January Newsletter

It’s the new year and each of us has the ability to make this year exceptional! Let us celebrate our accomplishments and learn from our defeats to set ourselves up for a great year ahead.

This month we feature Lerner alumna Dr. Elona Gusho, fellow Dr. Iris Smith, and graduate student Jasmine Gajeton.

We also provide recaps of the recent LEADERS seminar, highlights from the community outreach opportunities in December, photos from the RETC holiday party, as well as upcoming events that you won’t want to miss!

Don’t forget to submit your accomplishments so they can be featured in our newsletter and, as always, stay active on our LinkedIn group.

Join our LinkedIn group

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association and Alumni Network is a group of current and former postdoctoral fellows, research associates and graduate students at 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 trainees!
LPDA Executive Board
Co-Presidents: Defne Bayik and Maksim Sinyuk
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Chair of Public Relations: Abigail Dooley
Chair of Community Outreach: Morgan Engelhart
Chair of Student Engagement: Nazmin Bithi
Chair of Professional Development: Kristín Allan
General Members: Allison Grenell, Morgan McGrath, Kayla Merritt, Katie Troike, Shilpa Rao, Alyson Wolk
When did you work in Lerner and in which lab?
I joined as a graduate student in 2010 in Dr. Robert Silverman’s lab in the Department of Cancer Biology. After completing my PhD in December 2015, I continued to work with Dr. Silverman as a postdoctoral fellow for about a year.

What did you work on at Lerner?
During my PhD, my research focused on innate immunity. I worked on the OAS-RNase L innate immune pathway and the host encoded phosphodiesterases that antagonize this pathway. By the time I started pursuing this project, two viral 2’,5’ phosphodiesterases were identified. However, it was still elusive whether cellular homologs existed. Our studies identified AKAP7 as a host encoded phosphodiesterase. We hypothesized that AKAP7 could be picked up by disparate viruses during evolution. Later, during my postdoctoral studies, I focused on investigating additional functions of the host encoded phosphodiesterases on OAS-RNase L activity.

Where are you now, and what do you work on?
Currently, I am a postdoctoral research fellow at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, in Chicago, IL. I work on manipulation of innate immunity by high-risk HPVs in Dr. Laimonis Laimins lab, Chair of the Microbiology-Immunology Department.

What is something you miss from your time at Lerner?
I miss a lot of things at Lerner. Particularly, the people, friendly and collaborative environment in the lab as well as in the department. I made strong professional relationships and long-lasting friendships during those years which I still cherish. The time I spent there was much more than just getting a degree.

How was the transition to your current role?
The knowledge and expertise I received from Dr. Silverman’s lab made my transition to the new position quite smooth. I had the advantage of knowing most of the common lab techniques from my previous training that helped pursue my current role with greater confidence. I was also lucky to find a very supportive and welcoming environment at Northwestern.

What is your favorite part of your current job?
I love working in the field of Virology. I am fascinated by viruses and how they manipulate our several layers of defense mechanisms. In addition, Northwestern offers a lot of opportunities to advance and prepare for the next step in your career. I also love Chicago! It’s a beautiful and very lively city. The Feinberg School of Medicine is just steps away from the Magnificent Mile and the amazing lakefront.

What are your next career plans?
Whether I decide to stay in academia or move to an industry, I would still want to pursue basic research. I earnestly look forward to what science has to offer and hope that my contributions help resolve unanswered questions in life sciences.

