My Graduate School Experience

John W. Rumsey, Ph.D.
Dr. Daniel P. Kelly’s Laboratory
Dr. James J. Hickman – Ph.D. Mentor
August 14, 2011
Why Attend Graduate School? / Why Get A Ph.D.?

Some of your favorite questions are “Why?” and “How?”

You enjoy learning new things.

You value thinking and like the idea of being valued for your thoughts.

• The work you do has the potential to solve fundamental scientific issues

• Helping people
  – Basic research – indirectly
  – Clinical research - directly
Graduate School Admission Process

• Educate yourself about laboratories / principle investigators of interest
  – School website
  – Laboratory website
  – Laboratory’s primary research publications
    • www.pubmed.com

• Decide what interests you and contact those labs directly
Ph.D. Training: Valuable Things I Learned

Improved critical / analytical thinking skills

Organizational skills related to task and workflow priority

Improved technical writing skills

Improved oral communication skills
Career Options: So How Can I Use This Training?

• Academic / Non-Profit Research Environments
  – Universities
  – Non-Profits
    • Sanford-Burnham
    • Scripps
    • Torrey Pines
    • Mayo Clinic
    • Howard Hughes

• Industrial Research Environments
  – Pharmaceutical Companies
  – Vendor Companies
    • Product development
    • Sales
Career Options: Can I Combine This Training with Other Interests?

“I like science, but I’m passionate about ____________ as well.”

- **Science and Medicine**
  - M.D. – Ph.D. Programs
  - Clinical Research
- **Science and Law**
  - Intellectual Property and Patents
- **Science and Teaching**
  - Professor
- **Science and Writing**
  - Journal editor
  - Science writer
- **Science and Politics / Government Policy**
  - FDA
  - USDA
- **Science and Entrepreneurship / Business**
Questions

• Scientific Organizations, Journals and Magazines
  – American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
  – Field-specific
    • American Heart Association
    • American Diabetes Association
    • Muscular Dystrophy Association
  – General
    • The Scientist
    • Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News

• Online Resources
  – www.nih.gov