Science Careers for PhD’s:  
No Pipetting Required

Alan L. Willard  
NINDS  
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Today’s Topics

• Why employers seek people with a PhD
• Jobs at NIH
• Jobs elsewhere
• Some individual examples
• Observations on traits of successful people
Strengths of PhDs

• Ability to do complicated projects with minimal supervision
• Ability to master new subject matter
• Accustomed to solving new problems
• Ability to analyze complex data
• Ability to communicate clearly
• 24/7 Intellectual commitment
Jobs at NIH

- Program Directors and Analysts
- Review Officers
- Policy Officers and Analysts
- Science Writers
- Clinical Trial Managers
Jobs Elsewhere

• Analysts
• Communicators
• Editors
• Fund raisers
• Managers of scientific portfolios
• Policy makers
• Lobbyists
Examples of “Elsewhere”

• Federal agencies: NSF, VA, DOD, FDA, CDC
• Foundations: MJ Fox, Bill & Melinda Gates, Howard Hughes, Am. Heart Assoc.
• Non-govt orgs (NGO’s): National Academy of Science, AAAS, Foundation for Biomedical Research
• Publishers
Routes to NIH (or other federal) jobs

• Specific ads (USA Jobs)
• Government and agency-wide programs
  – AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships
  – Presidential Management Fellowships
  – HHS Emerging Leaders Program
AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships

2011-12 AAAS S&T Policy Fellows

FELLOWSHIP UPDATES:
Upcoming Conferences & Events
AAAS Fellowships staff conduct outreach sessions throughout the year at conferences, seminars and career fairs across the country to share information about the fellowship program areas, placement opportunities, the application and selection processes, and how an S&T Policy Fellowship could influence your career.

Alumni Engagement

IN THE NEWS
Congratulations to Seth B. Bin-Iskandar, 2010-12 S&T Policy Fellow at the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), who is the recipient of the Citation of the Year Award. Unlike other awards that are given every quarter, only one Citation of the Year Award is selected every year.

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AAAS BLOG

AAAS MEMBERSHIP
Four paths to NINDS

• Alan Willard: PhD, postdoc (4 yr.), Instructor (2 yr.), faculty (14 yr.)
• Brandy Fureman: PhD, Presidential Management Fellow (2 yr.)
• Michelle Jones-London: PhD, postdoc (3 yr.), HHS Emerging Leader (2 yr.)
• Anna Taylor: PhD, postdoc (1 year), AAAS Science & Technology Fellow (1 yr.)
Brandy Fureman, Ph.D.

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Dr. Brandy Fureman has been with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) since 2001, and is currently a Program Director in the Channels, Synapses and Circuits cluster. Her portfolio includes basic, translational, and clinical epilepsy research, including clinical trials. She is responsible for identifying epilepsy research issues critical to NINDS and NIH, and for coordinating the Institute's Epilepsy Research Benchmarks. Dr. Fureman previously served as a Clinical Research Project Manager in the NINDS Clinical Trials Group where she was responsible for overseeing the NINDS Clinical Research Collaboration Network and a number of Data and Safety Monitoring Boards for Phase III clinical trials in epilepsy, head injury, and stroke rehabilitation. Dr. Fureman has also served as a Health Science Policy Analyst in the NINDS Office of Science Policy and Planning, and as a Presidential Management Fellow at the NINDS. Dr. Fureman graduated from Cedar Crest College with a B.S. in Genetic Engineering Technology and received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. Her research interests focused on molecular and behavioral effects of ion channelopathy in episodic neurological disorders.

Active Funding Initiatives for Dr. Fureman

• Notice of Intent to Publish a Series of Request for Applications for the NINDS Epilepsy Centers without Walls Program (U54)
  Release Date: 2010-06-25, Contact: Brandy Fureman, Ph.D. [U54] NOT NS-09-052

[...]
Michelle Jones-London, Ph.D.

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Dr. Michelle J. Jones-London joined NINDS as a Program Director in July, 2005. Dr. Jones-London earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Department of Neuroscience and Anatomy at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. She then received postdoctoral training as a research fellow at University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Jones-London came to the NIH in July 2004 as an Emerging Leader Fellow, she performed duties across the Department of Health and Human Services including the Center for Scientific Review, FDA Office of Women’s Health Science Program, and the Immediate Office of the Secretary, Intergovernmental/Tribal Affairs Office.

Dr. Jones-London directs the individual diversity workforce programs at NINDS which include Diversity and Re-Entry Supplements, Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31), Career Development Awards to Promote Diversity (K31) and Diversity Research Education Grants (R25) (including the Neuroscience Scholars Program with DSM). She also provides oversight for the Institute’s diversity outreach initiatives at several other national scientific conferences. Her research interests have focused on understanding monoaminergic neurotransmitter regulation and mechanisms of behavioral pharmacology in animal models of disorders such as ADHD, Tourette Syndrome, and depression.

Active Funding Initiatives for Dr. Jones-London

- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (F31, Diversity)

Release Date: 2011-02-10, Contact: Michelle Jones-London, Ph.D., [F31] PA11-132]
Desirable Traits

• Track record of success
• Excellent communication skills
• Ability to work effectively with diverse sets of people
Contact Information

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