



# Advice ?

## From A Very New Assistant Professor

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# About Me

- **Education:**

- PhD in School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University (@ Pittsburgh, PA), 2008
- BS in Department of Computer Science, Tsinghua Univ. (@ Beijing, China)

- **Research interests:**

- Machine Learning, Bioinformatics, Biomedical Informatics

- **Five Years' of Industry Research before:**

- 2008 summer – 2013 summer, Research Staff Member in Machine Learning Department, NEC Labs America (@ Princeton, NJ)



In the past six months, I feel ...

**Tenure track professor job is**

**Just a job ...**

**A Good Job**



## By Dr. Radhika Nagpal from Harvard

- The **Awesomest 7-Year Postdoc** or: **How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Tenure-Track Faculty Life**
  - A great blog post on [July 21, 2013](#)
  - <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog/2013/07/21/the-awesomest-7-year-postdoc-or-how-i-learned-to-stop-worrying-and-love-the-tenure-track-faculty-life/>



## By Dr. Radhika Nagpal from Harvard

- *Seven things I did during my first seven years at Harvard. Or, how I loved being a tenure-track faculty member, by deliberately trying not to be one.*
  - I decided that this is a 7-year postdoc.
  - I stopped taking advice.
  - I created a “feelgood” email folder.
  - I work fixed hours and in fixed amounts.
  - I try to be the best “whole” person I can.
  - I found real friends.
  - I have fun “now”.



# Tailor goals wrt experience

- Why are you here ?
- What do you want out of this job ?
- How can you get it ?



# Comparing Academia w Industry

- Similarities

- Must take responsibility for own research agenda
- Need for self-motivation and self-discipline
- Can choose environment with possible collaborators
- Expect research to have impact
- Expect signs of active researcher
  - Program committee service, regular conference and workshop attendance
  - Keeping up with current conferences and journals

(from Dr. Barbara G. Ryder)



# Comparing Academia w Industry

- Differences

- Who is your 'boss'?
- How much freedom to choose and focus your research?
- Do you need to seek research funding?
- How is research impact measured? Products? Patents? Demos at developer conferences? Open source contributions?
- Is it easy to move between these worlds?

(from Dr. Barbara G. Ryder)





# This is a GOOD job

- Lifestyle (*forever young*)
- **Enjoyment of mentoring (me ! )**
- Enjoyment of teaching
- Flexible work schedule
- Always learning new ideas and techniques
- Tolerant individualistic environment
- Intellectually challenging job

(from Dr. Barbara G. Ryder)



## References (many slides adapted from )

- CRA-W  
<http://www.cra.org/Activities/craw/>
- CRA-W training workshop: Andrea Danyluk,  
Work / Life Balance & Time Management
- CRA-W training workshop: Kathleen Fisher,  
Strategies for Finishing
- Barbara G. Ryder, “CAREER PATHS:  
How to get started in academia or industry? ” PL  
SumSch, Austin 5/07;