It’s finally summer! Take some time for reflection and self-care.

Everyone has worked extremely hard under stressful conditions over the past year. Whether you decide to take a vacation at home or to some destination, don’t forget to take some time for yourself and your family this summer to recharge! The Lerner Trainee Newsletter will be on hiatus for the months of July and August. We hope you have a fantastic and productive summer and look forward to featuring trainee accomplishments again in September!

This month we feature alumna Dr. Crystal Weyman, Innovations Fellows Drs. Yijing Dai and Jane Jie Yang, and graduate student Arshiya Mariam. If you missed out on May’s LEADERS seminar on Gnotobiotics, we recap it in this issue. The next seminar is titled, “Exercise, Fitness” and will be held on June 14, 2021. For a great summertime biking activity/charitable event to take part in, see our monthly feature written by Shilpa Rao on VeloSano. Finally, this issue will also be Dr Kirsten Evonuk’s last issue as the postdoc chair of the communication team. The communication team extends our congratulations and best wishes to Dr Evonuk in her new position as a Sr. R&D Specialist at Eversight. Thank you for all you have done for LRI, LRI trainees, and the communication team during your tenure as chair!
Did You Know?

Lerner trainees can access thousands of career development and skills-building courses covering business, creative, and technology topics through LinkedIn Learning.

About LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning is a leading online learning platform that helps professionals learn relevant skills and achieve their goals. It combines a library of 16,000+ up-to-date courses in 7 different languages with an engaging, intuitive, and personalized learner experience. LinkedIn Learning also includes real-time skills insights that help learning leaders identify skills gaps. For more information, visit [http://learning.linkedin.com](http://learning.linkedin.com).

**Learn** more about LinkedIn Learning at Cleveland Clinic [here](http://learning.linkedin.com).

**Explore** LinkedIn Learning [here](http://learning.linkedin.com).

**Request** access with your CCF email account [here](http://learning.linkedin.com).
Cleveland Clinic Toastmasters Club Invitation

Agenda
Develop Public Speaking and Presentation Skills

Date/Time: Every Wednesday from 12 pm - 1 pm (Eastern Time US)

Join us on Zoom
https://zoom.us/j/89627849904?pwd=R01sZDZzcWRwd3M1QUtmaWZqeHpudz09
Meeting ID: 896 2784 9904  Password: Northern10
Phone: +1 312 626 6799

Club Website: https://clevelandclinictoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org
Graduate Student Awards for Excellence

The LRI Research Education and Training Center (RETC) invites applications for the 2021 Graduate Student Awards for Excellence. Awardees receive a plaque, a cash prize and recognition at the recognition at the LRI Awards for Excellence ceremony on September 8, 2021.

Guidelines for Submission:

- Submit an article which was published or accepted for publication in 2020 or 2021 (submit a copy of the published manuscript or the unpublished manuscript with documentation of final acceptance for publication).
- With the article, submit a CV along with the attached form and a cover letter signed by the student’s CCF staff mentor and addressed to RETC. The letter should briefly summarize the significance of the work, the role of the graduate student and the expected graduation date.
- The applicant must be first author on the paper.
- The work must have been performed at the LRI.
- The applicant must have been an LRI graduate student with a CCF staff member as their primary mentor when the publication was submitted.

Questions may be directed to RETC (RETC@ccf.org). All documents must be submitted to Jason Ross, rossj12@ccf.org no later than July 2nd at 11:59 pm.
The Dr. Sylvain Brunet Award for Outstanding Accomplishment by a Graduate Student

Recognizes a graduate student who has achieved a significant accomplishment in their training. This award was established in loving memory of Dr. Brunet and commemorates his commitment to furthering research education opportunities for junior investigators. The awardee will receive a plaque, a cash prize and recognition at the LRI Awards for Excellence ceremony on September 8th, 2021.

Guidelines for Submission:

- Nomination: Graduate students may apply by submitting a description with proof of a major accomplishment, substantiated by a letter from their mentor.
- The accomplishment could include a first author paper, presentation of a talk or poster, obtaining certification in a new area, attending a workshop and learning a new technique, or any other activity which the trainee and mentor view as an accomplishment.
- The applicant must be a current graduate student at the LRI.
- Questions may be directed to RETC (RETC@ccf.org).

All documents must be submitted to Jason Ross, rossj12@ccf.org, no later than July 2nd at 11:59 pm.

