

From Research to Research Administration

*A Scientist's Journey Through
Science Policy*

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Today's Journey

1. My Career Path
 - a. Education and Research Training Phase
 - b. Science Policy and Research Administration Phase
2. Advice and Resources
3. Current Activities and Opportunities

Education and Research Training Phase

Career Stage	Education/Training/Career (Day Job/Formal)	Outside Policy/Political Work (Extracurricular/Informal)
Undergraduate student: Texas A&M University (2001-05)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.S. in biochemistry • Undergraduate research (cell biology, angiogenesis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political activism (Democratic Party, progressive causes) • Student journalist
Graduate student: University of Oxford (2005-09)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.Phil. In biochemistry • Graduate research (structural biology, protein NMR, cell adhesion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog: The Scientific Activist (science and politics)
Postdoctoral fellow: National Institutes of Health (2009-14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research (biophysics, protein NMR, protein dynamics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIH Science Policy Discussion Group

Science Policy and Research Administration Phase

Career Stage	Education/Training/Career (Day Job/Formal)	Outside Policy/Political Work (Extracurricular/Informal)
AAAS S&T Policy Fellow: USAID (2014-16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research administration (grants for joint Arab/Israeli research teams) • Rotation at NIH/NHLBI (evaluating impacts of small business awards) • Science policy • Professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science Diplomacy Affinity Group • Higher Education and Research Administration Affinity Group
Program Officer: UC Office of the President (2016-?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate peer review of grant applications • Manage grant portfolio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>
- Google is your friend
- Science policy deep dive: *Beyond Sputnik*



Current Activities and Opportunities



- 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
 - 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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