Career Opportunities
at the National Institutes of Health

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WHAT IS THE NIH?

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government.
WHAT IS THE NIH?

- NIH is the largest source of funding for medical research in the world.
WHAT IS THE NIH?

- NIH is made up of 27 Institutes and Centers.
MISSION OF THE NIH

To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.
There are approximately 18,000 employees at NIH in varied occupations, all supporting research efforts for a healthy nation.
INTRAMURAL RESEARCH

- Intramural grants account for approximately 10 percent of the NIH’s $30 billion budget
- Supports about 1200 tenured and tenure-track NIH intramural investigators and 4000 trainees
The NIH Clinical Center is the largest hospital in the world that is totally dedicated to clinical research.
EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH

- Extramural grants account for approximately 83 percent of NIH’s $30 billion budget
- Supports more than 300,000 research personnel at over 2500 universities and research institutions in the U.S. and abroad
Faculty-Level Jobs in Intramural Research

- Job is to do research, with no obligation to write grants, and play a major role in training and mentoring the next generation of medical scientists.
- More than 30 tenured and tenure-track positions open each year.
Current Faculty-Level Scientific Positions in Intramural Research
(updated 15 October 2012)

- Director-Level Positions
  - Deputy Scientific Director/Senior Leadership, NIMHD
  - Clinical Director, NHLBI
- Branch Chief Positions
  - Chief, Immunology Service, Clinical Center
  - Chief, Laboratory of Computational Medicine, NEI
- Faculty-Level Positions
  - Senior Investigator – Engineer/Physicist, Interventional Cardiovascular MRI, NHLBI
  - Tenure-Eligible, Tenure-Track Bioethicist, Clinical Center
  - Earl Stadtman Tenure Track Investigator Recruitment
  - Senior Clinician, Dermatology Branch, CCR-NCI

Source: http://www.jobs.nih.gov
Trans-NIH Scientific Recruitments:
NIH Earl Stadtman Investigators
(updated 15 October 2012)

- Designed to attract a diverse group of highly talented early-career scientists who might not apply to a more narrowly defined position description at the NIH.
- Those selected are offered competitive salaries, research space, resources, supported positions, and an operating budget (equivalent to starting with an R01 grant).
- These are tenure-track positions with success rate for tenure about 70%.
- In 2009-2010, there were more than 800 applicants, 30 interviewed, and 8 hired.
Trans-NIH Scientific Recruitments:
Lasker Clinical Research Scholars Program
(updated 15 October 2012)

- Supports a small number of exceptional clinical researchers in the early stages of their careers to promote their development to fully independent scientists
- Combines 5-7 year period of research experience as a tenure-track investigator with an opportunity for up to 5 additional years of independent financial support at NIH or external institution
- NIH expects to make at least 3 Lasker Scholar awards in the first year of the award, ultimately reaching a steady-state of 20-30 active awardees
Other Intramural Career Opportunities
(updated 15 October 2012)

- Staff Scientists
- Staff Clinicians
- Other Scientific and Clinical Careers
  - Animal Care Assistant
  - Chemists
  - Dentists
  - Engineers
  - Microbiologists
  - Veterinarians
  - Biologists
  - Clinical Nurses
  - Dieticians
  - Laboratory Technicians
  - Pharmacists

- Administrative Jobs
- Executive Jobs
- Internships/Student Jobs
Career Opportunities at NIH

- NIH Training Programs

From the Office of Intramural Training and Education: https://www.training.nih.gov
Postdoctoral Programs

- Postdoctoral Training in the NIH Intramural Research Program
  - Eligible U.S. Citizens and permanent residents who have received doctoral degrees can complete up to five years of postdoctoral research.

- Research Fellows
  - Postdoctoral fellows can be promoted as temporary NIH employees for three additional years.

