



PennState
College of Medicine

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS & FELLOWS CONNECT

Newsletter Issue 11 | September 2019



THIS ISSUE'S FOCUS: POSTDOC APPRECIATION

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

In September we recognize the significant contributions that postdoctoral scholars make to U.S. research and discovery.

We encourage you to engage with your colleagues during the academic and networking events during the week of September 15th, and join us in celebrating the achievements of our outstanding postdocs.

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Resumes Vs. CVs

September 6 @ 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm,

Room C5702 – Penn State College of Medicine

Do you know the difference between a resume and CV? Learn when to use each document, how to incorporate skills and experiences desired by employers, and why proper formatting is so important. *Bring your resume and/or CV along with an applicable job/internship posting.*

Learn How to be Copyright-Compliant

September 6 @ 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

C1620K – Harrell Library

Esther Dell, Harrell Health Sciences Library's copyright expert, will discuss copyright compliance for researchers.

Fall Career Days 2018

September 17-19 @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Bryce Jordan Center – Penn State University Park
127 Bryce Jordan Center
University Park, PA 16802

Several employers will be recruiting biomedical/life science and public health students and graduates for full-time and internship opportunities. Sept. 17, 2019: Non-technical full-time recruiting day. Sept. 18, 2019: Internship and co-op recruiting day. Sept. 19, 2019: Technical full-time recruiting day.

OCTOBER

Workshop: Telling Your Science Story

September 3 @ 9:30 am - 2:00 pm. University

University Conference Center – Penn State College of Medicine

The four-hour intensive workshop is designed to assist participants in communicating their science to broad audiences. Participants will analyze example components of effective storytelling about scientific research, frame their ideas to tell their own story, practice telling their story to peers and give/receive feedback on their story. Best practices and strategies for networking will also be discussed. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

To register, email Becky Moyer at PostDocs@pennstatehealth.psu.edu by Sept. 26, 2019.

Networking and Informational Interviewing

October 14 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Room C1832 – Penn State College of Medicine,

In this session, participants will learn how to make connections and build rapport while increasing their professional network. This is important because up to 80 percent of jobs are found through networking. Participants will learn how to craft an "elevator speech," enhance their networking skills and manage follow-up through conducting informational interviews.

Graduate Education Etiquette Dinner

October 18 @ 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm - \$20 deposit

University Conference Center – Penn State College of Medicine

As part of the Graduate and Postdoctoral Career Day event, Career Services at Penn State College of Medicine is hosting an etiquette dinner. The etiquette dinner is an interactive and dynamic event featuring a facilitated dining and networking experience. Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars will have the chance to meet and network with alumni and other professionals while enjoying a formal, three-course meal.

10th Biennial Graduate and Postdoctoral Career Day

October 19 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration – C3621 - Penn State College of Medicine

Career Day is a day-long educational and networking event for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to learn about a wide range of career options and experiences available to those with advanced degrees in the biomedical sciences and public health. The day will be divided into four career tracks: business, research, alternative and public health, with approximately 14-16 different panels.

Create Your Career: A seminar featuring Mel Billingsley, PhD

October 25 @ 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Room C1845 A/B – Penn State College of Medicine

Mel Billingsley, PhD, professor of pharmacology at George Washington University, is president and CEO of the Life Science Greenhouse of Central Pennsylvania; professor of pharmacology at Penn State College of Medicine; and professor of biotechnology and entrepreneurship at Penn State Harrisburg.

He will present on his career path as a research scientist, educator, consultant and investor. Dr. Billingsley will highlight how he successfully made each career transition and offer tips for students and postdocs. Lunch will be provided starting at 12:15 p.m.

Email Jessica Kirkwood at jlk296@psu.edu by Oct. 21, 2019 to register.

NOVEMBER

Lunch and Learn: Building Positive Work Relationships

November 15 @ 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm – Workshop I – C1845

November 22 @ 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm – Workshop II – C1830

Penn State College of Medicine

In this event, co-hosted by Career Services and the Office of Student Mental Health and Counseling, students and postdocs who participate can increase awareness of themselves and different personalities through a two-part guided, interactive workshop. Participants will take a personality assessment (based on the MBTI), learn characteristics of different personality types and practice strategies to effectively work with others and proactively manage conflict.