Dr. Sylvain Brunet received his PhD from McGill University, Montreal, Quebec in 1998. He joined the Department of Neurosciences in June of 2011, was appointed as Assistant Professor at the Department of Molecular Medicine, CCLCM. Throughout his career, he made many important contributions to our understanding of the role of ion channels in cardiac diseases and arrhythmias. His recent work focused on the role of mitochondrial dysfunction in aging cardiac myocytes. In addition, he identified the role of kinases in functional recovery after ischemic injury to the white matter portion of the brain. He was the recipient of both a Postdoctoral Fellowship and a National Scientist Development Award from the American Heart Association, several foundation grants and NIH grants. He enthusiastically offered his expertise and experience to his collaborators in various fields ranging from neuroscience to cancer research. He was elected to the Editorial Advisory Board of the American Journal of Physiology-Cell Physiology (2015). He was an active member of CCLCM Admission Committee since 2013 and took pride in selecting the best students who would become the best doctors of the future.

Dr. Sylvain Brunet and his wife Dr. Selva Baltan
The Lerner Research Education and Training Center (RETC) is pleased to invite applications for the 2021 Postdoctoral Fellow Awards for Excellence. Awardees will receive a plaque, cash prize, and recognition at the LRI Awards for Excellence Event in September.

Eligibility:
- Submit an article which was published or accepted for publication in 2020 or 2021. A copy of the published manuscript or unpublished manuscript with documentation of final acceptance for publication is acceptable.
- The award applicant must be first author on the paper.
- The work must have been performed at the LRI.
- The applicant must be a current postdoctoral fellow and must have been in a postdoctoral fellow position when the publication was submitted.

Questions? Please contact RETC at RETC@ccf.org.

Application Deadline: July 2nd by 11:59 PM
The Lerner Trainee Association is pleased to accept nominations for the 2021 Lerner Mentorship Award. This is an opportunity for Lerner trainees to recognize a Principal Investigator who has shown exemplary mentorship. The winner will be honored at the LRI Awards for Excellence ceremony in September.

Nomination Guidelines
Trainees can nominate their Principal Investigator by submitting a nomination form to RETC@ccf.org

Deadline: July 2nd by 11:59 PM
Meet our Alumni
Interview with Lerner Alumna Crystal Weyman, PhD

“Perform as many well designed experiments as possible, learn as much as you can from the amazing LRI staff, and keep a firm grip on your innate curiosity and love of science.” - Dr. Weyman

Where did you obtain your PhD? Purdue University

When did you work in Lerner and in which lab? What positions did you hold? 1991-1994 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Molecular Biology (Advisor: Dr. Dennis Stacey); 1994-1997 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Cell Biology (Advisor: Dr. Alan Wolfman); 1997-1998 Staff Research Associate, Department of Cell Biology

What did you work on at Lerner? The initial focus of my research was signaling by the Ras oncogene as it pertains to cancer in Dr. Stacey’s lab. I was then fortunate to be allowed to revive a portion of my doctoral work on signaling by the Ras oncogene during muscle differentiation in Dr. Wolfman’s lab. During this time, I also started working on the role of the Ras oncogene during apoptosis and it was this coordinated regulation of differentiation and apoptosis by the Ras oncogene that formed the foundation of my independent career studying the coordinated regulation of differentiation and apoptosis in skeletal myoblasts during regeneration.

What successes did you have at Lerner? During my time at Cleveland Clinic, I published 4 manuscripts and 1 book chapter, all as first and corresponding author. I was very fortunate to be allowed to function as the corresponding author and credit Dr. Stacey and Dr. Wolfman for advancing my training and career in allowing me this opportunity. I was selected as an F. Merlin Bumpus Junior Investigator Finalist in 1996. Again as a credit to the training opportunities afforded me at CCF, I was able to write and submit several grants to both the American Heart Association and the NIH. While I did not receive fundable scores, I credit these “attempts” and the support I had from multiple CCF mentors including George Stark and Paul DiCorleto, with the fundable score I earned on my first R01 submission as an Assistant Professor and Principal investigator at Cleveland State.

What is your current position title and where are you now? I am currently Professor and Chair of the department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences (BGES) at Cleveland State University.

