June is here, and summertime begins. Please note that we will be resuming our monthly newsletter schedule in September. Two LEADERS sessions organized by RETC are taking place on June 4 and 18. Dr. Paul Fox will highlight the main elements required to give a professional presentation on June 4, and Dr. Amy Nowacki will review the basic statistical methods essential in research on June 18.

In this issue, meet two more members of the Career Development team and find out who is our featured fellow of the month. Also for the first time, we feature an LRI Alumni, Dr. Kathryn Bryan. Dr. Bryan will be on campus on June 28 to give a talk on how to calibrate your financial plan. Surely, not to be missed!

If you missed May's Career Development seminar, we highlight the main points of "How to Ace Your Interview" that were discussed by an expert panel.

If you are new to Cleveland or looking to enjoy the beaches in summertime, we list some of our local beaches that you might enjoy.

Don’t forget to stay connected via LinkedIn.

LPDA COMMUNICATION TEAM

JOIN OUR LinkedIn GROUP

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association and Alumni Network is a group of current and former postdoctoral fellows, RAs and graduate students at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute. Our goals are to provide opportunities for career development, networking, and highlighting our scientific achievements. We also post reminders about upcoming events, so make sure to turn on notifications. Request to join today and tell all of your fellow trainees!
LPDA Executive Board
Co-Presidents: Amina Abbadi and Timothy Mead
Secretary: Kelsey Bohn  Treasurer: Brian Yard

Subcommittees

A. Career Development and Resources
Chair: Madhav Sankuny
Members: Dola Das, Brian Yard, Sudipta Biswas, Sromona Mukherjee, Darshana Poddar, Iris Smith, Elizabeth Sweeny, Nara Yoon, and Nikhil Sharma
- 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)

B. Social/Outreach
Chair: Aimalie Hardaway
Members: Timothy Mead, Iris Smith and Vijay Nagampalli
- Social events
- Promote networking opportunities
- Community outreach

C. Communication
Chair: Amina Abbadi
Members: Kelsey Bohn, Xiaoguang Fang, Isha Kapoor, Ángel Reyes-Rodriguez, Chinhasatar Bastian and Benjamin Krishna
- Advertise postdoc-related events
- Social media (LinkedIn)
- Monthly Postdoctoral Fellow newsletter

D. Mentorship/Advocacy
Chair: Iris Smith
Members: Ángel Reyes-Rodriguez, Defne Watson, Jie "Jane" Yang and Nozha Borjini
- Research mentorship network in collaboration with LGSA
- Mentorship seminars and workshops
- Mentor graduate students
- Address concerns and complaints to appropriate channels interacting with RETC and Office of the Lerner Chair
Meet Your Fellows

Meet our Career Development and Resources Team (Part 3)

Dr. Elizabeth Sweeny grew up in Minnesota and received her B.Sc in Chemistry from Loyola University, Chicago and Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sweeny’s research focuses on studying a number of heme binding proteins and the effect of proteins and small molecules on their maturation and function. After working as a postdoc at MIT in Boston, Dr. Sweeney moved to Cleveland to join Dr. Stuehr’s lab because she was fascinated by his research. She is highly appreciative of her mentors, Dr. Stuehr and Dr. Erzurum. They are both very excited about her work and supportive of her goals. She has little free time for hobbies since she has three young kids, however, if she could spare some time you could find her either running or gardening.

"I am very appreciative of both my mentors, Dr. Stuehr and Dr. Erzurum, for supporting my research goals" - Dr. Sweeney

Dr. Sromona Mukherjee is originally from Kolkata, India. She received her undergraduate degree in Engineering and Biotechnology in India. Once she completed her Ph.D. from Kent State University, where her research focused on obesity, she joined Dr. Prasad’s lab in the department of Molecular Cardiology. Dr. Mukherjee studies β-Adrenergic receptors, proto-typical G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs), that are critical regulators of cardiac function. She also works on unraveling the role of GPCR kinase 2 (GRK2) in modulating heart failure. Dr. Mukherjee chose to work here because she believes the Cleveland Clinic is one of the best hospitals in the US, which invests in great research. She also likes the collaborative environment and the core facilities available at the LRI. She spends most of her free time listening to music and taking care of her 4-month-old son. She loves traveling and meeting new people.