Email Jessica Kirkwood at jlk296@psu.edu by Nov. 11 to register.

Negotiating Offers

November 19 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Room C1804 – Penn State College of Medicine

This workshop will teach student participants to negotiate job offers effectively by learning how to handle the initial offer, understanding which items to negotiate as well as academic and non-academic considerations, doing research, employing effective negotiation strategies and preparing for the conversation. Best practices and resources will help students negotiate a compensation package with confidence and poise.

Email Stacey Zygmunt at azygmunt@phs.psu.edu by Oct. 8, 2018 to register.

THE 10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL POSTDOC APPRECIATION WEEK 2019

The National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) was started in 2009 by the National Postdoc Association (NPA) to recognize significant contributions that postdoctoral scholars make to U.S. research and discovery. Institutes from across the country participate by holding special events to create awareness. The Postdoctoral Society at the Penn State College of Medicine like every year is organizing events throughout the week. We look forward to your participation and making this week long event a success.

September 15: 11:00 – 3:00 PM	International Potluck Picnic at Shank Park
September 16: 2:00 - 3:30 PM	Fellowship Workshop with Dr. Vrana; Room C3621
September 17: 2:00 – 5:00 PM	Outstanding Postdoc Award recipient oral presentations; Room C3621
September 18: 2:30 - 4:00 PM 7:30 PM	2018 - 2019 Travel Award recipient oral presentations; Room C3621 Networking Dinner with Dr. Boone
September 19: 2:00 - 3:30 PM	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ericka Boone; Room C3621 “Imposter Syndrome: Confronting the Career Development ‘Monster’ Hiding Under the Bed.”
September 20: 9:30 - 10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Postdoc Networking Breakfast with Jessica Kirkwood; Room C3621 Social Night and Fundraiser

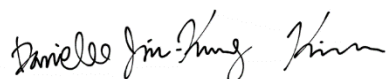
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENN STATE POSTDOC SOCIETY

Dear fellow Postdocs at Penn State Hershey,

Greetings! My name is Dani Kim and I am a 2019-2020 president of Penn State Hershey Postdoc Society. Here, at Penn State Hershey, we have over 100 junior and senior postdoctoral scholars pursuing diverse researches to enhance the quality of life through improving health and discovering new knowledge which benefits all human in the world. I would like every one of you to fully appreciate yourself and our fellow postdocs for our hard works and efforts.

Penn State Hershey Postdoc Society and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs exist 1) to support the training and education of postdocs, 2) to promote postdoc research accomplishments across the University, and 3) to foster a sense of community among our scholars. We have a variety of events, resources, and opportunities for your successful postdoc experiences: Postdoc Professional Development (PPD) program, Bond and Bradley Postdoc Travel Award, PLAN luncheon, Networking Breakfast, Data & Dine, and other social events. I would like to invite all postdoctoral scholars at Penn State Hershey to participate in these events and fully utilize these resources!

Thank you again for your commitment and dedication to research. Best wishes for continuing success!



Danielle Jin-Kwang Kim, Ph.D.
President, Penn State Hershey Postdoc Society

WELCOME NEW POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS TO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Name:	Department:	Name:	Department:
KANGNING LI	PEDIATRICS	SHANIE AMANDA JAYASINGHE	NEUROLOGY
GUIFANG WANG	BIOCHEM & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	ALEX LIN	JAKE GITTLEN LAB
XIAOLIANG WU	CANCER INSTITUTE	UMESHKUMAR MANJIBHAI VEKARIYA	PEDIATRICS
PAUL ROBERSON	PHYSIOLOGY	LIDAN SUN	PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE
ROBERTO BRUNA	PATHOLOGY	PREM KUMAR GOVINDAPPA	ORTHOPEDICS & REHABILITAT
HAITAO LIU	MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY	RINKI KUMAR	MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY
HUI GUO	PEDIATRICS	SUCHITRA MOHANTY	MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY
YUAN-TING WU	NEURAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES		

GETTING TO KNOW SOME OF THE NEW POSTDOCS



Dr. Rinki Kumar

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Buchkovich

Hello! I am from India and currently working in Dr. Nick Buchkovich's lab. My research is on host-pathogen interactions in cytomegalovirus infection. More specifically, on characterizing the role of the viral protein UL88 in viral pathogenesis. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge and experience in the field.



