I’ve focused on print resources and some of the more obscure or older (but still useful!) resources to complement your web search for useful information on careers and career guidance. Consider the starred (*) articles as essential reading early in your career (or now, if they’re new to you). Sample the remainder as time, interest and need—or need of diversion—dictate. Enjoy!

A. Getting Started - Choice of problem and direction


Fisher, D. (2003). The Henry Kunkel Legacy: through the eyes of his last graduate student. Lupus 12:172-174. (another dynasty, this one in a family and based at Rockefeller. David’s article captures the essence of Henry as a mentor: the creative spark for your science must come from you; smart people will always see an interesting angle on any solid result; and the way to build a big, interesting and potentially important story is with that first small, solid experimental result. So get started!).


Lee, A., Dennis, C. and Campbell, P. (2007) Nature’s guide for mentors. Nature 447:791-797. Even though this is billed as a guide for mentors, it has a great deal to say about identifying good or great mentors and the important roles a mentor plays in one’s scientific career. Have a look!

Two interesting perspectives on the vexing issue of choice of a lab are given in: Holden, C. ‘Eight attributes of highly successful postdocs’, and Vogel, G. ‘A day in the life of a topflight lab’ (Bob Langer’s lab at MIT), both in the 3 Sept 1999 issue of Science.


**series on-line**: Science Magazine’s ‘Science Careers’ site is excellent - many interesting articles and series covering a wide range of career advice and having an excellent collection of on-line resources. See above for a relatively recent example on the need for risk-taking in science. My first stop, as there’s always something interesting here before diving into the web and science blogosphere.

**series in-print**: the ‘Sticky Wicket’ series in Journal of Cell Science is very entertaining, very funny and (usually!) anonymous, as was the previous, now apparently discontinued ‘Caveman’ series. What redeems this often-biting series is the skillful use of humor to address important topics in science and science or graduate training.

Philip Bourne’s ‘Ten simple rules’ series in PLoS Computational Biology, now continued by other authors as well, is great - short succinct articles on a wide range of topics. See examples below. Also, Greg Petsko has also written entertainingly on a range of topics for different journals, most notably and recently his Genome Biology series.

**HHMI short course**: The HHMI funds a series of ‘Future Faculty Fellows' boot camps at many institutions including the UW. Sign up if at all possible both for the resources and opportunity to compare notes with other trainees and faculty. For those without access, see the following listing, an attempt by the HHMI to capture a portion of this in useful-free!-form.


**B. Getting Stuff Done - I**

Burroughs Wellcome/HHMI (2006) *Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty*. 2nd Edition (a 250 pp guide that can be requested free from HHMI or downloaded and printed from the HHMI website where you’ll find additional resources: http://www.hhmi.org/grants/office/graduate/labmanagement.html. Includes excerpts from the Barker books noted below as well. Very useful advice and free to boot!).

American Society for Cell Biology (2004) *Career Advice for Life Scientists vols I-III*. These books are soft bound and free as pdfs (search the title or see the ASCB website) and a great complement to HHMI above.

Erren, TC, Cullen, P, Erren M, and Bourne, PE (2007) Ten simple rules for doing your best research, according to Hamming. PloS Comp Biol 3(10) e213. A painless introduction to Richard Hamming’s advice, distilled from his now-iconic Bell Labs talk, which is much longer and discursive. Reprinted in Smith’s collection noted below.

Barker, Kathy (2002,2005) *At the Helm and At the Bench: Laboratory Navigator*. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. (two useful guides, one now in 2nd edition, by Kathy Barker of ISB on setting up and running your lab. *At the Helm* is the more useful of the two for senior students, post-docs and new faculty).
Bliss, E.C. (1976) *Getting Things Done*. Bantam Books, New York. (73 short chapters with a few amusing little drawing on how to tackle daily life. Got me to throw out all the other time management books I bought, but was procrastinating about reading!).


C. Getting Stuff Done II - Design and conduct of experiments


In the same vein is the recently published ‘*Why People Believe Weird Things*’ by Michael Shermer (WH Freeman, 1997 and recently updated). Shermer has also written the ‘Skeptic’ column for *Scientific American*. Look around - you'll have no trouble finding local examples...


