellows interested in a non-traditional career path, having an exit strategy early on is essential. Dr. Wenham had kept a clear vision about his future career path to be away from bench since graduate school and spent time on activities outside the lab. Dr. Wenham volunteered in the Visiting Fellows Committee at the NIH and non-profit organizations in Washington, D.C., developing his leadership, communications, and management skills. “You are trying to convince someone to take a chance on you even though you have not worked in that field before,” explained Wenham in justifying his efforts to build credentials for a non-bench career.

The panelists agreed that a smooth transition into new positions also means leaving the lab on good terms. Dr. Stevens negotiated a 12-month deferral of his faculty position so that he could complete ongoing projects in the lab and finish manuscripts. Dr. Wenham also bargained for additional time to wrap up his work at the NIH. “My PI is very appreciative of my efforts,” said Wenham.

Building up and utilizing resources

Dr. Wenham may seem extremely lucky when he was offered the associate director position at the Institute on Science for Global Policy without interview or even job application. But to Dr. Wenham, it was the fruition of meticulous planning and extensive networking plus a little bit of luck. He volunteered at the Institute on Science for Global Policy for about a year without any expectation of a paid job. However, his employer recognized his skills and contribution, and created the full-time position for him. Likewise, Stevens’ and Dr. Nayyar’s experiences can also attest to the importance of networking: Dr. Nayyar’s friend, an employee of Albany Molecular Research Inc., Singapore, forwarded his resume, while Dr. Stevens’ former colleague encouraged him to apply for the position at York University and advocated for him. “When you start job hunting, you should spread the words and let everyone know,” said Dr. Nayyar. Friends or colleagues can even conduct mock interviews with you when you can “speak out loud” and practice to give “coherent and thorough responses,” he added.

While everyone recognizes the importance of networking, Dr. Mullen said that it takes time and strategy to build relationships and develop an effective network. He suggested to the audience to capitalize on both current colleagues and former alumni and faculty, and to “make the most of conferences and meetings, and maximize face-to-face interactions”. Professional and social networking websites, such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter, can be rich resources for job seekers to “tap into the hidden job market.”

A balancing act

With the ever increasing squeeze on the government research funding, it can be challenging to find a faculty positions. Colleagues warned Dr. Stevens to be flexible on location if he wanted to have an academic job. However, “balancing my hierarchy of values, such as academic fit, spouse, and geography, was critical
for me,” said Dr. Stevens. Because those values are rarely aligned perfectly, he suggested giving them serious thought before applying for any job.

International Activities and Programs at the American Chemical Society

By Ravikiran S. Yedidi, PhD

Dr. Steven R. Meyers, manager, International Activities, American Chemical Society (ACS), started out by giving an overview of the ACS. He mentioned that there are three main sections, viz. (1) Society Services focuses on membership, education, career oriented programs, both domestic and international, as well as meetings/colloquia; (2) publications office overlooks various publications/journals; and (3) Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS) focuses on curated chemical information for scientific discoveries. His talk was mainly geared towards the global outlook of ACS in which he described that more than 25,000 registered ACS members are from abroad, representing more than 100 different countries and contributing 60 percent of publications (out of 38,000 published articles per year) in ACS journals. In order to help the global community, the ACS Office of International Activities was started with focused goals such as providing chemistry related information, advancing the careers of the members, and improving the overall global interaction by connecting people based on various opportunities/requirements.

