December Newsletter

It’s the final stretch of the year. Make it count by attending the last RETC-hosted LEADERS seminar on December 17th, where Drs. Sarah Shumacher-Bass, Christopher Hine, and Jessica Williams will talk about their experiences starting a lab.

This month we feature Lerner alumni Dr. David Kennedy, our fellow postdoc Dr. Samreen Jatana and the second half of the LPDA Mentorship and Advocacy Subcommittee members.

If you have not yet done so, please 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.

We look forward to seeing you at the Lerner Trainee Holiday Party on December 19th!

~ LPDA Communication Team
Subcommittees

**Career Development and Resources**
Chair: Elizabeth Sweeney
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 Central office

**Communication**
Chair: Chinthasagar Bastian
Members: Kelsey Bohn, Xiaoguang Fang, Mihyun Hwang, 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?
I joined Roy Silverstein’s lab in 2007 as part of the David and Lindsay Morgenthaler Endowed Fellowship.

What did you work on at Lerner?
While I was a postdoc in Roy Silverstein’s lab, I worked on investigating the role of adipocyte and macrophage scavenger receptor CD36 in the development of inflammation and insulin resistance associated with obesity. After my postdoc, I joined Wilson Tang’s lab as a research associate to help with his funded clinical translational projects on nitrative stress and to develop my own funded projects on Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase biology.

Where are you now, and what do you work on?
In 2015, I transitioned to a tenure track faculty position in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toledo College of Medicine. In addition to teaching in the undergraduate, graduate and medical schools, I co-direct both the undergraduate and the medical schools’ research curriculum on our Health Science Campus. I also run a research lab which studies how interrelated organ systems such as heart, kidney and liver regulate cellular damage (particularly inflammation and fibrosis) and repair during the course of chronic ailments such as hypertension and chronic kidney disease. Given our community’s ties to and dependence on the Great Lakes as a source of clean water for drinking, recreation, fishing and agriculture, our laboratory also places a special emphasis on discovering new diagnostic, preventative and therapeutic strategies targeting cellular damage caused by environmental stressors that impair our water systems.

How did your time at LRI prepare you for your current role?
My mentors were excellent in encouraging my professional development and providing me with exceptional training opportunities. While I was a postdoc in Roy Silverstein’s lab, he encouraged me to pursue patenting and licensing a novel protein detection method which exposed me to important and relevant industry and commercialization practices.

Wilson Tang taught me the importance of maintaining close ties between my research and clinically important problems and he significantly broadened and deepened the translational aspects of my work. He also encouraged me to teach in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, which was invaluable experience for the teaching aspects of my current role.

Is there something you particularly miss from your time at LRI?
Of course, I miss the people and good friends I made across the board at LRI– the scientists, core facilities staff, the maintenance crew and so many others. I also especially miss the good people who live in the neighborhood next to LRI and who let me park my car in their driveway saving me thousands of dollars in parking fees! My family and I still visit them every Christmas to share a meal together.

How was the transition to your current role?
My transition to a faculty position was seamless because I had exceptional mentors throughout my training at LRI who prepared me in a rigorous way and also allowed me to grow my independent interests.

What is your favorite part of your current job?
Without a doubt, working with and training students is the highlight of my day.

In one sentence, what advice would you give current LRI postdocs?
Learn the names of all the people you work with – from custodians to colleagues – and take time to be genuine and friendly with them all, you will never regret it.

"Learn the names of all the people you work with – from custodians to colleagues – and take time to be genuine and friendly with them all, you will never regret it.”

