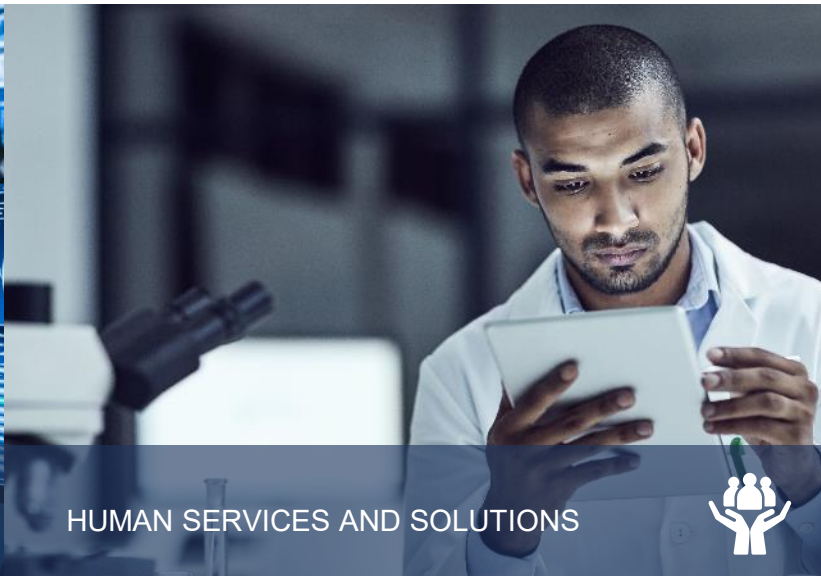




DEFENSE & VETERANS HEALTH SOLUTIONS



HUMAN SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS



PUBLIC HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES



NCI PAVES Seminar 5 Choosing Between a Career in Academia and Industry: Perspectives and Advice

APRIL 30, 2021

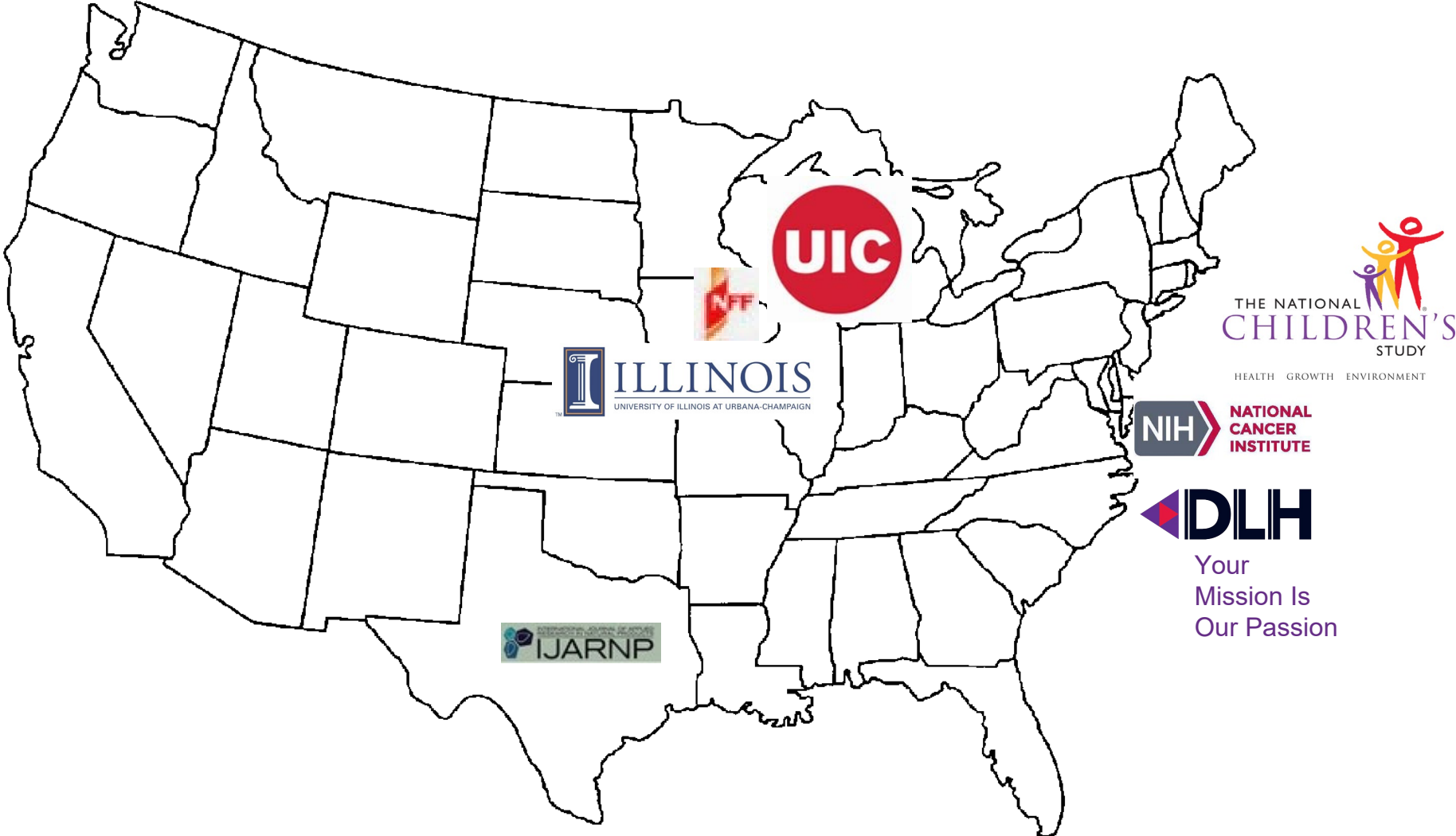
Sandra Halverson, PhD, MPH, Vice President, Chief Scientist
Davyd Chung, PhD, Director, Business Development



