CAREERS IN ACADEMIA

Now that I got my Ph.D, did my post doc stint, how can I get into academia?

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Academic Careers

- Scan websites such as those of ISAC, Purdue flow Cytometry Site for job openings.
- Use your contacts for information on new labs, centers being planned.
- Most jobs are word of mouth in spite of all the equally opportunity rhetoric's.
- So use your contacts and net work to find an opening.

Academia Career Paths

- Tenure Earning Track
- Research Track
- Educator Track
- Resource Manager

Academic Career Paths

- **Tenure Earning Track**
  - **Openings are mostly in:**
    - **Microbiology & immunology, Pathology, Transplantation Surgery and Oncology Departments.**
    - **Centers such as those for Cancer, Diabetes and Stem cell research and patient care are prime recruiters for faculty with analytical cytology expertise with primary appointments in a department.**
    - **Transplantation and Immunophenotyping labs are heavily dependant on flow experts and will often have a faculty member on board.**

Academic Careers

- **Tenure Earning Track**
  - **In 3-5 year you are either up and live happily ever after or out looking for a job.**
  - **Limited Tenure: The uncertainty increases with age and it can be like a water torture every 5-8 years.**

- **Recruitment package:**
  - **Dedicated lab space.**
  - **Seed funds for equipment, supplies etc.**
  - **3 year package to be replaced by sponsored research funds from external sources.**

Academic Careers

- **Non-Tenure Earning Track**
  - **No 3-5 year up or out.**
  - **Annual renewable contracts as long as needed.**
  - **May provide service or run a core resource.**
  - **Can have individual or collaborative research program.**
  - **Recruitment package and seed grants may help get the lab going.**

Academic Careers

- **Educator Track**
  - **Non-Tenure earning for essentially teachers.**
  - **May be a core resource manager.**
  - **Annual contracts and no 3-5 year up or out.**

Academic Careers

- **Core Managers:**
  - **Often have non-tenure earning faculty status.**
  - **From a non-faculty slot you can advance into a faculty slot if the Dep't. Chair thinks you are valuable.**
  - **While managing the core lab., explore the opportunity for joint publications.**
  - **In projects to which you contributed in a significant way, make sure you are included as an author and not only in the acknowledgements.**
  - **Can use core lab in support of own project ?**
  - **Can often submit local or national grant applications.**

Academic Careers

- **Essentials for surviving in an academic environment:**
  - **Submit local and seed grants to start your research.**
  - **Follow by NIH R-21 like exploratory grant applications and collaborative projects with a senior investigator.**
  - **Identify your own niche, distinct from that of your mentor or spouse if he/she works with you.**
  - **Publish at least 2 papers/yr in reputable journals.**
  - **Offer to serve on school committees**
  - **Get on ISAC committees and net work.**
  - **Believe in prayer and a God Father/ Mentor.**

Academic Careers

- What is in the future ?
- Several countries outside US, UK and EU (e.g., Singapore, Saudi Arabia) earlier recruited faculty from abroad, who made lot of money for early retirement and golf. Most of them became rich but unhappy as they got locked out of their own countries.
- Developing Countries such as India, China will have to build a large number of educational and research institutions to serve their emerging newly educated masses.
- Some of these countries eager to recruit faculty may offer incentives and packages to attract faculty from abroad.