Science Careers at NIH/other govt positions

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Outline

- Why employers seek people with a PhD
- Jobs at NIH
- Jobs elsewhere
- Examples



Why employers seek people with a PhD

- Ability to complete complicated projects with minimal supervision
- Ability to master new subject matter with little guidance
- · Accustomed to solving problems
- · Ability to analyze complex data
- Ability to communicate clearly
- 24/7 Intellectual commitment; not expecting 9-5 work effort



Leadership skills and self awareness

Psychological type and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment, themes of self-awareness and self-management

--often presented with a professional development coach

Group Dynamics and Teamwork

Assertiveness training; communication, influencing others, conflict and feedback, team skills, diversity in a multicultural environment, management, staffing

Mentor Training



Some Examples of Jobs at NIH

- · Postdocs and PIs (see next slide)
- Program Directors and Analysts
- Scientific Review Officers
- Policy Officers and Analysts
- Science Writers; Communications
- · Clinical Trial Managers
- IT



Research-Intensive Jobs at NIH

http://www.jobs.nih.gov/vacancies/scientific/

Principal Investigator, Staff Scientist, Staff Clinician, students, fellows In the Intramural Research Program; "tenure track"

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, bibliography, copies of three major publications, a summary of research accomplishments, a brief statement of future research goals, and arrange for three letters of reference

Jobs @ NIH

http://searchjobs.nih.gov/jobs/

Example: Staff Scientist. Candidates must hold a Ph.D., demonstrate expertise in XX, have experience with preclinical animal studies, and a track record in scientific project leadership as well as in training. Applicants should send a brief cover letter, curriculum vitae, bibliography, a 1-2 page statement describing current research activities, copies of up to five recent, relevant publications, and names of three recommenders

Jobs "Elsewhere"

- · Pls, Lab Heads
- Postdocs
- Analysts
- Communicators
- Editors
- Fund raisers
- · Managers of scientific portfolios
- Policy makers
- Lobbyists



Where is "Elsewhere"?

- Academia, Industry, Biotech (not the focus of this talk today)
- Federal agencies: NSF, VA, DOD, FDA, CDC
- Foundations: Bill & Melinda Gates, Howard Hughes, Disease Foundations
- Non-govt orgs (NGO's): National Academy of Science, AAAS, Foundation for Biomedical Research
- Publishers

* Note, this list is FAR from complete.



How do you identify these jobs at NIH and "elsewhere" and position yourself to get one?

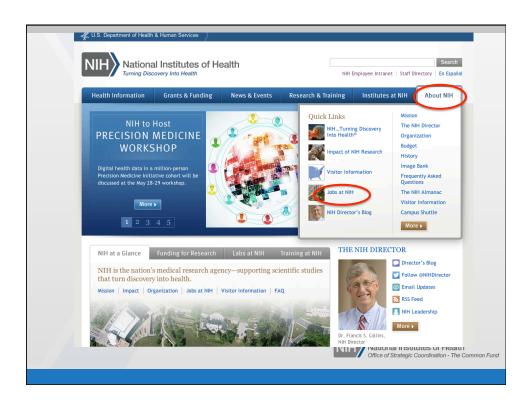
The NIH BEST program is intended to provide this information