National Academy Press (1995 +) *On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct in Research*, 2nd and subsequent editions. (Responsible conduct of research, and dealing with the ethical dilemmas posed by science, are part of all of our lives. This short booklet has case studies and a good bibliography. You'll receive additional training as part of your graduate career).

D. Essential Skills - Reading, writing and the presentation of science

Warren, K., ed. (1981) *Coping with the Biomedical Literature*, Praeger, New York (useful compilation, with the most useful-and least dated-those of how to approach ‘the literature’).


Peter Cook’s Oxford website: http://users.path.ox.ac.uk/~pcook/w1/resources.htm. Peter runs the Nuclear Structure and Function Research Group at the Dunn School of Pathology at the University of Oxford. His long-standing interest in teaching and better-communicating is on display in his ‘Resources’ page that includes up-to-date material and live links to many very useful resources.

More than ink on the real (or virtual) page: For more information on typography, the field once moribund but resurrected by digital fonts, see: “Stop Stealing Sheep, and Learn How Type Works” by Erik Spiekermann and E. M. Ginger. More detail can be found in Robert Bringhurst’s classic “The Elements of Typographic Style” an in-depth, workbook-style look at typesetting. Read Carolina de Bartolo’s “Explorations in Typography” (or just visit the book’s terrific website). And Ellen Lupton’s “Thinking With Type” (web link is: http://www.thinkingwithtype.com/) provides a good all-round introduction for students or for teaching oneself the basics. For all things typographic, see typographica.org

Calnan, J. and Barabas, A. (1981) *Speaking at Medical Meetings,* 2nd Ed. Heinemann, London. 184pp. (a wide range of useful advice covering many different aspects of speaking. Great figures and cartoons are all illuminated with apt quotes from Shakespeare).

Bailey, N.T.J. (1995) *Statistical Methods in Biology,* 3rd Ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 255pp. (Everyone needs a ‘statistical crutch’ - this is mine, and you need to find yours. Good introductions to simple concepts and their application, with a Summary on what approach or test to choose as a function of distribution, sample size and type of comparison. Needs to be used with software, and a biostatistician you can trust and work with).

Swinscow, TDV (200) *Statistics at Square One.* 9th Ed. Revised by MJ Campbell. BMJ Press. (very useful introductory text that first appeared as an articles series in the BMJ. Now available in print or on-line at the BMJ website: http://www.bmj.com/collections/statsbk/).

Haddock, S.H.D. and Dunn, C.W. (2011) Practical Computing for Biologists. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA. Includes a plethora of topics in readily accessible form that are becoming increasingly important: familiarity with text manipulation and command line resources, programming (the appropriately focus on Python), computer graphics, remote access and building simple electronic devices using Arduino. A great way to dip your toe in if you’re interested or in need on any of these topics.

Tufte, E.D. (1983/2001) The Visual Display of Quantitative Information. 1st/2nd Editions. Graphics Press, Cheshire, CT. 197pp. (Stunning! Most useful work on graphical excellence in theory and practice. After reading this you'll never look at a multicolor, overproduced 3D Powerpoint slide again without weeping at the lost opportunity to accurately and economically convey information! See also Tufte's 3 sequels, the most recent of which Beautiful Information includes the full text of his ‘take-no-prisoner’s shred of Powerpoint. All 4 books are equally useful and enjoyable to read or thumb through, as well as stunningly produced - Tufte also teaches a course that includes all of the books in the registration fee).

Gladwell, M. (2002) The social life of paper. New Yorker 25 March issue. (The real skinny on paper, and why it’s so useful: paper is a remarkably efficient and versatile, low cost, low tech but ‘high-touch’ crutch to support the life of the mind. This article starts with air traffic controllers, who use small scraps of paper to track and clear even very busy flight schedules. Available free at the author's website: www.gladwell.com).