What does your role in your current position entail and what is your favorite part? As Chair, with the help of many, I am responsible for scheduling and staffing over 200 course sections each semester, and for facilitating the advancement of over 650 undergraduate and graduate students and 27 full time faculty. My favorite part of this administrative role is helping both students and faculty navigate the inescapable bureaucracy of any large institution. Of course, my favorite title is Professor because this is the title under which I teach, both in the classroom and my laboratory. I love sharing the “eureka moment” of discovery with students. In the classroom, this comes when they understand something for the first time. I give them “all the pieces of the puzzle” and then watch for the “eureka moment” when they “connect the dots”. In the lab, this “eureka moment” comes when students realize the data they have just generated with a successful experiment has given them knowledge only they, on the entire planet, possess. The excitement of these “eureka moments” is contagious and addictive.

What about your time at the Lerner do you think prepared you for this position? I was very fortunate to work for lab heads (Dennis Stacey and Alan Wolfman) who allowed me enormous independence, yet guidance when I needed it. This included the opportunity to present my work at many national meetings and function as corresponding author on multiple manuscripts. I was also able to get guidance from multiple other lab heads like Marty Cathcart, Donna Driscoll, Paul Fox, and Phil Howe. Finally, top administrators (Paul DiCorleto and George Stark) were very supportive and offered excellent guidance at key moments. Of course, the overall scientific environment at CCF, including the many excellent seminar speakers, ensured that my scientific knowledge was “state of the art”.

Is there something you particularly miss from your time at Lerner? I miss the people. Fortunately, I still interact with many in my current role, most notably, Chris Moravec. I am still very “connected” to LRI because of my current role.

In one sentence, what advice would you give current Lerner postdocs? Perform as many well designed experiments as possible, learn as much as you can from the amazing LRI staff, and keep a firm grip on your innate curiosity and love of science.
Meet your Innovations Fellows

Yijing Dai, PhD and Jane Jie Yang, PhD

The new Innovations Fellows Program from the Office of Strategic Alliances and Technology Development (OSATD) at Cleveland Clinic has a mission to increase the pool of highly competent medical technology development professionals. This program lasts for two years and provides fellows with hands-on experience in key facets of technology development and commercialization as well as experience in working closely with inventors and internal/external partners. Two postdoctoral fellows were chosen for the program, during which they will experience the process of developing new medical technology and learning to commercialize this technology with 20% protected time committed to the program. The two fellows chosen to participate this year are Dr. Yijing Dai from the Sharifi Lab, and Dr. Jane Yang from the Hine Lab. Congratulations Drs. Dai and Yang!

Yijing Dai, PhD

Dr. Dai is originally from Shanghai, China. She received her BS and MS in chemistry from Shanghai University, and in 2012 came to the United States to attend Michigan State University to pursue her PhD in organic chemistry. Her graduate research focused on developing new synthetic methodologies for making natural compounds and drug intermediates, and in 2018, she received her PhD.

After over 10 years working in synthetic chemistry, Dr. Dai came to Cleveland Clinic for the opportunity to learn new techniques and to employ her chemical skill-sets in multidisciplinary biological and clinical fields. She interviewed with Dr. Nima Sharifi for a postdoctoral position and was impressed with his idea of applying synthetic chemistry as a tool to investigate the steroid metabolism of prostate cancer. His ingenuity made her feel that his laboratory would be a good fit for her to further her training and career. She has been a member of his laboratory for three years and is currently focused on developing multi-functional chemical probes in the investigation of the mechanism of castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). Recently, Dr. Dai was funded by the Prostate Cancer Research Program - Early Investigator Research Award from the Department of Defense.

Dr. Dai’s interest in the Innovations Fellows Program came from a desire to learn new technologies related to developing chemical probes to uncover the mechanism of CRPC. She also wants to learn more about the market stage of clinical products and how these products are commercialized. This may help give her more ideas to translate her research specifically into realistic applications accepted by customers and the market.

Outside of the lab, Dr. Dai enjoys reading, watching movies, and cooking.
Meet your Innovations Fellows
Yijing Dai, PhD and Jane Jie Yang, PhD

Jane Jie Yang, PhD
Dr. Yang is from Northeast China and received her BS in animal sciences from Zhejiang University (one of the top three universities in China) in 2010. She attended graduate school at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where she investigated the increasing health concerns of environmental pollutants known as endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). In 2016, she received her PhD.

