At the LPDA, we want you to take advantage of all the events happening this month. RETC is hosting two LEADERS seminars: Dr. Alan Lichtin will talk on November 7th about human subjects and research misconduct and Heather Huston Barkley and Dr. Laura Nagy will talk on November 19th about elevator speeches and networking. In addition, the LPDA is hosting a Career Development Seminar on November 12th featuring Dr. LaShauna Evans, who will share her experience in science policy. Finally, we are having a Group Mentoring Roundtable on December 3rd. This is the perfect setting to get to know different mentors at different career stages.

This month we are featuring Lerner Alumni Dr. Twishasri Dasgupta. Additionally, we feature our fellow research associate Dr. Hugh Chan and introduce you to some of the members of the LPDA Mentorship and Advocacy Subcommittee, the team responsible for the successful mentorship roundtable events.

Finally, we suggest that you consider contributing to the LPDA’s Toy Drive before December 10th.

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

~ LPDA Communication team

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!
Co- Presidents: Defne Bayik and Timothy Mead
Secretary: Kelsey Bohn    Treasurer: Madhav Sankunny

Subcommittees

Career Development and Resources
Chair: Elizabeth Sweeny
Members: Christina Cajigas-Du Ross, Sromona Mukherjee, Nneha Sakre, Madhav Sankunny, Xiaoqin Wu, and Nara Yoon
  ● 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)

Mentorship/Advocacy
Chair: Iris Smith
Members: Elise Bara, Defne Bayik, Sudipta Biswas, Christina Cajigas-Du Ross, Emily Esakov, Vivek Narayan, Ángel Reyes-Rodríguez, and Jie "Jane" Yang
  ● Research mentorship network in collaboration with LGSA
  ● Mentorship seminars and workshops
  ● Mentor graduate students
  ● Address concerns and complaints to appropriate channels
  ● Interact with RETC and the Lerner Chair office

Communication
Chair: Chinthasagar Bastian
Members: Kelsey Bohn, Xiaoguang Fang, Isha Kapoor, Benjamin Krishna, Ashley Nemes, and Ángel Reyes-Rodríguez
  ● Advertise postdoc-related events
  ● Social media (LinkedIn)
  ● Monthly postdoctoral fellow newsletter

Social/Outreach
Chair: Aimalie Hardaway
Members: Tim Mead, Vijay Nagampalli, Vivek Narayan, Nneha Sakre, Carrie Smallcombe, and Lingjun Zhang
  ● Social events
  ● Promote networking opportunities
  ● Community outreach
In which lab were you a postdoc? How long ago?

Twishasri Dasgupta: I was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Cell Biology (now known as Cellular and Molecular Medicine) in the lab of Dr. Andrea Ladd. I stayed there from 09/2009 to 01/2013.

What did you work on at Lerner?

Twishasri Dasgupta: The Ladd lab used a combination of molecular and cellular approaches along with animal studies to investigate the role of the alternative splicing regulator CELF (CUG-BP, Elav-like family) proteins in cardiac development and function. To help elucidate the role that CELF regulatory programs play in the developing heart, one of my projects was to define the subset of pre-mRNA targets that these proteins bind to in the embryonic heart. Additionally, in a separate study, I performed gene expression microarrays on transgenic mice expressing nuclear dominant negative CELF proteins to identify the processes and transcription factor networks most affected by CELF regulation.

Where are you now, and what do you work on?

Twishasri Dasgupta: Currently, I work as the Chief of Laboratories for the Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH). CDPH has 3 CLIA-certified clinical laboratories where clinical tests are performed for the East and West Cleveland neighborhoods. As a laboratory director, I am responsible for the overall operation and administration of these three laboratories. Apart from several other duties, in order to identify as well as eliminate any potential errors during the testing processes, my job is to closely monitor the tests and make sure all tests are performed using proper quality control measures.

How did your time at the LRI prepare you for your current role?

