

# Postdoctoral Scholars & Fellows Connect

Issue 05 / SPRING 2016



## *THIS MONTH'S FOCUS...* NETWORKING

The monthly newsletter for and by postdoctoral scholars and fellows at the Penn State College of Medicine.

Learn about the research being done by postdocs at the College of Medicine, workshops and seminars sponsored by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, upcoming Postdoctoral Society events, and fun activities in the community for the entire family. Feel free to forward any announcements or suggestions of content for future issues to Becky Moyer, [rmoyer7@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:rmoyer7@hmc.psu.edu).



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# EVENTS

## APRIL 2016:

April 7th, 2016— 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**POSTDOCTORAL MONTHLY LUNCH**—Bring your own lunch  
Dining Room A (H1233G)

April 12th, 2016— 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Postdoctoral Orientation & Information Session** (See Page 3)  
Room C3621

April 20th, 2016— 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Postdoctoral Society Meeting**  
Room C1800 (Humanities Conference Room)

April 28th, 2016— 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Postdoctoral Library Workshop:** (See Page 4)  
“Managing your Professional Online Profiles” with Robyn Reed

April 29th, 2016— 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Social Event**—TBD

## MAY 2016:

May 5th, 2016— 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Postdoc Lunch**—Bring your own lunch  
Room C1804 (BMR)

May 18th, 2016— 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Postdoctoral Society Meeting**  
Room C1800 (Humanities Conference Room)

May 20th & 21st, 2016 — University Park (See Page 5)

**Life Sciences Symposium**—Keynote Speaker & Poster Session

## JUNE 2016:

June 2016— TBD

**Postdoc Potluck Family Picnic**

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Postdoctoral Society Meetings  
are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month  
from 4-5:00 p.m.

## 2016-17 Executive Council Members

Heather Lehman,  
Ph.D.  
Chairperson

Katie Kokolus, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Chetna Soni, Ph.D.  
Treasurer

Xiangyu Cai, Ph.D.  
Social Events Chair

Shwetank, Ph.D.  
Professional  
Development Chair

Balazs Koscsó, Ph.D.  
Society  
Representative

## The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs...

### From the Director's desk...

Networking is essential for your professional growth. By building a strong collaborative network, you can establish the professional contacts you will need to advance in the next stages of your career. Several networking opportunities are available to you during the upcoming months. In April, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is hosting a workshop on managing your online professional profiles—these are your connections to the international science community. The Life Sciences Symposium, to be held in May, is an excellent opportunity to network with scientists of the greater Penn State University community. Presenting your research at a national scientific conference is one of the best ways to create your professional network, and the new Bond and Bradley Travel Awards will enable more of our postdoctoral scholars to participate in these important meetings. And last, but not least, the Penn State Hershey Postdoctoral Society hosts monthly meetings, lunches and social events that are fun ways to connect with your fellow postdocs at the College. More information about all of these events is provided on the following pages of this newsletter. Be sure to watch for postings and emails for additional information.

*Kristin A. Eckert*



Pictured Above:  
Kristin Eckert, Ph.D.



Pictured Above:  
Becky Moyer





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# Postdoctoral Tax Preparation

**When:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**Where:** Room C5602 (Crescent)  
**Time:** By Appointment Only

## TO ACCESS THE TAX SOFTWARE, GO TO:

[https://gpapps.gp.psu.edu/tax/form/tax\\_form.cfm](https://gpapps.gp.psu.edu/tax/form/tax_form.cfm)

Please click the above link and complete the information to determine your status (Non-Resident or Resident).

Please Note: We can only assist Non-Residents. Residents will complete a 1040.

You will receive an email for submitting a liability release waiver. Please check the box and submit. You will receive an email with an access code and software link within 2 days. Please use this link to complete your federal taxes.

## TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY...

Contact Becky Moyer at [rmoyer7@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:rmoyer7@hmc.psu.edu)

# Postdoctoral Orientation & Information Session

**WHEN:** April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**TIME:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm  
**ROOM:** Room C3621

**All New and Current Postdocs are encouraged to attend.**

*\*More Details to Follow*

**TO REGISTER, CONTACT BECKY AT:**

[rmoyer7@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:rmoyer7@hmc.psu.edu)

*\*Please Register by April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016*



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# BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH



## POSTDOCTORAL SOCIAL MEETING

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 7th, 2016

**WHERE:** Dining Room A (Rm H1233G)

**TIME:** 12:00—1:00 pm

*Join us and meet other Postdocs and  
talk about Life in Hershey!*

For any questions, please contact Becky Moyer in the Office of  
Postdoctoral Affairs , Ext. 4565 or [PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu).

