

## Non-Clinical Careers in the Federal Government

**Phillip B. Davis, MD**  
Senior Clinical Reviewer  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

*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
- 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.

---

---

---

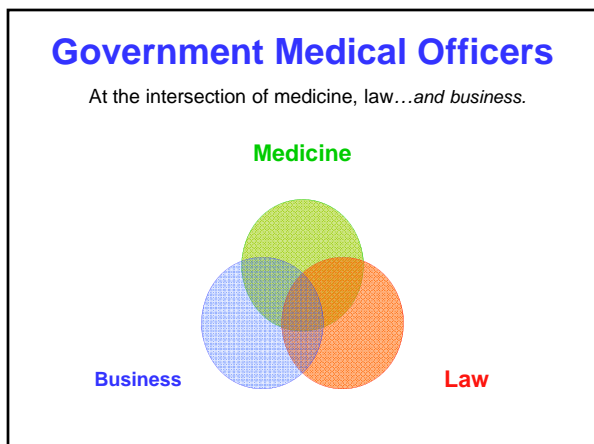
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FDA



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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 **D**rug **E**valuation and **R**esearch
- **CBR** – Center for **B**iologicals **E**valuation and **R**esearch
- **CDRH** – Center for **D**eveloping **E**lectronics & **R**adiological **H**ealth
- **CTP** – Center for **T**obacco **P**roducts
- **CVM** – Center for **V**eterinary **M**edicine
- **CFSAN** – Center for **F**ood **S**afety & **A**ppplied **N**utrition

---

---

---

---

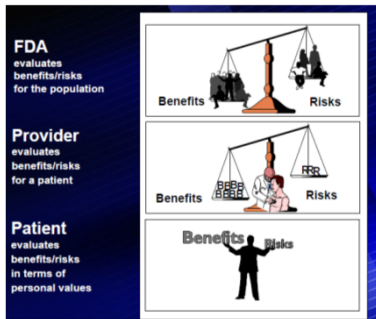
---

---

---

---

## Perspective



---

---

---

---

---

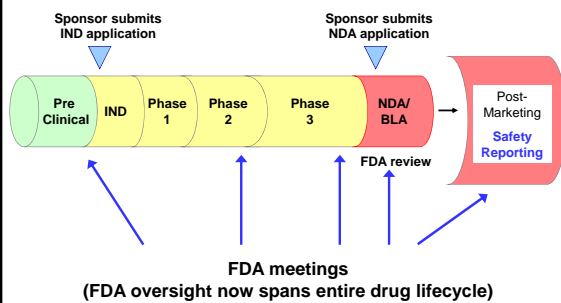
---

---

---

## New Drug Development

- what we talk about at FDA -



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 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

- what they're looking for -

- 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)




---

---

---

---

---

---

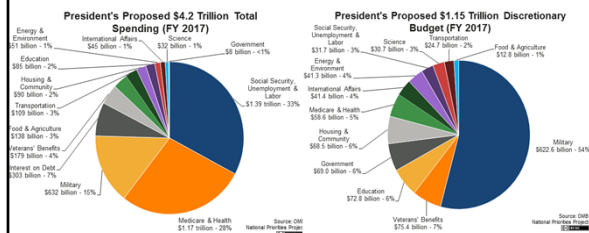
---

---

---

---

## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)



- > \$970 billion budget
- Headquarters in Baltimore, MD

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 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
  - Position 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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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



<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 *s/low*.
  - 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

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

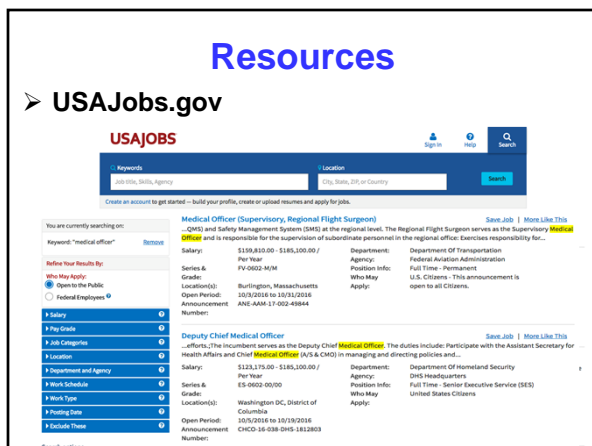
---

---

---

## Resources

- **USAJobs.gov**




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Resources

➤ **SEAK**

○ *Contact me, I want to help you!*

➤ **Drop Out Club**

○ Free to join, many nonclinical job postings

○ [www.dropoutclub.org](http://www.dropoutclub.org)

*You can do it!*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Thank you!

**Phillip.Davis@fda.hhs.gov**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

*Napolean Hill*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---