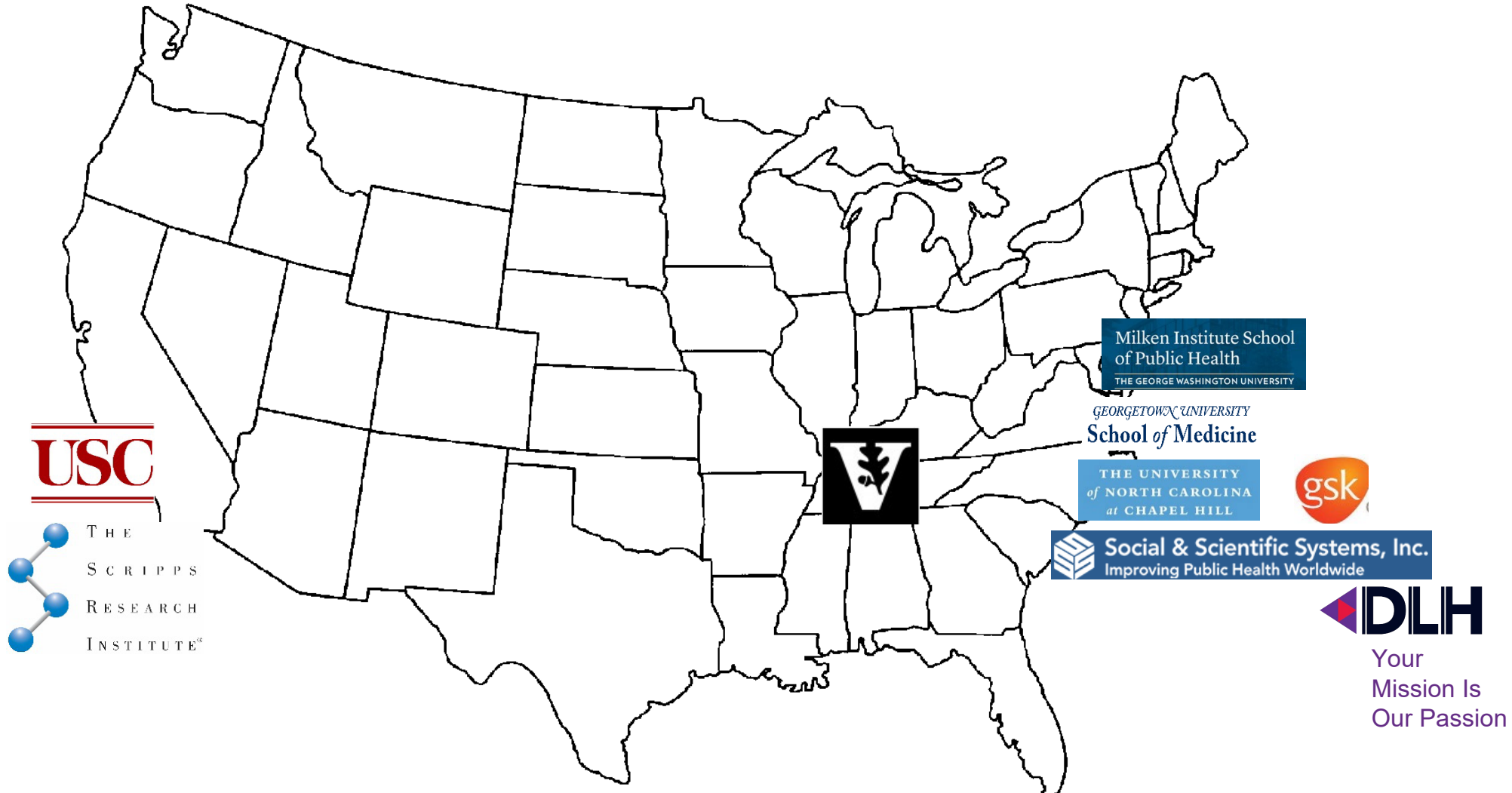
Outline

- ◀ Our Career Paths
- ◀ Academia
 - Pros and Cons
- ◀ Working at DLH
- ◀ Industry
 - A day in the life
 - Pros and Cons
 - Considerations when choosing jobs in Industry
- ◀ Tips for success
- ◀ Q & A

Davyd Chung – My Career Path



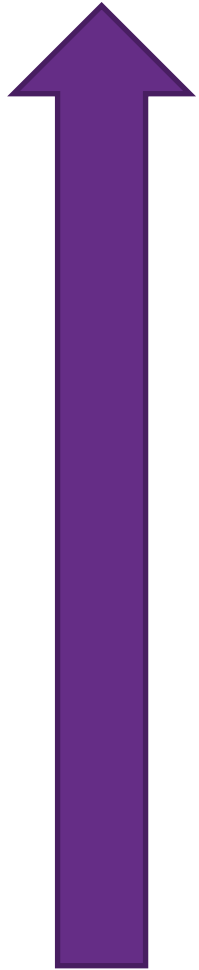
Sandra Halverson - My Career Path



Academia

Academia

Tenure Track

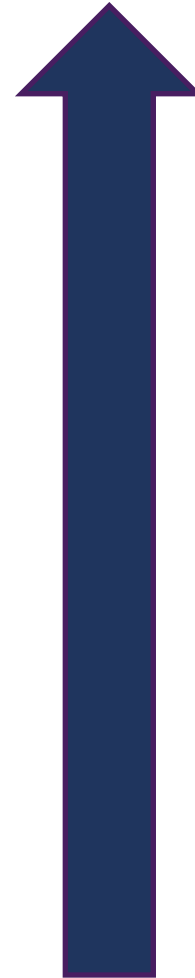


Expectation of sustained:

- High scientific output & achievement
- Teaching
- University service
- Recognition as an expert in your field
- Funding
- Leadership

Usually all within a 7-year window for tenure

Research Track



- Research is the main focus
- Little or no teaching “required”
- Funding still required
- 1- to 3- year contracts (that can be renewed based on funding)

Academia (Our Pros and Cons)

Pros

- Rich research and colleague environment
- Loved mentoring students
- Many opportunities for growth
- Enthusiasm that students bring
- Numerous resources
- Opportunity to direct our own research

Cons

- Competing priorities
- Constant pressure to publish
- Constant pressure to obtain funding
- Teaching – can be a time sink
- University responsibilities – time sink
- Research always seemed to end up at the bottom of the list
- Finding the work-life balance

Academia – Questions to Ask Yourself

- Is tenure or research track right for me?
- Is the position largely “soft” or “hard” money?
- If research driven:
 - Do I like writing grant applications?
 - Am I good at writing grant applications?
 - And if not, what can I do to get there?
- Do I have a good understanding of what my other responsibilities are?
 - Teaching (Do I really like teaching? Would I rather serve as a mentor?)
- Does this university have mentors and resources to support junior faculty?
- Does the tenure time clock pause for pregnancy/adoptions?