## 14th Annual DATA & DINE Award Winners...



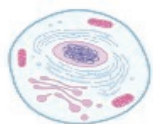
### BEST POSTDOC AWARD

Pictured from left to right: Heather Lehman, Ph.D., Pathology (1st Place);  
Chetna Soni, Ph.D., Microbiology & Immunology (3rd Place); Kristin Eckert,  
Ph.D., Pathology (Director), George Noutsios, Ph.D., Pediatrics (2nd Place).



### BEST POSTER AWARD

Pictured from left to right: Chetna Soni, Ph.D., Microbiology &  
Immunology; Kristin Eckert, Ph.D., Pathology (Director), Linda Cruz.



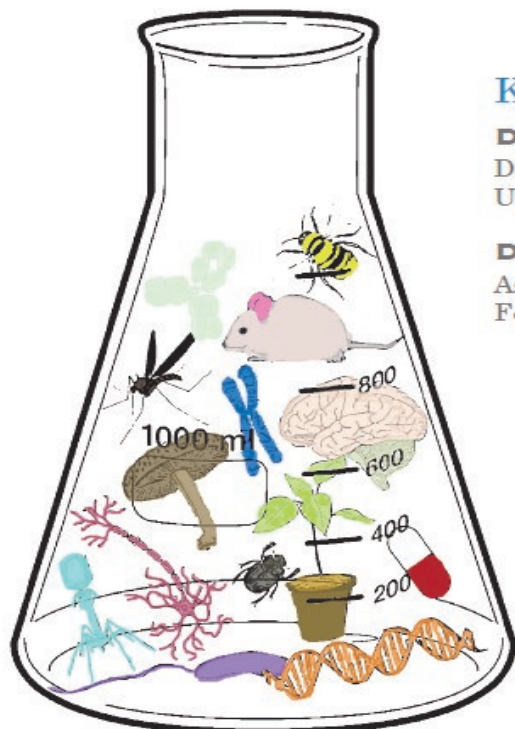
# LIFE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AND 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2016

BERG AUDITORIUM, HUCK LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING

Designed by graduate students to enhance Penn State life science collaborations for everyone, featuring:

- LAB TALKS & POSTER PRESENTATIONS
- PSU FACILITY, CENTER & STUDENT ORGANIZATION BOOTHS
- INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS
- MEALS PROVIDED



## Keynote Speakers:

**DR. JONATHAN SLEEMAN**

Director of National Wildlife Health Center,  
U.S. Geological Survey

**DR. JIM PAWELCZYK**

Associate Professor, Kinesiology, Penn State,  
Former NASA Astronaut

**FREE REGISTRATION!  
CASH AWARDS!**

**VBS.PSU.EDU/LIFESCI**

Sponsored by the following institutions:

**THE HUCK INSTITUTES**  
OF THE LIFE SCIENCES

**PennState**  
College of Agricultural Sciences

**PennState**  
College of Nursing

**PennState**  
College of Medicine

**PennState**  
Eberly College of Science

**PennState**  
College of Health and  
Human Development

**PENN STATE LIFE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM**  
**May 20-21, 2016**

**This symposium focuses on the theme “Collaboration and Global Health” and will feature:**

- ◆ Short “lightning” talks from life science labs
- ◆ Individual research poster presentations
- ◆ Booths from Penn State core facilities, research centers, and student organizations
- ◆ Two keynote speakers:
  - ◇ Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Director of National Wildlife Health Center of U.S. Geological Survey
  - ◇ Dr. Jim Pawelczyk, Penn State Professor of Kinesiology and former NASA Astronaut
- ◆ Interactive talks about diversity and collaboration, and an ethics group activity
- ◆ FREE registration and food
- ◆ Poster and group activity AWARDS

**Visit the website for more information & to Register for the event!**

**<http://vbs.psu.edu/graduateprograms/penn-state-life-science-symposium>**

**Sign up to present a poster and/or give a lab talk!**

**Transportation and housing will be provided on a first come, first serve basis.**

**Please contact Hillary Figler ([hmf151@psu.edu](mailto:hmf151@psu.edu)) to reserve a slot.**

**Further questions, please feel free to contact Heather Lehman ([hlehman@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:hlehman@hmc.psu.edu)).**





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# RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Fellowships 101

An Information Session on Fellowship Awards

April 11, 2016

9:00—10:00 a.m.