The speaker outlined the funding and global-career advancement opportunities from ACS such as the Global Research Experiences, Exchanges and Training program (GREET), International Research Experience for Undergraduates (IREU), and international travel awards such as Pittcon-Travel Grant (Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy). He mentioned that the ACS provides programs for all career stages, including Chemical Sciences and Society Symposia (CS3), Transatlantic Frontiers of Chemistry (TFOC), and Global Innovation Imperatives (GII). As a part of TFOC, about 20 young investigators are selected to present their work free of cost to provide an opportunity to interact with potential collaborators and share scientific information that promotes career advancement. The speaker said that the TFOC is currently interested in including postdoctoral candidates as a part of the young investigators community. In particular, he focused on GREET, a pseudo-funding agency, as a good choice of funding for young investigators/tenure-track faculty. He mentioned that seed funding is given to five US teams granting about USD 11,000 per team (mentor and mentee) to establish new international collaborations for which no preliminary data is required. In 2012, it was a pilot program in its third year with great success due to the benefits involved such as funding for research costs, travel support, travel visas, language, and a straight forward application procedure with a two-page proposal. The applications were due by March 6, 2013 for the following round. The success rate was 25 percent at the time. The committee looks for scientific merit, extracurricular profile of the applicants as well as the sustainability of the proposed project.

The ACS Office of International Activities (OIA) can connect people globally based on various requirements/opportunities and is also welcoming any new ideas for anyone wishing to contribute. More information on these and other new programs and opportunities is available on the ACS OIA website: www.acs.org/international.

Career Opportunities at the Inserm

By Christelle Derenty, PhD

Dr. Mireille Guyader, director of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research
Inserm US office, presented three career opportunities relevant to the NIH fellows. Founded in 1964, the Inserm is a public scientific and technological institute, operating under the joint authority of the French Ministries of Health and of Research. As the only French public institution entirely dedicated to biomedical research and public health, the Inserm ensures a continuum of research from the bench to the patient. The Institute also includes an office of technology transfer, with a portfolio of 980 patents on file and 137 newly filed patents.

First, Guyader discussed the ATIP-Avenir program, a partnership between the Inserm and the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). A call for proposals is launched every November to enable young scientists to create and lead a team within an established laboratory in France. This program is open to young scientists who have defended their PhD (or equivalent doctoral degree) within the last 10 years, regardless of their actual position and nationality. It includes a salary for three to five years, a stipend (up to 60,000 euro/year), a lab space (550 sq.ft) and a two-year postdoctoral position. The grant is awarded for a three-year period and can be extended for two additional years, after evaluation. Ninety five percent of the laureates became permanent after two years through a competitive recruitment campaign. The selection is a two-step process: short-listing in April and interview of the selected applicants in June. Early in July, the Inserm and the CNRS jointly establish the final list of awardees and their host laboratories. In 2012, there were 24 laureates; among them, four postdoctoral fellows who were in the US when they applied. While it is not mandatory to predetermine a host laboratory, one may have better success if a specific institute is already identified. Guyader, whose office is located at the French embassy, is available to help candidates select a host institute.

She also presented tenure position opportunities available at the Inserm. There is one recruitment campaign per year for director of research (DR) and research associate (CR) tenure positions. For 2014, 114 positions are open for recruitments, distributed among the different grades and disciplines. This year’s applications are accepted from December to January or February (January 17 for CR and February 28 for DR). The review board preselects candidates for an interview (April/May for CR, September for DR). There is no nationality requirement and the interview can be performed in either French or English. There are seven specialized scientific committees depending on the area of expertise and one may apply to more than one committee. Applicants must decide the position (CR, DR) and the discipline area(s) for which they wish to apply, and identify a host laboratory. Guyader is available to assist fellows apply for these opportunities.

Finally, she described the Inserm-University Chairs program. Candidates, chosen jointly by the university and by the Inserm, are recruited as associate professor by the university and assigned to an Inserm laboratory. This five-year chair appointment, renewable once, allows the associate professor to concentrate on developing a research program in an appropriate scientific environment while developing teaching skills through a schedule limited to one-third of their time (64 hours/year). In addition to salary, recipients of an Inserm-University Chair position receive a substantial bonus and financial support for their research. Positions are available all year depending on the need of the universities. The application procedure is the same as for associate professor position and requires the candidate to be “qualified” by the Higher Education board.

