

WISEST INITIATIVES / *POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM* / *Post-doc Institute*

### ***Sources for the proposal talk***

Some schools will invite you to give a standard seminar on your past (recent) research only. Many will ask for both departmental seminar and a “chalk-talk” for faculty-only where you outline your future plans of research. The name refers to the fact that candidates often find themselves jotting down ideas on a blackboard as they explain their future research goals. Basically, you discuss the research you would do while working on your first grant. As the talk is informal, it is not unusual to be interrupted by questions from members of the search committee and others present. Candidates say it is the toughest part of their campus interview, in which they try to convince prospective employers that granting agencies will judge them and their ideas fundable. The purpose of the chalk talk is to demonstrate two things: (1) that you have a feasible (and fundable) plan for what you are going to do when you open the door to your new laboratory, (2) that you can think on your feet and respond effectively to sharp criticism. The chalk talk should present in considerable detail the future directions of your research. It is like a verbal NIH or NSF grant proposal. State several interesting problems (Specific Aims or Research Objectives) and explain how you plan to solve them.

Demystifying the chalk talk:

<http://career.ucsf.edu/pff/assets/Chalktalk-Tips.pdf>

Delivering a Dynamic Job and Chalk Talk

<http://www.the-aps.org/careers/careers1/mentor/Jobtalk.htm>

Chalk Talk Cha-cha-cha

<http://drugmonkey.wordpress.com/2008/01/05/chalk-talk-cha-cha-cha/>

The Chalk Talk

<http://bluelabcoats.wordpress.com/2008/04/20/unsolicited-advice-job-search-pt-10/>

[Giving a Job Talk in the Sciences](#), Richard M. Reis (Chronicle.com)

*The Job Talk* for the interview, ScienceCareers.org

[http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_development/previous\\_issues/articles/3360/academic\\_scientists\\_at\\_work\\_the\\_job\\_talk](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/3360/academic_scientists_at_work_the_job_talk)