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Deputy Director, Office of Extramural Research
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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, the world’s largest medical research facility and an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), seeks applications from exceptional candidates for the position of Deputy Director, Office of Extramural Research (OER), Office of the Director (OD). This position reports to the NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research/Director (DDER), OER and will coordinate activities across NIH, among other federal agencies and external organizations.

Leadership Responsibilities: On behalf of the DDER, the Deputy Director for the OER (DDOER) is responsible for the oversight and management of highly complex, cross-cutting, and sensitive assignments that include:

• leading and serving on trans-NIH activities to formulate, implement, and evaluate relevant extramural programs, policies, procedures, and priorities;
• representing the NIH on government-wide committees, task forces, and working groups;
• developing plans for future initiatives and preparing and/or presenting position papers on extramural issues of broad impact;
• directly engaging in legislative issues including actual testimony and preparing legislative testimony for use by the NIH;
• collaborating with other OD offices to address scientific and policy issues that affect extramural grantees; and
• serving as the Agency Extramural Research Integrity Officer.

Additional Responsibilities: The DDOER serves as the second authority for the OER and directs the OER Office of Communications Analysis and Planning. In this role, the DDOER allocates budgets and provides supervisory oversight for 28 staff.

Position Requirements: Candidates must have an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree in a field relevant to the position. This position will be filled under a Title 42(f) excepted service appointment. An integral function of this position is bringing the appropriate individuals from across the NIH to coalesce around critical matters requiring immediate response, with the flexibility to move quickly from one issue to another with independence and authority. As such, the position requires professional interaction with the extramural scientific community. In addition, the DDOER must possess the ability to gain support of constituents that often may have competing interests, both internal and external to the NIH, on key public health policy issues. This is a highly visible position with significant impact on the NIH extramural community.

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How to Apply: Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae, bibliography, and full contact details for three references. In addition, applicants are asked to prepare two statements: a vision statement and a statement that addresses the specific qualification requirements (please limit both statements to two pages each). Send application package by email to T42OER@od.nih.gov OR via mail to:

Tamla Ransford
National Institutes of Health
Office of Extramural Research
6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7986, Suite 5016, Room 5110
Bethesda, MD 20892 (or 20817 for overnight delivery services)

For additional information about this vacancy, contact Tamla Ransford at 301-451-7784. All applications must be postmarked by the closing date. OER will begin accepting applications on December 4, 2015 and plans to have the position open for 30 days. To learn more information about the OER, please visit http://grants.nih.gov.

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Translational cell biology careers turn on technological savvy

Translational cell biologists pursue research questions that have a direct impact on treating human diseases. But to build a successful career, young cell biologists must also be well versed in technologies, such as those for advanced imaging, data mining, and biophysics, to push their research ahead. These cell biologists must embrace skills usually found in other departments—such as programming, performing heavy-duty statistical analysis, and even building devices from scratch in the machine shop. Turning laboratory findings into the foundations for potential new therapies also takes strong communication skills and a willingness to collaborate in team science or even across academia-industry borders. By Kendall Powell

Bernd Bodenmiller has never been quite satisfied with the state of current technology. As a graduate student in one of the founding laboratories of systems biology, he was fascinated with the power of new proteomics tools to survey all the proteins of a cell type. But he eventually grew frustrated by the fact that these measurements had to be averaged across millions of cells.

As a postdoc, he joined Garry Nolan’s laboratory at Stanford University, in large part because it was the first lab to try out a new device called a “mass cytometer,” or CyTOF, which married time-of-flight mass spectrometry with single-cell analysis of cells in solution. However, he soon realized that to answer his burning questions about what influences a stationary cancer cell to strike out and invade the rest of the body, he needed the technology to be able to analyze cells sitting in native tissues.

Bodenmiller’s wanderlust to find and improve technologies for analyzing cell signaling led him to develop a laser-assisted mass cytometer that could analyze up to 50 different protein signals found in a single cell within a slice of tissue. It also drove his success as an assistant professor of quantitative biology at the University of Zurich, earning him highly competitive grants.

Now, Bodenmiller encourages young scientists in his group at the University of Zurich’s Institute of Molecular Life Sciences to follow in his own footsteps for shaping a career on the frontiers of cell biology: to become established at the intersection of biology and new methods development.

“Developing a novel method and then applying this bleeding-edge technology to biological questions will yield novel views in biology and important findings with little competition,” he notes. Focusing only on technologies or only on biology does not push either one forward with as much momentum or potential for breakthroughs, he explains.

