

# Science Careers at NIH/other govt positions

Trish Labosky (OD)

Steve Korn (NINDS)



# 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

# 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

# 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

[Health Information](#)

[Grants & Funding](#)

[News & Events](#)

[Research & Training](#)

[Institutes at NIH](#)

**[About NIH](#)**

## 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.

[More ▶](#)

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)



### Quick Links



[NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health®](#)



[Impact of NIH Research](#)



[Visitor Information](#)



**[Jobs at NIH](#)**



[NIH Director's Blog](#)

### Mission

[The NIH Director](#)

[Organization](#)

[Budget](#)

[History](#)

[Image Bank](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[The NIH Almanac](#)

[Visitor Information](#)

[Campus Shuttle](#)

[More ▶](#)

[NIH at a Glance](#)

[Funding for Research](#)

[Labs at NIH](#)

[Training at NIH](#)

NIH is the nation's medical research agency—supporting scientific studies that turn discovery into health.

[Mission](#) | [Impact](#) | [Organization](#) | [Jobs at NIH](#) | [Visitor Information](#) | [FAQ](#)



### THE NIH DIRECTOR



Dr. Francis S. Collins,  
NIH Director

[Director's Blog](#)

[Follow @NIHDirector](#)

[Email Updates](#)

[RSS Feed](#)

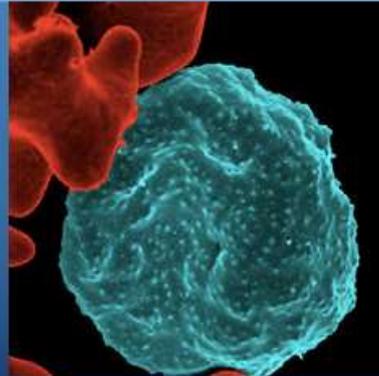
[NIH Leadership](#)

[More ▶](#)

# JOBS@NIH—DISCOVER A CAREER AT NIH: IT'S ABOUT LIFE

## NIAID Postdoctoral Fellow

NIAID's Vaccine Research Center seeks a postdoctoral fellow in immunology or virology to study immune responses & virus biology.

[More ▶](#)[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

Search for NIH Jobs

[Go](#)[Scientific Careers](#)[Administrative Careers](#)[Executive Careers](#)[Pathways for Students & Recent Graduates](#)[Scientific Fellowships/Trainees Information](#)

### Find NIH Jobs

[Jobs for All Applicants](#)[Jobs for U.S. Citizens](#)[Jobs for Status Candidates  
\(Merit Promotion and VEOA  
Eligibles\)](#)[Jobs for Agency Employees](#)[Recruitment Calendar](#)

### Targeted Recruitment

[Veteran Employment  
Jobseekers with  
Disabilities](#)[Students](#)[Diversity at NIH](#)

### Life@NIH

[Life at NIH](#)[Benefits](#)[Back-up Care](#)[NIH Child Care](#)[Child Care Tuition Support](#)[Employment Training and  
Development](#)[Recreation and Welfare  
Association](#)[Telework](#)[Top 10 Reasons to Work  
for NIH](#)

### How to Apply?

[What Can I Apply For?](#)[Maximize Your Job Search](#)[Jobs Glossary](#)[Online Tutorials](#)[Federal Resume Tips](#)[What to Expect Next?](#)[Ethics Information](#)[USAJOBS Tutorial](#)

### Connect with Jobs

[Twitter](#)[Facebook](#)[LinkedIn](#)[YouTube](#)[GovLoop](#)[Google+](#)

# JOBS@NIH—DISCOVER A CAREER AT NIH: IT'S ABOUT LIFE

## How to Apply?

What Can I Apply For?

Maximize Your Job Search

Jobs Glossary

Online Tutorials

Federal Resume Tips

What to Expect Next?

Ethics Information

USAJOBS Tutorial

## Search for NIH Jobs

## Quick Links

- Scientific Careers
- Administrative Careers
- Executive Careers
- Pathways for Students and Recent Graduates
- Scientific Fellowships/Trainees
- Veteran Employment
- Jobseekers with Disabilities
- Diversity at NIH
- Life at NIH

## Connect with Jobs

- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- YouTube
- GovLoop
- Google+

## 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](#) (PDF) 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

## Video Spotlight

- [Administrative Officer](#)
- [Budget Analyst](#)
- [Contract Specialist](#)
- [Grants Mgmt. Specialist](#)
- [IT Specialist](#)
- [Management Analyst](#)
- [Program Analyst](#)
- [Health Science Administrator - Scientific Review Officer](#)
- [Health Science Administrator - Program Officer](#)