Dr. Yang pursued her current postdoctoral position at Cleveland Clinic because her doctorate training fit well with the research of her current mentor, Dr. Chris Hine. Dr. Hine’s lab is an aging-focused group. EDCs could potentially mimic endocrine hormones which have been shown to regulate production of the gaseous signaling molecule hydrogen sulfide (H$_2$S), and affect in aging and aging-related diseases. In 2017, Dr. Yang joined the Hine Lab in the Department of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences, where she works on the EDC project. She also uncovered a chemical reaction in which H$_2$S is produced by an iron- and vitamin B$_6$-coordinated catalysis of cysteine under physiological conditions. Her current research interests are iron homeostasis in blood and its effects on downstream chemical reactions producing H$_2$S gas. The training resources in the Hine Lab and Cleveland Clinic, combined with her work ethic and scientific skill could ultimately result in key discoveries that will impact basic hematological sciences in the development of therapeutics for controlling blood disorders, such as sickle cell disease.

Within four years, Dr. Yang has been first author on two peer-reviewed articles, with one published in Communications Biology in 2019 having won the Annual Departmental Award for Best Papers, and the other is under review/revision. She has also been involved in collaborative projects that resulted in papers in Geroscience and Nature Communications, and has submitted a full scholarship application to American Society of Hematology twice.

Dr. Yang applied to the Innovations Fellows Program because her long-term goal is to transition into a product or business development role in healthcare/life sciences. She recognizes the potential for basic research to result in bedside treatments and medical technologies, and hopes to achieve this through the program. The program will also ultimately increase her success in transitioning to a biotechnology development role.

Outside of the lab, Dr. Yang loves to spend time with her husband and two-year-old baby boy. She also likes to visit friends and hike during the summer.
Arshiya Mariam is enrolled in the Biomedical and Health Informatics PhD program at Case Western Reserve University and received her Bachelor’s in Data Science from John Carroll University. She is completing her work in the Rotroff lab in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences. She is from Lahore, Pakistan.

Arshiya chose a program at Cleveland Clinic because of the extensive resources available at CCF as well as the environment that encourages innovation in approaching various research questions. She also appreciates the mentorship at CCF and the opportunities available as a graduate student. She enjoys working with her team, due to the diversity of backgrounds and the various groups focused on a wide range of diseases. Additionally, she appreciates her group’s collaboration with other labs to allow her learn new techniques and identify new clinical areas of research.

Currently, Arshiya’s research focuses on heterogeneity in disease presentation and response to treatment including the identification of biomarkers that can predict treatment response and adverse events to improve patient experiences and clinical outcomes. She is working on projects focused on identifying these biomarkers as well as developing risk calculators utilizing longitudinal risk factors of disease using electronic health record (EHR) data. These risk calculators can personalize treatment decisions, enable preventative measures, and lead to improved patient outcomes.

She recently published her first-author research publication titled “Type 2 Diabetes Subtype Responsive to ACCORD Intensive Glycemia Treatment” in a leading endocrinology journal, Diabetes Care. Additionally, she has recently co-authored a letter published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Outside of the lab, Arshiya enjoys spending time with her pets, going on road trips and reading science fiction. Remembrance of Earth’s Past by Liu Cixin is one of her favorite science fiction novels.

“I feel so grateful to be part of an organization that has always put an emphasis on integrating cutting edge research to improve patient care.”

-Arshiya Mariam
Upcoming Events

LEADERS 2021 Seminar Series

LEADERS 2021 Seminar Series

Cleveland Clinic

LEADERS
Series for Lerner Research Institute Trainees

LERNER EXPERIENCE IN ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Exercise, Fitness

- Provides Lerner trainees with career development tools that will accelerate their professional development.

- Sessions open to all Lerner Research Institute trainees.

- 12 sessions in 2021

- Receive a certificate of completion if 75% of sessions are attended.

WHO: Eric Zatchok
Fitness Specialist, Walker Fitness Center

WHEN: June 14, 2021
4:00 – 5:00 PM

WHERE: Zoom
Please see email invite from RETC for meeting ID and passcode.

SESSION 6
Upcoming Events

Upcoming NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education Events

**CAREER PLANNING FOR SCIENTISTS**
WORKSHOP/SEMINAR: CAREER EXPLORATION; JOB SEARCH SKILLS; PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
Jun 10, 2021 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Speaker(s): Amanda (Dumsch) Langer, OITE Career Counselor

Understand how your personal interests, skills, and values contribute to your future career success. Topics to be covered include the importance of career decision making, learning styles, self-assessment, transferable skills, defining success, personal needs, work/life balance, and articulating short-term and long-term goals.

