Preparing for the Insight Health Data Interview

Ravi Patel
PhD Molecular Pharmacology
Program Director, Health Data
Outline

- Insight admissions process
- Before the interview
- During the interview
  - Tell me about your research
  - Technical demo
  - Why DS / health / Insight?
  - Questions for me?
- Questions
Admissions process for Insight Health Data
Insight Health Data Admissions

1. Online application - *headline extended to Monday, 7/27!*
2. One or multiple 15-30 minute remote interviews
3. Decision
Before the Interview
Do your homework

• Read the invitation to interview email carefully
• Prepare to talk about your research
• Prepare a technical demo
• Why are you interested in Insight? Why Data Science?
In the interview: 
Tell me about your research
Why do we ask this?

- To learn more about you and your background
- To see how you communicate complex technical concepts to someone without your background
- To learn more about your technical skills and scientific problem solving
Describing your background effectively

- Listen to directions and cues
- Should be your best answer: concise and clear
  - Practice this answer with friends & family!
- Keep it conversational
- Be ready to dive into details if asked
In the interview: Technical Demo
Why do we do this?

- To assess your technical strengths: coding, statistics, data visualization, machine learning
  - Choose code that highlights your strengths!
- To see how you communicate technical concepts
- To see whether you’ve thought deeply about the approaches you’ve chosen to take
Preparing: What should I show?

- Highlight your technical skills related to data science:
  - code in Python (maybe R)
  - machine learning
  - statistics
  - data analysis and visualization

- Side project (not research) is ideal but not required

- Practice for 3-5 minutes total
Showing your code effectively

• Start at the top (high-level)
  • What is the goal of this project / analysis / code segment?
  • Only highlight the most interesting aspects
• Keep it conversational
• Never go through line-by-line
• Talk about the big decisions (i.e.
• Justify your algorithm choices
• Mind the time
In the interview:
Why (Health) Data Science? Why Insight?
Why do we ask this?

- To see how enthusiastic you are about making this career transition
- To see how enthusiastic you are about Insight
- To figure out how we can best help you
- Is your background a fit for Health data science specifically?
  - Data Science, Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Computational Scientist
Health Data Science interest

• Which type of data scientist do you want to be?
• Have you evaluated the field?
• Look at blogs, job postings, companies, industries...
  and all the things you can’t look at as an academic: location, work-life balance, mobility in the company
• What type of health companies are you interested in?
• What specific companies are you interested in?
• Read Insight’s white paper!
In the interview:
What questions do you have for me?
Turning the tables: ask questions!

- Good time for you to get clarifications on program logistics
  - Timing, location, cost
- Better to ask now than later!
Application deadline for Fall session is Monday, 7/27

Mention that you watched the this webinar!

ravi@insightdatascience.com
Next Webinar- Transitioning to Data Careers in Healthcare
7/27 at 4 PM PT
Register here
So, actually: What questions do you have for me?

Application deadline for Fall session is **Monday, 7/27**

Mention that you watched the this webinar!

ravi@insightdatascience.com