

Questions to ask a prospective advisor

Research Environment

- 1) How many postdocs have you in your lab and what are they doing now? How long were they in the lab?
- 2) How much overlap is there between projects? Do people work collaboratively or independently?
- 3) Are you planning on staying at the university for the near future?
- 4) Would I be able to move a faculty position with a project from this lab? What arrangements were made with previous postdocs? What materials may I take with me?
- 5) How is the lab organized?
 - * setting up collaborations with other laboratories
 - * supervising undergraduates/graduate students, technicians
 - * authorship of papers
 - * writing grants
 - * presenting talks in the department
 - * regular lab meetings
 - * journal clubs
- 6) What technical help for routine lab tasks or departmental resources (e.g., computer programming or support) are available for the projects that I will be doing?
- 7) What is your current funding for this position? For the lab? Will I have the opportunity to write grants proposals, what money is available in the department or lab to pilot new projects/gather preliminary data?
- 8) What skills would you advise me to gain while I am in this position?
 - *teaching
 - * grant writing
 - * personnel training
 - * lab managementWill I need to look outside the lab for some, such as teaching?
- 9) How many publications do you think a postdoc should have prior to looking for a job? What are your criteria for authorship?

10) Are you looking for someone to work on a specific project or will I have a choice of projects? (How much freedom will I have?)

11) What are your expectations of how long I am to stay?

12) How many professional meetings per year do your postdocs attend? What are your criteria for attending meetings?