

**THIS MONTH’S FOCUS...**

**NATIONAL POSTDOC WEEK**

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.

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From the Director’s desk...

The 7th annual National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) will take place September 19–23, 2016. This event is sponsored by the National Postdoctoral Association and recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives, and celebrates the significant contributions that postdoctoral scholars make to U.S. research and discovery. Institutions across the country participate by holding special events to create awareness. The cornerstone of our NPAW celebration is a research seminar by Dr. Heather Lehman, recipient of the 2016 Best Postdoc Award at the College of Medicine. Please see this newsletter for details about the many other NPAW events planned for our campus.

At the College of Medicine, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) supports postdoctoral scholars and fellows by offering career development workshops specifically designed for postdocs. Be sure to check Postdoc Connect newsletters regularly for up-to-date listings of OPA sponsored events. As we begin the 2016/17 academic year, I encourage everyone to become familiar with the staff and services of the OPA. Stop by our office, located in the College of Medicine crescent (Room C1602), and say hello to Becky Moyer, our Administrative Assistant. If you are a recent arrival on our campus, be sure to pick up the 2016 Guide to Hershey while you are there. I hope to see all of you at NPAW events in September!

Krislin A. Eckert
POSTDOCS: Fellowship Grant Writing Workshop

When: September 12th, 2016
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Where: Lecture Room D (Room C7619)

Presented by Kent Vrana, Ph.D.
Professor & Chair of Pharmacology

This workshop is specific for postdoctoral scholars and will highlight information needed for successful fellowship applications.

To Register, Contact Becky Moyer at PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu OR Scan QR Code

*Please Register by September 7th, 2016

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Postdoctoral Orientation & Information Session

WHEN: September 13th, 2016
TIME: 2:00 – 3:00 pm
ROOM: Room C3621

All New and Current Postdocs are encouraged to attend.

*More Details to Follow

TO REGISTER, CONTACT BECKY MOYER AT: PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu or Scan QR Code

*Please Register by September 9th, 2016
**WEEK OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH:**
Postdoctoral Annual Picnic—
Indian Echo Caverns (See Below)

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH:**
Postdoctoral Lunch & Travel Award Kick-Off—
Room C5702 | 12:00—1:00 pm

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH:**
More Details to Follow

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST:**
BMS Seminar Series— Guest Speaker: Heather Lehman, Ph.D.
Room C3621 | 4:00—5:00 pm

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND:**
Isaac’s Fundraiser (See Page 7)

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD:**
Ice Cream Social—BMR East Entrance | 1:00—2:00pm

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**PICNIC**

**WHEN:** Sunday, September 18th, 2016

**WHERE:** Indian Echo Caverns
368 Middletown Road | Hummelstown | PA | 17036
(5 Minutes from the Hershey Campus)

**TIME:** 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

***RSVP by September 12th, 2016***

*RSVP Required to Becky Moyer at PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu

Enjoy a day of fun with your Colleagues, Family & Friends!

Please Bring a Side Dish to Share!

**OTHER ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE ONSITE:** (At Additional Costs)
- The Gemstone Discovery
- Cavern Tour
- Petting Barnyard
What is the Bond & Bradley Postdoc Travel Award?

In an effort to facilitate and promote the intellectual and professional development of postdocs at Penn State Hershey, the Bond & Bradley Postdoc Travel Award is awarded to qualifying postdocs to contribute to travel expenses for active conference participation in the US and abroad. These 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 endowment created by this donation will provide, in perpetuity, the financial support for these awards. The Penn State Hershey Postdoctoral Society sincerely acknowledges the kind support from Drs. Judith S. Bond and S. Gaylen Bradley. Each award will be in the amount of $300 and will be offered four times per calendar year.

