

4TH ANNUAL NIH CAREER SYMPOSIUM

PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

NON-RESEARCH/NON-BUSINESS CAREERS

Federal Careers: Non-research Positions for PhDs

The federal government offers a wide variety of opportunities to apply your scientific expertise away from the research bench. Scientists are needed to review patent applications, monitor drug safety, track health statistics, administer grants, develop scientific policy, and communicate on a variety of health and policy issues. With over two million employees, the federal government offers opportunities that encompass almost the entire spectrum of non-research careers for PhDs. Panelists in this session represent some of the career paths possible within different federal government agencies, including the CDC, DoD, FDA, NSF and USPTO. Please note that the majority of these positions are only open to U.S. citizens.

NIH Careers Away from the Bench

The NIH is the world's largest biomedical research institution and employs scientists in a wide range of non-research positions including: technology transfer, database maintenance, grant administration and review, education, science policy, and communications. The panelists represent the variety of opportunities available to those interested in staying at the NIH. Please note that the majority of these positions are only open to U.S. citizens.

Careers in Science Education: Guiding K through Gray

An increasing emphasis is being placed both on the quality of science education and on improving science literacy. Science education offers an excellent opportunity for scientists to share their expertise inside or outside of the classroom. Science education also involves the management of educational programming, which provides guidance and support for the next generation of scientists. This panel includes experts from a broad spectrum of science education careers, ranging from K-12 teachers and post-secondary lecturers to managers of museum science programs and academic administrators.

Career Opportunities in Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofit organizations, which include scientific societies, disease advocacy groups, and global health organizations, provide a way to utilize your science to benefit others. Career paths in nonprofit organizations vary widely depending on the structure and mission of the organization. Scientists commonly fill grant administration, research oversight, policy and various communications-oriented positions at nonprofits. Panelists reflect the diversity of careers, nonprofit organizations and the issues they address.

Careers in Science Policy

Scientists are helping to shape national and international public policy regarding health, research and biosecurity in government, nonprofits and corporations. This session highlights scientists who help develop policy and examines a cross-section of the job

opportunities in the policy field. Panelists will describe the critical role that scientists play in influencing and developing science policy, how to transition from the bench to policy work, and what their jobs entail on a daily basis.

RESEARCH CAREERS

Life as a Junior Faculty Member

Setting up a lab can be a daunting process and it requires much more than an interesting scientific hypothesis. This panel, composed of current assistant professors, will provide insight into the process of setting up a new lab. The panelists will discuss their experiences as junior faculty members as well as how to set priorities, identify and acquire resources, recruit and train personnel, and obtain funding.

Faculty Careers in Teaching-intensive Schools

Scientists passionate about both education and research are well-suited for faculty positions at institutions focused on undergraduate teaching. The panelists will address the unique expectations, requirements and challenges of balancing teaching and research at a teaching-intensive school. Topics will include how to successfully navigate the academic search process, everyday life, negotiating teaching load, and tenure.

Faculty Careers in Research-intensive Schools

The ability to focus on research leads many scientists to pursue positions at research-intensive schools. This panel features faculty from research-intensive institutions who will describe strategies in the academic search process and the skills required to become a top candidate. Panelists will discuss the application process, everyday life, negotiating the employment package, teaching and tenure requirements.

Research Careers (Non-Industry)

Numerous key positions outside the tenure-track permit their incumbents to conduct and/or support research. These include staff scientists, core facility managers, and research assistant professors. Panelists represent a sample of institutions that employ scientists in non-tenure track research positions including government, academic, and nonprofit organizations.

Research in Industry

At biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, scientists can continue their experimental research with a focus on developing new therapeutic products. This panel includes representatives at different career stages and in a variety of industry roles. The panelists will discuss opportunities available in industry research, how industry differs from academia, and the proficiencies required to succeed in industry research.

BUSINESS/NON-BENCH CAREERS

Consulting Careers

Consulting is an appealing career path for scientists with business acumen and a desire to work with multiple clients in situations that change daily. The panel will showcase the variety of management, science and technology consultancy roles and will provide

insight into the skills and competencies required to succeed in these positions. Panelists will discuss how they employ their scientific backgrounds to advise business leaders.

The Business of Science

Skills acquired in the laboratory are transferable to many rewarding business careers including sales, marketing, business development, and customer support. This panel features scientists employed in a variety of business-focused jobs in organizations ranging from small biotechnology firms to large pharmaceutical companies. The panelists will discuss the differences between small and large companies and the skills required to successfully transition from bench to business.

Science Communication Careers

Science communication careers play a critical role in explaining cutting edge scientific research to the general public, policymakers and other scientists. These careers encompass journal editing, medical writing, science exhibition in museums, science journalism and scientific media productions. The panel will discuss the wide range of communications-oriented career paths and how to acquire the necessary communications skills and experience.

From Discovery to Startup

The biotechnology start-up industry is growing rapidly and requires innovative scientists working in a variety of roles to bring a product to market. The complex process of developing a novel scientific idea into a profitable company requires not only entrepreneurial scientists, but patent attorneys, venture capitalists and investors. This panel will feature scientists who have made the transition into these different professional careers. Panelists include entrepreneurs who have launched their own businesses, patent review officers, and intellectual property attorneys.

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.

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 pace, fun-filled way to end the day. Each session will be strictly limited to twenty minutes, with a five minute break. Presenters will give you the highlights of the topics, with ideas on how to follow up with additional resources. Speakers will be OITE staff. You will be able to choose three sessions from the following offerings:

- Cover letters
 - There are a few simple rules for a cover letter. Make this part of your job package shine.

- CV/resumes
 - The top-ten highlights on your job search documents.
- Find Your Path
 - Your dream job does exist. If you are still pondering what is next, come to map out a plan to determine your path.
- Interviewing
 - This session will help you to navigate the interview process.
- Job Search 101
 - The job search has common threads. Find out where and how to search for your job.
- Leadership Opportunities at NIH
 - You likely heard many speakers tell you to get 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 met some terrific people today (or missed their session as you went to another). Find out how to keep up with your new network.
- Social media & job hunts
 - LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and others: how can these tools advance your job search.
- Conflict Resolution
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- Navigating the US job search for non-citizens
 - Searching for a job in the US poses unique challenges for non-citizens. This quick overview will raise awareness of common concerns for visiting fellows.
- Navigating an International Job Search
 - This session will touch on networking tips, places to look for a job and things to think about for a non-US career.
- Finding a Postdoc
 - As a grad student, how do you plan a postdoc to fit in your ultimate career goals regardless if you plan on academics, industry or non-bench paths.

Updated 3/31/2011—SUBJECT TO CHANGE