Twishasri Dasgupta: My experience as a postdoctoral fellow at LRI helped me develop several core competencies, such as acquiring scientific conceptual knowledge, leadership as well as time management skills. But what I value most is the training that helped improve my communication skills. As an LRI postdoc, I got tremendous training to communicate effectively with both my colleagues at LRI as well as the greater scientific community. The regular internal seminars as well as frequent attendance in national and international conferences assisted me to better develop my way of communication. Additionally these meetings and interactions boosted my interpersonal skills.

Is there something you particularly miss from your time at the LRI?

Twishasri Dasgupta: Currently, I perform minimal wet bench work. I definitely miss the thrill of setting up experiments. I also miss the internal seminars and group meetings which I believe is not only a great platform to be trained in the communication skills, but also provide an immense exposure to different types of scientific studies increasing a postdoc’s scientific aptitude greatly.

6. How was the transition to your current role?

Twishasri Dasgupta: After postdoctoral training at the LRI, followed by a research associate position at CWRU, I joined a start-up clinical laboratory as a process development scientist. This exposure transitioned me from basic science research to a clinical setting, helping me to further understand the applications of basic science research. I learned how advancements in molecular biology can be integrated with clinical trials, thereby taking research from the bench-to-bedside.

What is your favorite part of your current job?

Twishasri Dasgupta: The favorite part of my current job is that I get a flavor of everything that a research lab does while being able to serve the people in this community. I am responsible for setting up the standard operating procedures that are used for the clinical tests, for mentoring and training students/interns/technicians on the different tests, for performing wet bench work at times, as well as troubleshooting errors and problems that might occur in the lab. So there is a good mix of responsibilities which makes my day-to-day job so exciting.

In one sentence, what advice would you give current LRI postdocs?

Twishasri Dasgupta: In addition to gaining scientific knowledge, we acquire several soft skills and core competencies while working in a research lab as a postdoctoral fellow. Self-assessment and identification of these skills could help in understanding one’s career goals and choosing the appropriate career option.
Dr. Hiu Nam (Hugh) Chan, who recently published a paper in the *European Journal of Pharmacology*, was born in British Hong Kong, where he earned his BSc in Biochemistry at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He moved to the UK for his PhD in Pharmacology at Imperial College London. During this time, he received scholarships from the Dorothy Hodgkin Foundation and Essex-Technology. After this, he moved to Cleveland to join Dr. Machado’s lab as a postdoctoral fellow and was recently promoted to a research associate. Dr. Chan works on deep brain stimulation, developing it as a therapy for both ischemic stroke and traumatic brain injuries. He chose Cleveland Clinic because it provides the insight and scope for both clinical and basic research. “The Clinic advocates for and strongly facilitates translational research, which I think is very important to biomedical research,” he says. Outside of work, he spends most of his time with his family, particularly taking care of and playing with his little boy, Nathaniel.
Dr. Iris Smith, chair of the Mentorship/Advocacy Committee, is from Houston, Texas. She received both her bachelor’s and PhD degrees in biochemistry from the University of Houston. Her project centers on identifying structural dynamics, stability, and long-range allosteric communication effects of germline PTEN mutations associated with autism versus cancer. Dr. Smith chose to work at Cleveland Clinic because 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 her journey here where cutting-edge patient care and research is being conducted by renowned scientific researchers. Outside of the lab, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two Australian shepherds and also likes to crochet and read devotional books that guide in her faith.

"Cleveland Clinic is where cutting-edge patient care and research is being conducted by renowned scientific researchers."