JOIN US MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH TO LEARN MORE AT THE “Postdoctoral Lunch & Travel Award Kick-Off”

BMS Program Special Seminar

Presented By:
Heather Lehman, Ph.D.,
Department of Pathology
Winner of the 2016 Best Postdoc Award
Advisor: Dr. Doug Stairs

WHEN: September 21st, 2016
TIME: 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
WHERE: Room C3621

For Questions, Please Contact Becky Moyer at:
PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu
Did you know that using the Clinical Queries feature of PubMed can provide you with medical genetics information on a disease topic of interest? The easiest way for you to use this feature is to use PubMed as you normally do by accessing it through the library website and clicking on Clinical Queries under PubMed Tools. Once there, enter a disease of interest, e.g. diabetic retinopathy. You will retrieve information in three areas: Clinical Study Categories, Systematic Reviews and Medical Genetics. The most recent five articles are listed but many more are available using the “See all” link at the bottom of the column. In the case of Medical Genetics, the topics can be filtered further in areas such as Genetic Testing and Molecular Genetics.

The Harrell Health Sciences Library renovation is slated to move into Phase 2 mid-June 2016. At this time the area undergoing renovation in Phase 1 will open with all new features while the north portion of the library (Crescent side) will be under construction. Come visit us late June to see the progress! We will have a new service point (main desk), staircase to the second floor, computer workstations, new furniture, our book collection will return, and of course, new carpeting, lighting and paint. Updated information about the renovation can be found on our blog.

Contact Robyn Reed rreed4@hmc.psu.edu for More Information!

To Register, Please Contact Becky Moyer at PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu or Scan QR Code
Registration is Required
Endnote Web is a FREE Bibliographic software available to the PSU Community!

Monday, October 3rd, 2016
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Room C2860

A Start-Up Guide will be provided 2 weeks prior.
Please bring your Laptops to this workshop.
I had an opportunity to attend the annual meeting of American Association of Immunologists (AAI) 2016 in Seattle, WA. Attending the AAI conference was a professionally rewarding experience.

I presented a poster entitled “Serial Monoclonal Antibody Administration Demonstrates Therapeutic Effects via Induction of Apoptosis in HPV-Related Cervical Cancer”. Cervical cancer is known to cause by the persistent expression of E6 and E7 oncoproteins which act as anti-apoptotic agents by interfering p53 and Rb pathways, respectively. I presented the data showing effects of C1P5 monoclonal antibody on CaSkI and SiHa cells expressing HPV 16 E6 oncoproteins. Cell cycle analyzed by flow cytometry using dual staining of 7AAD & BrdU, Cell viability assessed by MTT assay, Apoptosis analyzed by flow cytometry using dual staining of Annexin V & Propidium Iodide. Apoptosis results corroborated by DNA fragmentation through qualitative DAPI staining of nucleus. Study of tumor growth inhibition and mechanistic insights after administration of C1P5 monoclonal antibody (mAb) will be ideal for development of novel treatment.

I received great feedback from experts in the area and also from other postdocs that will be helpful to improve my research and build my knowledge and experience.

Overall, this was a good learning experience and looking forward to many more. This all was possible because of my mentor Dr. Rébécca Phaëton who encouraged me to present at this conference.

Would you like to share a Conference Experience?
If so, please contact Becky Moyer at:
PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu

Isaac’s will donate 25% of the sales we bring in during our fundraiser.

Where: ISAAC’S FAMOUS GRILLED SANDWICHES
Park Village Plaza | 597 E Main St
Hummelstown, PA 17036

When: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2016
5:00—9:00 PM

Contact Becky Moyer,
PostDocs@hmc.psu.edu for an ORDER FORM

BRING THE ORDER FORM WITH YOU, AND HAND IT TO YOUR SERVER WHEN PAYING.

Online Orders, Use Coupon Code “FUND”.

Want to help us earn even MORE? Add an Isaac’s Gift Card to your check and 15% of the gift card sale will be added to the fundraiser! Gift card must be used on future visit.

HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR FUTURE EVENTS!

Eat Up! Raise Money
What’s In the Community?