Guyader ended her talk by presenting the Fil de Marianne Newsletter, published weekly by the CNRS and Inserm offices in the US and targeted for French researchers and scientists in North America. It compiles useful information on the different French research organizations (CNRS, Inserm, INRIA, INRA, Ifremer, etc.), the European Commission, call for proposals, postdoctoral positions, and scientific conferences, as well as general information on research in France. To register, visit the website: http://www.france-science.org/Le-Fil-de-Marianne-Fr-Newsletter
In addition to these career paths at the Inserm, similar positions are available at the CNRS and one is permitted and encouraged to apply in both institutions. Research engineer positions are also open to PhD holders and follow the same type of competitive recruitment process. Guyader strongly recommended fellows willing to pursue their career in France to get in touch with her at inserm-usa@ambascience-usa.org for help navigating these different career opportunities.

For additional information please consult the following websites:
Inserm: http://english.inserm.fr/
Career opportunities: https://www.eva2.inserm.fr/EVA/jsp/
ATIP/AVENIR: https://www.eva2.inserm.fr/EVA/jsp/AppelsOffres/ATIP-AVENIR/index_INSERM_CNRS.jsp
Competitive recruitment for researcher: https://www.eva2.inserm.fr/EVA/jsp/Concours/index_en.jsp
University qualifications: http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid22713/galaxie.html
Complete list of thematic institutes: http://www.aviesan.fr/en/aviesan/accueil

Research Opportunities in Singapore
By Ravikiran S. Yedidi, PhD

Mr. Tze Min Lim, area director in North America for Contact Singapore (an alliance of the Singapore Economic Development Board and Ministry of Manpower), gave an overview of research opportunities in Singapore with a special focus on the reasons for considering Singapore to work and live. He mentioned that Singapore is a small cosmopolitan country with a diverse workforce. Singapore is ranked second in the world for infrastructure, and English is the language of business and instruction. The number of research scientists and engineers in Singapore hailing from the international research community has increased to over 8,700 in 2012. Despite the low tax rate (progressive up to 20 percent of the total earned income), the government allotted S$16.1 billion (US$12.7 billion) from its 2011 – 2015 budget to building a sustainable academic/industrial scientific research infrastructure. The Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council, a part of the Singapore government, oversees most of this development, and many universities and research institutes are hiring.

The speaker also mentioned the National Research Foundation (NRF) – the equivalent of the US National Science Foundation – that offers five-year NRF Fellowships of up to S$3 million (US$2.4 million) in research grants. Outstanding scientists and researchers of any nationality and in their early stage of their research career (in all science and technology disciplines) are welcome to apply. There is no pre-determined quota for the awards and the number awarded each year is determined by the quality of proposals received. Since the award started in 2007, 64 fellows from over 16 different countries have been awarded the NRF Fellowship. Besides the fellowships, some of the universities that have been funded by NRF for 10 years include Research Centers of Excellence (RCE). The RCEs carry out world-class investigator-led research aligned with the long-term strategic interests of Singapore. As an example of faster funding rate compared to the funding agencies in other countries, Professor Aditya Mathur at SUTD received funding three months after submitting his project proposal to NRF.

Switching gears to industry, the speaker said that most of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies have a presence in Singapore, which has more than 50 pharmaceutical, medical technology, biotechnology, and research and development facilities. He affirmed that Singapore offers a world-class health care system and a great living and working environment. He recommended using
the cost-of-living-calculator available on Contact Singapore’s website if one was curious about earnings and savings. He concluded his talk by mentioning about “SPRING Singapore,” a government agency focused mainly on funding entrepreneurs.

Responding to the questions from the audience, he discussed the visa process. For first time applicants, an employment pass is granted for up to two years, and can be renewed subject to meeting the prevailing employment pass criteria. The starting salary to qualify for an employment pass is S$3,300 (US$2,600).

For further information on opportunities in Singapore, please contact newyork@contactsingapore.sg.

