The Job Application Process: Tips for Finding and Applying for Job Openings That Are Right For You

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Before we begin....

• How I thought my career would be:

Undergrad  PhD  Postdoc  Assistant Professor  Associate Professor  Full Professor  Nobel Prize!!
Before we begin....

• How my career really is:

Undergrad

Nobel Prize??
My story...
Step 1: Stop and think

• What research are you happiest doing?
• What topics are most important to you?
• When have you been happy before? What about that situation made you happy?
Step 2: Be courageous

- Think outside the box
- It never hurts to apply!
- Cast a wide net
Now... start the search

- Science Jobs
- Nature Jobs
- University websites
- Personal recommendation
- The Epidemiology Newsletter
- Societies
- EVERYWHERE!
Decision 1: Where to work?

• Industry vs. Academia

• Think government, CDC, NIH (?), further training (sorry!), foundations....
Decision 2: What Type of Institution?

- R1 vs. R2 vs. R3
- What do you enjoy?
- Think about this funding climate...
Decision 3: (When) Can You Move?
Where to Move to?

• This is more important than you might think!!!
How might you fit in?

Tightrope Cat

Is rethinking career options
Who is there?

- Are there peers?
- Are there good role models (academic / interpersonal)
How are their previous junior faculty

- Find out past junior faculty
- Where are they now?
- What did they do?
- Look at their upper level: is that how you want to be assessed?
Make the most of your interview

• BE YOURSELF …

• (Maybe less swearing...) 

• Drink (or don’t), mention family (or don’t), talk about your hobbies (or...)
Take Home Message?

- You have WAY more options than you think you have
- You have way more time than you think you have
- Be yourself, be bold, be diverse
- Prepare for the hardest hunt of your life!
Questions?