Non-Clinical Careers in the Federal Government

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The opinions and statements in this presentation are those of my own and do not necessarily represent the position of the federal agencies and departments discussed in this presentation.

Overview

- Initial thoughts and perspective
- What to do/consider now
- Different Opportunities
  - FDA, CMS, CDC, CIA, NIH, FAA, Military, Others
- Approach and Resources
Work for Uncle Sam

- Flexibility
  - No call, little weekend or night work
  - Telecommuting possible 1-5 days per week

- Stability with regards to pay & benefits,
- Explore other areas of medicine
- Impact the public health on a greater scale

Professional development encouraged
- Volunteer in the clinic or hospital at the government’s expense (patient care, research, public health project)

Continue to practice medicine outside of work hours.

However…other outside activities restricted
- Political activities, fund raising, investments, etc.

Government Medical Officers

At the intersection of medicine, law…and business.
**Things to Consider/Do Now**

- Interests/Strengths/Weaknesses
  - Clinical trial and/or research experience
  - Communication/Writing skills
  - Business acumen
  - Love of travel

- Additional education/training if needed
  - MBA, MPH, JD, GME, Clinical Trial training

- Contact the leadership at the Agency/Office of interest

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**FDA**

- Agency in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - First FDA Act passed in 1906
  - Number of employees: > 14,000
  - > $5 billion dollar budget
  - Headquarters at White Oak, MD - former Naval Ordinance Laboratory

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**FDA Mission**

- Protect the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs, biologics, devices, food, cosmetics, radiation emitting products.

- Advance the public health by helping speed innovations

- Regulate tobacco to protect the public health and reduce use by minors.

- FDA also plays a significant role in the Nation's counterterrorism capabilities.
  - Ensuring the security of the food supply and by fostering development of medical products to respond to deliberate and naturally emerging public health threats (radiological/biological)
FDA CENTERS

- CDER – Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
- CBR – Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research
- CDRH – Center for Devices & Radiological Health
- CTP – Center for Tobacco Products
- CVM – Center for Veterinary Medicine
- CFSAN – Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition

Perspective

New Drug Development
- what we talk about at FDA -

Sponsor submits IND application

Sponsor submits NDA application

FDA review

Post-Marketing Safety Reporting

FDA meetings
(FDA oversight now spans entire drug lifecycle)
Hierarch & Positions

- Hierarchy
  - Center Director
  - Office Directors/Assistant Office Directors
  - Team Leaders
  - Clinical Reviewers

- Medical Officer Positions
  - Primary Clinical Reviewer
  - Guidance/Policy Writer
  - Labeling Reviewer
  - Safety Officer

Working at FDA

- IND/NDA Review Work (CDER)
  - Team approach with clinical in the lead
    - Statistics, Chemistry, Clinical Pharmacology, Micro, Non-Clinical
  - 12 month time clock for most NDA submissions
  - 30 day time clock for new IND submissions
  - Many minor submissions with no time clock
  - Medical officer creates review document advising "Approval", "May Proceed", and/or with requests/recommendations for sponsor

Working at FDA

- Daily internal meetings with weekly/monthly face to face sponsor (drug company) meetings at FDA
  - Provide guidance to some of the largest companies in the world to help develop innovative therapies and diagnostics

- Training (statistics, clinical trial design, drug law)
  - World class education center
  - Completion of courses tied to advancement...

- Travel to national meetings and present on behalf of the Agency (1-2X per year)
Working at FDA

- CDRH (device reviews)
- Commissioners Office (guidance, policy work)
- Center for Tobacco (new center)
- Consult with other offices and centers (e.g. combination drug-device product reviews)
- Work remotely in any state…if approved, and International assignments available

Benefits

- Salary
  - Depends on experience, specialty & certifications
  - Competitive with clinical world for many
  - Base Pay + physician comparability allowance
    - GS 14/15 positions (title 38 for highly qualified MDs)
    - My story...

- Federal benefits
  - Health, dental, vision and life insurance
  - Matching TSP (up to 5% of pay)
  - Retirement account

People/Skills Needed

- American medical graduates with at least some residency training

- Docs with strong analytical skills who can clearly articulate opinions rooted in science
  - And…comfortable with computer, office-based work

- Clinical trial and/or research experience!
Pros/Cons

- **Pros**
  - Flexible hours, no call/weekend duty, work from home
  - Federal benefits are generous
  - Learn a side of medicine most docs do not
  - Professional development/Continue clinical practice
  - Contribute to the public health on a national level
  - Position you well for biotech/pharma industry jobs!

