

Career Experience

Susan L.R. Barker, Ph.D.

Government Lab - NIST

Staff Scientist

- **Pros**

- Excellent opportunities for scientific research
- Publication and conference presentation required
- Excellent work environment
- Regular hours

- **Cons**

- Lower salary, fewer benefits
- Bureaucracy

Industry – Defense Contracting

Scientist, Manager, Business Development

- **Pros**

- Excellent compensation
- Interesting work, fast-paced environment
- Opportunities to advance in many directions

- **Cons**

- Stressful environment
- Continual search for funding
- Fewer opportunities for basic research/publications

Note: Security Clearance required

Non-profit – Gov't. Support

Consultant, DoD Technical Support

- **Pros**

- Interesting work
- Opportunities to work on a variety of projects
- Nice work environment

- **Cons**

- Some effort to continue funding/find projects required
- No research

Note: Security Clearance required

Summary and Life Lessons

- Career opportunities exist in a wide variety of fields
- Experience (program and personnel management, grant writing) is broadly applicable
- Job changes are not detrimental
- For job-seekers, connections are key
- Job-life compatibility is crucial