September is here, and we are back! We are celebrating National Postdoc Appreciation Week, September 17-22. Join us for a Town Hall with Dr. Serpi Erzurum on September 10, meet your fellows on September 21, and hike with us on September 22. We have so much more planned for you, so be sure to check out the National Postdoc Week schedule on page 5.

Two LEADERS sessions organized by RETC are taking place on September 10 and 17. Dr. Charles Tannenbaum will highlight the main elements required to write a grant on September 10 and Dr. Neal Peachey will review what you need to know about using animal subjects and research misconduct on September 17.

In this issue, meet our LRI alumni and find out who is our featured fellow of the month. We take great pride in featuring your accomplishments, so be sure to share them with us.

Don’t forget to stay connected via LinkedIn.

LPDA COMMUNICATION TEAM
LPDA Executive Board
Co- Presidents: Amina Abbadi and Timothy Mead
Secretary: Kelsey Bohn  Treasurer: Brian Yard

Subcommittees

A. Career Development and Resources
Chair: Madhav Sankunniy
Members: Brian Yard, Sromona Mukherjee, Darshana Poddar, Elizabeth Sweeney, Nneha Sakre, Xiaqin 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 (LGS)

B. Social/Outreach
Chair: Aimalie Hardaway
Members: Timothy Mead, Carrie Smallcombe, Iris Smith, Defne Bayik Watson, Nneha Sakre and Lingjun Zhang
• Social events
• Promote networking opportunities
• Community outreach

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

D. Mentorship/Advocacy
Chair: Iris Smith
Members: Sudipta Biswas, Elise Baron, Ángel Reyes-Rodriguez, Defne Bayik 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 Our Alumni

"Networking is the key to getting the position you want" - Dr. Valentin-Torres

Interview with a Lerner Alumni - Dr. Alice Valentin-Torres, Athersys, Inc.

Which lab were you a postdoc in? How long ago?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: I was a postdoc with Dr. Stephen Stohlman and Dr. Conni Bergmann from 2013-2017.

What did you work on?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: I worked on understanding the role of tumor necrosis factor (TNF) in a mouse model of chronic progressive multiple sclerosis (MS). I published two first author papers on this project, which definitively helped me get my current position. In the first paper, we assessed the therapeutic effects of TNF neutralization in this model; specifically, how blocking TNF reduced Central Nervous System (CNS) inflammation, restored the blood brain barrier integrity, and promoted tissue repair. In the second paper, we studied the mechanisms by which TNF neutralization promoted re-myelination and tissue repair by looking at oligodendrocyte apoptosis, oligo precursor cell differentiation, and the involvement of endothelin-1.

Where are you now, and what do you work on?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: Athersys, Inc. is a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing novel and proprietary therapies to extend and improve the quality of human lives. The main focus of our company is to develop therapies in the regenerative medicine area. Athersys is developing MultiStem®, a patented off-the-shelf stem cell product intended to be used in disease such as neurological, cardiovascular, and inflammatory immune diseases. Our company recently initiated a Phase 3 clinical trial in ischemic stroke. Also, we have an ongoing Phase 2 trial for myocardial infarct and an exploratory clinical study for acute respiratory distress syndrome. At the time, it was in the company’s interest to hire someone with an immunology background, and having someone with experience in CNS inflammation was a plus.

How did your time at the LRI prepare you for your current position?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: My training at the LRI was essential in obtaining this position. It provided me with experience in CNS inflammation, mouse models and other technical skills that have been very useful to me. Also, Drs. Stohlman and Bergmann promoted my critical thinking and helped me improve my scientific writing and presenting skills.

Is there something you particularly miss from your time at the LRI?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: I miss working with my best friend, Angel Reyes, my LRI friends and Dr. Bergmann. I try to stay in touch with everyone as much as possible.

How was the transition to your current role?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: It was very good, but busy. I was trying to get up to speed with what we do at Athersys, plus Dr. Bergmann and I were submitting my second first author paper for publication. It was a busy time but it was definitely in our interest to get that paper published as soon as possible.

What advice would you give current LRI postdocs?
Dr. Valentin-Torres: NETWORK! Networking is the key to getting the position you want; having the experience required for your dream job helps, but knowing someone that can introduce you to people that work there is very powerful.
Meet Your Fellows

Dr. Kamal Ayyat is a cardiothoracic surgeon from Egypt, who recently published in *Interactive CardioVascular and Thoracic Surgery*. He received his medical degree at the University of Zigazag in Egypt, followed by a Master of Surgery degree before completing his medical residency. He works in Dr. McCurry’s lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity, on ex vivo lung perfusion; perfusing and ventilating the donor’s lungs outside the body before transplanting it to the recipient. This technique has successfully evolved from the research phase to the clinical application phase and it has great potential in expanding the donor-lung pool and decreasing the number of patients that die while waiting for a lung transplant. In addition to this project, he is investigating the outcomes of coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) surgery and stem cell therapy for ischemic heart diseases. He joined the Cleveland Clinic for its worldwide reputation. He explained, “It’s a dream for any doctor in the cardiac field to work for Cleveland Clinic. When I was 12 years old in Egypt, my father had angina and needed a CABG. The doctors’ first choice was to send him to Cleveland Clinic.” A fun fact about Dr. Kamal Ayyat that many of us would never consider: He first saw snow in 2016, his first winter in Cleveland!