In one sentence, what advice would you give current Lerner trainees?
Don’t be afraid to try; there are a lot of opportunities out there for you to explore!
Dr. Iris Smith is from Houston, Texas. She received both her Bachelor’s and Doctorate degrees in Biochemistry from the University of Houston in Houston, Texas in the laboratory of Dr. James M. Briggs. Dr. Smith’s graduate research investigated structural analysis of somatic PTEN mutations and its genotype-phenotype correlations in endometriosis and cancer. As a result of her graduate research focus, she had been following Dr. Charis Eng’s research for years and reached out to her to thank her for laying the foundation in PTEN research. This serendipitous encounter led to Dr. Smith’s journey to Cleveland Clinic, where cutting-edge patient care and research is being conducted by renowned scientific researchers. She has been a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Eng’s laboratory since January 2017 and her research centers on identifying protein structural differences associated with germline PTEN mutations that lead to autism spectrum disorder or cancer phenotypes. More specifically, her goal is to determine how protein conformational dynamics influence structural dynamics, stability and long-range allosteric communication effects of germline PTEN mutations associated with autism versus cancer. Dr. Smith has done fantastic so far with her research goals, leading to prestigious awards such as the F. Merlin Bumpus Junior Investigator Award in Basic Research and the NIH T32 training grant for two years. Outside of the laboratory, she enjoys crocheting, engaging in Bible study and spending time with her husband and her dogs.

“As a result of my graduate study research focus, I had been following Dr. Charis Eng’s research for years and reached out to her to thank her for laying the foundation in PTEN research - this serendipitous encounter led to my journey here at Cleveland Clinic where cutting-edge patient care and research is being conducted by renowned scientific researchers.”

-Dr. Iris Smith
Jasmine Gajeton is a graduate student who was recently awarded the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center Trainee Travel Award and won a Poster Award at the FASEB 2019 Science Research Conference: Matricellular Proteins in Tissue Remodeling and Inflammation Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. Jasmine is from the Bay Area in California and graduated from UCLA as a microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics (MIMG) major. She is a Molecular Medicine graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Olga Stenina Adognravi in the department of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences. Before joining the program she was a work-study student in Dr. Dinesh Rao's laboratory, where she transitioned into a research student and secured funding to continue on an NIH grant though the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Program. The goal of Jasmine’s thesis research is to understand the mechanistic link between chronic inflammation and the development of insulin resistance that eventually can progress to Type 2 Diabetes. The lab has evidence that a specific microRNA mechanism of regulation is present in immune cells in response to high glucose. They are testing whether this small RNA is responsible for mediating an inflammatory response in immune cells when glucose levels are high. In mice that become insulin resistant as a result of a high fat, high sugar “Western Diet”, they are also investigating how inhibiting the action of this small RNA affects overall inflammation, local inflammation in organs that utilize glucose, and influences the development of pre-diabetes and diabetes. She was drawn to Lerner and the Molecular Medicine PhD program by its unique focus on translational research and affiliation with Cleveland Clinic. Jasmine explained, “the clinical experience was truly an eye-opener for me because it allowed me have a glimpse into the patient perspective.” Her lab was a perfect fit because she had studied microRNAs in her undergraduate lab and her PI took her interest in immunology into account when thinking about projects. Outside of the lab, Jasmine enjoys playing competitive volleyball as a way to keep grounded and get a fun workout. She also loves food, is always looking for new restaurants or bars to Yelp about, and is on the lookout for cool events and experiences in Cleveland. You can usually catch her catching Pokemon on her phone while walking around!

“Lerner is a smaller institute than I was used to when I was at UCLA. It definitely has its advantages, especially when other labs and core facilities are just down the hall to ask for advice. A huge thank you to the Image Core, who was extremely helpful when I had so many slides to scan and quantify in their computer workspace.”

-Jasmine Gajeton
MEET YOUR LPDA CAREER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Vishal Nanavaty is from Ahmedabad, Gujarat in the western part of India. Dr. Nanavaty did his BS in biochemistry and MS in biotechnology at Gujarat University. He earned his PhD in telomere biology from Cleveland State University. He is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Angela Ting’s lab in the Genomic Medicine Institute. His project is focused on deciphering the molecular mechanisms of DNA methylation in the regulation of alternative cleavage and polyadenylation in cancer cells. Cleveland Clinic is one of the premium research institutes in the world. He chose to work here because of the number of opportunities and the balanced exposure to learn different aspects of research in a short amount of time. Outside work, he spends most time with his wife and two daughters watching cartoons and family-friendly movies.