Successful scientists working at the intersection of cell biology and human health are following this recipe for success, too, in slightly different variations. Many of them are both developing and applying new tools to build an increasingly complex view of the cell and its signaling networks during disease. Others are sifting through massive data sets to find new ways to target diseases. And still others are using advanced imaging and computing to find the subtle patterns that govern cell behaviors.

Young researchers who want to pursue a career in translational cell biology, whether in academic research or in industry, must be comfortable with data analysis, programming, and computational biology. They must also be collaborative and be able to work well in teams, which often include physicists, bioinformaticists, and software engineers.

Problem-solving PIs

Several cell biology principal investigators (PIs) have made their mark as Bodenmiller did, by pushing technologies forward to help them answer their own research questions. As a postdoctoral fellow at the Whitehead Institute, Anne Carpenter found her lab’s imaging software was not up to the task she needed to tackle — identifying phenotypic changes in cell size and growth across thousands of cells in response to a genome-wide RNA interference (RNAi) screen. So she rolled up her sleeves, taught herself to program, and found a computer science graduate student from nearby MIT willing to lend a hand.

That collaboration eventually yielded CellProfiler, a software application used to do high-throughput imaging screens and to quantify phenomena observed.

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by eye in the microscope. The program allows researchers to screen hundreds of thousands of drug compounds or genetic perturbations to find the conditions that give researchers the complex cellular readout they would like to see—such as a change in cell shape, organelle number, or cytoskeleton structure.

“A lot of our collaborators are trying to make in vitro systems more reflective of real biology,” which often requires using more complex cell-culture systems, says Carpenter, who is now leading a computational biology group at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Through machine learning, a biologist trains the software to recognize subtle cellular differences.

Marina Sirota knew as early as college that she wanted to take “interesting biological experiments and map computer science onto them,” to perform sophisticated data analyses in order to query the explosion of genomic data. Sirota saw that researchers would need computational methods to wrangle data and to make real progress against human diseases.

As part of her Ph.D. work at Stanford University, Sirota launched a study to find potential new uses for drugs already on the market. The idea was based on matching human disease gene expression patterns with opposite or inverse drug gene expression patterns. In other words, if a disease caused a group of genes to be upregulated, was it possible to identify a drug that caused those same genes to be downregulated?

She ran an analysis of 164 drug compounds against gene profiles of about 100 diseases. One very promising hit was the antiseizure drug topiramate, which scored better against Crohn’s disease in the analysis than a known treatment for Crohn’s symptoms. The lab went on to show that topiramate worked better in an animal model of Crohn’s disease, too.

“It taught me how to ask questions in big data science,” says Sirota, now an assistant professor at the University of California, San Francisco’s Institute for Computational Health Sciences. “The most important part is figuring out what cool, exciting data sets are out there and what are the unanswered questions you can ask using them”

Finding creative new ways to manipulate big genetic or imaging data sets is a key skill for translational researchers looking to make an impact on disease. Likewise, working in collaborative, interdisciplinary teams is also a must. Bodenmiller’s project to adapt the CyTOF technique to image single cells in tissue exemplifies both skill sets.

“In the beginning it was a somewhat crazy idea,” says Bodenmiller of his moving a laser system into his lab to add to the CyTOF equipment. By adding the high-resolution laser to the microscope, his team developed a way to peel off tiny, 1-square micron tissue areas with surgical precision. The CyTOF mass spectrometer can read information from up to 50 different heavy metal isotope markers tagging cellular proteins and protein modifications in each tiny spot. Using the laser’s coordinates, “we computationally generate an image by putting the marker information back in the right spots,” says Bodenmiller. His group uses the technique to define cellular signals that initiate metastasis in breast cancer. For such projects, he needs researchers with backgrounds in analytical sciences, cancer biology, and computational biology.

“My primary advice is to become very good at one of those areas,” he says. “But also to learn to interact with other people who have another expertise that you do not have.” Big data science absolutely requires collaboration, whether in academia or industry. “No single person can achieve every aspect of these projects,” says Bodenmiller. Successful young researchers learn to speak the different languages of a technology.

Skill building

Adam E. Cohen started his scientific life as a theoretical physicist, but became a biophysicist by immersing himself in biology’s language and all of its messy details. His group’s website at Harvard University has a tagline that sums up its mission: “Physical tools to study molecules, cells, and organisms.”

