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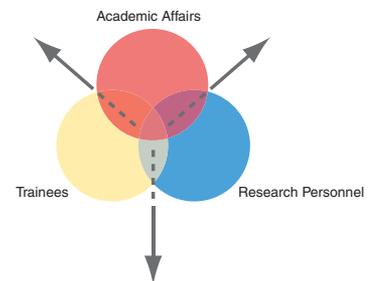
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Eleven paths to the top of the field

Career advancement often isn't simply a matter of following a well-laid plan and steadily moving from Point A to Point B. A career path laden with twists, turns, and even overt roadblocks can give rise to a fulfilling career in an exciting field. The eleven men and women profiled in this issue are all respected figures from the laboratory animal science community, representing a cross-section of backgrounds and interests. Although these folks started in different places, with different goals, their stories reflect the shared importance of learning from experience, listening to your instinct, and occasionally taking risks when the right opportunity presents itself. [See page 29](#)

Expanding the trainee pool

Each institution is responsible for providing animal users with the proper training. Nevertheless, training programs may inadvertently exclude animal users not employed by the institution—undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, visiting scientists, and research fellows. Regulatory agencies may overlook the training needs of these individuals as well. Benoit and Bayne draw attention to a common problem facing universities and offer suggestions on how to close the gap in training. [See page 46](#)



Never stop learning

Continuing education is an important way for animal research professionals to remain knowledgeable about the latest developments in the field. Numerous options exist for those involved in animal care and use to further their knowledge; these include on-campus courses conducted at colleges and universities, online programs, correspondence courses, courses held at professional meetings, vendor training programs, and telecourses. Hammer and Fortier highlight various professional development opportunities, helping readers to determine which form best meets their individual needs. [See page 41](#)