“It’s a dream for any doctor in the cardiac field to work for the Clinic” - Dr. Ayyat

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! September 10 and 17 for the LEADERS sessions of the month.

**September 10**  Dr. Charles Tannenbaum from the Department of Inflammation and Immunity

"Writing a Grant, Part 1"

**September 17**  Dr. Neal Peachey from the Department of the Ophthalmic Research

"Animal Subjects, Research Misconduct"

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.
# National Postdoc Appreciation Week
**September 17-22**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON</td>
<td>09/17 03:00PM-04:00PM</td>
<td>LEADERS Seminar: “Animal Subjects, Research Misconduct” in NE1-205</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUE</td>
<td>09/18 09:00AM-10:30AM</td>
<td>Coffee and Donuts: Meet Your LPDA Representative in NE1-205</td>
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<td>10:00AM-02:00PM</td>
<td>Free Headshots in Art &amp; Photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED</td>
<td>09/19 02:00PM-03:30PM</td>
<td>Career Development Seminar: &quot;Lane Changes, Detours, Merges and Hitchhikers...Navigating Highways Along Your Career Journey&quot; by Dr. Jessica Taylor in NE1-205</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU</td>
<td>09/20 10:00AM-02:00PM</td>
<td>Free Headshots in Art &amp; Photo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>04:00PM-05:00PM</td>
<td>Town Hall with Dr. Serpil Erzurum in NE1-205</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>09/21 04:00PM-07:00PM</td>
<td>Social event at Happy Dog (Shuttle is provided, 3:30PM-7:30PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>09/22 10:00AM</td>
<td>Postdoc/RA family hike and picnic at Bedford Reservation Metropark</td>
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</table>
ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE & DONUTS

MEET YOUR LPDA REPRESENTATIVE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH • 9:00 - 10:00 AM
NE1-205
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association

Lane Changes, Detours, Merges and Hitchhikers... Navigating Highways Along Your Career Journey

Jessica Taylor, PhD

Wednesday, September 19
NE1-205
2:00 - 3:30 PM
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cleveland Clinic
Lerner Research Institute
LERNER POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

TOWN HALL
DR. SERPIL ERZURUM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 • 4:00-5:00 PM
NE1-205
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL APPRECIATION WEEK

MEET YOUR FELLOWS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 | 4:00-7:00 PM
HAPPY DOG
AT THE EUCLID TAVERN
SHUTTLE PROVIDED (3:30-7:30 PM)
VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELLOWS AND THEIR FAMILIES

HIKE & PICNIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 • AT 10:00 AM
BEDFORD RESERVATION METROPARK
Success is our Only Option.

The purpose of this survey is to better understand the needs of our postdoc community at Lerner Research Institute (LRI) and to assess what postdocs think is most important for their scientific training, career planning, quality of life, and work environment. The outcomes of this survey will be discussed with the Lerner Postdoctoral Association (LPDA) leadership council and will be critical in improving the postdoctoral experience at LRI.

The advocacy arm of the LPDA Mentorship/Advocacy Committee advocates on behalf of postdocs to address unmet needs in the postdoc community including those related to inclusion, diversity, general well-being, and identify areas where the LPDA can support postdocs to enrich their experience as researchers at LRI.

Contact Us

For any questions, please contact:

Iris Smith, PhD
Chair of Mentorship/Advocacy Committee
smithi4@ccf.org

To Complete the Survey

Click Here

Deadline
September 3, 2018

Alumni Association’s Postdoctoral Fellow Professional Development Award

The Research Education and Training Center will begin accepting applications for the Alumni Association’s Postdoctoral Fellow Professional Development Award. Ten $1,000 awards are available to current LRI Postdoctoral Fellows for professional development purposes, courtesy of the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association. Those who trained here before you, have been given this gift to continue the high levels of excellence in medical education and biomedical research that are hallmarks of Cleveland Clinic.