Dr. Yee Peng Phoon is from Malaysia. Dr. Phoon completed her PhD from Hong Kong Karolinska Institute where she did her first postdoc. She is currently working in the lab of Dr. Brian Gastman studying novel immune checkpoints to enhance current cancer immunotherapies leading to better cancer patient care. Dr. Phoon chose Cleveland Clinic because it provides an excellent platform for translational and clinical research with comprehensive resources and facilities. When she is not working in the lab, she enjoys traveling, hiking and reading.

MEET YOUR LGSA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kristin Allan is a graduate student from Olmsted Falls, just outside of Cleveland. She attended The College of Wooster in Wooster Ohio, majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology. Currently, she is a 4th year Molecular Medicine PhD student in Dr. Alex Yuan’s laboratory in Ophthalmic Research at the Cole Eye Institute. Her work uses zebrafish as a model to understand their inherent ability to regenerate their retinas for eventual translation into humans. Kristin chose the Molecular Medicine program at the Lerner because wanted a PhD program that could combine her love of science with clinical applications. Outside of her work, Kristin spends most of her time renovating her house top to bottom with her fiancé.
UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Lerner Experience in Advanced Development of Educational and Research Skills (LEADERS)

2020 Schedule

LEADERS
Series for Lerner Research Institute Trainees

Lerner Experience in Advanced Development of Education and Research Skills

Trainee Resources
Kelsey Bohn, PhD
Sarah Kostiha Smith, MEd, MBA
1/13, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

International Trainee Resources
Janice Bianco, MA
Mary Curry
2/10, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Bioinformatics
Dennis Lal, PhD
Ignacio Mata, PhD
3/23, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Getting the Most From Your IDP
TBD Panel
4/13, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Biostatistics Part 1
Amy Nowacki, PhD
5/11, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Biostatistics Part 2
Amy Nowacki, PhD
6/15, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Mentoring Younger Trainees
Christine Moravec, PhD
7/13, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Grant Writing Part 1
TBD
8/10, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Grant Writing Part 2
TBD
9/14, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Elevator Speeches, Posters
TBD
10/12, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Creating Figures, etc.
TBD
11/19, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205

Writing Papers
TBD
12/14, 4:00-5:00, NE1-205
UPCOMING EVENTS

LRI Lunar New Year Celebration
Presented by the Lerner Chinese Students and Scholars Association & the Lerner Diversity Council

Happy Lunar New Year
2020: Year of the Rat

The Lerner Chinese Students and Scholars Association & Lerner Diversity Council invite you to celebrate the Chinese New Year:

- Performances
- Games
- Chinese food
- Learn to do calligraphy, use chopsticks, make dumplings
- And more!

Friday, January 17
Lerner Commons
4:00 - 7:00 pm
Did you miss the LEADERS seminar on ‘Starting Your Own Lab’ by Christopher Hine, PhD, Sarah Schumacher-Bass, PhD, and Jessica Williams, PhD? Here is a recap!

Starting a new lab may seem like a scary prospect, but the LEADERS seminar on ‘Starting Your Own Lab’ led by Assistant Staff members Christopher Hine, PhD, Sarah Schumacher-Bass, PhD, and Jessica Williams, PhD helped alleviate the fear and enhance the excitement about what can be an amazing start for a new principal investigator (PI). Their ‘Example Timeline’ (pictured on the right) gives an overview of what a new PI must do when starting a lab and how long individual tasks might take. However, the timeline isn’t always linear - individual jobs may need to happen simultaneously, and time management is an important part of being successful.

One of the first things that must happen in a new lab is filling out important paperwork to allow experiments to commence. For example, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Review Board (IRB), and Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) protocols must be written and approved. It can be helpful to get a head start on understanding these protocols as a postdoc by being involved in writing protocols for your current lab. It is also a good idea to ask for examples from faculty at your new institute and to meet important personnel including veterinarians and members of relevant committees that oversee protocol reviews. Ordering equipment and reagents is another early task that must be accomplished. Get to know the companies that have good relationships with your new institution, and discover what discounts are available for new labs. You can start the ordering process as a postdoc by taking inventory of the things that you use on a daily basis in your current lab.