"I chose to work here because Cleveland Clinic is one of the best hospitals in the US, which invests in great research and collaborations" - Dr. Mukherjee
Meet Our Alumni

"At times, I miss the buzz of the centrifuge, running around with my pipette, and analyzing data, but most of the time I really enjoy my change" - Dr. Bryan

Dr. Kathryn Bryan, Ph.D.
Financial Planner and Director of Development at Skylight Financial Group, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Dr. Kathryn Bryan was a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Laura Nagy and Dr. Sherry Ball’s labs. Her research focused on cytokine expression and mitochondrial function in insulin deficient mice. Despite loving bench work, analyzing data and presenting research findings, she ultimately decided to switch careers as she was not fond of the grant writing and review process. Upon leaving the Cleveland Clinic, she took a position at Skylight Financial in 2011 where she works as a financial planner helping families who have children or adults with special needs; her analytical, presentation and communication skills gained from her research activities aided her in this work. She currently works with physician residents, postdocs, families and businesses on comprehensive financial planning. Dr. Bryan’s typical day now includes meeting with clients, assisting non-profits in the community and teaching courses on financial planning. She says, “At times, I miss the buzz of the centrifuge, running around with my pipette, and analyzing data, but most of the time I really enjoy my change.”

Dr. Bryan will be on campus on June 28 to give a talk on how to calibrate your financial plans. This talk will take place in room NE1-205 from 4:00- 5:00 PM.
Meet Your Fellows

Dr. Tawfeq Naal earned his MD degree from Aleppo University, Syria in 2010. He did three years of training in laboratory medicine in Aleppo's community hospitals in Syria. He moved to the United States in 2013 where he worked at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center as a research fellow in the Neurological Institute. Dr. Naal decided to seek more research opportunities by moving to the Cleveland Clinic as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Adrian Tonelli and Dr. Raed Dweik's labs in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity. "This is my second year at Cleveland Clinic and it is my honor to be part of this great facility." Dr. Naal continues, "Working with Dr. Tonelli improved my research skills very much, in my opinion he is the best mentor I have ever met." Dr. Naal is currently working on a project that evaluates the nitric oxide pathway of the skin's vascular bed in pulmonary hypertension by using a noninvasive technique called Iontophoresis. He is involved in several projects that assess the hemodynamic changes in pulmonary hypertension patients in response to exercise, fluids and sitting position. Dr. Naal is so excited about his next adventure as he will move to North Carolina in July for his residency at Wake Forest University. Dr. Naal is a very good cook, however he enjoys sharing his cooking more than eating it. He likes writing poems in his native language Arabic and enjoys biking in the summer.

"It is my honor to be part of this great facility" - Dr. Naal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! June 4 and 18 for the LEADERS sessions of the month.

June 4  Dr. Paul Fox from the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine "Giving a Professional Presentation"

June 18  Dr. Amy Nowacki from the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences "Review of Basic Statistical Methods"

These sessions are organized by RETC and take place in room NE1-205 from 3:00- 4:00 PM. Please be reminded that those who attend all sessions will receive a certificate of completion.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

英才招聘宣讲会
Faculty & Post-Doc Positions Information Session

Minhu Chen, M.D., Ph.D
Professor, Vice President, Director of Gastroenterology
President of Chinese Gastroenterology Association

Wednesday, June 6, 2018
4-5PM
NE1-205

ATTN: Mr.Liu, Ms.Xie
E-mail: lijiangb@mail.sysu.edu.cn
The First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China
Official Website: www.gzsums.net
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, June 15, 2018
3:00 pm
Bunts Auditorium

State of the Lerner Research Institute

Presented by:

Serpil C. Erzurum, MD
Alfred Lerner Memorial Chair in Innovative Biomedical Research

All are welcome
Reception to immediately follow address
LOOKING FOR A JOB? NOW HIRING!