C3621

### What is a fellowship?

Fellowships can play a vital role in your academic career. These merit-based, monetary awards focus on the professional development of the individual. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes, from short-term dissertation fellowships to longer-term awards that support several years of graduate or postgraduate research. Eligibility for some programs begins as early as the Fall semester of your first year of graduate school.

### What will I learn?

This information session will cover all the fellowship basics—what they are and how to apply for them.

- Types of fellowships
- Eligibility Considerations
- When to apply for fellowships
- Resources available at Penn State
- College of Medicine's Fellowship Incentive Program

### Who should attend?

- Pre-doctoral trainees
- Post-doctoral trainees



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RSVP to [ResearchConcierge@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:ResearchConcierge@hmc.psu.edu)

## COMING SOON... Bond and Bradley Postdoctoral Travel Award

The Penn State Hershey Postdoctoral Society is excited to announce the new Bond and Bradley Postdoctoral Travel Award. This award will contribute to the travel expenses of qualifying individuals for active participation in a scientific conference. The Postdoctoral Society is offering this travel award in an effort to facilitate and promote the intellectual and professional development of postdocs at Penn State Hershey. The award will be offered four times per calendar year. More information about the travel awards, as well as applications and guidelines for the first cycle of awards will be available in April 2016.

The Postdoctoral Travel Awards are made possible by a generous donation from Drs. Judith S. Bond and S. Gaylen Bradley to the Penn State Hershey Postdoctoral Society. The Society sincerely acknowledges the kind support that Drs. Bond and Bradley provide to postdocs at Penn State Hershey.



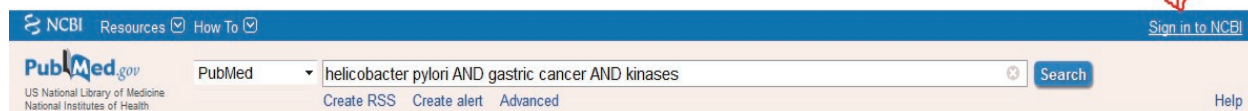
## Stay Tuned...



# Saved Searches / Auto Updates in PubMed

Would you like to save searches in PubMed or other NCBI databases? Or receive automatic updates to save you time from rerunning your search? Use your My NCBI account!

While in PubMed or an NCBI database such as Gene or Protein, run a search. You can sign into My NCBI at any time in the upper right of the page. In PubMed, click on Create Alert and if in another NCBI database, click Save search.



You will be asked to name your search and if you would like to receive email updates of new search results. You can select how often you will receive the reports. Feel free to do this for multiple searches! For more information, visit the [NCBI support page for detailed instructions](#) or [watch a video of this in action](#).

You don't have a My NCBI account? We will discuss My NCBI in more detail in April's workshop (see below) but if you'd like to know more information now, visit our [guide on My NCBI](#).

## POSTDOC

## WORKSHOP:

# "Managing your Professional Online Profiles"

Presented by Robyn Reed

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**TIME:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Room C3621

**TO REGISTER, EMAIL [RMOYER7@HMC.PSU.EDU](mailto:RMOYER7@HMC.PSU.EDU)**

*\*Registration Recommended but not Required*

**For Questions about the Workshop, Please Contact:**

Robyn Reed at [rreed4@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:rreed4@hmc.psu.edu).

Do you know the differences among LinkedIn, ResearchGate, ORCID, MyNCBI and similar tools?

Are you starting a job search or would like to improve your online presence?

Join your colleagues as we explore strengths and weaknesses of popular online platforms for displaying research and professional activities.

Personal experiences welcome!



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LIBRARY TIPS!!!