Virtual- register [here](#).

**NETWORKING, INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW, AND USING LINKEDIN FOR CAREER ADVANCEMENT**
WORKSHOP/SEMINAR: JOB SEARCH SKILLS; MANAGEMENT
Jun 24, 2021 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Speaker(s): Phil Ryan, PhD, Deputy Director, GPP

Networking, including both online (important when you don't live close) and in-person networking, is an important component of successful career building. A second key component is managing your network. We will dive deeper into managing networks, covering topics that include identifying career advocates, interacting with colleagues, and building meaningful long-term communication. Additionally, we will discuss how to building your mentoring network.

Virtual- register [here](#).

**WORKPLACE DYNAMICS I AND II: GAINING SELF-AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**
WORKSHOP/SEMINAR: LEADERSHIP
June 28, 2021 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Speaker(s): Lori Conlan, PhD, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services

Let's explore themes of self-awareness and self-management. We will discuss your preferences, work, and communication styles that influence interactions you encounter in any research group or workgroup.

Virtual- register [here](#).

**WORKPLACE DYNAMICS III-CONFLICT AND FEEDBACK**
WORKSHOP/SEMINAR: LEADERSHIP
July 12, 2021 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Speaker(s): Lori Conlan, PhD, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services

Rooted in the Thomas and Kilmann Conflict Grid, this workshop provides an accessible framework for conflict management and giving and receiving personal feedback. Participants learn how to have difficult conversations often associated with conflict within research groups, like leadership struggles and peer-interactions.

Virtual- register [here](#).
Did you miss the virtual LEADERS seminar on ‘Gnotobiotics’ presented by Lynn Hajjar, DVM, PhD? Here is the recap!

Quality and Safety is one of Cleveland Clinic’s values which ensure the highest standards and excellent outcomes through effective interactions, decision-making, and actions. This is true for all 60,000 Cleveland Clinic caregivers ranging from those who provide direct patient care, to hospital administrators, to research scientists. The rigorous compliance requirements implemented through annual training modules and in the operating procedures of various facilities at Cleveland Clinic has helped shape its caregivers to be highly diligent and observant with a keen attention to detail. For example, the Gnotobiotics Core at Cleveland Clinic has strict guidelines to breed and care for germ-free animals.

So, what is Gnotobiotics?
Gnotobiotics is the study of all microorganisms within a system. In preclinical studies, the effects of microorganisms in the system can be studied by breeding or caring for the animals in a germ-free environment, or an environment devoid of any contamination (i.e., bacterial, fungal, etc.). Contamination is avoided through sterile experimental method design, the timely disinfection of laboratory attire and housing facilities, adequate engineering controls (i.e., HEPA filters), and autoclaving. Contamination can be detected through the culture of animal fecal matter, histological strains (i.e., bacterial gram stain), the polymerase chain reaction (i.e., detection of the highly conserved 16S rRNA bacterial gene), and vivisections.

Cleveland Clinic Gnotobiotics Core
Located in NE3-209, the Gnotobiotics Core at Cleveland Clinic is a sterile facility that supports germ-free animal research at the institution. The core is equipped with sterile clothing, BSL2 housing facilities (i.e., hermetically sealed positive pressure microisolator cages), autoclaves, HEPA filters, and procedural rooms with capabilities for weighing, sampling, echocardiography, surgery, oral gavaging, and simple animal behavior studies. The primary functions of the Gnotobiotics Core is to: a) provide husbandry procedures for germ-free animals to investigators, b) train investigators on how to maintain germ-free animals, and c) help investigators design experiments that maintain sterility in mice. An example of an area of research could be the study of how genotyping drives microbiota selection.

Overall, the Gnotobiotics Core is here to help all investigators design experiments involving germ-free animals that are in line with Cleveland Clinic's core value: Quality and Safety. For more information, click here for a recording of the presentation.

