Hope you already have sprung forward and are ready to experience all the exciting things happening in April. In this issue of the LPDA Newsletter, we will introduce you to some members of the LPDA Career Development subcommittee, followed by the rest in the next issue. This group of postdocs work very hard to organize this well-attended seminar series. In this issue, we are also featuring Dr. Rumana Akhter, an accomplished postdoc in the Genomic Medicine Institute.

In April, there will be two career development seminars, organized by the Research Education and Training Center (RETC). In the first one, Dr. Geoff Vince will talk about the evolution of projects from the bench to the bedside, and in the second, Dr. Tara DeSilva will provide insights on how to be a better communicator in a professional setting. Please take advantage of these seminars, as they are organized for you!

Don't forget to stay connected via LinkedIn.

Communication Team

JOIN OUR Linked in GROUP!

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association and Alumni Network

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association and Alumni Network is a group of current and former postdoctoral fellows at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute. Our goals are to provide opportunities for career development, networking, and highlighting our scientific achievements. We also post reminders about upcoming events, so make sure to turn on notifications.

Request to join today and tell all of your fellow Lerner Postdocs and RAs!
The Lerner Postdoctoral Association Leadership Council

LPDA Executive Board
Co-Presidents: Amina Abbadi and Timothy Mead
Secretary: Kelsey Bohn  Treasurer: Brian Yard

Subcommittees

A. Career Development and Resources
Chair: Madhav Sankunnu
Members: Dola Das, Brian Yard, Sudipta Biswas, Sromona Mukherjee, Darshana Poddar, Iris Smith, Elizabeth Sweeney, Nara Yoon, and Nikhil Sharm
• Career development seminars
• Professional development workshops
• Teaching opportunities at local schools and universities
• Career/training opportunities in collaboration with RETC and Lerner Graduate Studies Association (LGSa)

B. Social/Outreach
Chair: Aimalie Hardaway
Members: Tim Mead, Iris Smith, Sangeeta Kumari, Salma Ben-Salem, and Vijay Nagampalli
• Social events
• Promote networking opportunities
• Community outreach

C. Communication
Chair: Amina Abbadi
Members: Kelsey Bohn, Xiaoguang Fang, Isha Kapoor, Ángel Reyes-Rodríguez, Chinthasagar Bastian, Benjamin Krishna and Jordon Dunham
• Advertise postdoc-related events
• Social media (LinkedIn)
• Monthly Postdoctoral Fellow newsletter

D. Mentorship/Advocacy
Chair: Iris Smith
Members: Ángel Reyes-Rodríguez, Defne Watson, and Nozha Borjini
• Research mentorship network in collaboration with LGSA
• Mentorship seminars and workshops
• Mentor graduate students
• Address concerns and complaints to appropriate channels interacting with RETC and Office of the Lerner Chair
MEET YOUR FELLOWS!

Meet our Career Development and Resources Team (Part 1)

Dr. Dola Das is from Assam, India, where she got her PhD at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr. Das currently works on targeted therapy in hepatocellular carcinoma and underlying conditions of hepatic cirrhosis. “I work for Cleveland Clinic because I want to make a difference in how we perceive and treat a disease for the best patient care,” says Dr. Das. “Cleveland Clinic is a renowned health care facility with an equally active research institute. It was Cleveland Clinic's access to large patient samples that made it my primary choice. Besides that, the Clinic's ‘Patients First’ policy resonates very well with my personal philosophy.” In her free time, she enjoys photography as a hobby.

Dr. Darshana Poddar was born and raised in India, where she obtained a B.S. degree in Chemistry, followed by a M.S. in Biochemistry. She got her PhD in Regulatory Biology with Cellular & Molecular Medicine specialization from the Cleveland State University. Dr. Poddar currently studies the role of innate immune receptor mediated signaling and interferon stimulated genes in regulating intestinal inflammation. She was driven to work at the Clinic “because of the work ethics, diversity, opportunities for collaborative studies, reagent sharing, and development of innovative ideas from research shared by researchers at poster sessions and departmental talks.” Dr. Poddar is a foodie, likes to explore new places to eat in town, and loves to cook. She enjoys watching movies, listening to music, and going for walks when the weather is nice.

