

# Musings on what it takes to get your University research program started on the right foot

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# Outline

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- To post-doc or not to post-doc?
- Finding the right place for your research
- Negotiating your tenure-track position
- Getting your first Discovery grant
- Expanding your research program

# To post-doc or not to post-doc?

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- Pros

- Often most productive research period of one's career
- Broadens research and institutional experience
- Broadens research network
- Gives time for research experience to mature

- Cons

- Stay poor longer
- Family issues

# Finding the right place for your research

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- Many things can contribute
  - Timing
  - Research expertise of colleagues (look for opportunities to collaborate)
  - Facilities
  - The right “fit” with people

# Negotiating your tenure-track position

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- Yes, there may be room to negotiate!
  - Start-up research grant
  - Space
  - Access to facilities
  - Technical support
  - Get it in writing!

# Getting your first NSERC Discovery grant

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- Plan ahead! Start months ahead!
- Make the first one good - The “new applicant” advantage
- Get up to date on all information on the program (attend Grants Information Session)
- Find out all internal deadlines

# Getting your first NSERC Discovery grant

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- Ask for help/mentors – e.g. GSC members
- Have draft read by accomplished grant holders with good “grantsmanship”

# Expanding your research program

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- Do not try to get too big too fast (\$'s and HQP)
- Initial graduate students can have a great effect
- Look for *good* collaborations
- Explore the spectrum of research sponsors/program (e.g. NSERC partnership programs; private-sector and NGO contracts; government depts.)