Deadline: End of day on September 30th
Click here to apply.
ASSISTANT SCIENTIFIC EDITOR, CELL REPORTS – CAMBRIDGE, MA
Cell Reports is seeking a full-time scientific editor. Key responsibilities include overseeing the review process for submitted research papers, working collaboratively, recruiting submissions, writing about recent publications, and more. Applicants need a Ph.D., interpersonal and communication skills, and an interest in a broad range of scientific topics. Click here for more information about the position.

PROJECT SCIENTIST (IMMUNOLOGY), CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER – LOS ANGELES, CA
The Project Scientist will work independently and in cooperation with the PI. The applicant will design and conduct protocols and research experiments for immunology and mouse studies. Click here for more information about the position.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY, MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY – GLENDALE, AZ
The Department of Microbiology & Immunology is accepting Ph.D. applicants with a minimum of 2 years postdoctoral experience. They are looking for scientists with a passion for both research and teaching. Click here for more information about the position.

STAFF SCIENTIST OF MICROBIOLOGY, AOBiome Therapeutics LLC – CAMBRIDGE, MA
AOBiome Therapeutics, LLC is looking for a Ph.D. interested in working in biotech, to develop novel therapeutics across a broad range of conditions as well as performing cutting-edge microbiome research. Click here for more information about the position.

POSTDOCTORAL BIOETHICS FELLOWSHIP, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH – BETHESDA, MD
The NIH is offering a limited number of two-year fellowships studying ethical issues related to biomedical research, biotechnology, public health, genetics and more. Applicants must have earned their Ph.D. no more than 5 years prior to the start date of the fellowship. Applications are welcome from all disciplines. Click here for more information about the position.

SCIENCE POLICY ANALYST, FASEB – BETHESDA, MD
The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is looking for a Ph.D. interested in Science Policy. The primary function of this position is to conduct policy analysis with and for FASEB leadership to develop and articulate public policy positions in the interest of investigator in the biological and biomedical sciences. Click here for more information about the position.

DIVISION OF BIOLOGY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY – ST. LOUIS, MO
This position in graduate education requires coordination with senior administrators and provides leadership to ensure division policies are implemented. Applicants who want to transition into administrative roles within higher education should apply. Click here for more information about the position.

STAY ONE STEP AHEAD IN YOUR SCIENCE CAREER WITH NIH GUIDE LISTSERV
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Each year, high school and undergraduate students come to Lerner to conduct summer research. The LPDA's Mentorship/ Advocacy subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Iris Smith, organized a presentation given by Drs. Chinhasagar Bastian and Aimalie Hardaway. This presentation was part of a summer series given to students on Student Research Day. The title for their combined talk was “Mastering the Basics: Presentation Styles & Writing a Strong Abstract.”

Dr. Bastian’s presentation was about "Writing a Strong Abstract." He talked about the different sections of an abstract: title, introduction (that includes a background, rationale and a hypothesis), methods, results and conclusions. Dr. Bastian emphasized the importance of open communication with one's supervisor, knowing abstract deadline and word limit, and proofreading several times. Abstracts should have a strong story and be logically laid out, making it easier for the reader to interpret.

The second half of the presentation was about “Days of Presentations' Past: A Retrospective Review.” Dr. Hardaway talked about the different presentation styles and gave advice on how to adapt any presentation to fit one's personality. She gave tips on how to handle nerves, a hostile audience, moving past mistakes that we all make during a presentation, and how to keep the audience engaged.
LPDA Mentorship/Advocacy and Social Subcommittees: Fill Their Bags Campaign

More than 2,400 children in Cuyahoga County are in foster care, the highest number since 2011. This summer, the LPDA Mentorship/Advocacy and Social/Outreach subcommittees partnered with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (CCDCF) to campaign throughout the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute (LRI) for school supplies for children in foster care. The goal was to supply children and their families with everything they need to start the school year in preparation for the challenges that lie ahead.

The CCDCF works with an additional 2,700 children and their families, providing support and guidance in order to prevent them from entering into their foster care system. This means they are working with and supporting over 5,000 children!

The LRI research community responded in a big way and the CCDCF was very thankful for the collaborative effort to collect school supplies. Donations were collected from the LRI, from July 24- August 3, 2018. Donations included: pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, wide and college ruled paper, markers, Elmer's glue sticks and bottles, scissors, erasers, rulers, pencil and pen pouches, highlighters, and pocket folders. "The campaign raised enough donations to provide for over 1,200 children representing over 100 school districts," said Kristin Gardner, CCDCF Outreach Coordinator. "It typically costs a little over $200 per child to get them to school with their supplies, backpack, and uniform. This doesn't include any additional school fees." Gardner said, "These supplies can help parents and their children get ready for the school year."