Postdoctoral Research Fellow- Yale School of Medicine
Postdoctoral positions are available to study Wnt and GPCR signaling in inflammation and immuno-oncology in the Department of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT. Self-motivated individuals with an advanced degree in any area of biomedical sciences and especially those who are skilled in immunobiology are encouraged to apply.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Position in Cancer Signaling and Therapeutics - Lito Laboratory
A postdoctoral position is available in Lito Lab for a highly motivated individual with a background in biochemistry, cell biology and/or molecular genetics. Applicants should have a Ph.D. and/or M.D. and a demonstrated record of outstanding technical and analytical skills in standard laboratory techniques, including molecular cloning, stable cell line generation, transfection/infection, western blot analysis, immunoprecipitation, FACS etc.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Fellow-Vaccine Branch, Center for Cancer Research, NIH NCI
Two Postdoctoral positions are immediately available for highly motivated candidates to work on either 1) basic mechanisms of induction, homing and regulation of antigen-specific mucosal T lymphocytes using mouse models or 2) novel mucosal HIV vaccine design using a non-human primate model.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Researcher in Immunotherapy- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center - Dept. of Molecular Pharmacology
Post-doctoral position available immediately to study mechanisms of T cell dependent and independent endothelial cell death in the context of bone marrow transplantation for leukemia and other hematologic malignancies.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Fellow- Laboratory of Molecular Biology, National Cancer Institute
Excellent opportunity to join Dr. Mitchell Ho’s laboratory as a Postdoc to participate in a collaborative research project that involves the targeting of tumor-specific cell surface glycans (e.g. GPC2, GPC3) using human T-cells engineered to express chimeric antigen receptors (CARs).
Click here for more information about the position.

Associate Principal Scientist - Oncology Discovery, Merck
Looking to recruit a highly motivated associate principal scientist to join Discovery Oncology team at Merck. Boston. Ph.D. in Immunology or Cancer Biology with relevant postdoctoral experience and a minimum of 3 years of industry experience is required.
Click here for more information about the position.

Associate Principal Scientist, Computational Scientist-Merck
Join as a computational scientist at Merck, Boston in a team dedicated to advancing Merck’s Oncology and Immuno-Oncology pipelines. A Ph.D. in Engineering, Applied Mathematics, Bioinformatics, Computational Biology or related field with a significant computational and statistical component is required. A minimum of 5 years of post-Ph.D. experience applying computational methods, in cancer biology, in a pharma, biotech or academic setting, by using scientific computation environments (Matlab and/or R highly preferred).
Click here for more information about the position.

Associate Principal Scientist, Target Protein Design, Merck
Looking to recruit a highly motivated candidate to join the Target Protein Design group in the Department of Biochemical Engineering and Structural Sciences at Merck, West Point, PA discovery site. Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Biophysics, or related disciplines is required.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Fellow Positions - Ischemic Heart Diseases/Metabolic Diseases
Two postdoctoral positions are immediately available in the Department of Integrative Medical Sciences at the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Rootstown, Ohio, USA. The applicants should have a Ph.D., M.D., or M.D./Ph.D. degree, research experiences in molecular and cell biology, in vivo mouse model studies, and good oral and written communication skills.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow- Department of Surgery, University of Virginia School of Medicine
Acute Lung Injury, Lung Transplant, Inflammation, Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury
Dr. Victor Laubach of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Virginia is seeking a post-doctoral cell biologist with an interest in inflammation, transplantation, and pulmonary physiology. To apply visit https://jobs.virginia.edu and search for the posting number 0623135.
RECENT EVENT

Highlights of the Career Development Seminar, May 18

If you missed the May Career Development Seminar, ‘How to Ace Your Interview, an Expert Panel’, we summarize the highlights here. The panel moderator, Jennifer Kambies, is the Director of Special Initiatives at Cleveland Clinic Office of Physician Recruitment (OPR). The OPR is a department within the Office of Professional Staff Affairs that provides career services for postdocs and RAs. These services include CV and Cover Letter review, individual career counseling, contract reviews, and job search presentations. They have open office hours at the House Staff Resources Center (Room H15) every Tuesday and encourage fellows to stop by.

