

Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Seeking Employment as a Clinical Microbiologist in Canada

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Conflicts of Interest

- * Heather Adam: No conflicts to declare
- * Lee Goneau: No conflicts to declare

Session Objectives

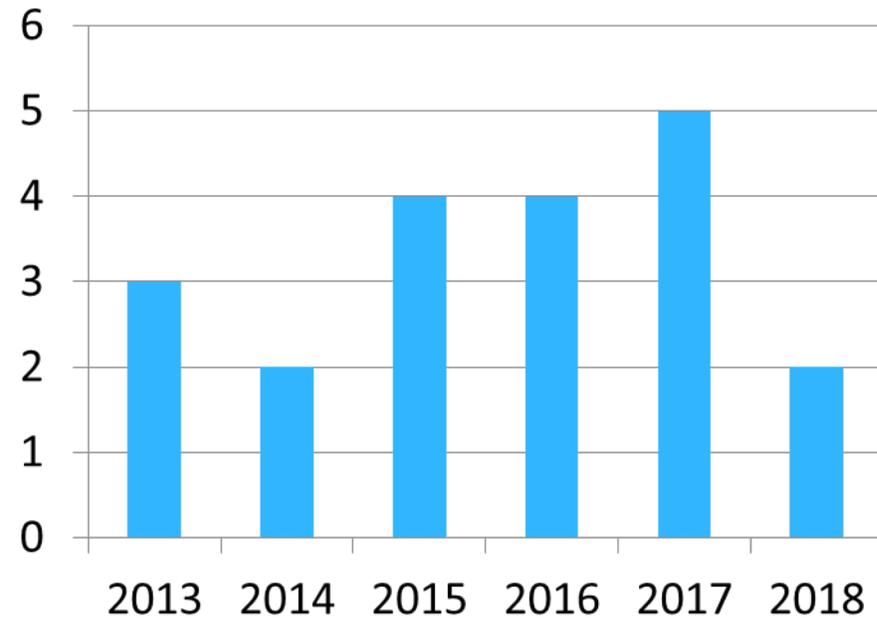
1. Review the clinical microbiology job opportunities during the past 5 years and discuss the upcoming prospects
 2. Identify or create employment opportunities that meet their career goals
 3. Develop strategies to stand out from the group (on paper) and effectively prepare for an interview
- * Have an interactive discussion to help you identify and secure satisfying employment!**

Job Opportunities in the Past 5 Years

Where?



When?



Information based on job opportunities posted on the CACMID website

Employment of Recent FCCM-certified Microbiologists

Who?	Where?
Dr. Lee Goneau	Public Health Ontario, Toronto, ON
Dr. Ramzi Fattouh	St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON
Dr. Danielle Brabant-Kirwan	Health Sciences North, Sudbury, ON
Dr. Matthew Gilmour	Scientific Director General, National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg, MB
Dr. Julianne Kus	Public Health Ontario, Toronto, ON
Dr. Markus Stein	Diagnostic Service Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB

Upcoming Opportunities

- * Current clinical laboratory and provincial public health laboratory positions
 - * Few posted
 - * Most recently: BCCDC & Sunnybrook
 - * Postings expected in Saskatchewan
 - * Many provinces are undergoing significant restructuring

Identify or Create Employment Opportunities to Meet Career Goals

- * You need to knock on doors to open them
- * Goal in a temporarily challenging environment: Ensure there are no/limited breaks in your CV
 - * Expand your horizons: consider opportunities in consulting, industry, academic/education, research terms, employment outside of Canada
- * Be clear and focused on your personal goals, but remain open to opportunities as they arrive

Access to Opportunities

- * Networking at conference!
- * Consider off-site rotations for more varied exposure & opportunity to make contacts
- * Program directors
 - * & Other program site microbiologists
- * CACMID, CCM, AMMI job postings
- * ClinMicroNet listserv postings

Getting in the Door... the CV

- * **Purpose:** an ‘evidence-based’ *comprehensive* outline of your skillset (training and softskills)
- * **Rules** for writing a CV that will land you an interview:
 1. The CV is the place to be comprehensive
 2. Format – use a familiar style/template (ex. university academic CV) → something easy to follow
 3. This is NOT the time to be humble! → highlight accomplishments (ex. publication highlights)

Getting in the Door... the Cover Letter

- * **Purpose**: tell the employer why you are the best applicant for the job and why you are interested
- * **Rules** for writing a cover letter that will land you an interview:
 1. The cover letter supplements the CV
 2. Highlight what you bring to the table for the *specific site/job* to which you are applying
 3. Back up EVERYTHING with examples from your CV

Sealing the Deal... the Interview

- * This stage should take the most time to prepare for...
- * **Guidelines for success:**
 1. Identify potential questions that could be asked
 - * Tell us about yourself (almost always the first question)
 - * Mentorship/education experience
 - * Describe research experience (basic VS clinical)
 - * Strengths/weaknesses
 - * Situation of conflict
 - * Why are you the best candidate for the job, why should we hire someone else?
 - * Why do you want to work *HERE*?

Sealing the Deal... the Interview

- * **Guidelines for success:**

2. Do your research... know the prospective employer inside and out (and highlight that you know your stuff!)

3. Identify how you and the employer will build a mutually beneficial relationship → get them excited about what you bring to the table

4. Highlight skills that you bring to the table that no one else will

Sealing the Deal... the Interview

- * **Guidelines for success:**

5. The interviewer is asking the questions, YOU guide the conversation → need to highlight accomplishments using examples from your CV

6. *Everything* you state must be supported by an example (from your CV or from other experience)