Serve as the state’s public health, environmental, agriculture and consumer protection laboratory for the Commonwealth of Virginia

Serve hundreds of local, state and federal agencies

Conduct over 7 million tests per year with over 650 different types of analyses

Comprehensive testing services include neonatal screening, immunology, molecular biology, drugs of abuse testing, virology, microbiology, mycology, food and water adulteration, biomonitoring, metal and pesticide analyses, radiochemistry, motor fuels and commodities, and comprehensive chemical analyses
Comprehensive Testing Services
Classical and Advanced
Detect and Characterize Agents that “Infect/Contaminate/Harm” Humans
Our Food and Our Environment
Organizational Structure of Public Health in the United States?

Federal Government
CDC, FDA, USDA, EPA

State Government
Health Department
Laboratories

Local Government

State Government
Health Department
Laboratories

Local Government
State Laboratories Services

- Reference and Specialized Testing
  - Chemistry, Microbiology, Molecular, Radiochemistry, etc
  - Environmental Health and Protection
  - Newborn Screening
  - Food Safety/Outbreak Response
  - Emergency Response

- Policy Development
- Public Health Research
- Training and Education
- Laboratory Improvement and Regulation
- Partnerships and Communication
Emergency Response Activities

- Chemical spills
- Poisonings
- Suspicious mail
- Heavy metal exposure
- Malicious use/misuse of chemicals
- West Nile Virus
- Rabies testing
- Pandemic influenza
- Pertussis outbreaks in schools
- Foodborne disease outbreaks
- Unexplained deaths in children
- Droughts and hurricane response
- Ebola virus
- MERS-CoV
My education:

Education and Training:

- BS in Biochemistry and Chemistry (4 years)
  - Minor in Biology
My education:

Education and Training:

- BS in Biochemistry and Chemistry (4 years)
  - Minor in Biology
- Ph.D. in Microbiology (5 years)
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Molecular Biology Focus (3 years)
My career:

Education and Training:
- BS in Biochemistry and Chemistry (4 years)
  - Minor in Biology
- Ph.D. in Microbiology (5 years)
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Molecular Biology Focus (3 years)

Employment:
- Lead Scientist (16 ½ years)
- Deputy Director (1 ½ years)
- Director since 2014
  - High Complexity Laboratory Director (HCLD) - Board Certified
My Advice…

- **Education**: Bachelors Degree (BS, BA)
  - Advanced degree (MS, PhD) preferred/required for some positions; not for others

- Prepare a strong, detailed, error-free application, resume, CV

- Highlight your qualifications (KSA’s) as they relate to the position
  - Educational AND non-educational
  - Qualifications MUST be documented/supported by resume
  - Interview questions reflect KSAs – prepare, research job/agency, practice

- “Typically” less concerned about your academic research specifics or publications
  - Tip: Don’t get caught in the weeds
  - Be prepared to discuss your core strengths

- Be prepared for a panel-style interview and thought/situational type questions
  - Tests (ie. Math, problem solving, calculations) are not out of the question
  - Don’t fake it or try to over impress – we know!

- Professional attire and presentation – before/during/after interview

- Be honest, friendly, personable
Contact Information:

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Director
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Questions??