Research Opportunities through the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

By Leigh Greathouse, PhD

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) was originally a non-profit foundation established by funding from Emperor Showa, and is now an independent administrative institution that promotes and fosters research, and scientific cooperation, and award grants. They have 10 offices located all over the world, with one right here in Washington D.C. Every year, they host the “Science in Japan” forum at JSPS, as well as the US JSPS Alumni Association Assembly.

Speaking on behalf of JSPS at the 2012 NIH Expo, Ms. Kaneko discussed several funding opportunities for research initiatives for scientists. The first granting mechanism she spoke about was the “grant-in-aid” or KAKENHI, which is “awarded to promote creative and pioneering research across a wide spectrum of scientific fields, ranging from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences. Grants are awarded to projects organized by individual researchers or research groups at Japanese universities or research institutes engaged in basic research, particularly research in critical fields attuned to advanced research trends.”

She also described the JSPS fellowship programs. These include those for “1) young Japanese postdoctoral researchers who conduct research activities at Japanese universities or research institutions on a non-employment basis and 2) graduate students who conduct research in Japanese university doctoral programs.” The period of fellowship is for two to three years. Both include a stipend.

There are also “Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers”, both long- (12-24 months) and short-term (1-12 months), for individuals trying to transition to academic positions. The objective of these programs is to encourage qualified young foreign researchers to conduct cooperative research with their colleagues in Japanese universities/research institutions. The application is sent through a Japanese host researcher or nominating authorities, which include the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). A summer program for both pre- and post-doctoral researchers is available for two months, which is carried out in cooperation with National Science Foundation (NSF). All these fellowships are all inclusive (airfare and research funds).

In addition, there is an “Invitation Fellowship Program” for senior researchers for both long (2-10 months) and short terms (14-60 days), which have the objective to allow Japanese researchers to invite their non-Japanese colleagues to Japan for collaborative work. The application for this program is also sent through a Japanese host researcher or nominating authorities. The Fogarty International Center at the NIH and SSRC serves as the nomination authorities for this program as well.

Many other research opportunities are provided through JSPS and are too numerous to list in this
brief overview. They can be obtained in more detail at their website: http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/index.html

Research Opportunities in Brazil
The Sao Paulo Research Foundation

By Vatsalya Vatsalya, MD

During the 2012 International Opportunity Expo, Dr. Patricia Brant Monteiro discussed research opportunities in Central or South America. She is the area director of the Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), and her talk, “International Research Collaboration, Programs and Funding Opportunities for Young Researchers, Fellows and Scholars,” focused on the growth of biomedical research, and research and development (R&D) funding in Brazil, specifically in Sao Paulo state.

Sao Paulo produces 50 percent of the publications originating from Brazil, and its publication rate per researcher surpasses that of many developed countries. FAPESP’s mission is to support research in all fields. Brazilian and foreign researchers associated to universities and research institutions in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil, can apply for research funding, initiate research in the region, and achieve both short- and long-term objectives with facilitation from state sponsorship and infrastructure. The state of Sao Paulo allocates USD165 million for fellowships and USD242 million for academic research, which are promising incentives for early career investigators.

The “Grant and Fellowship” program for young investigators, funded through FAPESP, aims to expand and decentralize the state research system in favor of consolidating new groups. Through this program, visiting early- and intermediate-career investigators are eligible for initial support for four years with a mean annual stipend of USD38,400. The grant also includes funding for equipment, consumables, student scholarships and other miscellaneous expenses such as meeting participation. In 2010, 78 proposals were funded, out of 260 received (success rate 30 percent). For more information, please visit http://www.fapesp.br/en/4479. To view currently available positions, visit http://www.fapesp.br/oportunidades/en/, or directly contact a principal investigator to submit a proposal.

FAPESP supports 17 centers that provide large-scale and long-term funding in multidisciplinary scientific activities for up to 11 years; these centers are collectively called the Centers for Research, Innovation, and Diffusion (CEPID). Long-term research initiatives funded through CEPID include cell therapy, human genome research, molecular biotechnology, cancer research and treatment, applied toxicology, sleep disturbances, inflammatory diseases, neurosciences, optics, and photonics. There are other short-term funding mechanisms available to cover stipends and travel expenses for international investigators visiting higher education and research institutions in the state of Sao Paulo for periods up to one year.