Dr. David Kennedy
Dr. Samreen Jatana, who recently published a paper in *Scientific Reports*, grew up in Eastern India in a small town called Jamshedpur. She attended Manipal Institute of Technology (Karnataka, India) where she received her bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering (BME). In 2008, she went to Duke University to get a Masters in BME and developed a great interest in working with nanoparticles. She then moved in 2010 to work in Dr. Lisa A. DeLouise’s lab at the University of Rochester Medical Center and graduated with a doctorate in 2016. A lot of her work during graduate school was at the intersection of dermatology, immunology and nanoparticle therapeutics. She works on novel therapeutics to combat the problem of multidrug resistant bacteria in skin wounds by modulating the body’s immune system. She’s also branching out to examine the underlying disease mechanisms of extraintestinal manifestations of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). She says: “I had very little experience in the fields of molecular biology and microbiology after I graduated from the University of Rochester. At the time, Dr. Christine McDonald was looking for a postdoc who had expertise on skin research and had the passion to learn new techniques. It was a perfect match!” She also appreciates having easy access to patient samples, allowing her to do fantastic translational science. In her spare time, she’s a part-time CrossFit athlete, training four or five days a week focusing on weightlifting and gymnastics. One day, she would love to qualify for the CrossFit Games!
Dr. Elise Baron is from the east suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. She received her bachelor’s degree from Ohio University and PhD degree from Cleveland State University. She is finishing a paper submission/publication from her dissertation work on the effects of high-intensity exercise on balance and gait measures in Parkinson’s disease using motion capture technology (Dr. Jay Alberts Lab). She is preparing for transition to Dr. Jillian Beveridge’s Lab in January to study the effects of ACL repair on the biomechanics of gait. Dr. Baron chose to work at Cleveland Clinic because she was interested in Dr. Jay Alberts’ work with Parkinson’s disease and cycling exercise and the opportunity to study biomechanics for her PhD thesis. Outside of the lab, she enjoys climbing, cycling (She did RAGBRAI – an annual week-long bike ride across Iowa – with Dr. Alberts’ lab three times), skiing and hiking.

Dr. Ángel Reyes-Rodriguez was born and raised in Guayama, Puerto Rico. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of Puerto Rico and PhD in molecular virology at Case Western Reserve University. Currently, he works in Dr. Bergmann’s lab studying the role of the anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10 in limiting demyelinated lesions in the context of neurotropic coronavirus infection in the central nervous system. Dr. Reyes-Rodriguez has profound respect for his new mentor Cornelia Bergmann and feels inspired by her work and the opportunity to work on this viral model. Dr. Reyes-Rodriguez is a bicycling advocate and he likes to cook and loves to eat.

Dr. Sudipta Biswas is from India. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology from University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India and received her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She is working as research associate in Dr. Eugene Poderz’s lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity. She decided to work at Cleveland Clinic because CCF is the best place to work on cardiovascular disease. “Cleveland Clinic is the second best hospital in the USA and well recognized worldwide for its world-class health care system and outstanding research activities. In addition, cultural diversity, friendly atmosphere, cosmopolitan environment, great collaborations, and excellent resources make it a unique place to work.” When she isn’t working in the lab, Dr. Biswas enjoys experimental cooking, photography, gardening, nature, hiking, and outdoor activities.
Lerner Experience in Advanced Development of Educational and Research Skills (LEADERS)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the LEADERS sessions of the month!

**December 5th**
Dr. Charles Tannenbaum, Department of Inflammation and Immunity, LRI
"Publication, Authorship, Peer Review"
1:00 - 2:00 PM in NA5-08

**December 17th**
Dr. Sarah Shumacher-Bass, Department of Molecular Cardiology, LRI
Dr. Christopher Hine, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, LRI
Dr. Jessica Williams, Department of Neurosciences, LRI
"Starting a Lab"
3:00 - 4:00 PM in NE1-205

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

Group Mentoring Roundtable

During this event, about 20 postdocs received valuable mentorship from five different mentors. The fellows sat in two rounds of group mentoring with Drs. Christine Moravec, Christopher Hine, Ela Plow, and Susan Linder. The participants learned about the mentors’ career experiences and listened to their advice as they engaged in conversation. The mentees also shared their experiences with both the mentors and fellow mentees, highlighting their enthusiasm to be mentored and to mentor others.
RECENT EVENTS

LPDA Career Development Seminar: From Scientist to Diplomat

The LPDA Career Development Committee invited LaShauna Evans, PhD, to speak about her career path into science diplomacy. Dr. Evans provided information about alternative career paths for PhD scientists within the government. She spoke about her experience as a bench scientist studying reproductive biology and her move into science policy after hearing about it during a seminar she attended as a postdoc.

