

Job Hunting by Chain Letter

During my brief career as a biochemist I have noticed that information concerning available job opportunities is not efficiently circulated to those who need it. I would like to try an experiment to bring about effective distribution of job information in the sciences. Basically, my proposal is an attempt to update the familiar "grapevine" to serve the needs of an enormously expanded scientific community.

For the time being I have a job, and I am also in the unusual position of having a list of about 15 available positions in biochemistry. I will give this list to anyone who writes to me and includes a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The only other requirement is that each correspondent include a descriptive list of available positions he knows about but does not want. The number of positions does not matter, but each correspondent should try to include all the information he would like to know if he were seeking a position. I will add the positions I receive to my own list and send the expanded list back to each correspondent.

I am confident that each person who contributes can receive perhaps dozens of positions in return for the few he sends in, thus increasing his probability of making a rational choice. All participants should, of course, feel honor-bound to pass their list along to others when they are finished with it.

Those who are not biochemists can also participate, although, at the moment, I have no list of my own to offer them. They can write to me on the chance that others in their field may have sent in lists. Try again later, if only your own list is returned to you.

Employers may also find this service useful. They may submit advertisements. These will be intermingled with all the listed positions. Blind ads will not be accepted.

Perhaps by establishing this "job intelligence network" on a permanent basis, we can discourage the unfortunate practices of advertising-between-friends and non-advertising, a practice which served earlier generations well but is now obsolete and frequently unfair.

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