About the speaker: Dr Lynn Hajjar, DVM, PhD
Dr Hajjar is the director of the Gnotobiotics Core at Cleveland Clinic. Before coming to the Cleveland Clinic, she directed the Gnotobiotics Core at University of Washington. As for her research interests, Dr Hajjar has always had a longstanding interest in host-microbe interactions and retrovirology. She started her research by studying pathogens and immune evasion but has now transitioned to the field of gnotobiology. She recommends to all Lerner trainees to be efficient team players, to engage in meaningful collaborations, and to do something that you are passionate about.
Recent Events

Becoming a Resilient Scientist Series

-Claire (Kirwen) Baker

The Research Education & Training Center (RETC) successfully completed its first iteration of the Becoming a Resilient Scientist series in partnership with the Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE) at the National Institutes of Health. The Lerner Research Institute was one of over 40 institutions across the country that participated in this 'train-the-trainer' pilot program.

The program consisted of six webinars and six corresponding small group discussion sessions that ran from January through May for trainees focused on developing resiliency skills. Each webinar was hosted by OITE’s Sharon Milgram, PhD and topics included cognitive distortions, feedback resiliency, and mentoring relationships. The small group sessions were facilitated by the RETC team, who were coached by licensed mental health professionals provided by the NIH on how to facilitate discussions on difficult topics. The RETC team plans to offer Becoming a Resilient Scientist as a recurring series for Lerner trainees in the future.

Thank you to all who participated in the program!
VeloSano is a year-round fundraising initiative for cancer research at the Cleveland Clinic. The main fundraising event is a “bike to cure” weekend. To raise funds, each bike rider commits to raising a predetermined amount of money based on the number of miles that they will ride. In 2020, VeloSano fundraised 3 million dollars from over 18,000 donations and since its inaugural year in 2014, over 24 million dollars have been raised. All of the money raised supports cancer research at Cleveland Clinic and many Lerner Research Institute investigators have been awarded funds.

This year VeloSano will take place September 10th-12th. Due to COVID-19, masks will be required at the start line and at rest stops. Anyone can participate virtually and be a rider outside of Cleveland. Riders will receive a bike jersey and can bike a 12 mile to a 100 mile bike ride. The benefit of joining a Cleveland Clinic team is that the registration fee is waived with the promo code **CC2021**. Those that are under 24 or current/former military personnel can fundraise half of the fundraising commitment.

Interested in participating? Please visit this [link](#)!
Now Hiring

Postdoctoral Fellow | St. John’s University
A postdoctoral position is available immediately in the laboratory of Tanaji Talele, Ph.D. in the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences at St. John’s University in New York City. The Talele laboratory focuses on design and synthesis of novel small molecule inhibitors for PARPs, HDACs and RAD51 for the treatment of cancer. The ideal candidate holds a PhD in synthetic organic/medicinal chemistry, well versed with modern spectroscopic techniques (NMR, MS), and mg to gram scale organic synthesis. We are looking for a creative and highly motivated individual who possess the ability to work independently. Candidates with extensive experience in small molecule synthesis, purification, and characterization are preferred. This position is an excellent opportunity for the candidate to gain exposure to all aspects of drug discovery (computational design, drug-like property profiling, biochemical assays, and multi-parameter SAR optimization). We offer an enriching and interactive basic and pharmaceutical science environment. Click here.

Entry Medical Writer | ProClinical
Proclinical is currently seeking an Entry Medical Writer for a fast-growing medical communications agency located fully-remote. The company can hire remote from any of these states: Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Vermont, or Maryland. Successful candidate will be responsible for performing background literature research and the subsequent preparation of high-quality, medically accurate documents, across a range of publication plans in differing therapy areas, addressing different target audiences through peer-reviewed literature. Click here.

Regulatory Affairs Specialist | Mayo Clinic
Assists in the planning and implementation of compliance activities associated with the protection of human subjects and investigational use of agents (drugs, biologics, etc.). Monitors the internal and external regulatory environment to promote centralized, coordinated, and proactive identification, development, and implementation of new or revised policies, procedures, etc. applicable to MCCC research programs. Researches relevant regulatory issues and evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of compliance processes and controls related to MCCC research programs. Serves as a resource concerning policies, procedures, and regulations applicable to MCCC research programs. Advises and provides support to MCCC investigators in relation to the preparation, submission, and maintenance of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Investigational New Drug (IND) applications and other equivalent functions as may be applicable to the research programs of the MCCC. Performs other regulatory affairs/compliance-related functions, and participates in departmental committees and work teams as directed or assigned. The minimum salary every 2 weeks is approx $2303.20, based on a full-time position. Click here.