-Dr. Smith

Dr. Defne Bayik was born in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey, and grew up in the Mediterranean coastal city of Antalya. She received her bachelor’s degree in molecular biology from Bilkent University, Turkey and completed her PhD training in immunology at the National Cancer Institute as a participant of the NIH Graduate Partnership Program. Currently, she works in Dr. Justin Lathia’s lab where she focuses on unraveling the heterogeneity in innate immune response in brain tumors with the aim of developing more effective immunotherapies for glioblastoma. Dr. Bayik was drawn to Cleveland Clinic because of the great work being conducted in the Lathia Lab. She says, “the interconnectedness between basic research and clinical care at Cleveland Clinic makes it a unique place to pursue translational research.” In her free time, Dr. Bayik enjoys reading international literature, playing piano, traveling, and hiking.

"The interconnectedness between basic research and clinical care at Cleveland Clinic makes it a unique place to pursue translational research."

-Dr. Bayik

Dr. Vivek Narayan is from Thane, Maharashtra in India. He received his PhD in immunology and infectious diseases from Pennsylvania State University. He is currently working on identifying novel cis- and trans- regulators of the co-translational insertion of selenocysteine into selenoproteins in Dr. Donna Driscoll’s laboratory. He initially decided to work at Cleveland Clinic because of his interest in working for Dr. Driscoll, known for her excellence in mentorship. Since being at the Lerner for two years, he says, “it is a great work environment! The camaraderie one sees among the researchers here is not easily found at many other premier institutions across the US.” When he isn’t working in the lab, Dr. Narayan enjoys reading, playing with his dog, and gaming.

"The Lerner Research Institute is a great work environment!"

-Dr. Narayan
Lerner Experience in Advanced Development of Educational and Research Skills (LEADERS)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the LEADERS sessions of the month!

**November 7th**
- Dr. Alan Lichtin, Chair of the Cleveland Clinic IRB, Taussig Cancer Center
- "Human Subjects, Research Misconduct"
- 9:00 - 10:00AM in NA5-08

**November 19th**
- Heather Huston Barkley, Executive Director of Development
- Dr. Laura Nagy, PhD, Staff, Department of Inflammation and Immunity
- "Elevator Speech and Networking"
- 3:00 - 4:00PM in NE1-205

These sessions are organized by RETC. Please be reminded that those who attend all sessions will receive a certificate of completion.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**LART I**

Friday, November 16, 2018
5 - 7pm | Lerner Commons

Art & talent show featuring Lerner musicians, painters, photographers, dancers and more!

**For more information or to sign up:**
- Arts & Crafts - Jasmine Gajeton (gajetoj@ccf.org)
- Musicians & Performers - Mike Berk (berkm@ccf.org)
The Lerner Postdoctoral Association
Career Development Seminar Series

From Scientist to Diplomat:
How I Pursued a Career in Science Policy

LaShauna Evans, PhD
Program Analyst
Strategic Analysis, Inc.

Monday, November 12
NE1-205  10:00-11:00 am
Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services

Toy Drive

Hosted by the Lerner Postdoctoral Association and the Lerner Graduate Student Association

Hope for the Holidays

Nov 7th - Dec 10th

Donation Toy Ideas for Children Ages Newborn - 11

- Interactive Toys
- Riding Toys
- Soft & Plush Toys
- Early Development Toys
- Play Mats
- Instruments
- Building Sets/Blocks
- Baby Dolls
- Kitchen Play Set
- Trains
- Dump Truck
- Shape Sorters
- Board Books
- Dress Up Clothes
- Plastic Bowling Set
- Wagon/Tricycle
- Transformers
- Angry Birds
- Star Wars
- Avengers
- Minecraft
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Toys
- Arts & Crafts
- Remote Control Cars & Helicopters
- Play Microphones
- Boogie Board
- Legos
- Goldie Blox
- Karaoke Machine
- Doll House
- Fun Room Décor
- Disney Princess/Barbie Dolls, especially African-American
- Crayola Airbrush Kit
- Bracelet or Jewelry Kits
- Music Electronics/Speakers
- PS2 & Xbox Games
- Lip Gloss
- Makeup Kits
- Nail Polish
- Bike
- Scooter
- Skateboard
- Easy Bake Oven
- Nerf Toys
- Drawing Kits/Journals
- Guitar