An extremely important decision that you will make as a new PI is who will be your first lab member. When hiring, don’t just choose the first person to apply. Consider skills that will be necessary to make your lab successful. Also, consider whether the person’s personality will mesh well with yours and your new lab’s. Once you have your first lab member, experiments can start to ramp up. Having a committee of experienced faculty mentors can help take your research in productive directions and improve your grantsmanship. It can be helpful to join a committee to become more involved at your institute and meet new people. Just make sure you don’t become overwhelmed - your most important responsibility is maintaining a productive lab!

Becoming a PI is exciting, and one of the best things about this career is the scientific freedom that comes with it. Although starting a lab is a lot of work, it is also a time to explore your scientific interests and dictate how your career will progress. If you have any questions about starting a lab, the seminar speakers can be contacted by email (Christopher Hine: hinec@ccf.org, Sarah Schumacher-Bass: basss4@ecf.org, Jessica Williams: williaj39@ccf.org).
There are almost 2,900 youth in foster care in Cuyahoga county, which is a 16% increase from last year. Throughout December, the LPDA Social and Outreach subcommittee coordinated with Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services to run a donation campaign. Hope for the Holidays provides gifts for children of all ages in foster care thanks to donations from individuals and organizations in the Cuyahoga area. Donation boxes were placed around Lerner for toy and supply donations for children in foster care. People contributed in a major way and filled up five boxes with dolls, books, winter essentials, school supplies, board games, etc. It was overwhelming to see how generous people are! The LPDA would like to thank Dr. Iris Smith, the Social and Outreach subcommittee volunteers, and everyone in Lerner who donated!
RECENT EVENTS

The Ins and Outs of Thesis Committees
-Kristin Allan, LGSA Chair of Professional Development

On December 2\textsuperscript{nd}, the LGSA Professional Development Committee hosted an informative seminar about thesis committees. The event was organized as a panel discussion: Lerner staff members Dr. Donna Driscoll and Dr. Bela Anand-Apte shared their experiences serving as committee members and chairs, while recent grad and current post-doc Dr. Maksim Sinyuk and senior graduate student Courtney Hershberger each offered a student’s perspective. Specific topics included how to form a solid committee, diversity in expertise, and qualifying exam advice. Importantly, the panel discussed how students can best work with the committee to run effective meetings and determine an action plan to reach the ultimate goal of graduation.

- Diversity in expertise and career stage is critical. It is important to choose a Chair that has experience serving on thesis committees.

- Think through the alternative approaches section of your qualifying exam thoroughly. Think not only about methods but also alternative hypotheses if yours proves to be wrong.

- Use the meeting as an opportunity to practice a formal talk and stay within the time frame of approximately 20-30 minutes to give appropriate time for discussion of the thesis project and future directions.

- Make sure you, your thesis advisor, and the committee have the same expectations and clear goals for the project.
RECENT EVENTS

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank Volunteering Experience

-Morgan Engelhart, LGSA Chair of Community Outreach

LGSA hosted a community outreach event on December 5th, 2019 at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, whose mission is “working together to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day” and has core values of: fostering engagement, excellence, empowerment, and dedication of service. The Food Bank acts as a distribution center for all Northeastern Ohio food pantries and has served over 350,000 clients in 2019. In 2018, they made 57.3 million meals possible, including 21 million pounds of free produce. The Food Bank is committed to providing healthy and filling food to their clients, with approximately 75% of their food being fresh produce to be distributed to food pantries. The Food Bank is making a huge impact in our community, helping the health-challenged, seniors, and children. But they truly go beyond just providing a meal for those that need it. They are addressing the root of the problem. The Food Bank continues to build partnerships with local organizations to help clients with important issues surrounding hunger, like employment, housing, and healthcare.

In 2018 alone, almost 19,000 volunteers donated more than 85,000 hours of service to the Food Bank. LGSA is proud to have been able to give back and help such an important cause. On December 5th, Lerner graduate students donated two hours to help repackage donated food for local food pantries. The two hours fly by as you weigh and package the food, socialize with other volunteers, and listen to music. It is amazing to see how much food can be repackaged to be shipped to the food pantries so quickly. At the end of the night, the Food Bank employees are extremely grateful for your donated time, and really try to educate you on the important work that they are doing. I would recommend to everyone to volunteer some of your time to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. It is an amazing experience and a great cause!