“The number one piece of advice I would give [young cell biologists] is to learn to program,” says Cohen. “If you can’t program, you are dead in the water when it comes to extracting meaning from digital data and analyzing it numerically.”

Researchers can take a boot camp or introductory class or simply learn by doing as Carpenter did in her work. Biology graduate students should all be learning to code as a part of their training, Cohen insists.

Strong quantitative skills will also help cell biologists distinguish themselves as researchers capable of extracting meaningful information from patient genomes, disease phenotypes, or cellular image-based screening. “If someone comes to me and asks, ‘What can I do to make myself more marketable?’ I tell them to become an expert in statistics or data mining,” says Carpenter.

Along those same lines, Jennifer Gerton, a geneticist at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City, Missouri encourages every trainee in her lab to take a class in bioinformatics. “Everyone is going to have to interact with bioinformatics experts in their career—they should at least learn the language so they can communicate,” she notes. She also advises trainees to think deeply about their research problem and how they might apply the latest explosion of imaging technologies toward solving it.

And sometimes it’s not a specific technical skill that’s required for success in these technology-based projects, but rather a fearless personality to handle whatever needs doing. Cohen’s lab experiments can run the gamut, from cell
culture to building lasers and doing hefty numerical analysis. So he looks for trainees with a “can do” attitude—including researchers who aren’t afraid to build things in the machine shop with the lathe and milling machine when needed.

Gerton adds another personality trait that all translational cell biologists should possess: a love of learning new things. Gerton studies cohesinopathies, a group of rare human developmental disorders. “I love sitting down with a big pile of papers. I did a lot of reading to try to understand the human diseases and the available models,” Gerton says.

Strategic career planning
Another key characteristic of successful investigators in this realm is the ability to think strategically about handling the high-risk nature of projects. Cohen says that because many of these projects do not ultimately succeed, he tries to steer his group to “fail as quickly as possible” by finding the weakest, most challenging nodes of an effort.

For academic job searches, Cohen advises candidates to build a nice balance between being visionary and realistic in their research proposals. “Propose things that are straightforward that you know you can do and things that are more exploratory or speculative. And be clear about those differences,” he says.

Both strategic thinking and deliberately acquired skills helped Sam Hasson achieve his desired career path in drug discovery in the pharmaceutical industry. Exceptional mentoring also secured his success.

Several experiences during graduate school, including a three-month internship immersed in drug discovery at Schering-Plough, showed Hasson that he belonged in the team-based and technology-driven research found in the pharmaceutical industry. So when looking for a postdoctoral fellowship, he asked himself, “How can I build up a skill set to make me attractive to industry?”

He found that opportunity at Richard Youle’s laboratory at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Maryland. Youle’s lab had found that the protein Parkin normally translocates to the outer mitochondrial membrane when there is mitochondrial stress or damage. However, certain mutations in Parkin block this movement and are associated with an early-onset, inherited form of Parkinson’s disease.

Hasson took on a project to run a high-throughput imaging screen to find other genes that, when inhibited, either boosted or blocked Parkin’s normal activity. With Youle’s encouragement, Hasson designed and ran the screen with co-mentors at the National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), a National Institutes of Health (NIH) center located just 10 miles north in Rockville. Youle knew that learning all the ins and outs of the entire functional genomics screening process would give Hasson experience that is highly valued by industry.

In addition, when Youle was invited to give a talk at a Pfizer forum on mitochondrial health, he sent Hasson to give the presentation instead. “Because of his act of advocacy, I had an opportunity to be seen in front of a large crowd of people at Pfizer,” says a grateful Hasson. “Getting exposure from an industry audience is one of the hardest things to do as a young scientist.”

Sure enough, when a position opened up within Pfizer’s neuroscience team at the end of 2013, Hasson was invited to apply. Now, as a principal investigator at Pfizer in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he applies emerging technologies to find new drug targets for neurodegenerative diseases.

Translational scientists can also gain that crucial exposure by attending the same scientific conferences as industry researchers, says Carpenter. These include meetings such as those held by the American Society for Clinical Oncology and the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening. Casual conversations over posters or meals can give scientists a glimpse into the day-to-day operations at specific companies.

Sirota says no matter which environment a translational researcher might be aspiring toward, “Figure out who you will be working with and how to make a good team with them.”

“The lines between academia and industry are blurring more and more and in many different ways,” notes Sirota, whose career has included successful stints in both arenas. As someone who has hired researchers in both spaces, too, Sirota says it’s extremely difficult to find the gems among the piles of résumés that come with each open position. So how to shine in a tough market?