We invite you to donate any of the items listed above. Deposit them at the collection boxes located at the following locations:

- Division Office (NB2–52)
- Genomic Medicine Admin Office (NE5–300)
- Cancer Biology Admin Office (NB4–40)
- Cellular & Molecular Medicine (NC1–128)
- Lerner Commons
- Molecular Cardiology (NB5–57)
- Walker Building (5th floor)
The Lerner Postdoctoral Association

Mentorship and Advocacy Subcommittee

Group Mentoring Roundtable

Get up close and personal with highly successful researchers at Cleveland Clinic to discuss professional development and career insights for Lerner postdoctoral trainees.

Abby Bifano, PhD
Research Regulatory and Quality Assurance Manager

Christine Moravec, PhD
Director of RETC and Staff in Molecular Cardiology

Ela Plow, PhD
Assistant Staff Biomedical Engineering

Christopher Hine, PhD
Assistant Staff Cellular and Molecular Medicine

Susan Lindner, PhD
Project Staff Biomedical Engineering

Attendees will be divided into groups of five and will receive an opportunity to talk to their mentor of choice for 40 minutes. The mentees will then rotate to a new table to interact with a second mentor. Free lunch will be provided to all attendees.

Monday, December 3
NC1-202  12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

*Limited space available* Please click here to RSVP by November 19th, 2018, listing your top 3 choices of mentors. For any questions, please contact: Iris Smith, PhD (smithi4@ccf.org)

Use this link to RSVP now!
RECENT EVENTS

Molecular Medicine PhD Program Annual Student Showcase

Several postdocs from the LPDA participated as research poster judges during the annual Molecular Medicine student showcase event. Graduate students were divided into five groups based on their year and were judged separately by three or four postdocs. The winners were announced at the end of the event.

LPDA Social/Outreach Event: Halloween Trick or Treat

The LPDA Social/Outreach Committee organized a Halloween Trick or Treat event where postdocs and their colleagues gathered in LRI Commons over cider and donuts. Afterwards, treats were handed out to families of surgical patients at the main clinic.
LPDA Career Development Seminar: Technology Transfer Panel

The LPDA Career Development Committee hosted a panel from the Cleveland Clinic Innovations Technology Transfer Office. Each panelist shared their previous career paths and their thoughts on advantages and disadvantages of working in the technology transfer field. Their backgrounds were varied and included mechanical engineering, patent law, business, and postdoctoral work in biomedical sciences and drug discovery. Some panelists had PhDs, while others had MBAs or bachelor’s degrees.

The panel shared some common likes and dislikes of this career choice. They agreed that their job allows them to work with a diverse team and with faculty who are experts in their field to move towards commercializing their science. This career path provides an opportunity to stay in touch with cutting-edge science and inventions. The hardest part of the job involves having to tell a scientist that their product is not marketable and navigating the process of moving things to market on the distributor’s schedule.

Trainees were encouraged to network and conduct informational interviews with people currently in the technology transfer field if they are interested in pursuing this career.
LOOKING FOR A JOB? NOW HIRING!

Postdoctoral Scientific Writer—University of Alabama at Birmingham
The Neuroinflammation, Pain and Fatigue Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Jarred Younger, is seeking a postdoctoral fellow to head scientific writing of several completed and ongoing human projects. An advanced research or clinical degree is required for this position. Individuals may have a PhD in Psychology, Immunology, Pharmacology, or related fields. Individuals with an MD, DO, ND, or other advanced clinical degree are also eligible to apply. For more details [click here](https://www.uab.edu/)

Molecular Analytical Capabilities Postdoctoral Scientist—FDE
The Bioproduct Research and Development organization (BR&D of Lilly is seeking a highly motivated and creative scientist with expertise in state-of-art molecular biology techniques to play a key role in establishing internal cutting-edge nucleic acid-based technical capabilities. The scientist will be an integral part of multidisciplinary teams that provide support for new therapeutic development, cell line generation, and process/bioproduct development. Ph.D. in molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, bio-engineering, or related field is required. For more details [click here](https://www.lilly.com/)