Dr. Evans completed her BS in biology at Spelman College with an interest in science after participating in some research on campus. She then received her PhD from the University of Maryland at Baltimore, concentrating in reproductive biology and physiology. She trained as a postdoctoral fellow at University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Texas, investigating the effects of maternal obesity on pregnancy.

Throughout her postdoctoral training, she had a wide variety of experiences including mentoring in the big brother/big sister program, acting as a member of the leadership council of the postdoctoral association, participating in science outreach and advocacy to encourage STEM education in the community, teaching as an adjunct professor of biology and serving as an American Physiology Society Early Career Advocacy Fellow.

Keeping busy as a postdoc allowed Dr. Evans to test many different career directions. These experiences gave her a better idea of what she enjoyed doing and directed her into a career within science policy. Eventually, she became an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow working for the Department of State in the Office of the Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary in Washington, D.C.

Her work in this office included many interesting and exciting opportunities such as working with foreign policies, advocacy for diversity and STEM, organizing meetings such as the Woman Leaders in Science, Technology and Engineering in Kuwait, participating in the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology, acting as a panelist and meeting many inspiring leaders in STEM advocacy and Science Diplomacy from all over the world. She now works as a contractor for the Department of Defense contributing to government efforts to advance science and technology.
LOOKING FOR A JOB? NOW HIRING!

Program Manager, Oncology-Bayer, NJ-Whippany, US
Candidates holding a Bachelor’s Degree in one of the basic sciences or a business discipline; at least 6 years of relevant professional and academic experience with at least 3 years of pharmaceutical industry experience; Experience in some of the key project related functions (Research, Product Development, Regulatory Affairs, Production, Quality Assurance, Marketing) or with advanced scientific or medical degrees are invited to apply. For more details click here.

Senior Clinical Scientist, Oncology-Merck, PA, US
Seeking a highly motivated scientist to join Merck for the clinical/scientific execution of the clinical protocol, implementation and conduct of a clinical trial, collaborate with the Medical Writer on clinical/scientific and regulatory documents and Study manager on study deliverables and provide tactical/scientific mentorship to other clinical scientists. Degree in the Life Sciences or significant experience in clinical development (> 11 years)/ Bachelor’s Degree with 7+ years’; or MS with 5+ years’; or PhD with <2 years’ relevant career experience is required. Pharmaceutical and/or clinical drug development experience is desired. For more details click here.

Associate Scientist/Scientist, Proteostasis biology in Neurodegeneration Abbvie, Cambridge, MA
Seeking a cell/molecular biologist, preferably with pharma/biotech background, to join the proteostasis group at the Foundational Neuroscience Center (FNC) in Cambridge, Boston. This individual, with a background in cell biology and/or neuroscience and strong technical expertise in molecular and cell biology, will be responsible for supporting early drug discovery efforts to identify and validate novel drug targets. Position will be hired based on level of experience. For more details click here.

Staff Scientist, Molecular Biology-Thermo Fisher Scientific, Carlsbad, CA
Seeking a creative and motivated Scientist/Staff Scientist to join Molecular Biology R&D team to develop innovative NGS library prep products. Master's degree with 8 plus years of experience, or PhD degree with 2 plus years of experience in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry or other related disciplines is required. For more details click here.

Postdoctoral Researcher-Genomics of Neurodegenerative Disease, Sage Bionetworks, Seattle, Washington
Sage Bionetworks is currently recruiting a Postdoctoral Researcher to join Neurodegeneration Research group. PhD in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, Neuroscience, Computer Science, or related field is required. Experience working with high dimensional genomic data, such as sequencing data, gene expression, genotype, CNV, sequence and/or data from other high-throughput biological technologies is preferred. For more details click here.

Senior Principal Scientist/Principal Scientist Biology, Metabolic Complications, Cardiovascular & Metabolism Discovery- Johnson & Johnson, Boston, MA
Recruiting for a Senior Principal Scientist/Principal Scientist, located in the new CVM Discovery site in Boston, MA. PhD with at least 6 years of post-graduate experience in cardiovascular, liver or kidney biology in the pharmaceutical industry is required. For more details click here.

