TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire

Career Profile: Lakshmi Goyal, PhD

What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job? 
Currently I am Editor, Cell Host & Microbe and Executive Editor, Microbiology Portfolio 
I have been an editor for 13 years and in held the current title since 2007.

Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in? 
Rutgers University, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

Did you do a postdoc? 
Yes, 4 years at MIT

What are your main daily responsibilities? 
Reading and evaluating research articles submitted to the journal, choosing and facilitating the peer review process, managing a team of editors, setting overall strategy for journals within the portfolio.

What are the keys to success in your career field? 
Broad scientific interest and thinking, being able to evaluate science quickly, being able to grasp the conceptual interest in the science without having to go into detail, forward scientific thinking, being able to see broad patterns in the emerging science.

What were the most important factors in choosing your career path? 
Chance brought me to this job but if you find yourself interested in the science going on in all the labs around you and if you enjoy thinking broadly about science, this maybe a career path to think about.

What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job? 
Don't remember specifically but helping others to formulate and write their papers, critiquing papers and assisting your PI in the review process are helpful.

What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours? 
See the last three points above.