# Postdoc Spotlight

## Chetna Soni

I joined Dr. Ziaur Rahman for my Post-doctoral training in May 2012 in Philadelphia. In Aug. 2012, Dr. Rahman moved to the department of Microbiology and Immunology at Hershey. I came along, and have been here since then. The lab works on Autoimmunity, with a focus on the disease Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). In SLE our own immune cells acquire reactivity to self-DNA, RNA, histones and other nuclear proteins and mount an immune response. The resulting autoantibodies produced by B cells deposit in vital organs leading to inflammation, organ failures and death. Several genetic and environmental factors affect SLE disease susceptibility and progression. We use SLE mouse models to address these aspects. My projects have focussed on a set of genes on chromosome 1 (SLAM genes) that alter the activation profile of B and T cells leading to SLE susceptibility. We have successfully defined the alterations in B and T cell functions caused by genetic mutations in the SLAM genes. Additionally, in another study we showed that an RNA sensing receptor (TLR7) in B cells is absolutely essential to generate the SLE associated autoantibodies.

My schooling, college and masters in Biochemistry were completed in India. I did my doctoral training at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India, with Prof. Anjali Karande. My thesis work was on fetal tolerance. The fetus is almost like a transplanted organ in the female's body, yet the mother's body nurtures it as its own. Several mechanisms help prevent the mother's immune system from recognizing the fetus as foreign. I worked on a protein called "Glycodelin" produced by the uterine endometrium that causes apoptosis in activated immune cells inside the uterus and prevents them from attacking the fetus.

I grew up in the northern part of India, and then went to Grad School in the southern part of India, where I also found my life partner, Manjunath, also a Scientist. I love to read, sing (Bollywood songs) and paint. I like things clean and organized, so my free time also involves a lot of cleaning alongside some good music. I love to cook Indian cuisines for friends and family. I am fanatic about "Friends" and enjoy all well made Sci-Fi movies.

If you would like to be interviewed for a "Spotlight" of your Research in future issues, please contact

Katie Kokolus, [kkokolus@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:kkokolus@hmc.psu.edu)

## What's In the Community?



### Welcome Back, Sunshine

Open Two Weekends: April 2-3 & 9-10, 2016

Put the chill of winter behind you with a visit to *Springtime In The Park* two weekends: April 2-3 & 9-10! Preview the coming summer fun with dozens of rides and coasters, including [Laff Trakk](#). Plus, enjoy live entertainment, strolling *Hershey's Characters*, a visit to [ZooAmerica](#), and more!

April 17, 2016



### Hershey Theatre Chinese Cultural & Art Institute

**Time:** 3:00PM  
**Admission:** \$34.85

Call 717-534-3405 for more details

Start your spring season off with fantastic cultural performances. Spring Celebration 春之禮讚 – Rubie's Rainbow is proudly presented by the Chinese Cultural & Arts Institute (CCAI) of Harrisburg.

Rubie is a young adopted girl from China who was welcomed into a loving American family. As Rubie grows up, she becomes curious about where her roots are from, and what it is like there. As she dreams about this, she meets Marco Polo, who guides her through a fantasy trip that shows Rubie the wonders of the arts of China. This special event will feature professional artists from around the world to present Chinese traditional and contemporary style dance, traditional Erh-Hu & Guzheng music, Chinese Opera, acrobats, traditional folk songs and drama.



### Mother's Day

May 8th, 2016

9:00 AM-5:00 PM

### Hershey Gardens

Moms receive free admission to Hershey Gardens on their special day.

Call 717-534-3492 for more details.



June 4, 2016

Giant Center  
Time: 8:00 AM

### Admission:

\$29.00 (Classic Color Runner)  
\$37.99 (Classic+ Color Runner)  
\$49.99 (Deluxe Color Runner)

The Tropicolor World Tour will combine the enjoyment of a 5k with all the fun leisure of an island-style vacation – full of unforgettable memories, music, and colors. The Tropicolor World Tour enhances the experience that Color Runners already love with an all-new Tropicolor Zone on course where participants will be bathed in a tropical array of colors and island scents as they pass through palm trees, arches, and island-style music. During the Finish Festival, participants can enjoy fun and interaction at The Color Run's Rainbow Beach with music, dancing, massive color throws, and unique photo opportunities. Runners will also receive a limited edition participant kit.