Science Careers at NIH/other govt positions

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Alison Hall (NIGMS)
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 gained as a student are useful

| National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Core Competencies Self-Assessment Checklist |
| Rate your current level of development in each of the following, with 1 being “Needs attention” and 9 being “extremely competent.” |
| For more information on these competencies, please visit www.nationalpostdoc.org/competencies. |

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<th>1</th>
<th>Discipline-Specific Conceptual Knowledge</th>
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<td>Analytical Approach to Defining Scientific Questions</td>
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<td>Design of Scientifically Testable Hypotheses</td>
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<td>Broad-Based Knowledge Acquisition</td>
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<td>Interpretation and Analysis of Data</td>
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<th>Professional/Research Skill Development</th>
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<td>Literature Search Strategies and Effective Interpretation</td>
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<td>Laboratory Techniques and Safety</td>
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<td>Principles of the Peer Review Process</td>
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<th>Communication Skills</th>
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<td>Writing</td>
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<td>Special Situations</td>
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<th>Professionalism</th>
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<th>Leadership &amp; Management Skills</th>
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<td>Leadership-Strategic Vision</td>
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<td>Leadership-Motivating and Inspiring Others</td>
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<td>Management-Project Management</td>
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<td>Management-Data and Resource Management</td>
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<td>Management-Research Staff Management</td>
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<th>Responsible Conduct of Research</th>
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<td>Conflicts of Interest</td>
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<td>Data Ownership and Sharing</td>
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<td>Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship</td>
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<td>Identifying and Mitigating Research Misconduct</td>
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<td>Research with Human Subjects (when applicable)</td>
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<td>Research Involving Animals (when applicable)</td>
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http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/competencies#six%20core
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”

• Analysts
• Communicators
• Editors
• Fund raisers
• Managers of scientific portfolios
• Policy makers
• Lobbyists
Where is “Elsewhere”?  

- 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
NIH to Host
PRECISION MEDICINE
WORKSHOP

Digital health data in a million-person Precision Medicine Initiative cohort will be discussed at the May 28-29 workshop.

Quick Links
- NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health
- Impact of NIH Research
- Visitor Information
- Jobs at NIH
- NIH Director’s Blog

The NIH Director

Dr. Francis S. Collins, NIH Director
What Can I Apply For?

At NIH we understand that applying for a federal position can be confusing. The following is information to help you, the applicant, navigate the federal personnel system as you pursue a career in the Federal service.

GENERAL SCHEDULE

The "General Schedule" (GS) is the basic classification and compensation schedule for white collar federal jobs. (For salary information, visit the Office of Personnel Management’s pay tables.) The "Federal Wage System" (FWS) covers Federal blue collar occupations.

In the Federal GS classification system, "occupational groups" consist of related occupations grouped together numerically within the same multiple of 100. Under each group are a number of "occupational series." For example, "GS-600" is the Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group. Included in this Group is the Nurse Series, GS-610, the Pharmacist Series, GS-660, and the Environmental Health Technician Series, GS-698.

The duties and responsibilities assigned to most positions are covered by one occupational series. Some positions are a mix of duties and responsibilities covered by two or more series. Often the appropriate series for these positions is a general series for the occupational group covering the type of work performed. The Office of Personnel Management’s Handbook of Occupational Groups and Families describes each occupational group and series.

An interdisciplinary professional position is a position involving duties and responsibilities closely related to more than one professional occupation. For example, the duties of a position assigned research work in the environmental responses of certain living organisms may be accomplished by an employee trained in either biology or physiology. Thus, the position could be classified to either the
Explore Actual Job Posts

May 2015 search

Science Careers | Jobs
From the Journal Science

Found 3,581 jobs matching your criteria

Don't miss new jobs for this search
Your email address
Email me jobs

Order by: Newest first
Salary

Gruss Lipper Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program
New York, NY | undisclosed
The Gruss Lipper Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program supports outstanding young Israeli scientists who have the opportunity to work in a biom... EGF Charitable Foundation | Today

Group Leader / Team Leader Genome Biology and Proteomics
Heidelberg, Germany | Undisclosed
We are looking for outstanding candidates in proteomics and biological mass spectrometry. The position involves running an independent research gro... European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) | Today

Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, Pulmonary Biology Investigator
La Jolla, CA | Undisclosed
The position will require a PhD, MD or MD/PhD degree or equivalent, and sufficient experience beyond postdoctoral training to have, or to be compet... The UCSD School of Medicine | Today

Director of the Biodiversity Research Center
Taipei, TAIWAN | Undisclosed
Interested candidates should have a PhD or equivalent degree, with outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated leadership ability. Academia Sinica | Today

National Institutes of Health
Office of Strategic Coordination - The Common Fund
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. Moved to NIH to be able to affect science on a larger level.

• Alison Hall: PhD, postdoc (3 yr), Faculty (21 yrs) Full professor with tenure and Graduate Dean. Moved to NIH to direct training programs.
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.

Bethany.brookshire@gmail.com, Twitter: @scicurious
• 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%2C0%3F%0A
- Potomac Institute  http://www.potomacinstitute.org/contact-us/internships
- White House OSTP  http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/student