



AAS

Association for  
Academic Surgery

# Basic and Translational Science What Do I Need in My First Job To Succeed?

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# Disclosures

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- None
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# My Career Path

- General Surgery Residency at Cornell 2005-2012
- Two year dedicated Basic Science Research Fellowship at MSKCC after PGY3 2008-2010
- Surgical Oncology Fellowship at MSKCC 2012-2014
- First attending job at Dartmouth-Hitchcock 2014-2019  
Assistant Professor of Surgery
  - “Perfect” clinical job: sarcoma, melanoma, gastric cancer (+breast)
  - 20% research time with opportunities for internal funding

# Timeline

Faculty Year	1	2	3	4	5
Clinic	2 d/wk	2 d/wk	1.5 d/wk	0.5d/wk	0.5d/wk
OR	2 d/wk	2 d/wk	1.5 d/wk	1d/wk	1d/wk
Research time	20%	20%	40%	75%	75% -> ?
Grants	DHMC surgery grant -\$ not time		KL2 CTSA - \$ and time		
			Dartmouth SYNERGY grant – time not \$		ACS-CSDG 50% R01 Co-I 10% K08 scored

NATURE | EDITORIAL



## More surgeons must start doing basic science

They say they don't have the time or incentives to do research — and that's dangerous for translational medicine.


21 April 2017 | Corrected: 25 April 2017

nature  
REVIEWS UROLOGY

News & Views | Published: 22 November 2016

Surgery

## The surgeon–scientist — a dying breed?

Solomon L. Woldu & Ganesh V. Raj 

Nature Reviews Urology **13**, 698–699 (2016) | [Download Citation](#) ↓

Resilience

Persistence

So...

you want to be a  
surgeon-scientist

Passion for research

Ability to accept failure

Educating the surgeon-scientist: A qualitative study evaluating challenges and barriers toward becoming an academically successful surgeon. Kodadek LM et al. *Surgery* 2016

# Choosing the right job

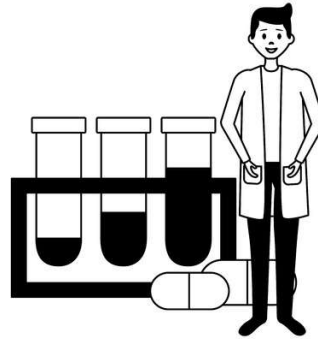
- What's available?
- Clinical practice should parallel your research
- Do you want to have your OWN lab?
  - Do you LOVE writing grants???
- Who will you be learning from?



# Research Start-up Package



\$ for X# of years



Lab staff



Equipment and lab space



# Support and Infrastructure

## Institutional environment



Hospital



Core facilities



Medical School

Does the institution have a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)?

NIH - NCATS

# Support and Infrastructure

## Training and Career Development

### Leadership



Mentorship  
Sponsorship



Knowledge  
advancement

# Support and Infrastructure



**YOU NEED TIME!!!!**

**Dedicated research time**

**Is it truly protected?**

# Clinical factors to consider

- Clinical time is ALWAYS more than what is scheduled
  - Calling back patients and referring providers
- More control over your practice will allow more true protected time
  - **Supportive colleagues and adequate coverage**
  - Outpatient vs inpatient/ complexity of case volume
  - Associate providers
- As you get more established in your research... your surgical practice blossoms (direct referrals, now you are known)

# Your lab

- Integrating into a well established lab for a quicker start
  - Shared equipment and resources
  - Easy access to science discussions
  - More face time with mentors and collaborators
- Location
  - Easy back & forth to clinic/OR