# Explore USAJOBS



## Health Science Specialist

...advanced integrated health care system in the Nation...the GRECC. Serves as administrator for the Sp  
Science Specialist/PD# 523-00538-0...appropriate to the position of Health Science Specialist. The numb

|                             |                                      |                       |                 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Salary:</b>              | \$64,020.00 - \$83,227.00 / Per Year | <b>Department:</b>    | Department O    |
| <b>Series &amp; Grade:</b>  | GS-0601-11/11                        | <b>Agency:</b>        | Veterans Affai  |
| <b>Location(s):</b>         | Boston, Massachusetts                | <b>Position Info:</b> | Full Time - Pei |
| <b>Open Period:</b>         | 5/27/2015 to 6/16/2015               | <b>Who May Apply:</b> | Status Candid   |
| <b>Announcement Number:</b> | RS-15-DKo-1402507-BU                 |                       | Eligibles)      |

## Biological Science Administrator (Program Director)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is seeking...development for the areas of science assigned to you  
Science Foundation is conveniently...Federal Credit Union on site Health services unit on site Employee...

|                             |  |                       |                 |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Salary:</b>              | \$107,325.00 - \$167,252.00 / Per Year | <b>Agency:</b>        | National Scien  |
| <b>Series &amp; Grade:</b>  | AD-0401-04/04                          | <b>Position Info:</b> | Full-time. - Pe |
| <b>Location(s):</b>         | Arlington, Virginia                    | <b>Who May Apply:</b> | Applications w  |
| <b>Open Period:</b>         | 5/11/2015 to 6/8/2015                  |                       | Recent chang    |
| <b>Announcement Number:</b> | MCB-2015-0003                          |                       |                 |

## USAJOBS RESOURCE CENTER

### Navigation

Home

### Security And Privacy

Privacy Policy  
Terms and Conditions of Use

## How do I apply for a Federal job?

To apply for a job, there are four basic steps:

- 1. Create an account** - Enter your profile information and create a resume. Please note that you do not need to create a "My Account" to search for jobs, but you must create an account to apply for jobs online.
- 2. Search jobs** - Use basic search to enter in job and location keyword information from the USAJOBS home page or the advanced search function. Review the job opportunity announcements and note of those of interest. Carefully review the "Qualification and Evaluation" section to determine whether you will qualify for the position.
- 3. Apply for jobs** - Carefully follow the instructions in the "How to Apply" section for each announcement. Submit any additional documentation to verify your qualifications such as transcripts, SF-50 Notification of Personnel Action, and/or Veterans' Form DD-214.
- 4. Manage Your Career** - Log into your account to obtain application status for positions for which you have applied. Contact the agency for specific follow-up questions or those related to the particular job. The agency contact information is listed on the right hand side of the announcement.

# Explore Actual Job Posts

Science Careers | jobs | Choose from 2,264 live vacancies

http://jobs.sciencecareers.org/

AAAS Jobseekers: Log in | Create an account | Em

## Science Careers | Jobs

From the journal *Science*

Home Find a job Jobs by email Your account Your profile Your shortlist Employer A-Z Career

Found 3,581 jobs matching your criteria

Don't miss new jobs for this search

Your email address

Order by: Newest first | Salary

Science Careers

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 biome...  
EGL 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  ☆

Cancer Research (82)  
Biophysics (79)  
Healthcare (78)  
Pharmacology (76)  
Proteomics (75)  
Bioengineering (69)  
Translational Research (66)  
Clinical Medicine (64)  
Stem Cells (64)  
Structural Biology (64)  
Botany/Plant Science (63)  
Physics (63)

- ▼ Job Type
- Academic Dean/Dept. Head
  - Faculty
  - Group Leader/Principal Investigator
  - Lab Manager
  - Lecturer/Senior Lecturer
  - Manager
  - Medical Doctor
  - PhD Fellowship
  - PhD Studentship
  - Postdoc
  - Postdoc Fellowship
  - President/CEO/Director/VP
  - Project Manager
  - Research Scientist
  - Senior Scientist
  - Staff Scientist
  - Sales/Marketing
  - Student Fellowship
  - Technician
  - Other

May 2015 search

# 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....

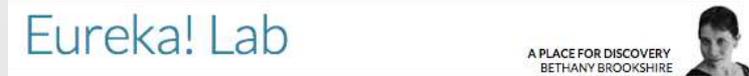
# Our two paths to NIH

- 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.
- Steve Korn: PhD, postdoc (5 years), Faculty (15 yrs) with tenure and excellent grant/publication record. Moved to NIH to train scientists on a national level.

## 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](mailto:Bethany.brookshire@gmail.com), Twitter: @scicurious



INTEL INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR, INTEL ISEF  
**Using plants to solve environmental problems**  
BY BETHANY BROOKSHIRE 7:00AM, MAY 28, 2015



This water hyacinth might look pretty, but a teen scientist showed it can choke off access to oxygen in the water, suffocating local organisms.

J. RALOFF/SSP

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 caught was 11 inches [27 centimeters] head to tail," the teen recalls. That's almost five inches larger than average.

- **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/stpi/careers/fellows.php>
- AAAS Mass Media Fellowship Program <http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/>
- 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](http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=%26*2%3C4Q%2CO%3F%0A)
- Potomac Institute <http://www.potomac institute.org/contact-us/interns>
- White House OSTP <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/student>