Dr. Sudipta Biswas is from India. She got her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. She currently works on understanding the underlying mechanisms of prothrombotic complications in hyperlipidemia leading to cardiovascular diseases. She chose to work here because “the Cleveland Clinic is the best place in cardiology in the United States and it is a nice place to work.” When she is not busy thinking of science, Dr. Biswas loves hiking, outdoor-activities, photography, gardening, and experimental cooking.
MEET YOUR FELLOWS!

Meet Your Fellow Postdoc

Dr. Rumana Akhter, who recently published in Neurobiology of Aging and has authored many other research articles, is from Kolkata, India, where she earned her PhD in Neuroscience. She worked in neurodegeneration associated with Alzheimer's Disease (AD). She then left India to do her postdoctoral fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic with the aim to explore other facets of AD pathophysiology. She now works in Dr. Lynn Bekris' lab on genetic regulation of APP metabolic molecules, namely ADAM10, a proteinase which plays a key role in AD. She is also working on a recently discovered AD risk factor TREM2 and its role in neuroinflammation. She joined the Cleveland Clinic in 2015 because it is one of the premier institutes focused on researching and treating the most complex neurological disorders. Dr. Akhter has received numerous prestigious awards from many professional organizations including the Alzheimer's Association and the International Society of Neurochemistry. Apart from being a researcher, Dr. Akhter loves being a mom of her two youngsters, painting, traveling and enjoying roller coaster rides!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lerner Experience in Advanced Development of Educational and Research Skills (LEADERS)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! April 16, one more LEADERS session for this month by Dr. Tara DeSilva from the Department of Neurosciences. Dr. DeSilva will be giving a talk on professional communication in room NE1-205, 3:00-4:00 PM.

These sessions are organized by RETC and we encourage all trainees to attend in any order and at any time. Please be reminded that those who attend all sessions will receive a certificate of completion.
RECENT EVENT

Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (March 12-15, 2018)

The Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF) 2018 was held at the Woodling Gym at Cleveland State University. The fair featured scientific poster presentations by students (grades 7-12) that covered a range of topics in STEM. Dr. Christine Moravec, member of the Board of Directors and Judging Chair for NEOSEF and the RETC team, extended an excellent opportunity to all LPDA members to help set up and serve as special event judges. A total of 27 LPDA members participated in the event, during which we were inspired by the brilliant young scientists of the future. In return, we strived to foster creativity and interest among the young students to pursue future careers in STEM fields. Cash prizes worth $2500 were awarded to students by the LPDA members as special awards from the various Lerner Research Institute departments.
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Talk

Dr. Timothy Mead from the Apte Lab in Biomedical Engineering was selected to give a talk at the Program of Excellence in Glycosciences 2018 in San Diego, California. The title of the talk was “ADAMTS9-Regulated Pericellular Matrix Dynamics Governs Focal Adhesion-Dependent Smooth Muscle Differentiation”

Publication

“Variation in Primary and Culture-Expanded Cells Derived from Connective Tissue Progenitors in Human Bone Marrow Space, Bone Trabecular Surface and Adipose Tissue” published in Cytotheraphy by Dr. Maha A. Qadan from the Muschler Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

View Publication

GET INVOLVED!

Did you publish a paper recently or get a grant or award? We want to highlight your accomplishments in the next newsletter! As part of the LPDA, we thrive to improve this organization to its maximum potential. To do so, we will need participation and input of all postdoctoral fellows and research associates. If you would like to be involved with our events or have any suggestions or accomplishments we can highlight, please email lri-postdoc-assoc@ccf.org