Industry

Industry

- Pharmaceuticals
 - Genentech, Pfizer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GSK
- Contract Research Organizations (CROs)
 - DLH/SSS, Booz Allen, NORC, Gallup, Syneos Health (clinical trials/regulatory)
- Companies
 - Nestlé, Baxter (medical supplies), Deloitte (consulting)
- Biotech
 - Abbott, Illumina, Medical device and equipment
- Biorepositories
 - Fisher, BioReliance
- Fee for service
 - DNA isolation, Sequencing (The Broad, Academic Cores, Metabolomics)
- Nonprofit, Advocacy Groups, American Cancer Society
- “Out of the box”
 - Law firms, Patents, Journalism, Proposal and Technical writers, Marketing

Types of Roles at DLH and other CROs

- Epidemiologist
 - Don't just search for this title, but consider adjacent areas too
- Survey methodologist, biostatistician
- Practice area director, principal, program manager, study director/manager
- Senior research scientist
- Public health advisor
- Epidemiology lab director
- Business development
- Account executives
- Chief scientist

PhD Disciplines

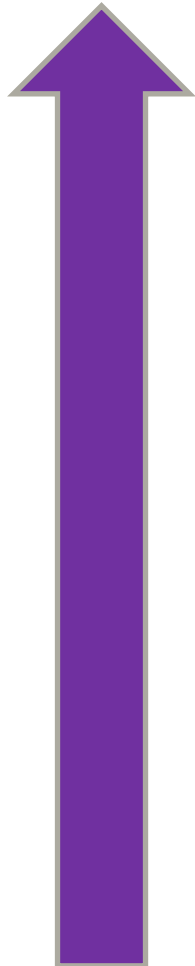
- Epidemiology
- Statistics
- Biostatistics
- Bioinformatics
- Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Psychology
- Neurosciences
- Laboratory Sciences
- Biological Sciences

Masters' Disciplines

- Public Health
- Statistics
- Engineering
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Business
- Anthropology
- Microbiology
- Computer Programming

Industry - Tracks

Expert



- Research & project focused
- Basic Science
- Clinical Trials
- Product development
- Biostatistical analysis
- Some management may be involved
- Some business (client or partner facing, scientific conferences)

Corporate



- Company focused
- Management plays a much greater role
- Business development & strategy
- Budget & fiscal responsibility
- More likely to interface with clients
- Some project work may be involved
- Don't have to give up the science

Industry

Pros

- Work happens much more quickly
- Greater opportunity to move across projects
- Salary
- Some business development and growth responsibility may be involved
- Still satisfies personal need to be involved in good science
- Flexibility to work remote
- Not all about the grants
- Team-based approach to developing proposals and reviews

Cons

- Don't always get to choose what you work on
- You may have to deal with challenging clients, timelines, and budgets
- At times, you have to be comfortable with taking a back seat - you may not be the PI anymore
- You have to be comfortable with a rapid change in priorities
- “Degree of corporateness”

Industry: Questions to ask yourself

- How much control do I want over my research portfolio?
- Do I like working across many projects or do I prefer focusing on a single project/area?
- Am I OK in taking a step back from being a PI?
 - “back seat” or in the service of a client or program
- Am I comfortable with rapid change?
- Am I interested in an expert track or management track?
 - Do I like dealing with budgets and contracts?
 - Am I comfortable in a business development role or strategic role?
 - Do I like to manage people (and am I trained and good at it?)



