Getting a Job in Academia

How to find one, how to apply, and how to interview

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So you (might) want to work in Academia…

- Biostatistics
  - Statistics Departments
  - Biostatistics Departments
    - Schools of Public Health
    - Schools of Medicine
  - Mathematics
  - Other
- The power of groups
  - Being a “lone ranger”



Tenure Track vs. Non-tenure Track

- Tenure track
  - 6-12 years
  - Interim review (varies)
  - Research, teaching, and service
- Non-tenure track
  - Nature of support
  - Expectations?
  - Career path



Where to look for openings

- Amstat News
- University of Florida Statistics Dept
  - http://www.stat.ufl.edu/vlib/Index.html
- Purdue Statistics Dept
  - http://www.stat.purdue.edu/resources/jobs/
- http://www.mathjobs.org/jobs (free for applicants)
- Fliers / emails
- Department Chair
- Others?



Question Break



How to apply

- Contact from advertisement
- Cover letter
- CV
- References
- Teaching Statement
- Research Statement
- Sample publications

- Something to set the “package” apart



Cover Letter

- Careful…mass production not helpful
- Be brief and give highlights
- Any extenuating circumstances you wish to reveal.

CV

- Education
- Experience
- Publications
- Grant experience
- Programming
- Your strengths



Question Break



Research Statement

- What have you done?
- What do you like to do?
- What do you see yourself doing in the future?
- Do you collaborate?
- What problems do you like to solve?
- Do you work in teams?

- Sample manuscripts



Teaching Statement

- What have you taught?
- What do you like to teach?
- What do you want to teach?
- What do you think about teaching?
- Do you do anything special in your teaching?
- Any training/recognition in teaching?



References

- Who writes good reference letters?
- Specific to you
- Accurate but not vague
- How will this letter be different from all of the other letters?

Question Break



The interview

- Well prepared talk
  - Substance
  - Style
  - Questions
- Do your homework
- Be well rested for the visit



The interview

- What to expect
- What you don't have to answer
- Facts to have on hand
  - What would you like to teach?
  - How do you expect to support your research?
  - What type of students would you like to advise/teach?
- Ask to speak to particular people outside of the department (if appropriate)
- Ask to meet with students
- Ask questions: An opportunity to learn
- Be yourself



The Job Talk

- You are the expert.
- Draw them in (show data!!!)
- Not a second defense…show you are a colleague with your own interests, not a student passing a test.
- Do not seek to confuse.
  - Fine line between impressing and confusing.
- Clearly state what your contribution was.
- Bring extra slides with details!!!



Question???



What are we looking for?

- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Passion
- Independence
- Vision
- Communication
- Collegial / collaborative skills

- A great colleague
- Strong bet for leadership, success

The offer

- What to expect
  - Amstat, APHA
- What to negotiate
  - Salary
  - Package
  - Starting responsibilities
  - Clear understanding of offer
  - Get details in writing
- Etc.



Final Thought

- Remember that YOU are interviewing THEM too.
- Is this a good match for you?
- Would you want to work there?

Questions????