- **Cons**
  - More sedentary than clinical medicine (no pt contact)
  - Senior positions limited by geography
  - Outside activities restricted (e.g. political events, investments, business activities)

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**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

- Agency in Department of HHS that manages:
  - Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Children's Health Insurance Program
  - Healthcare.gov
- Established in 1977
- Number of employees: > 6,000
- > $970 billion budget
- Headquarters in Baltimore, MD

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**CMS Mission**

- Tasked with strengthening and modernizing the U.S. healthcare system while providing quality care at lower costs
  - Using value based incentives to improve payment models by tying reimbursement to better outcomes
Working at CMS

- Analyze outcomes data to assist in reimbursement decisions.
  - Different mandate than FDA with different types of data needed to achieve reimbursement

- Innovation Center (established by ACA)
  - Test new payment & care delivery models to improve care and lower costs (most states participating)

- Help develop more affordable delivery and reimbursement systems.

Working at CMS

- Design, plan and implement national programs aimed at improving Medicare and Medicaid.

- Provide expert advice to medical organizations on how to evaluate the quality and appropriateness of medical services.

- Analyze and recommend legislative or other actions to improve health innovation models.

Benefits

- Starting Salary
  - Dependent on experience
  - Competitive at least with primary care salaries
  - Government Pay Scale
    • GS 13-15 positions
    • “Reportedly” less than FDA

- Full federal benefits
  - Health, dental, vision and life insurance
  - Matching TSP (100% to 2%, 50% 3 to 5%)
  - Retirement account
People/Skills Needed

- American medical doctors with at least some residency training
- Those interested in reimbursement, medical policy, improving delivery systems
- Comparative effectiveness research experience
- MBA, MPH, and/or clinical trial experience a plus

Pros and Cons

Pros
- Flexibility and federal benefits
- Practice medicine outside of work hours
- Combine medical knowledge with business & policy
- Interact with executive and legislative branches
- Help improve delivery of care and reimbursement models nationwide
- Positions yourself for consulting and insurance jobs among others

Cons
- More sedentary, no patient interaction
- Political influence on decisions??
- Limited by geography
- Outside activities restricted

Center for Disease Control

- Established in 1946, agency of HHS
- Number of employees: **15,000**
  - $7 billion budget
- Headquarters in Atlanta, GA
- More than 280 CDC employees on overseas assignments, plus > 30 fellows & hundreds of headquarters staff travel overseas regularly
CDC Mission

Collaborate to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health – through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.

Working at CDC

- Protect the American people from public health threats and research emerging diseases.

- Provide medical advice and consultation on critical problems in the medical/public health field (including foreign governments).

- Evaluate data collection, quality control and/or data utilization methods used to study medical issues.

Working at CDC

- Collaborate with CDC partners and mobilize public health programs with domestic and international partners.

- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
  - Conduct research to reduce worker illness and injury, and to advance worker well-being.
  - Promote safe and healthy workers through interventions, recommendations and capacity building.
  - Enhance international worker safety and health through global collaborations.
Benefits

- Starting Salary
  - Dependent on experience
  - Competitive with clinical practice
  - Base + Physicians Comparability Allowance
    - GS 13-15 positions (title 38 for highly qualified MDs)

- Full federal benefits
  - Health, dental, vision and life insurance
  - Matching TSP (100% to 2%, 50% 3 to 5%)
  - Retirement account

- Travel paid by the government

People/Skills Needed

- Internal medicine & infectious disease experience/board certification
- Public health degree and/or experience
- Knowledge of epidemiology, statistics
- Interest in travel and global health

Pros and Cons

Pros
- Flexibility, federal benefits & continue practicing PT
- Use medical knowledge to tackle public health problems on a national and global level
- See the world and get paid
- Receive the best training available in public health and infectious and chronic disease

Cons
- Some positions require travel abroad with little notice
- Positions may be limited by geography
- Outside activities restricted
- You may have to wear that level 4 biohazard suit!
CIA

- Medical Analyst
  - Use your medical knowledge to profile foreign leaders and individuals of interest to the U.S.
  - Help U.S. policy leaders with challenging foreign relations decisions
  - Contribute to the top secret POTUS Daily Brief intelligence document

CIA

[Image]

https://www.cia.gov/careers/opportunities/

Other Opportunities

- Blended Clinical and Non-Clinical Jobs
  - National Institutes of Health (NIH)
    - Clinical Trials, Clinical Medicine, Grant writing, Administration
  - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
    - Occupational safety, Civilian Aerospace medicine
  - Aerospace Medicine – Air Force, Navy, NASA
  - FBI, State Department, Homeland Security
  - Veterans Affairs, Indian Health Service
    - Administration plus clinical duties
Approach

- Start the process early – feds move slow.
  - Conversation to start may take 1 year or longer
  - No one set path to each career
  - As with all jobs, who you know helps

- Research the agency, office, division online
  - USAJobs.com to identify openings

Approach

- Talk to me or current employee and connect with the office/division leadership

- Request a site visit and offer to give a presentation to the office

- Follow up regularly with the office/division director or hiring official

Resources

- USAJobs.gov
Resources

➢ SEAK
  o Contact me, I want to help you!

➢ Drop Out Club
  o Free to join, many nonclinical job postings
  o www.dropoutclub.org

  You can do it!

Thank you!

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“All achievement, all earned riches, have their beginning in an idea.”
Napoleon Hill