Another FAPESP opportunity for international collaboration and for foreign graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career investigators includes funding for short-duration courses in advanced research. More examples of FAPESP funding opportunities are described at http://www.fapesp.br/en/5986.

Brazil is emerging as a country that conducts quality research. Furthermore, it provides ample opportunities for international investigators to establish themselves and succeed in Brazil. Interested individuals should explore FAPESP’s website at www.fapesp.br.
The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to “encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-initiated frontier research across all fields of research, on the basis of scientific excellence. ‘Frontier research’ was coined for ERC activities since they will be directed towards fundamental advances at and beyond the ‘frontier’ of knowledge.” (1). After several years of debates over the need for and purpose, scope, and implementation of a pan-European source of fundamental research funding, the ERC was born in 2007 with a 7-year budget of €7.5 billion. As part of the new European Union Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014-2020, the total budget is now €13.1 billion.

“The ERC complements other funding activities in Europe” (1); the novelty of the ERC funding organization is that it has a Scientific Council that develops its strategy independently. In this context, researchers can apply for ERC funding in research areas that do not represent predefined priorities but are rather investigator-driven (‘bottom-up’). In this way, researchers may gain great flexibility in their potential for innovations. Indeed, the ERC looks to fund innovative and high-quality research ideas rather than a specific research area. In 2013, 39% of projects were funded in the life sciences, 44% in the physical sciences & engineering, and 17% in the social sciences & humanities.

Applying for an ERC grant is competitive but based solely on scientific excellence. Nevertheless, all ERC-funded researchers are required to work in a host institution based in Europe (i.e., the 28 European Union member states or associated countries). In other words, applying for the ERC funding schemes is not limited by nationality, age, or current place of work. The host institution can be a university, research center, or any other legal entity and must be located in Europe. Moreover, it has to ensure that the researcher has the opportunity to apply for funding independently, can manage research and funding for the project, publishes independently as senior author, and has access to reasonable space and facilities.

As of 2014, four grant schemes exist: the Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Proof-of-Concept grants. Awarded to researchers within 2 to 7 years after earning their PhD, Starting grants are well designed for postdoctoral fellows and provide up to €1.5 million for a maximum of 5 years. Research fellows who are at the early stage of their careers but often already working with their own group (i.e., 7-12 years after earning their PhD) may apply to the Consolidator grants for up to €2.0 million for 5 years. To be competitive for a Starting or Consolidator grant, one must show potential for independence, evidence of scientific maturity, and at least one publication without participation of the mentor. Significant publications, invited presentations at conferences, grants, patents, awards, and prizes will give researchers an edge as proof of a promising track-record of early achievements. Advanced Grants support outstanding established research leaders. Proof of Concept grants are aimed at maximizing the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects. ERC principal investigators may apply for €150,000 for up to 18 months.

The ERC grant schemes are attractive for several reasons. Additional “start-up” money can be awarded for researchers moving to Europe to take up the grant (e.g., €500,000 for a Starting grant, €750,000 for a Consolidator grant and €1,000,000 for an Advanced grant) or for major equipment and access to large facilities. Grantees are required to spend a minimum of 50 percent of their total working time in an EU member state or associated country. In addition, team members may be based outside Europe. Finally, grantees can move within Europe with their grant, which is not attached to the host institution.

Twenty-five evaluation panels of 12-14 members first evaluate the proposals’ synopsis and principal
The principal investigator is evaluated based on his or her intellectual capacity and creativity. In a second round of review, the panels and a minimum of 2 external reviewers evaluate each retained proposal. For Starting and Consolidator grants, after an interview with the principal investigator, the final list of grantees is determined. From 2007 to 2013, the ERC funded more than 4,000 top researchers (65% at an early career stage) with an overall of about 10% success rate for the Starting and Consolidator grant. A majority of Starting grant proposals were submitted by Europeans. However, US nationals based in Europe were granted the highest number of Starting grant proposals submitted by non-European nationals.

