

# Lerner Postdoctoral Association



Lerner Postdoctoral Association  
Leadership Council

We are finishing 2017 strong at the Lerner Postdoctoral Association (LPDA), and it's all because of you. Thank you. We are thankful for your participation in our successful Career Development Seminar Series. We are grateful for the opportunity to meet and talk with you in person over donuts and coffee, and over drinks and Chipotle. We appreciate hearing from you via email and learning about all the contributions you are making to science. We are full of gratitude because we get to connect with you via LinkedIn and via our monthly newsletter. Oh yes, 2017 has been wonderful for our organization.

But the year is not over yet. In this issue of the newsletter, we feature the efforts of one of our own; Dr. Aimalie Hardaway writes about her experience recruiting underrepresented minority students for the Lerner Research Institute that we believe you will find interesting. Also, don't forget to attend Dr. Melissa Mullen-Davis' informative talk about teaching and conducting research in small universities and community colleges.

Finally, we would like to wish you a happy, peaceful, and productive holiday season. As always, we look forward to receiving your success stories so we can feature your accomplishments and publications in our newsletter and [LinkedIn group](#) in the upcoming year.

**[Meet the Lerner Postdoctoral Association Leadership Council](#)**

[LPDA Executive Board and Subcommittees](#)

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## Advertisements and Upcoming Events



### Join our LinkedIn Group!

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!

# Lerner Postdoctoral Association



## Career Development Seminar Series

### Teaching and Research in Small Universities/Community Colleges

Featured Speaker: Melissa Mullen-Davis, PhD, Visiting Professor,  
The College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio

Friday, December 15  
NE1-205  
2:00 pm

## Recent Events



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### Dr. Hardaway attended a national conference to recruit underrepresented minority scientists to the LRI

Dr. Aimalie Hardaway, a member of the LDPA Leadership Council, attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Phoenix, AZ last month. She represented the Lerner Research Institute and worked to recruit postdoctoral fellows from underrepresented minority backgrounds. Along with representatives from the Molecular Medicine PhD Program and the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, she spoke with attendees and discussed the postdoctoral program at the Lerner. Her effort aligns with the LPDA's goals of providing a supportive and engaging environment for postdocs with diverse backgrounds. The LPDA continues to work on this initiative by working closely with the National Research Mentoring Network (NRMN) who partners with the Diversity Program Consortium and plans to discuss more options to further support underrepresented minorities at the Lerner. [View additional image](#)



[View larger image](#)

### **Career Development Seminar**

Faculty Positions (Job Search Do's and Don'ts) seminar by Dr. Christine M. O'Connor. It was a very stimulating talk, with a complete package of wit, depth of knowledge, experience, and humility.

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## **Recent Accomplishments**

### **Talks**

Dr. Terri Harford from the Piedimonte lab in Pathobiology was selected to speak at the Nemaclin 12th Annual International Asthma Conference 2017 in Farmington, PA. The title of the talk was "Asthma Predisposition and RSV Infection Modulate TRPV1 Function in Children's Airways."

Dr. Peggy Robinet from the Smith lab in Cellular and Molecular Medicine was invited to speak at the South Eastern Lipid Research Conference 2017 in Lexington, KY. The title of the talk was "Role of Lysosome in Foam Cell Cholesterol Metabolism."

Dr. Venkata P Mantripragada from the Muschler lab in Biomedical Engineering was selected to speak at TERMIS-Americas 2017 in Charlotte, NC. The title of the talk was "Quantitative Assessment of Cell and Progenitor Population Resident in Different Zones of Human Cartilage Tissue and its Correlation with Tissue Health."

Dr. Nara Yoon from the Scott lab in Translational Hematology and Oncology Research was selected to speak at the International Society for Evolution, Ecology and Cancer Conference 2017 in Tempe, AZ. The title of the talk was "Optimal Therapy Scheduling Based on a Pair of Collaterally Sensitive Drugs."

Dr. Jongmyung Kim from the Liu lab in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine was selected to speak at the Society for Neuro-Oncology Conference 2017 in San Francisco, CA. The title of the talk was "Imaging Glioblastoma with 7-Amino Acid-Length Tumor-Homing Peptide Identified by Phage Display Biopanning."

### **Awards**

Dr. Dalia Halawani from the Fox lab in Cellular and Molecular Medicine won the "Special Travel Award" at the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) Focused Meeting on tRNA Synthetases in Clearwater Beach, FL. The title of the talk was "The Bifunctional tRNA Synthetase, EPRS, Contributes to Adaptive Mismethylation in Mammalian Cells."

Dr. Darshana Poddar from the Ganes Sen lab in Immunology received a T32 training grant in Geographic Medicine and Infectious Disease as a grant appointee mentored by Dr. Ganes Sen. The grant is titled "IFITs, a Class of Interferon Stimulated Genes, Ameliorates Acute Intestinal Inflammation." The goal of this project is to study the molecular mechanism underlying how the IFITs protect from intestinal inflammation and associated colorectal cancer.

## Publications

“Akt3 Inhibits Adipogenesis and Protects From Diet-Induced Obesity via Signaling Pathway” published in JCI Insight by Dr. Liang Ding from the Podrez lab in the Department of Molecular Cardiology. [View publication](#)

“High Occurrence of Osteoarthritic Histopathological Features Unaccounted for by Traditional Scoring Systems in Lateral Femoral Condyles from Total Knee Arthroplasty Patients with Varus Alignment,” published in Acta Orthopaedica by Dr. Venkata P Mantripragada from the Muschler lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. [View publication](#)

“Histopathological Assessment of Primary Osteoarthritic Knees in Large Patient Cohort Reveal the Possibility of Several Potential Patterns of Osteoarthritis Initiation,” published in Current Research in Translational Medicine by Dr. Venkata P Mantripragada from the Muschler Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. [View publication](#)

“Targeting Glioma Stem Cell-Derived Pericytes Disrupts the Blood-Tumor Barrier and Improves Chemotherapeutic Efficacy,” published in Cell Stem Cell by Dr. Wenchao Zhou from the Bao Lab in Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. [View publication](#)

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## 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 accomplishment we can highlight please email [lri-postdoc-assoc@ccf.org](mailto:lri-postdoc-assoc@ccf.org)**