E. Style in Science/The Wellsprings of Creativity

Science Masterclass (2011) Lindau Meeting short takes from a range of Nobel laureates on a very wide range of topics. Includes feedback from young scientists attending. Nature 478:S1-S20 (13 Oct 2011 issue). See also the entertaining take in Peter Doherty’s ‘The Beginner’s Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize, esp his Chapter 9 which is reprinted in Reginald Smith’s compendium Scientific Work and Creativity: Advice From the Masters noted below.

Where do ideas come from? Ideas drive science, so it might be worth dipping a small tow into a little of the voluminous literature on this topic. For starters see the following, a Wikipedia entry and a recent 2009 Keck Futures talk on the topic plus a few items below:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creativity
http://www.keckfutures.org/conferences/synthetic-biology/Podcast_Tutorials_Foster_Main_Page.html

Holton, G. (1978) Fermi’s group and the recapture of Italy's place in physics, Chapter 5 in The Scientific Imagination: Case Studies. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 382pp. (Fermi was the last great physicist to be equally adept and accomplished as a theoretician and experimentalist. A good account of Fermi’s work habits are given in Platt, J.R. (1962) The Excitement of Science, Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, Chs. 7 and 8).


Smith, R. Editor (2012) Scientific Work and Creativity: Advice From the Masters. Citizen Scientist League, Clearwater, FL. Great compendium of 29 chapters including many excerpts from famous books and scientists. My thanks to the Editor, Reginald Smith, for bringing this to my attention.


Austin, J.H. (1977) Chase, Chance and Creativity: The Lucky Art of Novelty. Columbia University Press, 237pp. (Austin was the long-time Chair of Neurology at Colorado, more recently famous for his excursions into cognitive neuroscience (see also his ‘Zen and the Brain’ MIT Press, 1999, 834pp. and sequels). This earlier work is a much more accessible look at the episodes from the author’s career, and how a combination of opportunity and insight were leveraged to good advantage. Certainly not the weightiest of works on creativity, but enjoyable. Recently reprinted).

Tharp, T. (2003) The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life. Simon and Schuster, 243pp. (very interesting statement on creativity and the conditions that foster creative thinking from one of the giants of 20th century American modern dance. This book aims to be a practical guide, and is made all the more interesting by where its coming from and by focusing on what promotes creativity across a wide range of disciplines). See also her recent work on collaboration: The Collaborative Habit: Life Lessons for Working Together (2009) by Twyla Tharp and Jesse Kornbluth.

Medawar, P. (1982/1990) Pluto’s Republic and The Threat and the Glory, Oxford U.P. and Harper Collins. (Medawar and Thomas (see below) were two of the most engaging and elegant stylists writing science in any century. Both are models of high intelligence, clarity and enthusiasm in presenting science and medicine to the public).

Thomas, L. (1974/79) Lives of a Cell and The Medusa and the Snail. Viking Press. (see note above. The first of these books was collected from a very unusual (for the time) column Thomas wrote for the New England Journal of Medicine entitled ‘Notes of a Biology Watcher’).

F. The Larger World, and a few just for fun...

Simone, J.V. (1999) Understanding academic medical centers: Simone’s maxims. Clin. Cancer Research 5:2281-2285. Joe Simone is a senior academic physician who’s held leadership roles at several cancer centers, most recently in Utah. After having heard his ‘maxims’ quoted so many times as wisdom of a sage, I was happy to find that they’d been captured for posterity, amusement and use. Topics include institutional realities, leadership, recruiting, job changing and success.


Lazebnik, Y. (2002) Can a biologist fix a radio? - Or, what I learned while studying apoptosis. *Cancer Cell* 2:179-182. (amusing meditation on the coming tide of systems thinking as applied to biology. As is often the case, the most useful commentary is again delivered with humor).

G. **The University of Washington Research Funding Service:** The UW’s Research Funding Service (RFS), located in the Health Sciences Library, is a remarkably useful local resource. The RFS provides information on the very practical issue of locating support for your research, and can help you locate funding sources specific to your situation or nationality. A portion of what the RFS provides can be found at their website: http://healthlinks.washington.edu/rfs/

**Help us with the 2015 Edition!** We’re interested in your resources on computation and systems issues as applied to biomedical research and training. Send these and other corrections or additions and we’ll credit any we use.

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