Your Mission Is Our Passion



Industry - A Day in the Life

- Assess status of projects I direct (schedule, deliverables, budget, risk)
- Assess status of projects in my center that I oversee; oversee grants program
- Ensure scientific integrity
- Meet with clients
- Business development activities
 - Meeting with potential clients, building networks, and partnerships
 - Growing pipeline of opportunities (contracts, grants, cooperative agreements)
- Participate in corporate strategy meetings
- Budget reconciliation and planning (tracking DL, OH costs, revenue, profit)
- Staffing (directing, mentoring, dealing with performance issues, hiring, staff reduction)
- Some travel (for projects, business, oversight)
- Make decisions (the work of others is often dependent on my decisions)
- Write, review proposals
- Attend and present at conferences and scientific meetings
- Writing grant applications
- Conduct research

DLH Experience

- Core areas for Public Health and Scientific Research
 - Clinical trials research services
 - Epidemiological and public health services
 - Data analytics, management, solutions
 - Health policy, services, and communications
- Operational management of more than 1,800 clinical trials and 110 epidemiological studies
- Enrolled over 400,000 volunteers/patients at over 650 sites in more than 50 countries
- Handled and managed of over 10 million bio-specimens
- Work has resulted in over 2600 peer-reviewed publications
- Covid-19 vaccination and testing for federal employees and contracting staff
- Collection of COVID data in epidemiologic studies

DLH full-service research support for Epidemiologic and Clinical Research

- Multi-modal Data Collection
- Survey Research Center
 - Telephone and Remote Survey Operations
- Clinical and Data Coordination Center
- Center for Epidemiologic Field Studies
 - Epidemiology Study design
 - Epidemiology Laboratory
- Bio-specimen collection and management
- Medical records and coding
- Chronic Health, Infectious Diseases, Disaster, Environmental, Occupational, Toxicology, Covid Research

Working at DLH

Clinical Trials



ACTIV-5 –BET Trial
Big Effect Trial for
COVID therapeutics

Epidemiological Studies



Head Start Monitoring And Evaluation



Health Technology and Logistics



VA CMOPS
Consolidated Mail
Outpatient Pharmacy

The Sister Study

- NIH/NIEHS epidemiologic longitudinal study with over 50,000 participants nationally, including Puerto Rico
- Have led this Study for over 20 years
- This past year has included the addition of Covid-related work

The screenshot shows the homepage of the The Sister Study website. At the top right, it features the logos for the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The main header includes the study's logo (two stylized figures holding hands) and the title "THE SISTER STUDY". A navigation menu on the left lists: ABOUT SISTER STUDY, TWO SISTER STUDY, FOR PARTICIPANTS, FOR RESEARCHERS, PUBLICATIONS, FAQs, RESOURCES, and CONTACT US. The central content area has a pink background with the quote: "Woman by woman, sister by sister, we can make a difference." To the right of the quote is a photograph of a diverse group of smiling women. Below the photo is a link for "en español". The main text below reads: "A Study of the Environmental and Genetic Risk Factors for Breast Cancer." At the bottom of the content area are logos for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and USA.gov. The footer contains links for Site Map, Privacy, Accessibility, About NIH/NIEHS, Office of Inspector General (OIG), and FOIA.

Industry – Tips for Success

- Understand what you are getting into
 - Job descriptions, scientific conferences, LinkedIn, personal contacts
- Get as much experience in operations, data collection, study design, laboratory, any other content area
- Get as much experience as you can in peripheral areas (management, budget control, hiring, writing, scientific communication, public speaking)
 - “Value”
- Find an “industry” mentor
 - Identify successful colleagues and ask questions about *why* they made the decisions they made
 - Identify your weaknesses, and work with mentor to turn those weaknesses into strengths
- Not all industry is created equal
 - May require a change to find the one that works best for you
 - Non-profit, employee-owned, for profit, publicly traded company

Our Two Cents

- Never stop adding tools to your toolkit
- Surround yourself with people who you trust and who will give you an honest evaluation/critique
 - And ask for it on a regular basis
- Develop collaborations and networking with industry researchers and practice area directors
- Don't underestimate the power of networking in the job-hunting process
 - LinkedIn, Alumni Association, career development office, colleagues, friends
- Recognize that it may not only be a change in position, but also in mindset
- It is all about finding the right fit and start early

One last thought...

Don't be afraid to change your path

Find us on LinkedIn

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www.dlhcorp.com/careers

Q&A





Your Mission Is Our Passion

