



# Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Career Symposium

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National Counterproliferation Center  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Office of Biomedical Research Education and Training  
Student Life Center  
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I. Define current position, responsibilities, and skills needed for success. Describe a typical day.



- Strategy, Plans, Programs, Resources, Evaluation
- Direct support to POTUS and the National Security Council (NSC)
- Coordination skills, technical knowledge, management and resource allocation

- 7:00 am – 7:00 pm ☺
- 4/5 days @ WH, 30% travel

2. What path did I follow from grad school to my current position? Describe transitions.





3. Is a postdoc required for my career?

- No...but, answer to question #6
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4. What types of companies/industries Federal/State department or agencies employ people like me?

- Science policy – all 13 Federal Departments have science components and virtually every agency does



- Intelligence



5. What do I like least/best about my job? What is the most challenging/rewarding?

Like Best:

- The people with whom I work

Like Least:

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- Hours or Unnecessary bureaucracy

Most Challenging:

- Maintaining focus/attention among many distractions

Most Rewarding:

- Resolving a difficult problem

## 6. What is the salary range for someone in my field?



Annual Rates by Grade and Step

Grade	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	WITHIN GRADE AMOUNTS
1	17803	18398	18990	19579	20171	20519	21104	21694	21717	22269	VARIES
2	20017	20493	21155	21717	21961	22607	23253	23899	24545	25191	VARIES
3	21840	22568	23296	24024	24752	25480	26208	26936	27664	28392	728
4	24518	25335	26152	26969	27786	28603	29420	30237	31054	31871	817
5	27431	28345	29259	30173	31087	32001	32915	33829	34743	35657	914
6	30577	31596	32615	33634	34653	35672	36691	37710	38729	39748	1019
7	33979	35112	36245	37378	38511	39644	40777	41910	43043	44176	1133
8	37631	38885	40139	41393	42647	43901	45155	46409	47663	48917	1254
9	41563	42948	44333	45718	47103	48488	49873	51258	52643	54028	1385
10	45771	47297	48823	50349	51875	53401	54927	56453	57979	59505	1526
11	50287	51963	53639	55315	56991	58667	60343	62019	63695	65371	1676
12	60274	62283	64292	66301	68310	70319	72328	74337	76346	78355	2009
13	71674	74063	76452	78841	81230	83619	86008	88397	90786	93175	2389
14	84697	87520	90343	93166	95989	98812	101635	104458	107281	110104	2823
15	99628	102949	106270	109591	112912	116233	119554	122875	126196	129517	3321

← PhD

← Post

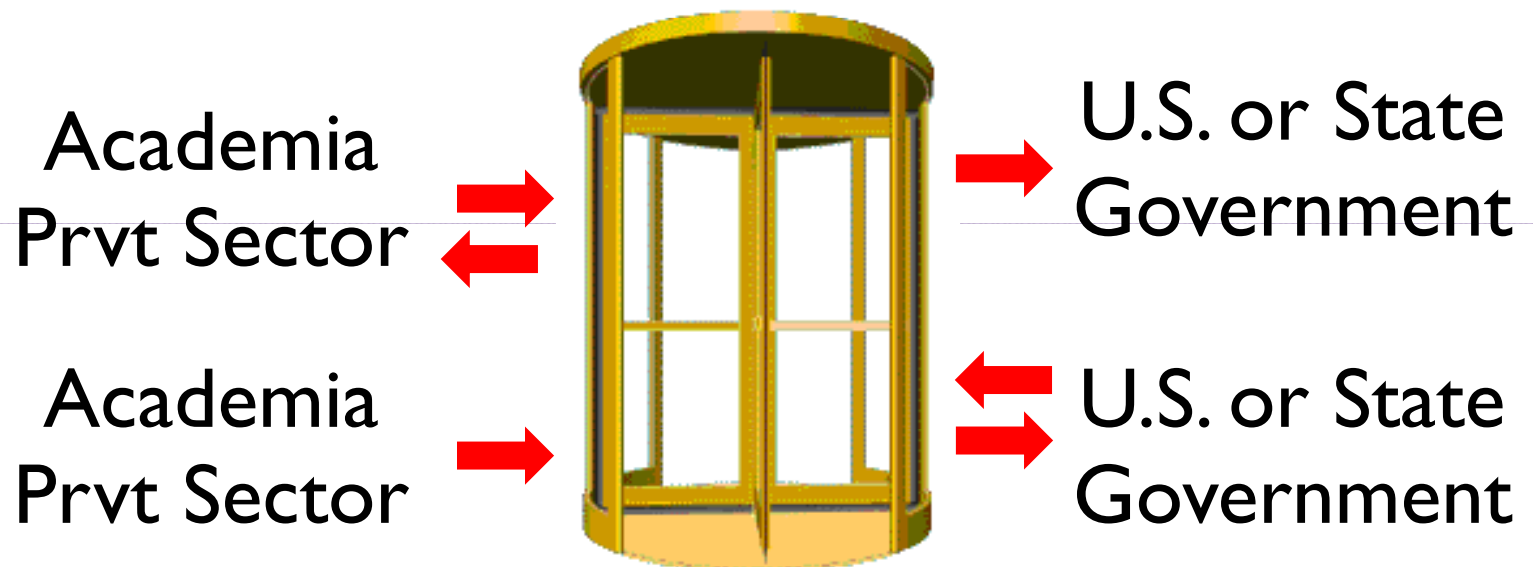
← Fac.