Go to the link below to sign up to volunteer on your own!
https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/give-help/volunteer
The Research Education and Training Center (RETC) hosted its annual trainee holiday party on December 18, 2019. The LRI commons were festively decorated and trainees sang karaoke, entered tickets for four raffle baskets, and played games. We closed out the year with good food, good company, and good times. Thank you to RETC for hosting and congratulations to the raffle winners!
Fun Winter Recipes!
-Morgan Rogers-Carter, PhD

Vanilla Mocha Hot Cocoa

**Ingredients**

- 4 ½ cups whole milk (or nut milk)
- ½ cup real maple syrup
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 6 oz semi-sweet or dark chocolate, chopped
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee powder
- 1 pinch kosher salt
- Whipped cream, for serving
- Nutmeg or cinnamon, for serving

Add the milk, maple syrup, cocoa powder, chocolate, vanilla, coffee power, and a pinch of salt to a large pot. Place the pot over medium/low heat until the milk is scalding, but not boiling. Be sure to stir the pot often to make sure nothing is sticking to the bottom and burning. Once the hot cocoa is steaming, ladle into mugs and dollop with whipped cream. Drink and enjoy!

Chicken and Dumplings

**Ingredients for Soup**

- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and diced
- 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 1 tsp. Dried oregano
- Kosher Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 6 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 4 boneless skinless chicken thighs
- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 3 sprigs thyme
- 1 cup heavy cream

**Ingredients for Dumplings**

- 1 ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 large egg
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 2 tbsp. melted butter

Make soup: In a large dutch oven over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion, carrots, and celery and cook until tender, 5 min. Season with oregano, salt and pepper. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1 min.

Add broth, chicken and thyme to pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until chicken is cooked, 10 min. Remove chicken and shred with two forks.

While soup is simmering, make dumplings: In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Make a well in the flour and add egg, buttermilk, and melted butter and whisk with fork until combined.

Add shredded chicken and heavy cream to pot, then return to a simmer. Drop spoonfuls of dumpling mix into pot, cover and cook on low until dumplings are cooked, about 5 min.

Serve and enjoy!
Looking for a Job? Now Hiring!

**Research Scientist-RNA Therapeutics, Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
Seeking an experienced and inspiring scientist to join our fast-paced, interdisciplinary team as we leverage innovative RNA/oligonucleotide based therapeutic modalities to enhance our portfolio. This is an exciting opportunity located in the Innovation Hub of Cambridge. We aim to establish core capabilities in this novel therapeutic area and you will contribute to and help drive the discovery and development of RNA-based clinical candidates. PhD degree in computer and information sciences, bioinformatics, cheminformatics, computational chemistry or related fields.  
For more details [click here](#).

**Scientist-Molecular Biology- Johnson & Johnson, Pennsylvania**  
The Janssen Biotherapeutics are looking for a highly motivated scientist to join the Biologics Discovery team committed to the bold mission of changing the future of medicine. As a member of the team, selected candidate will apply the latest technologies in high throughput protein engineering and expression to discover novel lead molecules. PhD in Molecular biology, Synthetic Biology, or related field is required. A minimum of 3 or more years of molecular biology and protein expression experience is preferred. Post-doctoral training is preferred.  
For more details [click here](#).

**Research Scientist-Pathology Research- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer**  
Seeking a highly motivated candidate to independently perform a variety of molecular experiments, such as DNA and RNA extraction, PCR, immunohistochemistry, Western blot and immunoprecipitation, tissue culture etc., and handles small research animals. PhD in one of the natural sciences or related field or Medical degree is required.  
For more details [click here](#).