Jennifer opened the seminar with some do’s and don’ts for your interview day:

Do:
- Dress and behave professionally
- Ask questions (have a list prepared)
- Carry extra copies of your CV
- Research the position and interviewers prior to the day
- Know your career goals and interests

Don’t:
- Lose track of your thoughts
- Ask salary questions on the first interview
- Bad mouth previous employers

She then directed some questions to the expert panel. The panel consisted of Drs. Bela Anand-Apte, Daniel Blankenberg, Tara DeSilva, and Christopher Hine, all of whom have gone through faculty interviews. They shared advice based on their experiences both as interviewees and interviewers. Below are the questions and summary of answers:

1. What are the different aspects of an interview that you need to prepare for?
- Think ahead of time about possible collaborations with the other PIs at the institution and be ready to talk about their research in relation to yours.
- Put your best foot forward the whole day from the time you get off the plane to when you get home.
- Be ready with questions of your own. This is your chance to interview them too.
- Prepare for teaching a mock class if teaching will be one of your responsibilities.
- Be excited to talk about your research in your seminar and your proposal in your chalk talk.
- Know the balance of what they are looking for in terms of research, training, and teaching. Each position is a different mix of those three.
- Ask ahead of time what the itinerary and expectations of each presentation are.
2. Did you have a support system at your work that you can turn to for help in preparing for all the different aspects of a job interview?
   - Ask other PIs for help with preparing your presentations.
   - Practice your seminar with a group of peers that will be critical and will ask the hard questions.
   - Don’t be too scripted.

3. What are important things to bring to the interview?
   - Bring personality, passion, and enthusiasm.
   - Bring extra CVs.
   - Bring your own laptop.
   - Email a copy of your presentation to yourself and bring a flash drive with a digital copy.
   - You can often bring a piece of paper of notes for the chalk talk (ask ahead of time).

4. What is an appropriate dress code and body language for an interview?
   - Dress professionally. Being overdressed is better than underdressed.
   - Make sure you feel comfortable. You may be walking a lot.
   - Be confident.

5. As an interviewer, what answer do you want to hear when you ask the question, “Tell us about yourself”?
   - Be honest.
   - Start with how you became interested in science or teaching.
   - Remember that sometimes people haven’t read your application or CV ahead of time.

6. What are key questions to ask at the interview?
   - Ask newer PIs what the start up process was like for them.
   - Ask upper level personnel what the expectations and requirements would be for you.
   - Ask if they have advice for you as a new person in the department.
   - When talking to postdocs or grad students, treat it seriously and try to gauge how supportive the environment is for trainees.

7. How and when should you ask or negotiate about salary?
   - Wait until you have a signed offer.
   - As long as the salary is appropriate, it may be better to negotiate the start up package.
   - Talk to your current chair to ask for advice for what is an appropriate package.
   - Justify any negotiations. Make a list of equipment and needs.

The one piece of advice that came up throughout the whole seminar was to BE YOURSELF. Stay true to who you are. This will ensure that you end up in a position that is the right fit for you!

Click here to review slides from the seminar.
Summertime is approaching and there are a lot of outdoor activities that you can enjoy such as bike riding, running and hiking. I was born and raised under the Caribbean sun which explains my need to be in the sun and go to the beach. Fortunately, the Greater Cleveland area has beaches and lakefront parks for me to have a wonderful summertime. Even though I don’t usually swim there, I definitely enjoy the lakefront, the sand, and the sun at our local beaches.

Edgewater Beach
The best known of our beaches is Edgewater Beach. For those of you who are new in town, Edgewater is within the city of Cleveland and has its own access ramp from the Shoreway, which makes it pretty easy to get to. I often go by bicycle, taking advantage of the tunnels connecting the beach with the Gordon Square and Battery Park neighborhoods. I most often go to Edgewater for their summertime concert series that feature local musicians and food trucks. Additionally, the recently built pavilion provides stunning views of the lake.

