

Academic job search: Perspectives from a recent applicant

Khademhosseini, A

Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA

Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, 02139, USA
alikh@mit.edu

Searching for a faculty position is a potentially stressful and challenging time for postdocs and Ph.D. students who wish to pursue an academic career. Despite the growth of biomedical engineering and biomaterials related faculty positions, finding a faculty position remains a competitive endeavor. Currently, mentoring perspective faculty candidates with respect to the faculty application process is generally left to the responsibility of the faculty advisor. Although attempts have been made by various institutions to incorporate academic search seminars into their career search programs, these programs are generally too broad and may not be applicable to specific issues facing faculty in biomaterials related fields. In this talk I will discuss some of the points related to the academic process from my perspective as a recently recruited faculty. The talk will discuss some of the most commonly asked questions about the academic job search with respect to biomaterials related positions. Specifically the following questions will be addressed:

- When is the academic cycle and how does it work?
- How much time do I need to dedicate for my academic search?
- When is the best time for me to go on the academic job hunt?
- When to start preparing the faculty application?
- What are the various parts of the faculty application? How much does each part matter?
- How to find the position that suits one's professional and personal needs?
- Which type of environment is best for the individual? East coast / west coast / mid-west etc.? Big city / small town.
- What if I have a family? How does that influence my search?

- How to find job postings for biomedical and biomaterials related job postings.
- How to prepare the research and teaching statements?
- What are the main criteria for judging of the candidates?
- What are the key components of the faculty interview process?
- What kind of questions will I be asked during my interview?
- How do I prepare for the faculty interview?
- How do I negotiate the offer? How much flexibility is there regarding the start-up, teaching and lab space?

In addition to the above, I will aim to address specific questions by the audience and generate a forum to discuss the academic search process.