In the long run, the ERC aims to change the European research system to enable researchers to confidently view themselves and be viewed as global players, innovators, and providers of unexpected discoveries that will benefit the European and global economy, society, and health. In other words, needless to say that being funded by an ERC grant is a prestigious asset to have and will boost or even change your career!

http://erc.europa.eu

http://erc.europa.eu/funding-schemes

The World Bank
A Recruiter’s Perspective

By Anne Miermont, PhD

Are you a health science professional interested in freeing the world of poverty? Would you enjoy traveling to or living in developing countries? Have you ever heard of the World Bank or wondered what its objectives are? Please read on to find out all about this organization and what career it can offer you.

The World Bank is an international organization with a large number of member countries, nationalities and languages. Half of its staff comes from developing countries. About 60% of its employees are based in Washington, DC and regularly they travel to the developing countries that the World Bank is helping. The remaining staff is based in those countries. As a global partner working with government, non-profit organizations, and the private sector among others, the World Bank secures poverty reduction and sustainability growth in partnership and catalyzes investments. It is also a knowledge bank and a development finance institution providing assistance to developing countries.

Roberto Amorosino, senior recruitment officer at the World Bank, emphasized that, when applying to work for this institution, potential job candidates must know the structure of the organization and the challenges of the countries they plan to help. Therefore, it is important to know that the World Bank has a geographical focus on six regions and a thematic focus on four different networks. As a health-related scientist, you may be particularly interested in the human development network where you would work in areas such as health, nutrition population, education and social protection. Another network touches on sustainable development such as agricultural development, environment, social development, energy and mining, water sanitation, and urban development. Poverty reduction and economic management as well as finance and private sector development are the two other networks the World Bank focuses on. To grasp the culture and role of the World Bank, it is especially useful to visit its website, where you will find informative publications and blogs. Amorosino recommended using social media to connect with World Bank employees willing to advise you on how to put the best job application together. He reiterated that a large number of its employees conveniently live in DC, including him!

Besides understanding what the World Bank is and does, you need to demonstrate that you are a technical expert in your field even though job opportunities are available at any stage of your
career. Current job opportunities require expertise in health systems, renewable energy, and climate change. For example, as a public health specialist, you would advise countries about health policy and transfer of knowledge. As a medical doctor, you may train other medical doctors in the developing countries. Your expertise should ideally include great communication skills for addressing different types of audiences, writing and presentation skills, and teamwork skills. Last, you need to be flexible and willing to change either country or duties every few years once on the job.

If you dream of landing a job with the World Bank, you will need to tell a convincing story about how your experience encompasses a passion for developing countries and to demonstrate an expertise in a field related to what the World Bank does.

**Upcoming Event**

**9th NIH International Opportunities Expo and Career Fair**

FAES Education Center  
NIH Clinical Center Building (Building 10)  
NIH Main Campus. Bethesda, MD

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014**

**12pm-4:30pm**

More information and to register:

[www.training.nih.gov/international_expo_2014](http://www.training.nih.gov/international_expo_2014)
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Looking for Leadership Opportunities?

Be a part of an organization that is:

- dedicated to building community amongst NIH’s diverse fellow population;
- committed to helping bring career building resources and events;

Be a voice regarding issues that are of importance to visiting fellows.

Help your career as you help your colleagues.

Contact any of the Visiting Fellows Committee officers below to find out about being a part of the VFC.

National Institutes of Health Visiting Fellows Committee

Dr. Jithesh Velichamthotu Veetil, VFC Co-Chair
velichamthotuj@mail.nih.gov

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sanchezmartind@mail.nih.gov

WE ARE ON THE WEB

https://www.training.nih.gov/felcom/visitingfellows2