Click here for more information.

Euclid Beach
Also, within the city of Cleveland, we have Euclid Beach. This area used to be an amusement park between 1895 and 1969. Today, little more than the original gateway arch remains. However, the beach itself is beautiful and tons of families come to grill and picnic there. Just like in Edgewater, there are concerts throughout the summer. I like stopping by Euclid Beach during my bike rides. The park also has beautiful paths along and around Euclid Creek. I’d like to note that this beach is close to fine dining restaurants in the Collinwood neighborhood.

Click here for more information.

Huntington Beach
A visit to Huntington beach in Bay Village can easily turn into an all-day-affair. There is a large Metropark/Reservation that can be hiked or biked and a park overlooking the lake with the beach down the cliff. I sometimes go to Huntington Beach to enjoy the sun while catching up with reading or podcasts. However, most often I ride my bike there, buy ice cream before heading back home. Don’t judge me!

Click here for more information.

Mentor Headlands
Mentor Headlands is a large beach, probably the largest one in the area. This beach is a great option for people who like playing beach games. The one time I went there, it was somewhat crowded. I come from the Caribbean where beaches are plentiful and close by, so I don’t particularly fancy going so far only to get frisbees and footballs flying over me while tanning, not my cup of tea. Otherwise the beach is great and worth giving it a chance.

Click here for more information.

Fairport Harbor
My favorite beach around here is Fairport Harbor. Yes, it is somewhat far, and you have to pay something like $2-3 for parking. But it has a cool lighthouse by its entrance, plenty of lifeguards, and a “beach-town” kind of vibe. There are tons of families at this beach, but somehow, it doesn’t feel overwhelming to me. While they have kayaks for rental, I usually go and lay under the sun.

Click here for more information.
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications

"Dynamics and Structural Stability Effects of Germline PTEN Mutations Associated with Cancer Versus Autism Phenotypes" published in *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics* by Dr. Iris Nira Smith from the Eng Lab in the Genomics Medicine Institute. View Publication

“Cholesterol Negatively Regulates IL-9-Producing CD8+ T Cell Differentiation and Antitumor Activity” published in *Journal of Experimental Medicine* by Dr. Xingzhe Ma from the Yi Lab in the Department of Cancer Biology. View Publication

"Serum Chloride Levels Track with Survival in Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension" published in *CHEST* by Dr. Tawfeq Naal from the Tonelli Lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity. View Publication

Awards

Congratulations to the Annual Graduate Medical Education Award Winners, 2018! The lower award is offered to Cleveland Clinic house staff and research fellows to encourage original investigation and professional excellence related to scientific papers. They are offered in both clinical, and non-clinical categories. Awardees receive certificates and a $1,000 cash prize for first place and a $500 cash prize for second place.

Dr. Hyun-Kyung Ko from the Department of Cancer Biology won first place on the non-clinical category for her paper titled, "Loss of an Androgen-Inactivating and Isoform-Specific HSD17B4 Splice Form Enables Emergence of Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer" published in *Cell Reports*. View Publication

Dr. Jacqueline R. Ward from the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine received an honorable mention for her paper titled, "Condensin II and GAIT Complexes Cooperate to Restrict LINE-1 Retrotransposition in Epithelial Cells" published in *PLOS Genetics*. View Publication
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Talks
Dr. Mohammad Alyamani from the Sharifi Lab in the department of Cancer Biology was invited to give a talk at Metabolomics 2018 in Seattle, WA. The title of his talk was "Importance of Steroidal Drug Metabolism in Guiding Drug Development."

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GET INVOLVED!
Did you publish a paper recently or get a grant or award? We want to highlight your accomplishments in the next newsletter! As part of the LPDA, we 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

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE TILL IT IS DONE
Nelson Mandela

LPDA COMMUNICATION TEAM
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ÁNGEL REYES-RODRÍGUEZ
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