- Residents and Clinical Fellows
  - Physicians and dentists receive specialty or subspecialty clinical research training as temporary NIH employees.
EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH

- Scientific Review Officer
- Grants Management Officer and Grants Management Specialist
- Program Official
Review Process for a Research Grant

1. **Research Grant Application**
   - PI initiates research ideas
   - PI conducts research
   - Allocates funds

2. **School or Other Research Center**
   - Institution submits application

3. **National Institutes of Health**
   - Assigns to IRG / Study Section & IC

4. **Center for Scientific Review**
   - Study Section
     - Evaluates for scientific merit
   - Institute
     - Evaluates for program relevance
   - Advisory Councils and Boards
     - Recommends action
   - Institute Director
     - Takes final action regarding funding
Approximately 80,000 grant applications are submitted to the NIH each year, of which about 20% are funded.

Competing grant applications are received for three review cycles per year.
Career Opportunities at NIH

- **Scientific Review Officer (SRO)**
  - Responsible for ensuring that each application receives an objective and fair initial peer review, and that all applicable laws, regulations, and policies are followed.
  - Analyzes the content of each application and check for completeness.
  - Documents and Manages conflicts of interest.
  - Recruits qualified reviewers based on scientific and technical qualifications and other considerations.
  - Assigns applications to reviewers for critique preparation and assignment of individual criterion scores.
  - Attends and oversees administrative and regulatory aspects of peer review meetings.
  - Prepares summary statements for all applications reviewed.
Career Opportunities at NIH

- **Grants Management Officer (GMO)**
  - Responsible of the business management and other non-programmatic aspects of the award
  - Ensures that the NIH and grantee staffs full requirements of laws, regulations, and administrative policies

- **Grants Management Specialist (GMS)**
  - Works with the GMO on the day-to-day management of the grant.
Career Opportunities at NIH

- **Program Director**
  (Health Scientist Administrator: PO/Medical Officer)

  - Responsible for the programmatic, scientific, and/or technical aspects of assigned applications and grants.
  - Serves as a major source of scientific and medical knowledge
  - Manages a NHLBI research portfolio
  - Plans and implements targeted research programs
  - Makes recommendations regarding national and international policy formulation, scientific directions, and funding
  - Coordinates a variety of program activities within Federal and private institutions
Extramural Program Officer, Heart Failure and Arrhythmias Branch

Who:

- M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent with experience in having participated in research in the area of heart failure, arrhythmias, myocardial preservation, or resuscitation science.
- Demonstrated leadership, interpersonal and communication skills, and experience participating in a complex research program.

www.usajobs.gov
Career Opportunities at NIH

- Extramural Program Officer, Atherothrombosis and Coronary Artery Disease Branch

- Who:
  - M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent and demonstrated experience working independently in planning organizing, and conducting biomedical research
  - Skill in communicating scientific, programmatic, and policy information to lay and scientific audiences, and a strong publication record are expected.

www.usajobs.gov
Deputy Chief, Heart Failure and Arrhythmias Branch

Who:
- M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent, with experience leading nationally-supported research in the area of heart failure and arrhythmias
- Excellent leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills, and the ability to oversee a complex research program

www.usajobs.gov
Deputy Chief, Atherothrombosis and Coronary Artery Disease Branch

Who:
- M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent, with experience leading nationally-supported research in the area of atherothrombotic disorders.
- Excellent leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills, and the ability to oversee a complex research program.

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Career Development Awards

- K awards
  - K01, K02, K05, K07, K08, K12, K18, K22, K23, K24, K25, K26, K99/R00

- Career Award Wizard
  - http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm
K99/R00: NIH Pathway to Independence Award

- Purpose: To facilitate the transition from a mentored postdoc position to an independent faculty position.
- Duration: 1-2 years (mentored) and up to 3 years (independent)
- Effort Required: Minimum 75% of full-time professional effort during mentored phase
- Support Level: Varies by Institute/Center (NHLBI provides up to $75K salary plus fringe and up to $25K research costs per year)
Top Ten Reasons to Work at NIH

- The NIH mission
- Challenging work
- Career enhancement opportunities
- Sense of achievement
- Exceptional benefits packages
- Insight into latest health issues
- Great work environment
- Flexible work schedules
- There’s a job for every interest
- Location, location, location
Career Opportunities at NIH

- https://www.usajobs.gov
- https://www.training.nih.gov