

# Postdoc career-planning document

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## Your research goals

- What ideas and projects are you excited about based on your prior experience, reading, listening, and interactions?
- What ideas and projects are you excited about based on your discussions with your mentor?
- Which are the first one (or two) idea(s) that you would like to pursue immediately?

## Your professional and personal goals

- What kind of job do you want after this one?
- Paste links for three jobs that you like. Why do you like those jobs?
- What skills would you like to master during your time here to be competitive for those jobs? (E.g. Software engineering, Applied data science, Communication/Teamwork)
- How will you develop and exhibit your mentoring and teaching abilities when you apply for those jobs?

## Your story

- What is the coherent “story of you” that your CV will tell?
- What are you better at than most of your peers or most people in general?
- What is the 1-paragraph description of what you will do as an independent researcher? (Find examples on websites of your favorite people/labs)
- Who are the top 3 people/labs you admire and want to be like when you are independent?
- What are the top 5 primary research papers that you admire in terms of science and presentation?
- Besides your CV and other traditional application materials, what do you want people to see about you when you go on the job market?
- How does your story fit with the kind of job you are hoping to get?

## Your funding

- What grants/awards will you apply for during and immediately after your time here?
- What is the timeline for the application, review, decision, and the active period of the grant?
- Who are the program officers you could talk to? What are the internal grant resources that you should take advantage of?

## Networking and getting your name out

- What conferences, meetings, and seminars should you attend? What are the deadlines and what would you like to submit & present?
- Who are people you could establish contact with well-ahead of time so as to open doors when you go on the job market?
- What ways can you serve as a peer-reviewer, conference organizer, and host of top invited speakers?
- Would you like to write a blog or use social media to regularly reach out to your professional network and scientific community?

## Managing your recommendations

- Who will write your recommendations?
- Do you need to meet and/or build a working relationship with more people before you have all the letters you need? If so, how will you make this happen?
- What do you hope each of those letters will say?

## Getting help

- Have you identified and reached out to folks a few years ahead of you whose path(s) you're excited about?
- Do you need your mentor to connect you with anyone?
- Who else can be your mentor for specific aspects of your professional development?