

# 2<sup>nd</sup> NISS Virtual Career Fair: NCI/NIH

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# National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- 27 Institutes
- Largest institutes are NCI, NIAID, and NHLBI
- 5 Biostatistics groups in NCI
- Intramural versus Extramural
  - Extramural mission: support research at major universities and research centers
  - Intramural mission: Conduct independent-initiated methodological and collaborative research program (University at NIH)

# My Career

- Staff Fellow/Senior Staff Fellow, Biometry and Field Studies Branch, NINDS: 1988-1994 (Intramural)
- Mathematical Statistician, Office of Biostatistics Research, NHLBI: 1994-1999 (Extramural)
- Mathematical Statistician, Biostatistics Research Branch, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis (DCTD/NCI): 1999-2009 (Extramural)
- Branch Chief and Senior Investigator (NIH Tenure), Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Branch, NICHD: 2006-2017 (Intramural)
- Branch Chief and Senior Investigator, Biostatistics Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG/NCI): 2017-retirement!

# Job Opportunities at NIH

- Mathematical Statisticians (Extramural)
  - Ph.D. in Statistics/Biostatistics
  - U.S. Citizen requirements
  - Civil service positions (GS)
  - Title-42 positions for branch chiefs
  - Contractor positions for non-citizens
- Fellows and Investigators (Intramural)
  - Post-bac, pre-doc, and post-doctoral fellowships
  - Investigators (tenure-track) and Senior Investigators (tenured)
  - U.S. citizenship is **not** required

# More on Mathematical Statisticians in Extramural

- Groups at NCI, NIAID, and NHLBI
- Methodological research is usually not required, but many statisticians have world-class research careers
- Duties include: Representing the institute on DSMB and steering committees for large clinical trials, protocol review, statistical consulting
- Occasional opportunities for mentoring fellows, but not the norm.

# More on Investigators in the Intramural

- Groups at NCI, NICHD, and NIEHS
- Investigators need a postdoc (or equivalent) to get hired
- Similar to biostatistics department at university
- Duties include: methodological and collaborative research, mentoring fellows, and service
- Need to develop an independently initiated research program to get tenure
- Tenure emphasizes contribution to the mission of the institute
- 8-10 years on tenure-track
- Comes with resources: fellows, study data, etc.

# Hiring of Statisticians at NIH (Intramural)

- DCEG/BB (Intramural) NCI is hiring!!
  - Investigator/Senior Investigator Position
  - Post-doctoral fellowships
- Postdoctoral fellows have come from:
  - Johns Hopkins
  - Michigan
  - Texas A&M
  - University of Hong Kong
  - University of Connecticut
  - University of Louisville
  - New York University
  - University of Maryland

# Hiring of Statisticians at NIH (Intramural)

- Postdoctoral fellows
  - are 100% research positions!
  - start in the high 60s to low 70s k
  - flexible research program
  - BB has 10 postdocs with over 100 in DCEG
  - US Citizenship not required- hire on OPT or J1
- Predoctoral fellows
- Post-bac fellows

# Recommendations to Students about First Job

- Take risks-Don't play it safe
- Don't take a position for the money. Money will come...
- Ideal job provides flexibility and freedom
- Look for a place that will broaden your horizon
- You probably will not spend your career there...

Thank You!!