Sirota advises: “Quantitative skills that are unique, personal connections, and very targeted applications that show me your research interests are a good match for the position will all make an application stand out if I have to go through a hundred of them.”

Kendall Powell is a freelance science writer based in Lafayette, Colorado.

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Faculty Positions
Assistant Professor Positions, Department of Cell Biology
The Department of Cell Biology (http://cell.uchc.edu/) invites applications for two tenure-track Assistant Professor positions (search code 2016-379), over the next two years. Outstanding individuals working in any area of cell biology are encouraged to apply. Candidates’ research should be aimed at addressing fundamental questions related to cellular, molecular, or physiological mechanisms of biological or biomedical relevance. Questions regarding this search should be addressed to cellssearch@uchc.edu.

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Deadline for receipt of completed applications is January 25, 2016. For more information and the on-line application see https://www.usfca.edu/arts-sciences/antarctic-biology-training-program and http://goo.gl/forms/a0NP63pRHF.
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(Controller of Administration)
The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is seeking exceptional candidates for the position of Director, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences (DCVS). The incumbent will be a dynamic scientific leader widely recognized for his/her scientific vision and research credentials related to cardiovascular sciences. In addition to providing scientific vision, leadership, and management for the NHLBI DCVS, he/she will serve as a member of the NHLBI senior leadership team and advise the Director, NHLBI, on issues related to cardiovascular research and relevant Institute research directions.

This individual will report to the Director, NHLBI, and may also coordinate activities with NIH, other institutes and Federal agencies. He/she will provide scientific leadership in managing a portfolio budget of approximately $1.7 billion and a staff of approximately 135 employees. The ideal candidate will have professional experience in organizational management, training and development of research scientists, and development of a diverse biomedical and behavioral research workforce.

The incumbent will provide strategic leadership at the NHLBI. The Director will assume responsibility for nurturing internationally renowned research programs in cardiovascular science across the spectrum of basic research, clinical science, and population sciences/epidemiology, including translational research and the conduct of a wide variety of clinical trials. The Director will recruit scientists and scientific administrators, develop and nurture a strong workforce, and build depth in a variety of scientific disciplines and in cardiovascular disease-specific programs and branches. Key challenges include establishment of program priorities, integration of basic and clinical science, building teams, and interaction with scientific colleagues in a wide variety of settings. Functioning as a key member of the senior leadership team of the Institute, the incumbent will collaborate with peers and others within the Institute on closely aligned programs. The DCVS Director will have a profound impact upon the nation’s investment in research and the service and support of the broader cardiovascular research community. The Director, DCVS, will have the opportunity to advocate for areas of critical importance to the national and global populace, to establish and implement programs congruent with the NHLBI’s strategic plan, and to improve the health of the public. Applicants must possess an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree, as well as senior-level research experience, management experience, interpersonal skills, and the ability to engage stakeholders. The successful candidate will be a respected, accomplished researcher with maturity, integrity, and outstanding communication skills.

Information about the Division is available at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/org/dcvs.

Position Requirements: Candidates must have an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree in a field relevant to the position. This position will be filled under a Title 42(f) excepted service appointment.

Salary/Benefits: Salary is competitive and will be commensurate with the experience of the candidate. A recruitment or relocation bonus may be available, and relocation expenses may be paid. A full package of federal Civil Service benefits is available, including retirement, health and life insurance, long-term care insurance, leave, and a Thrift Savings Plan (401K equivalent). The successful candidate is subject to a background investigation and public financial disclosure requirements.

How to Apply: Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae, bibliography, and full contact details for three references. In addition, applicants are asked to prepare two statements: a vision statement and a statement that addresses the specific qualification requirements (please limit both statements to two pages each). Applications can be sent to nhlbi_careers@mail.nih.gov.

Information about the NHLBI can be found at www.nhlbi.nih.gov.

Applications will be accepted beginning on November 16, 2015. The closing date for accepting applications is January 18, 2016.

You may contact Barry Rubinstein with questions and for more information about this vacancy at rubinsth@nhlbi.nih.gov or 301-594-9923.

HHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers.
Tufts University is recognized as a premier university dedicated to educating new leaders for a changing world. With campuses in Boston, Medford, Grafton, and in Talloires, France, Tufts is internationally renowned in the academic community (http://www.tufts.edu). The University is a perfect blend of research and liberal arts - a special combination that attracts students, faculty and staff who thrive in our environment of curiosity, creativity and engagement.

The Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy is a leader in nutrition research (http://www.nutrition.tufts.edu). This vigorously growing graduate school has a world-wide reach, an interdisciplinary faculty, and a cutting-edge research agenda. The Friedman School is actively growing and recruiting faculty in many multidisciplinary areas. The candidates will join the School during an exciting period of growth combined with increasing national and international awareness of the crucial importance of nutrition for health, equity, and the environment.

We bring together biomedical, social, behavioral, public health, economics, and food systems scientists to conduct work that improves the nutrition and well-being of populations throughout the world. Our interdisciplinary vision, our focus on public impact and service, and the integrative nature of our nutrition science and policy education and research complement the intellectually-rich environment across Tufts, a “Research Class I” university.

We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

• **Director of the Feinstein International Center**
• **Associate or Full Professor in Water, Health and Security**
• **Associate or Full Professor in Behavioral Health Science**
• **Associate or Full Professor in Food Industry Management and Marketing**
• **Associate or Full Professor in Food Policy Implementation and Evaluation**
• **Associate or Full Professor in Food Systems, Sustainability and Climate Change**
• **Associate or Full Professor in Global Nutrition and Chronic Disease**
• **Assistant, Associate or Full Professor in Data Analytics**
• **Assistant, Associate or Full Professor in Biostatistics**

Interested candidates should submit the following through the online submission system at (http://www.nutrition.tufts.edu/about/jobs-at-friedman):

• A cover letter summarizing qualifications with a statement of research and teaching objectives and contact information for three (3) professional references combined in one document
• Curriculum vitae (CV)

Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled or the search is closed.

Tufts University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our faculty, and thus, women and members of underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.
Director of Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour

University College London (UCL), the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust invite applications for the post of Director of a major neuroscience centre based at UCL: the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour. The Centre addresses a fundamental challenge in modern biology, determining how neural circuits process information and direct behaviour. Advances in this field will transform understanding of brain function, and ultimately lead to new ways of monitoring and regulating brain activity in health and disease.

The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, completed in 2015, is housed in a new state-of-the-art building embedded at the heart of UCL. It seeks to develop and exploit new approaches for determining anatomical and functional connectivity in neural circuits and for recording, imaging and manipulating activity in genetically defined ensembles of neurons. This experimental work is tightly integrated with the theoretical and computational neuroscience carried out by the Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit which has relocated to the new building.

The Centre will ultimately comprise 12 research groups (including the Director's) and will conduct a vibrant interdisciplinary research effort, investigating information processing in neural circuits across a range of model systems and behaviours. UCL provides the ideal environment for a Centre undertaking such a major interdisciplinary effort in neuroscience. The Centre draws on and catalyses the rich, wide-ranging neuroscience community at UCL, currently ranked 2nd in the world for ISI citations in neuroscience and behaviour. It also benefits from important strengths in allied fields such as physics, chemistry, engineering, nanotechnology and biomedicine.

The post of Director carries with it a professorial title and the post holder will play a significant role in the strategic development of Neuroscience at UCL. The Director will be responsible for recruiting and nurturing outstanding research groups; and for promoting links between the Centre, UCL, and the wider scientific community. Substantial and long-term resources are and will be available to support the scientific work of the Director and other researchers in the Centre.

The appointment will be full time on the UCL Professorial Grade. The salary will be negotiable on the professorial scale. A generous relocation package will be available.

The successful applicant will be of international standing and have a world-leading track record in neuroscience research. Experience in running a comparable research centre or significant research programme(s), scientific management and/or strategic planning is highly desired and will receive preferential review.

The appointment is available from September 2016.

For further information about the vacancy and how to apply online, please go to http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/ and search on Reference Number 1525895.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Nick McGhee, email: n.mcghee@ucl.ac.uk, tel: +44 (0)20 3108 8217. If you wish to discuss the post informally, please contact Professor David Lomas, email: d.lomas@ucl.ac.uk, tel: +44 (0)20 7679 0878.

Closing Date: 16th January 2016

We particularly welcome female applicants and those from an ethnic minority, as they are under-represented within UCL at this level.
Recruitment for Universities in Beijing, China

www.edu.cn/zhaopin

Looking for more positions? Please send your CV to acabridge@163.com or call the direct line: 86-10-62603334
Recruitment for Universities in Northeast China

Looking for more positions? Please send your CV to acabridge@163.com or call the direct line: 86-10-62603334

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