



National Research Council Participates in
STEM 2010 Postdoc Conference and Career Fair

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The fifth annual STEM 2010 Postdoc Conference and Career Fair was held in July at the Montgomery County Conference Center. It drew 455 postdocs from agencies including NIST, NIH, FDA, NIAID, Naval Research Lab, NASA, Army Medical, Air Force, USUHS, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and EPA. Postdocs also came from universities including Georgetown, GMU, JHU, VCU, UMD, GWU, Virginia Tech, UVA, Howard, Carnegie Institution for Science, University of Delaware, Penn State, Pitt, and from as far away as Drexel, NYU, Tulane, and the Universities of Vermont, Colorado, and California.

Postdocs attended sessions on interviewing skills, choosing a career, and finding a job. Through expert panels, they explored career options including working in an established company; working for a start-up or starting one themselves; and working in the fields of journalism, law, government or in the non-profit world. Many of the speakers and panelists were former postdocs themselves, and were able to share the benefit of their experience.

Attendees also had the opportunity for one-on-one interviews with "resume doctors" who had cures for the too-long or too-detailed resume. International fellows had the opportunity to consult individually with immigration attorneys.

The centerpiece of the event was the very active and crowded career fair. Attendees met 25 hiring companies and 18 resource companies there, and a number of postdocs scored interviews with companies for possible employment. 100% of the exhibitors who responded to a follow-up survey noted that the conference was a good value for them.

Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) has served as conference organizer since the first event in 2006. Together with the conference planning committee, composed of representatives from federal agencies, economic development organizations, and private industry, REDI is currently evaluating the conference in to inform the plans for next year's event. For photos and more information on STEM 2010, please visit www.PostdocConference.org.