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**

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”.

By Dr. Radhika Nagpal from Harvard
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/](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;