**Staff Scientist-Lymphoma Translational Research- City of Hope**  
Seeking highly motivated candidates with expertise in molecular biology, hematopoiesis, and *in vivo* models who are interested in a career in oncology basic/translational research will be most competitive for this position. Must have the U.S. equivalent bachelor's or master's degree in an appropriate discipline, and will often have a PhD or other doctoral level degree. Must have at least 3 years of post-graduate research experience in the relevant field.  
For more details [click here](#).

**Assistant Professor-Tenured/ Tenure Track Faculty- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Ohio State University**  
The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences at The Ohio State University seeks to fill a tenure-track faculty position at the assistant professor level in the general area of biochemistry, broadly defined. A PhD in Chemistry, Biochemistry or a related field is required at the time of appointment. Demonstrated potential excellence in innovative research addressing fundamental questions of biological/biomedical significance and a strong commitment to teaching are essential.  
For more details [click here](#).

**Postdoctoral Associate (Sensory Neuroscience)-University of Miami**  
Join a vibrant research program in sensory neuroscience at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Department of Physiology & Biophysics. PhD in neuroscience, molecular biology/biophysics or related discipline or MD is required. Recent Ph.D. graduates are encouraged to apply. Prefer research experience in neuroscience-related experimental approaches such as cellular imaging /electrophysiology, and evidence of stage-appropriate, strong research productivity.  
For more details [click here](#).
Congratulations to Kristin Allan from the Yuan lab in the Department of Ophthalmic Research!


Congratulations to Dr. Prasenjit Saha from the Hazen lab in the Department of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences!

Dr. Saha received the 2020 American Heart Association (AHA) Postdoctoral Fellowship as Principal Investigator titled “Identifying the receptor(s) of a cardiovascular disease-linked gut-microbial metabolite phenylacetylglutamine (PAGln).” The goal of this project is to find the cellular receptors of a novel gut-microbe derived biomarker of cardiovascular disease (CVD) named PAGln, which can be utilized as a possible therapeutic target to combat PAGln-mediated CVD progression.

Congratulations to Dr. Fatemeh Ramezani from the Cresci lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity!

Dr. Ramezani was selected to give a talk at the ASPEN 2020 Nutrition Science & Practice Conference in Tampa, Florida. The title of the talk is “Effect of a spore-forming probiotic supplement in protecting intestinal health during recurrent Clostridium difficile colonization in mice.” For more details, click here.
Congratulations to Dr. Quang Tam Nguyen from the Min lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity!

Dr. Nguyen, who won First Place in the 2019 Postdoctoral Fellow/Research Associate Award for Excellence at LRI this year, was also awarded the AAI Trainee Abstract Award and was selected to give a talk at The American Association of Immunologists 2019 in San Diego, California. The title of the talk was “Glucocorticoids control allergic inflammation via Foxp3+ regulatory T cells.” Additionally, Dr. Nguyen published an original article titled, “Development of highly potent glucocorticoids for steroid-resistant severe asthma” in *PNAS* (April 2019). For more details, click here.

Congratulations to Abigail Dooley from the O’Connor lab in the Department of Genomic Medicine!

Abigail received the 2020 American Heart Association Pre-doctoral Fellowship as a principal investigator, titled “Investigating the role of US28 in HCMV latency-enhanced atherosclerotic plaque formation.” The goal of this project is to identify the role of the Human Cytomegalovirus protein US28, during viral latency and to understand US28’s involvement in enhancing the cellular processes that lead to atherosclerotic plaque formation.
Each year, the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association provides funding for the professional developments of postdoctoral research fellows at the Lerner Research Institute. Using these funds, the Research Education and Training Center (RETC) established a competitive travel award to be used by Lerner postdocs to attend a nationally recognized scientific conference and present their research. RETC received 34 applications for the 2019 award cycle. With the help of a committee made up of five Lerner principal investigators, RETC identified 11 top tier postdocs to receive travel funding. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the Alumni Association for sponsoring this effort!

