



# Scientific Lab Management: A Timely Course

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# The Course

- **Five days, in residence, July, 2002**
- **128 HHMI and BWF fellows**
  - **Postdocs**
  - **New Assistant Professors**



# Course Development

- Partnership between HHMI and BWF with help from AAAS
- Maryrose Franko, Martin Ionescu-Pioggia
- Response to fellows' requests
- Outline formed by staff
- Focus groups of grantees
- Survey of lab leaders



# Course Goals

- **Protect our investment**
  - **Help former fellows to hit the ground running**
- **Network**
- **Be a model for other such efforts**



# Topics

- **Basic lab leadership skills**
- **Project management**
- **Collaborations**
- **Getting funded, published**
- **Time and data management**
- **Mentoring**
- **Technology transfer**
- **Obtaining and negotiating a job**
- **Budgets and budgeting**



# Keynote Talks

- **Starting a research group**
- **University structure**
- **Research ethics**
- **Gender issues**



**Materials from course at**

**[www.hhmi.org/labmanagement](http://www.hhmi.org/labmanagement)**

# Talks



Tom Cech



Alta Charo



# Course evaluation

- **Evaluation forms after every session and at end of course**
- **Focus group at end of course**
- **Surveys at six months and one year**



# Findings

- **Overall: 95% rated extremely or very valuable**
- **Expect to use "all the time"**
  - Lab leadership
  - Getting funded
  - Time management
  - Mentoring



# Next

- Book
- Second offering
- Partners in training



[www.hhmi.org/labmanagement](http://www.hhmi.org/labmanagement)

**Making the Right Moves**  
A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty

Making the Right Moves: A Practical Guide to Scientific Management for Postdocs and New Faculty is a collection of practical advice, experiences, and opinions from seasoned biomedical investigators and other professionals on a variety of topics—from obtaining a faculty appointment and planning for tenure to laboratory leadership and collaborations—to help beginning academic scientists think strategically and “make the right moves” as they set up their own laboratory research programs.

This book is an introduction to the subject of scientific management and is based on presentations and discussions that took place during a four-day course developed and sponsored by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Although Making the Right Moves is directed primarily at tenure-track laboratory researchers based at universities or medical centers, scientists pursuing other career tracks may also find it a useful resource.

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Burroughs Wellcome Fund  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

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BWF ♦ HHMI

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# Changes for second offering (6/05)

- **Additions**
  - Hiring and firing
  - Teaching and curriculum development
  - Special needs of physician scientists
  
- **Subtractions**
  - Research ethics
  - Getting a job



# New: Partners in Training

- **10-20**
  - Universities, societies, postdoc offices
  - Consortia encouraged
  - Application deadline: Aug. 9, 2004
  
- **Before**
  - Sept '04 orientation meeting
  - Conference calls during course development



# Partners

- **During**
  - Attend course
  - Debriefings daily and at end of course
- **After**
  - Contribute to guide for others
  - Hold one by fall '07