PhD Scientist, Biology | PTC Therapeutics, Inc.
The PhD Scientist, Biology is responsible for planning and performing scientific experiments that contribute to PTC’s research and drug discovery activities. The incumbent works cross-functionally with internal departments, and external resources as appropriate, as part of PTC’s discovery science project teams.

The Scientist supports adherence to relevant regulatory requirements and company Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as appropriate. Click here.
Congratulations to Dr. Youn Jung Choi from the Jung Lab in the Department of Cancer Biology!

Dr. Youn Jung Choi received the NIH Pathway to Independence K99 Award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The project, titled "MCEMP1 is an adaptor for KIT receptor for mast cell proliferation," aims to define the pathobiological role of MCEMP1 in mast cell expansion and asthma progression and provide novel insight into a new therapeutic target for asthma. This award will support a new molecular mechanism of mast cell proliferation and an important mechanistic finding in the field of asthma. Click here for more information.

Congratulations to Dr. Brendan Eck from the Li and Tang Labs in the Imaging Institute!

Dr. Eck recently published an article, titled "Prospective Evaluation of Repeatability and Robustness of Radiomic Descriptors in Healthy Brain Tissue Regions In Vivo Across Systematic Variations in T2-Weighted Magnetic Resonance Imaging Acquisition Parameters," in the Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Click here. Dr. Eck was also invited to give two talks. The first was for the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) Annual Meeting 2021 (Virtual), titled "Characterization of Cardiac Amyloidosis using Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Fingerprinting: Preliminary Results." The presentation received magna cum laude recognition (top 15% of abstracts in its category). Click here. The second was for the Northwestern University Center for Translational Imaging (CTI) Seminar. The title of the talk was "Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Fingerprinting: Technical Developments and Potential Applications."

We love celebrating trainee accomplishments! To submit your own news or to recognize someone else, email lri-postdoc-assoc@ccf.org
Accomplishments

Congratulations to Dr. Muhammad Muzzammil Edhi from the Saab Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering!

Dr. Muhammad Muzzammil Edhi is moving to the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, NYC as a resident physician. He will be providing direct patient care and continuing his translational research projects. His time in LRI and the Saab Lab (4 years) nurtured and sharpened his skills in all aspects of preclinical and translational research business and allowed him to mature and develop his administrative, communication, public speaking, writing, and supervisory skills. This gave him a competitive edge when applying for his current position.

Congratulations to Dr. Danny Orabi and Lucas Osborn from the Brown Lab in the Department of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences!

Dr. Orabi and Lucas recently published an article, titled “A surgical method for continuous intraportal infusion of gut microbial metabolites in mice,” in JCI Insight. Click here.

Congratulations to Erik Koritzinsky and Dr. Hidetoshi Tsuda from the Fairchild Lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity!

Erik and Dr. Tsuda recently published a review article, titled “Endogenous memory T cells with donor-reactivity: Early post-transplant mediators of acute graft injury in unsensitized recipients,” in Transplant International. Click here.

We love celebrating trainee accomplishments! To submit your own news or to recognize someone else, email lri-postdoc-assoc@ccf.org
Congratulations to Dr. Christina K. Cajigas-Du Ross from the Nagy Lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity!

Dr. Cajigas-Du Ross received the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship F32 as Principal investigator. The project titled “IRF3 activation promotes fibrotic liver injury in alcohol-associated liver disease” aims to determine the role of dsRNA-induced IRF3 activation (a viral innate immune response mechanism) in alcohol-associated liver disease fibrotic liver injury, including its role in modulating innate immune cell populations.

Congratulations to Dr. Iris Nira Smith from the Eng Lab in the Genomic Medicine Institute!

Dr. Smith recently published an article, titled “The Mechanism of Full Activation of Tumor Suppressor PTEN at the Phosphatidylinositol-Enriched Membrane,” in iScience. Click here.
The speed at which Ashley Nemes-Baran has connected with her students is almost unheard of.

Nemes-Baran, an assistant professor in the Department of Neurosciences, started teaching at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine just last fall.

Not only is Nemes-Baran new to Case Western Reserve, but she teaches courses within the university’s new neurosciences undergraduate major.

Then toss in the added complication of remote instruction because of the pandemic.

“Clearly,” said Interim President Scott Cowen, when he informed her of winning the prestigious 2021 Jackson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring by surprise Zoom pop-in during the semester’s final Fundamentals of Neuroscience 2 class, “the past year’s circumstances didn’t stop you from connecting with students.”