In 2017, 140 kids were adopted out – a small fraction of the total 2,400 foster kids. Therefore, school supplies will be a continual ongoing need for these kids. Gardner said she hopes that the LPDA and LRI will continue to collaborate annually in assisting the foster kids at CCDCF. "The average length of time that kids are in foster care is 20 months. Typically, the younger they are when they enter foster care, the shorter the time in foster care." Gardner says, "I want to give a major thank you to the Cleveland Clinic LPDA and LRI community for coming together. We so appreciated your support and help to make this a successful campaign."

The LPDA looks forward to participating in campaigning for the foster kids again next year with one goal in mind: to surpass this year's donations and exceed the school supply needs for children and their families in the coming year!
RECENT EVENT
An Alumni's Visit on Campus
Dr. Kathryn Bryan, Ph.D.
Financial Planner and Director of Development at Skylight Financial Group, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Dr. Kathryn Bryan, a former Research Associate of Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve, visited LRI to give a talk about her career change into the world of finance seven years ago. Dr. Bryan is a financial professional with Skylight Financial Group and works with families, researchers, and physicians/residents to help them achieve their financial goals. During her talk, she reviewed financial strategies and provided tips on how to set financial goals and help prepare for your future.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Awards
Congratulations to the 2018 Lerner Research Institute Postdoctoral/Research Associate Award for Excellence Winners.
The following individuals were selected by a committee for their outstanding scientific accomplishments, leadership, and service to our institute:

Dr. Mohammad Alyamani, from the Sharifi Lab in the Department of Cancer Biology, won the 2018 Lerner Research Institute Graduate Student Award.

Dr. Alyamani was awarded for his article titled "Steroidogenic Metabolism of Gαlterone Reveals a Diversity of Biochemical Activities" published in Cell Chemical Biology.
View Publication

Dr. Alyamani at the 2018 LRI award ceremony, with Drs. Erzurum (left) and Moravec (right)
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awards

Congratulations to the 2018 Lerner Research Institute Postdoctoral/Research Associate Award for Excellence Winners.

Dr. Sudpita Biswas, from the Podrez Lab in the Department of Molecular Cardiology, was the first place winner of the 2018 Lerner Research Institute Postdoctoral/Research Associate Award for Excellence.

Dr. Biswas was awarded for her article titled "TLR2 Plays a Key Role in Platelet Hyperreactivity and Accelerated Thrombosis Associated With Hyperlipidemia" published in Circulation Research.

View Publication

Dr. Xiaoguang Fang, from the Bao Lab in the Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, was the second place winner of the 2018 Lerner Research Institute Postdoctoral/Research Associate Award for Excellence.

Dr. Fang was awarded for his article titled "Deubiquitinase USP13 Maintains Glioblastoma Stem Cells by Antagonizing FBXL14-mediated Myc Ubiquitination" published in Journal of Experimental Medicine.

View Publication
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications

“ADAMTS Proteins in Human Disorders” published in Matrix Biology by Dr. Timothy J. Mead from the Apte Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

View Publication

“Exome-Chip Meta-Analysis Identifies Novel Loci Associated with Cardiac Conduction, Including ADAMTS6” published in Genome Biology by Dr. Timothy J. Mead, as a first co-author, from the Apte lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

View Publication

“NOS3 Inhibition Confers Post-Ischemic Protection to Young and Aging White Matter Integrity by Conserving Mitochondrial Dynamics and Miro-2 Levels” published in Journal of Neuroscience by Dr. Chinthasagar Bastian from the Baltan Lab in the Department of Neurosciences.

View Publication

CK2 Inhibition Confers Functional Protection to Young and Aging Axons Against Ischemia by Differentially Regulating the CDK5 and AKT Signaling Pathways” published in Neurobiology of Disease by Dr. Chinthasagar Bastian from the Baltan Lab in the Department of Neurosciences.

View Publication

"HSD3B1 (1245A>C) Variant Regulates Dueling Abiraterone Metabolite Effects in Prostate Cancer” published in Journal of Clinical Investigation by Dr. Mohammad Alyamani from the Sharifi Lab, in the Department of Cancer Biology.

View Publication

‘Pyrimidine Synthesis Inhibition Enhances Cutaneous Defenses Against Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Through Activation of NOD2 Signaling” published in Scientific Reports by Dr. Samreen Jatana from the McDonald Lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity.

View Publication

"The Oncometabolite D-2-Hydroxyglutarate is an Intercellular Mediator in IDH-Mutant Gliomas that Inhibits both Complement and T Cells” published in Clinical Cancer Research by Dr. Lingjun Zhang from the Lin lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity.

View Publication
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications

View Publication

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

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"

BY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

LPDA COMMUNICATION TEAM
AMINA ABBADI
ÁNGEL REYES-RODRÍGUEZ
BENJAMIN KRISHNA
CHINTHASAGAR BASTIAN
ISHA KAPOOR
KELSEY BOHN
XIAOGUANG FANG