



Transitioning to Life as a Newly-Minted Neuropathologist

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Case-Based Questions (please see page 4 for answers)

1.	Which one of the following is the most likely job scenario for a recent graduate of a neuropathology program?
a.	Academic position as a funded basic researcher
b.	A large private practice group, doing general surgical pathology and taking CP calls
c.	Medical examiner's office covering forensic neuropathology
d.	Academic position in a medical center doing only neuropathology and teaching
e.	Academic position in a medical center covering neuropathology, autopsy, surgical pathology, and taking calls

2.	Which one of the following would be a common strategy for most junior neuropathologists who would like to increase collaborations, networking, and professional recognition at national/international level?
a.	Improving your research using the start-up funds from your department to obtain NIH funding for your research
b.	Focusing on medical student teaching and earn teaching awards at least three years in a row
c.	Publish scientific papers, preferably in a focused area, present and network at annual meetings
d.	Contacting regional pathology groups to solicit consultations to increase case numbers
e.	Meeting minimum institutional criteria for promotion to become a professor as soon as possible

3.	Which of the following represents the major components of an academic track for an academic position?
a.	Patient care/clinical service, research/scholarly work, teaching
b.	Time management skills, patient care/clinical service, teaching
c.	Research/scholarly work, wellness training, tumor boards
d.	Departmental/institutional citizenship, business administration training, teaching
e.	Patient care/clinical service, community service, institutional committee involvement

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Correct Answers and Rationales

Question 1 Correct Answer and Rationale: E. Academic position in a medical center covering neuropathology, autopsy, surgical pathology, and taking calls

Rationale: Neuropathology positions are available most commonly in academic medical centers. Given the financial and staffing challenges the academic institutions are facing, and the low number of neuropathology cases relative to many other subspecialties, many junior neuropathologists in small-to-medium size academic medical centers are expected to cover multiple additional services, mostly one or more surgical pathology subspecialties.

Question 2 Correct Answer and Rationale: C. Publish scientific papers, preferably in a focused area, present and network at annual meetings

Rationale: Although all of these options have a place in the general development of a junior faculty member of any specialty/subspecialty, due to the most common clinically-oriented nature of academic positions, publishing papers, and presentation at meetings, with additional networking at meetings will provide most exposure to the academic society at large in the most practical manner.

Question 3 Correct Answer and Rationale: A. Patient care/clinical service, research/scholarly work, teaching

Rationale: Although all of these are components of a well-rounded academic career, and there may be slight variations among institutions regarding their wording or required amounts or time commitments for each, by and large, the major “buckets” for an academic track leading to evaluation for promotion include Patient care/clinical service, research/scholarly work, and teaching.