**+ BENEFITS**

<http://www.opm.gov/oca/10tables>

7. What are the opportunities for advancement? Is there a typical career path?

## Revolving Door Careers



Most USG Depts have excellent career development programs

Decision point at the GS 14/15 level whether you move from “Subject Matter Expert” (professional) to “Supervisory” (executive) status; but Senior Executive Service (SES) and Senior STL/SL positions (non-supervisory) positions do exist





8. If I could do it over again, would I do anything differently?

- ?
  - **Follow your heart**
-



9. What is the best way for students and postdocs to get a “foot-in-the-door” in my field?

- Direct application in response to a vacancy announcement ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov))
  - Preparation of the Federal resume ≠ CV
  - Recommend OPM website for instructions or work with someone in the USG
  - PROOFREAD
- Fellowships – AAAS, individual associations
- Internships
- +/- National Security Clearance

## 10. How can students/postdocs be attractive candidates for a job in my field?

- Be the best scientist that you can be.

### Qualifications and Evaluations [Back to top ▲](#)

#### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

##### Basic Requirements.

Possession of a graduate degree, particularly at the doctoral level, is preferred or equivalent experience with substantial background and experience in related research.

This position requires broad expertise in physiology, biology, biomedical engineering or medicine. This position requires a degree in an applied life science or M.D. in medical science pertinent to normal physiology and pathophysiology. The incumbent must be able to work independently as a research scientist in one of the major areas of interest devoting the majority of the time to quality original research. The incumbent must have a track record of scientific excellence, emphasis on the development of applied solutions. The incumbent must have extensive in-depth research experience. Experience should evidence demonstrated creativity through publications, presentations, and patents.

- Never stop learning.
  - Be more than a scientist.
    - Leading Change
    - Leading People
    - Results Driven
- Business Acumen  
Building Coalitions



11. What is the current employment picture for my field? What challenges does my field face?

- **Science Policy**

- Excellent and growing across the Federal gov. and the private sector

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- **Intelligence**

- Analysts
- Collectors
- Bench Scientists

12. What is the biggest change in moving from the bench to my current position? How is my science background important in my daily work?

- Gaining peripheral vision/ the Big Picture



**Scale  
&  
Scope**



- Daily use of the scientific process and technical knowledge



13. Would you recommend students/postdoc pursue a career in your field?

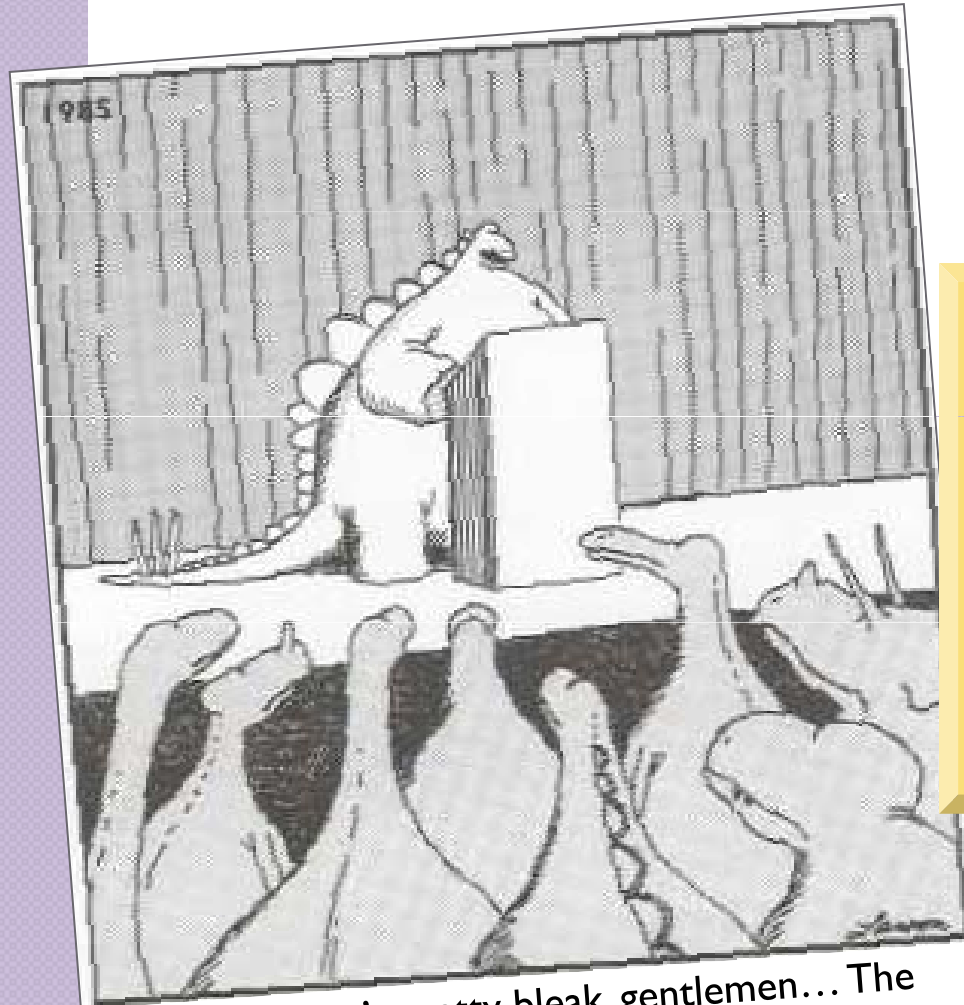
- **ABOLSTUTELY YES**



**Larry Kerr**

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# Questions?



"The picture's pretty bleak, gentlemen... The world's climates are changing, the mammals are taking over, and we all have a brain about the size of a walnut."

***"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."***

***-Charles Darwin***