Scientist II/ Senior Scientist, Protein Purification Abbvie-Worcester, MA
The Global Protein Sciences (GPS) Group is seeking a highly motivated Scientist to join its Protein Purification Group at AbbVie Bioresearch Center in Worcester, MA. Position will be hired based on level of experience. For more details click here.
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Talks and Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Vishal Nanavaty from the Ting lab, Genomic Medicine Institute!

Dr. Nanavaty was selected to give a talk at 20th RNA Rustbelt meeting 2018 in Columbus, Ohio, where he was recognized for an honorable mention oral presentation. The title of the talk was "DNA methylation regulates mRNA alternative cleavage and polyadenylation."

Congratulations to Dr. Timothy Mead from the Apte lab in Biomedical Engineering!

Dr. Mead received a travel award for the best poster presentation at The American Society for Matrix Biology Biennial Meeting 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The title of the poster was "Fibrillin-2 proteolysis by Adamts6 is essential for cardiac and limb development."

Congratulations to Dr. Yasunobu Nagata from the Maciejewski lab, Department of Translational Hematology and Oncology Research!

Dr. Nagata won the “Young Investigator Award of the Japanese Cancer Association" at the Annual meeting of the Japanese Cancer Association 2018 in Osaka, Japan. The title of the talk was "Genetic alterations in adult T cell leukemia/lymphoma."
Talks and Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Jagjit Singh from the Padgett lab, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine!

Dr. Singh was selected to give a poster presentation at 20th RNA Rustbelt meeting 2018 in Columbus, Ohio, where he was recognized for an honorable mention poster presentation. The title of the talk was "Modeling the effects of U4atac snRNA mutations using human iPS cell-derived brain organoids."

Congratulations to Dr. Mohammed Tanjimur Rahman from the Stenina-Adognravi lab, Department of Molecular Cardiology!

Dr. Rahman was selected to give a talk at American Society of Matrix Biology Biennial Meeting 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The title of the talk was "Thrombospondin-4 Produced by Pro-inflammatory Macrophages Promotes Inflammation."

Congratulations to Dr. Evangelia Paouri from the Davalos lab in Department of Neurosciences!

Dr. Paouri was awarded a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship from the Bodossaki Foundation in Greece to perform her postdoctoral studies on “Mechanisms of periphery-to-brain immune communication and implications for neuronal health.”
Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Skye from the Hazen lab, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine!

Dr. Skye published an original research article in the journal *Circulation Research* titled “Microbial Transplantation with Human Gut Commensals Containing CutC is Sufficient to Transmit Enhanced Platelet Reactivity and Thrombosis Potential”. Her article was also chosen to be featured as the cover art. For more details, [click here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Yasunobu Nagata from the Maciejewski lab, Department of Translational Hematology and Oncology Research!

Dr. Nagata published an original research article in the journal *Blood* titled “Germline loss of function SAMD9 and SAMD9L alterations in adult myelodysplastic syndromes.” For more details, [click here](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Mohammed Tanjimur Rahman for his publication from his work in Stark lab, under Dr. Anette van Boxel-Dezaire, Department of Cancer Biology!

Dr. Rahman published an original research article in the journal *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications* titled “IFN-γ, IL-17A, or zonulin rapidly increase the permeability of the blood-brain and small intestinal epithelial barriers: Relevance for neuro-inflammatory diseases.” For more details, [click here](#).
Lerner Postdoctoral Association

Seeking talented writers

Interested in writing an article for the LPDA newsletter?

We invite our fellow postdocs and research associates to send us your non-scientific articles of interest to our readers to be featured in our monthly newsletter.

Topics could range from a travel article to a write up on ‘Things to do in Cleveland’. Be creative! Please include photos (preferably taken by you).

*Please note that all articles and photos are moderated and submission does not implicate automatic publishing in the newsletter.

Thanks!
The LPDA Communications Team

Please submit your articles to the LPDA at lri-postdoc-assoc@ccf.org.
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.