Postdoctoral position—The Wistar Institute, Murphy Lab
Postdoctoral position available starting December 2018 in the laboratory of Dr. Maureen Murphy to work on pre-clinical and mechanistic analyses on a novel series of mitochondrial-targeted HSP70 inhibitors for cancer therapy. Relevant PhD and molecular biology experience is required. Experience in mouse models of cancer is a plus. For more details [click here](https://www.wistar.org/)

Human Stem Cell / CRISPR Scientist, Neuroscience at Novartis, Cambridge, MA, US
Seeking a highly motivated scientist to join the early target discovery group in the Neuroscience department focussing on utilizing human pluripotent stem cell-derived neurons to aid in target discovery and validation in the areas of neurodegeneration and psychiatry. Minimum requirements include B.S. or M.S. degree or equivalent in biochemistry, cell biology, neuroscience, or a similar discipline with at least 4 years of industry or academic research experience. For more details [click here](https://www.novartis.com/)

Scientist/ Senior Scientist—Neuroscience—at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals Company Cambridge, MA, US
Seeking an experienced and highly motivated Neuroscientist who shares our passion for the promise of RNAi therapeutics to join at the Scientist/Senior Scientist level. Requirements include a PhD. in an appropriate biological discipline such as neuroscience, pharmacology, genetics or molecular/cellular biology. At least 2 years of experience in an academic or industrial setting are required, with demonstrated expertise in CNS biology. For more details [click here](https://www.alnylam.com/)

Senior Scientist II/III, Pathology, Translational Oncology, Abbvie, IL, US
AbbVie Oncology is currently offering a unique opportunity for a highly motivated individual to join the Translational Oncology-Pathology team to play a key role in a multi-disciplinary team focused on developing new therapies and translational biomarkers for cancer treatment. BS, MS, or Ph.D. in biology or similar field with 14+ (BS), 12+ (MS), or 6+ (PhD) years relevant experience. Grade level and title commensurate with experience. MD and/or DVM or PhD in a relevant field with 6-8+ years’ experience, oncology R&D experience in the pharmaceutical industry, academia or equivalent. For more details [click here](https://www.abbvie.com/)

Scientist—Flow Cytometry Assay development, Novartis, CA, US
Candidates holding a PhD and/or MS in immunology, with a track-record of significant research accomplishments relevant to the Department’s mission are invited to apply. Interested in recruiting candidates for designing, create, execute, and troubleshoot new Flow cytometry based procedures and assays with high level of independence while working on multiple projects. Drive the launch of new platforms/assays and manage projects of strategic importance. For more details [click here](https://www.novartis.com/)

[Click here](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/)

LERNER POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER ISSUE, 2018
Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Timothy Mead from the Apte Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering!

Dr. Mead was selected to give a talk at The American Society for Matrix Biology Biennial Meeting 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The title of the talk was "Fibrillin-2 proteolysis by Adamts6 is essential for cardiac and limb development.”

Congratulations to Dr. Defne Bayik from the Lathia Lab in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine!

Dr. Bayik received the Cancer Biology Training Grant, an institutional training award received through the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Congratulations to Dr. Samreen Jatana from the McDonald lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity

Dr. Jatana won third place for the 2018 F. Merlin Bumpus Junior Investigator Award in the Basic Science Category at Cleveland Clinic. The title of the talk was “Arming the Immune System to Fight Superbugs.”

Publications

Congratulations to Dr. Jing Hao from the Yu lab in the Department of Cancer Biology!

Dr. Hao published an original research article in the journal PLOS One titled “The effects of extra high dose rate irradiation on glioma stem-like cells”. For more details, click here.
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.