**Hershey Gardens**

**Flutter By Again and Again!**

Butterfly species in the Atrium changes frequently, so each visit will bring a new favorite! More than 400 tropical and North American varieties will be featured over the next several months.

**Cocoa Kayak Rentals of Hershey, Inc.**

We are a mobile business with stream-side meetup locations at Water Trail access points—no outfitter shop saves you time and provides more trip options.

**Hershey Gardens Butterfly Atrium**

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**DISNEY ON ICE presents... Follow Your Heart**

**November 16th - 20th, 2016**

**Times:**
- Thursday: 7:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM, 3:00 & 7:00 PM
- Sunday: 2:00 PM

Follow your heart straight to adventure at Disney On Ice! Just keep swimming with Dory and new pal Hank from Disney-Pixar’s Finding Dory as they set out to find her parents and discover the devotion of family. Cheer with Joy, Sadness, and the rest of the Emotions from Disney-Pixar’s Inside Out as they work together to boost Riley’s spirit and win the big hockey game. Venture to wintery Arendelle where Olaf and Kristoff help reunite royal sisters Anna and Elsa from Disney’s Frozen and learn love is the most powerful magic of all. See Cinderella, Rapunzel, Ariel and the Disney Princesses make their dreams possible through virtues of bravery, kindness and perseverance. And celebrate true friendship with Buzz Lightyear, Woody and The Toy Story gang. Make unforgettable memories with Mickey, Minnie and all your Disney friends when Disney On Ice presents Follow Your Heart skates into your hometown!

**Open May thru Early November**

150 Cherry Hill Rd, Ronks, PA 17572

717-687-6843

Open Tuesday - Friday: 10am - 5pm
Open Saturdays from 10am to 7pm
Closed Sundays

15 acres of Farm Fun. 50+ activities and rides. Interactive Discovery Barn, live shows, petting zoo, pig races plus America’s longest-running Amazing Maize Maze®. Activities change season to season – May thru early November.

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

Katie Kokolus, kkokolus@hmc.psu.edu

**Postdoc Spotlight**

Shwetank

I have been working with Professor Aron Lukacher in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Penn State Hershey for the last three and a half years. My research focuses on understanding various aspects of T-cell immunology in persistent virus infections using mouse Polyomavirus (MPyV) as a model system. One part of my project involves understanding the mediators of viral DNA sensing upon MPyV infection. The other project involves studying the role of the checkpoint inhibitor PD-1 in maintenance of high affinity tissue resident virus-specific CD8 T cells in the brain.

My mother was a teacher and my father had a medicine business, and they nurtured my interest in biology early on. I grew up in Patna, in the state of Bihar in India. After my school education I joined the University of Pune in India for an undergraduate degree and was trained in Microbiology. I then moved to M S university of Baroda, India, for a master’s degree, where I was trained in Biochemistry. Further pursuing my interest in research I joined the PhD program at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India. Under the guidance of Prof. R Manjunath, I worked towards understanding the role of the non-classical human HLA molecule, HLA-E, in inhibition of the NK cell response to Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) infection.

There is an experience I wish to share with our postdoctoral community that I had during my PhD. I was working on JEV, which is endemic in some parts of India. I set out to experience the suffering of patients due to this dreadful virus and visited a children hospital in the endemic region of India. The experience of the real life situation with people fighting with the disease changed me completely. I evolved from a curious scientist to a passionate scientist. Our leisure life in the lab and slow pace of research makes us disconnected with the realities of the disease we are working on. As scientists we have as much responsibility as other physicians and health care personnel fighting the disease on the ground.

When I am not doing science I like to spend time with my family. My wife Sreejata, who is also a postdoc, and I share the love for food and traveling. There is no better stress buster than playing with my daughter Stuti. In my opinion, Hershey is a beautiful calm small town, which is conducive for research and for family too. I look forward to meeting all the fellow researchers, talk about everything from science to a vast range of topics.