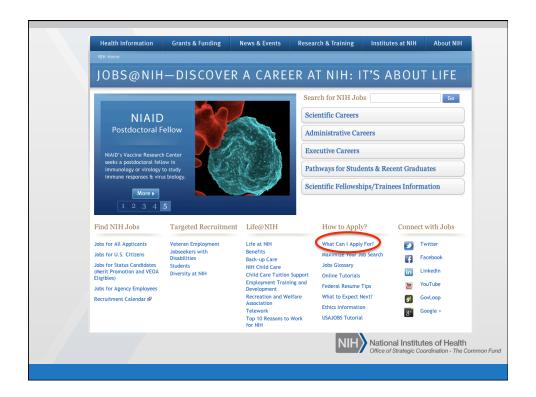


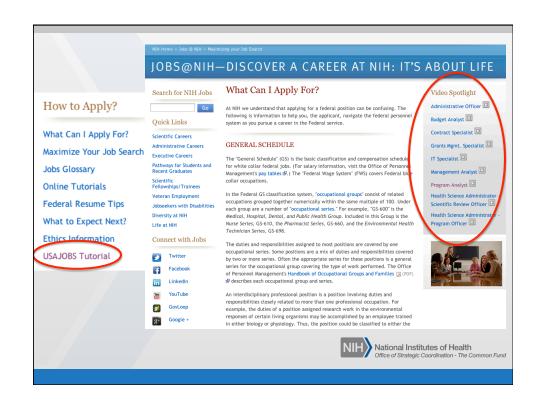
How to find NIH (or other federal) jobs

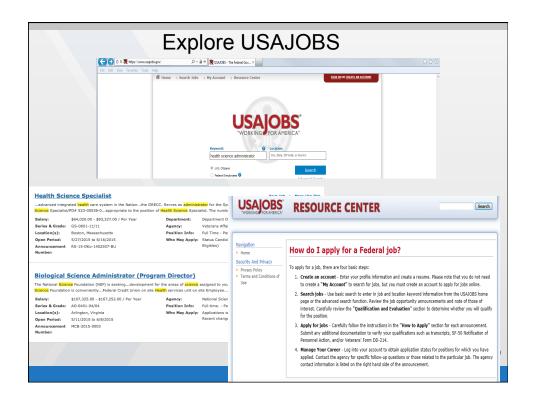
- Specific ads (USA Jobs)
- Government Contractors (Especially for non-US Citizens!)
- Government and agency-wide programs
 - AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships
 - Presidential Management Fellowships













Networking

- Important to develop (and maintain) professional contacts: meaningful ones
- Impressions: every talk or poster you give you can think of as a job interview
- Meet people: talk to vendors at meetings, people in the publication industry, etc....



Our two paths to NIH

- Trish Labosky: PhD, postdoc (4.5 yrs.), Faculty (15 yrs.) with tenure and excellent grant/publication record.
- Nancy Desmond: PhD, postdoc (4 yrs),
 Staff Scientist (4 yrs), Research Faculty
 (16 yrs) with federal grant funding.



Bethany Brookshire: PhD, postdoc (3 yrs).

- •Began an award-winning science blog under the moniker "Scicurious" while in graduate school at Wake Forest University, continued writing through a post-doctoral position at U Penn.
- •Developed expertise on Twitter and Facebook while building a network of science writing mentors.
- •Became a freelance writer in 2013 and a staff journalist at Science News 6 months later.
- Currently the Science Education Writer for Science News for Students
- Moved to science journalism to share the wonder and complexity of science with a broad audience.
- •Began appearing at conferences to train scientists in communicating with the public.
- •<u>Bethany.brookshire@gmail.com</u>, Twitter: @scicurious





PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The fishing wasn't so good anymore. Drake Bergeron, 17, heard stories from his father about fishing and hunting for crawfish in the lakes and streams around his hometown of Lafayette, La. "The biggest crawfish he ever aught was 11 inches [27 centimeters] head to tail," the teen recalls. That's almost five inches larger than augurage.



Science and Technology Policy Fellow (6 months)

- Sponsored by the Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program, the National Academies
- · Fellowship placement at PNAS
- Freelance science writer for PNAS for 1.5 years
- AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow (2 years)
 - Placement at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): Office of Science Policy, Planning, & Communications; Science Policy & Evaluation Branch
- Health Science Policy Analyst, NIMH (2 years, 4 months)
- Acting Chief, Science Policy & Evaluation Branch, NIMH (3 years, 8 months)
- Chief, Science Policy & Evaluation Branch, NIMH (1 year, 11 months)
- Science Policy Advisor to the NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research (1.5 years)
- Using communication skills to inform policy decisions

Liza Bundesen, PhD, No postdoc





No matter what, you have to be "GOOD"

- Track record of success—both scientifically and programmatically
- Excellent communication skills—present yourself well
- · Ability to work independently and in a team
- Initiative
- Understand your abilities—be honest, but do not undersell yourself



Links for more information

- AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship program http://fellowships.aaas.org/
- Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship program at the National Academies http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/policyfellows/index.htm
- The Atlantic Philanthropies Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/
- IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute Science Policy Fellowship Program https://www.ida.org/en/STPI/STPIResearchStaff/FellowshipProgram.aspx
- AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship Program http://www.aaas.org/program/aaas-mass-media-science-engineering-fellows-program
- A helpful resource compiled by the Congressional Research Service in 2012 titled "Internships, Fellowships, and Other Work Experience Opportunities in the Federal Government":

http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=%26*2%3C4Q%2CO%3F%0A

- Potomac Institute http://www.potomacinstitute.org/contact-us/internships
- White House OSTP http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/student

