

Postdocs Rate Factors That Contribute to a Successful Postdoc Experience, Plus Rankings Compared to 2009 PI Survey

Attribute	Very Important	Important	Postdoc Rankings 2010	PI Rankings 2009
Funding/Grants	65%	27%	1 (tie)	6
Networking	61%	31%	1 (tie)	7
Advancement/Career Options	57%	33%	3 (tie)	10
Direction and Vision	56%	34%	3 (tie)	2
Mentoring	55%	35%	3 (tie)	3
Employer/Situation	57%	31%	6 (tie)	8
Communication	45%	43%	6 (tie)	1
Spouses, Partners, Family	60%	26%	8	12
Training	45%	40%	9	4
Compensation and Benefits	34%	39%	10	11

Survey Methodology

This year's survey was launched on March 16, 2010, with an e-mail invitation to about 60,000 current and former postdocs worldwide. Of the 3,475 qualified surveys that were collected 49 percent came from individuals in North America, 29 percent from individuals in Europe, and 22 percent from individuals in Asia Pacific or the rest of the world. Most (79 percent) postdoc positions were held in academic institutions. Life and medical sciences were the most common disciplines, being cited by 62 percent of respondents. A much smaller group of individuals (10 percent) worked in chemistry, while the remaining 28 percent worked in other non-life science disciplines. Most current postdocs (62 percent) were between 31 and 40 years of age. A smaller group (30 percent) was 30 years old or younger, while fewer still (8 percent) were 41 or older.