Nemes-Baran’s students flooded Zoom chat with congratulatory comments and broke into virtual applause. She thought she was being audited or observed for her annual review because Lin Mei, the department chair, had logged in.

“I felt incredibly valued by the university to have the [interim] president and my department chair take time out of their busy schedules to announce to my class,” she said. “I was also thrilled to be able to share the moment with the incredible students who nominated me.”

Nemes-Baran will receive the award during the university’s convocation program on Sunday, May 30.

“She constantly offered opportunities that would help me explore my options in a career in the field of neuroscience,” one student wrote in her nomination letter.

“The way she taught the course and encouraged questions and exploration into the subject prompted me to constantly ask questions that pushed me to want to explore the subject matter further,” wrote another student.

Teaching remotely presented a challenge, Nemes-Baran said. But she maintained an open line of communication throughout the semester to learn what worked best to connect with her students. She also started a Zoom social event called “Neuroscience Networking,” which allowed students to connect with each other as well as faculty and guests outside of class in an informal setting.

The approach seemed to work, she said. These events allowed students to discuss neuroscience topics that interested them in more depth. They got to hear from faculty about their research. They were able to learn about internship opportunities. And they got to meet admissions committee members and medical and graduate students to learn about applying to programs and get career advice.

And it especially worked, she said, because she had “a group of engaging, outgoing, curious and friendly students.”

“The students at CWRU are inspirational and make teaching feel more like an opportunity than a job,” she said. “I’m so thankful to be able to help them along their journeys.”

About the award

The Jackson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring recognizes the positive impact Case Western Reserve University faculty and staff have on the lives of students. It was established by J. Bruce Jackson (ADL ’52), in honor of Dean Carl F. Wittke, who served as an advisor, mentor, and friend to Jackson when he was an undergraduate student at Western Reserve University.

The Jackson Award celebrates faculty and staff who have guided a student in their academic and career paths; fostered the student’s long-term personal development; challenged the student to reflect, explore and grow as an individual; and supported and/or facilitated the student’s goals and life choices.
Wellness Resources

Virtual Wellness Sessions

**Mindful Minutes Meditation:** Weekly guided 15 minute imagery meditation every **Wednesday at 12:15 PM.** Each meditation is 15 minutes of your week where you can reset, re-empower, reflect and refocus your energies and intentions to cultivate peace. Join via [Zoom](#).

**Daily Wellness Tools:** Weekly, live virtual, and free sessions on Yoga, Meditation, Fitness and Culinary Medicine. Registration: [http://clevelandclinic.org/CILMevents](http://clevelandclinic.org/CILMevents).

**One Cleveland Clinic Moment:** The Center for Spiritual Care offers One Cleveland Clinic Moment as an opportunity to join together virtually for an inspirational thought and quiet reflection. 5 minutes to focus on personal renewal weekdays at 1 p.m. [Click here to join](#).

Well-Being, Self-Care and Emotional Support for Caregivers

*Please note: A connection to the Cleveland Clinic network is required to access many of these resources.*

For a more detailed and complete list of resources, please visit [this link](#).

**Caregiver Experience Wellness Portal:** disconnect, unwind or say thank you virtually

**Caring for Caregivers:** confidential services that preserve, restore and enhance wellbeing of our caregivers. Available at 1.800.989.8820.

Cleveland Clinic Office of Caregiver Experience on Facebook and Instagram.

**Connect Today/Learner Connect:** resiliency resources to help you manage complex, changing times (virtual meetings, change and stress management, and communication)

**Occupational Health:** If you have further questions about COVID-19 please contact the COVID-19 Caregiver Hotline at 216.445.8246.

**OneClick to Well-Being:** well-being information and resources for staff

**Spiritual Care and Healing Services:** information for the religious and spiritual needs of CCF patients, their families and loved ones, and Cleveland Clinic caregivers. 216.444.2518

**CCPD Victim Advocacy:** resource to help educate and support the CCF community on DV. Email the committee at: [dvcommittee@ccf.org](mailto:dvcommittee@ccf.org)

**Report Workplace Harassment:** Call ONE HR at 216.448.2247
Behind the Scenes

This newsletter is written by the communications team of the Lerner Trainee Association Leadership Council and fellow trainees. We welcome your questions and suggestions!

Email LRITraineeAssoc@ccf.org to connect with us.

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