Contract Negotiation:
Negotiating Your First Position Post Residency or Fellowship

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I have spent my entire professional career working in academic positions. Most of my presentation will be centered around academic positions. But issues related to clinical care positions have some generalizability.

I am an interventional cardiologist and some of my examples are drawn from cardiology research and practice. Most of these are relevant to other specialties.

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Presentation Outline

• Background for context
• Mega-trends in American medicine (how this may/will impact your future)
• Organization of Academic Health Systems and departments (appreciate the complexities for negotiation)
• Types of positions
• What’s in a job/position offer
• Key issues for success
• General advice on negotiating
• Questions
An Introduction

• Grew up Somerville, MA (Winter Hill)
• BA, English, College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA)
• Dartmouth Medical School (Pre-clinical)
• MD, Tufts University School of Medicine
• Residency, UMass Med Ctr (Worcester, MA)
• Fellow, Duke University Med Ctr (Durham, NC)
  – Interventional cardiology
  – Duke Databank for CV Disease
• Faculty, Duke University 1993-2012
  – Attending cardiologist, interventional lab and CCU
  – Director, Duke Clinical Research Institute, 2006-12
• Faculty, Stanford University, 2012-present
  – Chairman, Department of Medicine
Negotiating the First Contract: Big Societal Issues and Themes

- Ongoing consolidation of health care delivery systems, including growing academic health systems
- Quality and accountability as key components of health care reform
  - Increasingly care delivery will be in ACOs driven by quality and value
  - Evolving models of physician compensation trying to balance productivity incentives w quality and value
  - Population health models of care
- NIH funding stagnant for more than a decade w pay lines routinely 10% or less
Doubling and Recipient Age

(d) Average age of first-time R01 recipients

Doubling period

Larson RC et al. Serv Sci 2012;4:382-95
Academic Health Science Systems

Schematic of AHSS as a Vertically Integrated Care Delivery System

AHSS
Health System, Medical and Allied Health Schools, Research Programs, etc.

Ambulatory
- Specialty Clinics
  - Ambulatory Surgery
  - Specialty Diagnostics
- Primary Care Clinics
- Community-Based Care
  - Home Health
  - Urgent Care

Inpatient
- University/Tertiary Care Hospitals
- Community Hospitals
- Post-Acute + Long-Term Care
  - Rehabilitation
  - Skilled Nursing

Community Partnerships

Patients and Self Care

-Dzau V et al, Lancet, 2010
DIVISIONS

Cancer
Cardiovasc
GI
Musc. skel.
Pulmonary

DEPARTMENTS

Med  Surg  Peds  Pathol  Radiol

2005

Genomics
Proteomics
Bioinformatics
Types of Academic Cardiologist

- Clinician-scientist
  - Direct patient care and research as principal investigator
- Scientist-researcher
  - Nearly 100% effort to research
- Clinician-educator
  - Significant amount of time to educational activities
- Clinician-educator-administrator
  - Administrative duties in addition to the role of clinician-educator
- Pure clinician
  - Primary role is providing direct patient care
What is Negotiable?

- Potentially Everything!!
- Rank, Title, Salary, Space, Support Staff, Clinic Time, % “protected” time, Duration of appointment, Time for faculty development/continuing education, Responsibilities
Physician Scientist

- Title/appointment
  - Dual appointments
- Salary/compensation
- Lab space (office)
  - Size, renovations
- Start-up package
  - Money, equipment, computers, other support staff
- Clinical/teaching load (protected time)
- Administrative support
- Start date
- Housing
- Moving expenses
- Spousal opportunities
Clinical Investigator

- Title/appointment
- Salary/compensation
- Effort allocation – research vs clinical
- Office space
- Administrative support
- Clinical support
- Start-up package
- Access to infrastructure
  - CTSA/GCRC
  - Hospital support
  - Pricing
  - Statistical support
- Start date
- Housing
- Moving expenses
- Spousal opportunities
Clinician Educator

- Title/appointment
- Salary/compensation
- Effort allocation – clinical vs teaching
- Office space
- Clinical support
- Administrative support
- Start date
- Housing
- Moving expenses
- Spousal opportunities
- Faculty development/continuing education
Private Practice

- Salary/compensation/benefits/malpractice insurance
- Partnership
- Terms and termination
- Academic clinical appointments
- Schedule and call
- Restrictive covenants
- Office space
- Clinical support
- Administrative support
- Start date
- Moving expenses
- Spousal opportunities
- Professional development/continuing education
Key Variables for Academic Success: New Physician Investigator

• Mentorship, mentorship, mentorship...
• Resources: time and start-up funds
• Didactic training
  – communication skills
  – research methods
  – regulatory requirements
  – understanding industry issues (RWI)
• Supportive culture (environment of research)
• Personal characteristics
  – curious, focus, patience, perseverance, humor, humility
Identifying Mentors: Issues to Consider

- Career role model
- Content expertise
- Methodological expertise
- Track record producing independent researchers
- Interest in and time for mentoring; personal style
- Team mentoring
- Mentors inside and outside home institution
Suggestions for Effective Negotiation

- Prepare for the negotiation process
  - Examine your priorities and their importance
  - Objectively determine your leverage
  - Obtain information on what resources are negotiable
- Understand the negotiation process
  - Assess your style
  - Understand the style of the person with whom you are negotiating
  - Think of likely responses
- View negotiation as an ongoing process
  - Establish rapport
  - End each session politely and comfortably
Steps to an Effective Negotiation

Outcome

• Ask for what you want
• **Identify obstacles.** Prepare your responses; don’t be caught off-guard in the middle of negotiation.
• **Do your homework.** Use salary surveys and the internet.
• **Define the best possible alternative.** Know your boss’s best possible alternative too.
• Don’t wait until you are desperate.
• Establish a target or goal (or several).
• Keep calm
• Win-win
• **Bounce back.** If you can’t meet my request, how close can you come?
“Your first job is not the time to haggle. You can win a few points but irritate your employer so much in the process that you lose trust you can never regain. Take the job first and succeed wildly so that your value is established beyond any doubt. Then negotiate at the next opportunity. If you're not sure you can succeed wildly, go work on that, not your negotiating skills.”
• First focus on selling how much you want the job and what a perfect match you are. Wait till the last appropriate moment to raise terms till you are certain they believe they have to have you.

• Use "words that work" to avoid turning employers off: "I'm wondering if you would consider...", "I'm really eager to accept this job, but I'm concerned about..." "I understand that sometimes you've been able to offer xxxx"
• Reveal counter-offers matter-of-factly, with regret not threat, again using words that work.

• Starting off on the right foot with mutual excitement on both sides is the most important goal; never let the short term obscure the long term.

• Turning down a job well is as important as how you accept. The profession is tiny and never generate bad will when turning down an offer.
“Here. We promised you a big lab.”
"For the last time, it's called a 'win-win' contract. Nobody gets whacked."