AAN Neurology Career Center: Job Listings, Mentoring, and More—for Any Career Stage

If neuroscience professionals could zip to one spot to search job openings, find mentors, research salaries, explore articles and webinars, and ensure their interviewing skills are up to par, where would they go? The answer: The American Academy of Neurology’s online Neurology Career Center at AAN.com/careers, a one-stop site created exclusively for the 30,000 professionals comprising the AAN.

The AAN’s Neurology Career Center is a multi-purpose, user-friendly toolbox of open job postings and career-related resources, including 400+ jobs posted at any given time. The site is a well-traveled path to job offers: Last year, it boasted more than 1 million views and 1,600 job applications submitted. According to a 2012 Career Center user survey, the average seeker applied for five jobs on the site, received three offers, and accepted one.

TARGETED, THOROUGH JOB SEARCHING

Still, not all AAN members may be aware of the Career Center or the varied benefits—like a neurology-centered focus, and the time and effort career-searching members can save through using it. Consider, for instance, the job search feature. “When members use other sites, even with a key word search using ‘Neurology,’ it’s going to bring up other material that has no interest to them,” states AAN Career Services Manager Amy Schoch, who helped launch the resource in 2011.

By contrast, the Neurology Career Center features only neurology-related job openings. Plus, a search mechanism allows members to list their subspecialties, preserve their searches, and await and acquire information on openings that may not yet be listed.

“It will pull up positions of interest so they can actually dig down a deeper level,” Schoch states. “Then, they can save their search—for example, ‘Stroke in New York City.’ If a position opens up, they’ll receive an email notification: ‘You might be interested in this job from the Neurology Career Center’ and they can just click on a link.”

PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC PROFILES

Unsolicited contact from employers and recruiters can waste time and clog up the search process. The AAN Neurology Career Center privacy setting was designed to eliminate such obstructions. Through this handy option, members can flag their profiles as private, thus ensuring contact only from employers to whom they have sent applications. According to Schoch, about 90 percent of users choose to create a private profile.

And it works, says Schoch, who set up a test profile in 2011 that has never received any unwanted emails or phone calls.

On the other hand, AAN members who feel too busy to search the site can opt for a public profile, which allows Career Center advertisers to explore their information.

“If they don’t have time, it’s a way to say, ‘I want the job to find me,’” Schoch explains.

MULTIPLE CVS? NO PROBLEM

Since the majority of neurology residents accept fellowships and pursue subspecialties, it’s common to have two CVs—one for general neurology, another for a subspecialty. Enter the storage function, a nifty feature that lets members save up to six documents online—including CVs, letters of reference, and publications—for fast, efficient future search processes.

“When they apply for their jobs, it’s really easy,” Schoch states. “They click on the ‘Apply’ button, answer three questions, and they’re done.”
PLANNING AHEAD WHILE STAYING CURRENT

Those not actively seeking a new position can still use the site to investigate what’s available, or to set up job alerts—a wise move considering that many larger hospitals and universities forecast for specialists they’ll need. Physicians in training can reach out to a facility, mention the available positions advertised now, and inquire about similar needs down the line, Schoch explains.

Members in training can also peruse postings to identify the capabilities employers need as a way to guide their decisions about residencies or other training. Established professionals, too, may find scanning job postings to be useful. “It’s helpful for them to keep tabs on their competition: For example, if they launch a new Stroke Center will that impact their patient base?” Schoch explains.

How else can the site help you stay current? Articles and webinars cover a range of career-relevant topics, from contract negotiation to strength-based interviewing. A salary calculator tool helps AAN junior members project earnings using data compiled by actual AAN members. And all members can take advantage of discounted CV reviews and interview coaching sessions year-round.

HELP AND BE HELPED

A seasoned neurologist able to help new residents. An immigrant physician seeking visa advice. A resident considering starting a practice. All are good reasons to seek a mentor relationship through the AAN Career Center. Since 2012, more than 200 mentorships have been arranged through AAN Mentoring Connect, the mentoring program that helps neurologists anywhere, at any career stage, to link up. Mentees create profiles and search a list of available mentors, who also create profiles but don’t conduct searching. Coordinating is up to the pairs, who determine when, where, and how they will meet. Some do so in person; others use email, phone calls, Skype, or other methods.

“It’s open-ended, offering anything anyone needs for mentoring, at any stage of their career,” Schoch explains. For example, residents who are parents of young children may need work-life balance tips, she says, while neurologists in rural settings may wish to dialogue with other neurologists in similar locales.