Dr. Nnenna Nwogu

Department of Microbiology and Immunology

Advisor: Dr. Hyun Jin Kwun

Hi, My name is Nnenna and yes I am aware there are 4 N's in my name. It is a tiresome. I am working on Merkel cell polyomavirus with Hyun Jin Kwun in the department of Microbiology and Immunology. I got my Ph.D at the University of Leeds in England and I work on DNA tumor viruses, Merkel cell polyomavirus as a student and KSHV as short term post doc.

POSTDOCTORAL ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Sophia Allen

Public Health Sciences

Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Foulds

Dr. Sophia I. Allen, 3rd year Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Public Health Sciences, is the recipient of Penn State University's first National Institutes of Health (NIH) Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research Grant (Diversity Supplement, PA-18-906). Her research will assess the social and economic factors that influence participation in a clinical trial of adult cigarette smokers and their attempt to switch to an e-cigarette (U01DA045517-01S1, \$132,505). Dr. Allen's faculty mentor, Dr. Jonathan Foulds, Professor in the Departments of Public Health Sciences and Psychiatry received the NIH award titled, "Does Switching to Nicotine-Containing Electronic Cigarettes Reduce Health Risk Markers?" (U01DA045517, \$766,492) to understand the health effects of cigarette smokers switching to a Standardized Research E-Cig (SREC) and to assess the role of nicotine delivery on switching, acceptability and markers of health outcomes. NIH Diversity Supplements are used to improve the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting and supporting students, post-doctorates, and eligible investigators from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis. For more information:

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/showpub.cfm?TopID=2&SubID=27>



**Do you have cool
fluorescence, confocal or
EM images to share?**

We are looking for cover images for our newsletter "CONNECT".

An excellent way to share your research and highlight your findings!

We look forward to your contributions to this inventory of images.

**Please send your images to
rmoyer7@pennstatehealth.psu.edu**



RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

We have introduced the "Research Achievements" section to highlight and enlist the recent achievements of the postdoctoral scholars from The Penn State College of Medicine. Please send us the details of your recent achievements, including:

- Publications (News and Views, Press Coverage)
- Patents
- Talks/poster presentation at conferences
- Grant Awards

This is an excellent platform to share your interesting research, highlight your achievements and provide opportunities for collaborations.

DATA & DINE 2019

17TH ANNUAL POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



DATA & DINE 2019 SPEAKER: PURNANAND SARMA



President & CEO at Immunome

Board Member at Immunome,
Vaxess Technologies, Ohm
Oncology

Dr. Sarma was the President and CEO of TARIS® a high value therapeutic oncology company. With more than 20 years of pharmaceutical experience in large, medium and small companies, he has moved on to be the President and CEO of Immunome. Dr. Sarma started his career at SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, in the areas of formulation sciences and product development. He earned a BS in Pharmacy from Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, India and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutics from the University of Minnesota. He was also the General Manager and Vice President of Worldwide Drug Delivery Technologies of CIMA LABS, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Cephalon (now Teva). Prior to Cephalon, Dr. Sarma served as Vice President of Pharmaceutical Development at Nektar Therapeutics, based in the San Francisco Bay area.

His Specialties include: General Management, Pharmaceutical R&D, Product Development, Drug-Device Combinations, Corporate Strategy, M&A, Venture Financing

TARIS is a Specialty Pharmaceutical Company, focused on treating Genito-urinary diseases using drug-device convergence. Dr. Sarma sold company's lead program LiRIS for the treatment of Interstitial Cystitis to Allergan for ~\$588M in August 2014. Taris is aggressively building a high value Specialty Urology Company. An MIT start-up, backed by Polaris, Flagship, Flybridge and Third Rock Ventures.