**2019 WINNERS**

**Vera Adema, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: THOR  
PI: Jaroslaw Maciejewski  
MEETING: 2019 American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting

**Adam Kim, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: I&I  
PI: Laura Nagy  
MEETING: 2019 Alcohol-Induced End Organ Diseases Gordon Research Conference

**Defne Bayik, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: CVMS  
PI: Justin Latthia  
MEETING: 2019 Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Scientific Meeting

**Benjamin Krishna, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: GMI  
PI: Christine O'Connor  
MEETING: 2019 International Herpesvirus Workshop

**Jagjit Singh, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: CVMS  
PI: Richard Padgett  
MEETING: 2019 Cell Symposium: Engineering Organoids and Organs

**Emily Dolson, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: THOR  
PI: Jacob Scott  
MEETING: 2019 Evolution Annual Conference

**Shuo Li, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: CVMS  
PI: Qingyu Wu  
MEETING: 2019 ASBMB Special Symposium on Serine Proteases in Pericellular Proteolysis and Signaling

**Carrie Smallcombe, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: I&I  
PI: Fariba Rezaee  
MEETING: 2019 American Thoracic Society International Conference

**Vijay Jidigam, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: Ophthalmic Research  
PI: Sujata Rao  
MEETING: 2019 Annual Angiogenesis Gordon Research Conference

**Sunho Park, PhD**  
DEPARTMENT: QHS  
PI: Tae Hyun Hwang  
MEETING: 2019 NeurIPS Workshop on Bayesian Deep Learning

CONGRATULATIONS!
We are thrilled to open submissions for the 10th issue of *Stethos*, the medical humanities journal of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. In previous issues, *Stethos* has provided a wonderful forum to showcase the incredible diversity and creativity of our students, faculty, and colleagues, and we hope to continue this tradition in our 10th issue. We are seeking submissions of short fiction, reflective writing, poetry, personal narrative, essays, artwork, and photography. Submissions may be about any medicine-related topic (including the trials and tribulations of medical research); we are excited to include benchside perspectives, reflections, and artistic expressions from LRI trainees.

In celebration of our 10th anniversary, we will be organizing a feature piece highlighting reflections from past and present students (from any school/discipline). To contribute to this feature, we encourage you to consider writing a letter to your past or future self about lessons you have learned, dreams you hope to achieve, predictions about the world—the list goes on and on!

Please view previous issues of *Stethos* on our website to see examples of pieces that were published in the past: [http://portals.clevelandclinic.org/lcm2/Stethos/](http://portals.clevelandclinic.org/lcm2/Stethos/).

Our deadline for submissions this year will be **Monday, March 9, 2020**. Please see below for specific submission guidelines. Feel free to contact the Editors-in-Chief, Alice (tzenga@ccf.org) and Ellen (brinzae@ccf.org), with questions. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

**All the best,**

*Stethos Editorial Team*

**Submission Guidelines**

Please send submissions using our [online form](http://portals.clevelandclinic.org/lcm2/Stethos/)(click for link).

- Up to four submissions per author; **please send each submission on a separate form**
- Prose should be less than 2000 words, submitted in Microsoft Word
- Poems should be less than 75 lines, submitted in Microsoft Word
- Submit all photographs and artwork as a jpeg file (we will contact you later for high-quality file format)
- All photographs and artwork must include a caption

Please save the submission/illustration as the title (or abbreviated title) followed by the author's last name.

- For the article, "Generic" by Dr. Jones, save as follows: *Generic_Jones.doc*

For questions or issues regarding submissions, please contact the editors at [cclcmhumanities@gmail.com](mailto:cclcmhumanities@gmail.com).

**Review process**

All submissions will be peer-reviewed by a student-run editorial board consisting of co-editors and two editors-in-chief. The editorial board will review contributions for originality, style, and content.

**Patient consent/confidentiality**

Our confidentiality policy is based on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Please refer to this document with regards to any questions about patient confidentiality ([http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/)). As a rule, authors/artists should protect the confidentiality of all individuals whose personal details may be revealed without their consent.
GET INVOLVED!

Did you publish a paper recently or receive a grant or award? We want to highlight your accomplishments in the next newsletter! As part of the LPDA, we strive to improve this organization to its maximum potential. To do so, we will need the 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.

LPDA Communications Team

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