



2018 SAPA-CT Career Development Workshop
"Making the Leap"
Prepare for a Career in Life Sciences

Tips on
Getting First Assistant Professor Job in
Biomedical Areas

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Questions?

- Is an Assistant Professor a dream job you want?
- Are you a right person for the job?
- How to find an Assistant Professor job best matching for you.

Assistant Professor

- Research, 60-70%
 - Grant funding
 - Publications
 - Presentations
- Teaching, 20-30%
 - Undergraduate teaching
 - Graduate teaching
- Services, 10%
 - Grant review
 - Manuscript review
 - Scientific society services
 - University services

Does the Job Attract You?

- Scientific freedom
- Potential job security
- Mentorship with students

Requirement for the Job

- Enthusiasm on contribution to sciences
- Persistent daily life facing competition
- Challenge on novel ideas

How to Find an Assistant Professor Job?

Best match

Best Timing

Undergraduate
4 years

Graduate
5-6 years

Postdoc
5-6 years

Assistant Professor
5-6 years



Have a decision



Preparation

Where to Find an Open Job Ad?

- Science job network
- Nature job network
- Scientific society job network
- Scientific conference job network
- Personal communication

Faculty Search Process

- Final decision is made by departmental chair or dean.
- A recommendation is provided by a Faculty Search Committee.
- The Faculty Search Committee is responsible for the whole selecting process.

Faculty Search Committee

- The committee consists of a chair and 3-5 faculty members.
- The committee provides a job ad for HR's approval .
- The committee performs a screening on all applicants and selects 5-6 top candidates for skype or telephone interview.
- The committee picks top 2-3 candidates for campus interview.
- The committee provides a recommendation on strengths and weaknesses of each candidate to departmental chair or dean.

Content of Job Ad

- Description of a job.
- Minimum qualifications.
- Preferred qualifications.
- Application materials: cover letter, CV, research statement, teaching statement, names of references.
- Application deadline.

Minimum Qualifications

- Must hold a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology/toxicology, neuroscience or a related field from an accredited institution
- Demonstration of, or clear evidence of potential for, a strong extramurally funded research program in neuropharmacology or neurotoxicology.
- Expertise to teach in the core curriculum of the graduate pharmacology/toxicology program and be able to teach neuropharmacology-related material in the PharmD curriculum.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications

- At least 2 years of post-doctoral experience in an academic, industrial or similar position.
- Preferred areas of research focus include neuropharmacology and/or neurotoxicology.
- Demonstrated record of significant scholarly productivity.
- Active participation in scientific societies related to neuropharmacology and/or neurotoxicology.
- Potential for collaboration with pharmaceutical sciences faculty at UConn. Potential for collaboration with neuroscience faculty at UConn. Strong interpersonal skills and the demonstrated ability to work in a team environment.
- The application should have an educational background in pharmacy or previous teaching in a Pharm.D. curriculum.

Evaluation by the Search Committee

- The Search Committee ranks all candidates by their scores.
 - A: meet both minimum and preferred qualifications
 - B: meet minimum qualification, but doesn't meet preferred qualifications
 - C: doesn't meet minimum qualifications
- Evaluation is based on scholarly productivity and teaching capability.

Preparation of an Applicant Package

- Cover letter
- CV
- Research statement
- Teaching statement
- Name list of recommendation letters

Research Statement

- What is your experience on training based on previous publications (1 page).
- What will be your future research projects (1-2 projects, not 3 in 2 pages) and how likely your proposed projects can be funded in next 3 years?

You need to know the grant application process and provide a description on your projects as Specific Aims page in a NIH R01 proposal.

Teaching Statement

- What is your teaching experience? Have you been a teaching assistant? What is the role in your TA?
- What existing courses you may involve in teaching?
- What potential new courses you may develop, which are critical for success of the program in teaching of undergraduate and graduate education?

Recommendation Letters

- Recommendation letters should be positive and strongly support.
- Recommendation letters should come from your previous training mentors.
- A recommendation letter from a non-mentor will provide additional value for your application.

Research Areas

- Best match to the position.
- Clinical vs. basic science research.
- Disease vs. non-disease research.
- Mechanistic vs. descriptive research.
- Animal model vs. cell model research.

Scholarly Productivity

- Balanced publications with appropriate quantity and quality.
- How many papers you have published?
- On which journals you published your papers?

Extramural Funding

- Grant application experience.
- Success of career developmental grants

NIH K99/R00

NIH K01

National society career fellowships

Postdoctoral Fellowships Awards of American Cancer Society

Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards of American Heart Association

National scientific foundation fellowships

Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards of American Foundation of

Pharmaceutical Education

Telephone Interview

- Try best to be available in the committee proposed interview time.
- To be on time for telephone interview.
- Typically run 30 minutes.
 - 5 minutes for self introduction
 - 20 minutes for 5-6 questions
 - 5 minutes for your questions
- Top 2-3 candidates will be invited for campus interview.

Questions in Telephone Interview

- Which aspect of your previous work had the biggest impact?
- What kind of research lab do you envision? How many undergraduate, graduate students, and postdocs?
- Which resources do you need for your work?
- How will your work be different from your advisors' work?
- Do you have experience in grant writing?
- Which courses would you like to teach?
- What questions do you have?

Campus Interview

- One-two days campus interview with seminar, chalk talk, and individual meetings.
- Be prepared for the interview.
- Be professional.
- Show high enthusiasm on the position.

Thank You Letters

- Write a “Thank You” letter to Dean, Departmental Chair, and every Search Committee members within 24 hours after campus interview.

Have a Good Luck