2008 JHSPH Biostatistics Career Mentorship Panel Discussion Summary

Event Details:
Career Advice for Young Biostatisticians: Comparing Academia, Industry and Government
Monday, December 8, 2008

Panelists
Brian Caffo - Associate Professor, Hopkins Biostatistics
Nilanjan Chatterjee - Chief and Senior Investigator, National Cancer Institute
Brian Egleston - Associate Member, Fox Chase Cancer Center
Joe Heyse - Vice President, Merck Research Labs (unable to attend)
Tom Louis - Professor, Hopkins Biostatistics

Topics
Graduate School - skills to develop, internships, collaborations and teaching
Job Hunting - economic conditions, where to look and resources
Applying - standing out, qualities of a good CV, making first contact
Interviews - the job talk, dinner with the department, screening and other
Job Offers - what to expect, what to hope for, and how to negotiate
First Years on the Job - what to expect and what is expected

Student Attendee Evaluation Results (n=15)

Question 1: Please rate your satisfaction with the panel discussion on a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 corresponding to very unsatisfied and 5 corresponding to very satisfied.

Responses:
1 2 3 4 5
0 0 1 6 8

Question 2: Excluding members of the panel present today, whom would you like to see on a career mentorship panel in the future?

- Someone to talk about the transition to the American system for foreign students
- A master's level biostatistician
- Members of our faculty
- Faculty not from JHSPH
- Faculty in non-statistics academic department
- Someone from a consulting firm such as McKinsey or Rand
- A female
- Junior pharma statisticians
- Someone from the FDA or NCHS
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Question 3: Were the topics discussed relevant to your career goals?

Responses:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>MIXED</th>
<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
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Question 4: Were there any topics you thought were missing or did not receive adequate attention? Were there topics you thought received too much attention?

- Discussion a bit broad
- More discussion comparing job functions across industry, gov't, and academia. Also, why pick one over the other (4)
- More discussion of benefits/drawbacks of post-docs (2)
- More discussion of interview process – how it works, what to expect (2)
- The application, especially research and teaching statements
- Career opportunities for masters level statisticians
- Moving with family
- More discussion of job hunting

Question 5: Would you like to see this discussion repeated in future years?

14/15 responded yes (1 missing response)

Question 6: What suggestions do you have for improving the discussion? Was a panel discussion an appropriate format for the event?

- More Q and A from the students (8)
- Panel discussion followed by smaller groups
- More faculty present in the audience

Question 7: Do you have any additional comments?

- Thanks for organizing this!
- Very nice and inspired discussion.
- It could have been longer, 2 hours (2)
- Good job
- Thanks
- Consider visual aids (dept website?)
- More information about masters students