From Research to Research Administration

A Scientist’s Journey Through Science Policy

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UC Irvine
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Today’s Journey

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   b. Science Policy and Research Administration Phase

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<th>Career Stage</th>
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<th>Outside Policy/Political Work (Extracurricular/Informal)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate student:</td>
<td>• B.S. in biochemistry</td>
<td>• Political activism (Democratic Party, progressive causes)</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M University (2001-05)</td>
<td>• Undergraduate research (cell biology, angiogenesis)</td>
<td>• Student journalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate student:</td>
<td>• D.Phil. in biochemistry</td>
<td>• Blog: The Scientific Activist (science and politics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Oxford (2005-09)</td>
<td>• Graduate research (structural biology, protein NMR, cell adhesion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral fellow:</td>
<td>• Research (biophysics, protein NMR, protein dynamics)</td>
<td>• NIH Science Policy Discussion Group</td>
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<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
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## Science Policy and Research Administration Phase

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| AAAS S&T Policy Fellow: USAID (2014-16) | • Research administration (grants for joint Arab/Israeli research teams)  
• Rotation at NIH/NHLBI (evaluating impacts of small business awards)  
• Science policy  
• Professional development | • Science Diplomacy Affinity Group  
• Higher Education and Research Administration Affinity Group |
| Program Officer: UC Office of the President (2016-?) | • Coordinate peer review of grant applications  
• Manage grant portfolio | • Political activism with policy focus (RISE Stronger)  
• Civic engagement by STEM professionals (ESAL) |
Advice and Resources

My Advice
• Do good science
  – Focus mostly (*but not solely*) on your “day job”
• Think proactively about careers
  – Plan for the next step and prepare accordingly
  – Gather information; seek out mentors and career development opportunities
• Write
  – Develop and demonstrate communication skills
• Network
  – Talk to people doing work you might be interested in doing
• Demonstrate an interest in policy
  – For example: science policy student group, science policy advising, writing, opportunities in scientific societies

Additional Resources
• Good web resource: [https://career.ucsf.edu/science-policy](https://career.ucsf.edu/science-policy)
• Google is your friend
• Science policy deep dive: *Beyond Sputnik*
Current Activities and Opportunities

- [risestronger.org/groups/rise-science-technology](http://risestronger.org/groups/rise-science-technology)
- Shine a light on the administration and Congress
- Research and monitor policy developments
- Write policy news/analysis
- Develop calls to action
- Partner with others, e.g. op-ed campaign

- [www.esal.us](http://www.esal.us)
- Increase engagement of STEM professionals in state and local civic activities
- Provide resources to STEM professionals for engagement
- Building network of local chapters
- Writing policy briefs on local S&T issues

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