2019 POSTDOCTORAL DATA & DINE AWARDS

Award:	Awardee Recipient:
OUTSTANDING POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR (1 ST PLACE)	Danielle Jin-Kwang Kim, Ph.D. Yanyan Jiang, Ph.D.
OUTSTANDING POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR (2 ND PLACE)	Brian Hain, Ph.D.
OUTSTANDING POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR (3 RD PLACE)	Nithyananda Thorenoor, Ph.D.
OUTSTANDING POSTER	Sathi Babu Chodiseti, Ph.D.
OUTSTANDING POSTER	Ashwinkumar Subramenium Ganapathy, Ph.D.
OUTSTANDING POSTER	Megan Young, Ph.D.



LOCAL EVENTS FARMERS MARKETS AROUND TOWN

Wine & Food Festival

September 6 - 8
Venue: The Hotel Hershey
Location: Hershey, PA

The HBG Flea

September 7 & October 5
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Venue: Midtown Cinema
Location: Harrisburg, PA

The HBG Flea

September 15
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Venue: Fort Hunter Mansion & Park
Location: Harrisburg, PA

Octoberfest

Time: 2:30 - 6:30 pm
Venue: Tattered Flag Brewery
Location: Middletown, PA

Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire

August 17 - October 27
Time: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Venue: Mount Hope Estate & Winery
Location: Manheim, PA

Farmers Market in Hershey

Thursday Afternoons, May 17 - October 25
Market Hours: 2:30 - 6:30 pm
Free Concerts: 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Venue: Grounds of the Cocoa Beanery
Location: Hummelstown, PA

Palmyra Producer-Only Farmers Market

Saturday May - October
Hours: 8:00 - 12:00 noon
Location: Palmyra, PA

Farmstead Farmers Market

Open Year-round
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fridays
8:00 am - 3:00 pm Saturdays
Location: Palmyra, PA

Masonic Village Farm Market

Open Year-round, Monday - Saturday
Hours: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Location: Elizabethtown, PA

MUSIC FESTIVALS & CONCERTS

Decked Out Live

Fridays, August 16 - September 27
Time: 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Venue: The Vineyard & Brewery at Hershey
Location: Middletown, PA

Music in the Vines

Fridays & Saturdays, August 16 - September 28
Time: 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Venue: Cassel Vineyards of Hershey
Location: Hummelstown, PA

Disturbed

October 4, 2019
Time: 7:30 pm
Venue: Hershey Theater

Switchfoot

October 15, 2019
Time: 7:30 pm
Venue: Hershey Theater



2019 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dani Kim, Ph.D.
Vice President

Sophia Allen, Ph.D.
Vice President

Sathi Babu Chodisetti, Ph.D.
Professional Development

Saketh Dinavahi, Ph.D.
Soumya Iyer, Ph.D.
Social Events Chair Co-Chairs

Rinki Kumar, Ph.D.
Professional Development Chair

Alex Lin, Ph.D.
Society Representative

Pavan Kumar Dhanyam Raju, Ph.D.
Travel Awards Chair

From the Director's desk...

Research is the cornerstone of your postdoctoral life and training. To celebrate this, please join me for the many events of the **10th annual National Postdoc Appreciation Week, September 15-20, 2019.**

NPAW recognizes the significant contributions that postdoctoral scholars make to U.S. research and discovery. Institutions from across the country and other parts of the world participate by holding special events.

Events at the College of Medicine will take place throughout the week, and include: an invited Keynote speaker, several research presentations by postdocs, and career services. Our kickoff event is a family potluck picnic on Sunday. Details can be found in the newsletter. I hope that all of you will join me to celebrate Postdocs in September!

Kristin A. Eckert



Pictured Above:
Kristin Eckert, Ph.D.



Pictured Above:
Becky Moyer

CONNECT EDITORIAL BOARD

Jason Biegel, Ph.D.

Rinki Kumar, Ph.D.

Colleen Netherby-Winslow, Ph.D.