May is here, and it brings with it a lot of warmth and excitement. Two LEADERS sessions organized by RETC are taking place this month on May 7 and 21. Dr. Donna Driscoll will discuss how to maximize your relationship with your mentor on May 7 and Dr. Paul Fox will review the materials needed for a successful presentation on May 21. Make sure you don't miss them!

The LPDA Career Development subcommittee has also put together a panel of experts to share their expertise with you on how to "Ace an Interview" on May 18. Surely, not to be missed!

In this issue, meet the rest of the Career Development team members and find out who is our featured fellow of the month. If you didn't attend the National Postdoc Association Annual Meeting in April, we review this experience in this issue. In case you didn't know, May is National Bike Month! We feature ways to start biking in Cleveland and hope you will enjoy it.

Don’t forget to stay connected via LinkedIn.
LPDA Executive Board
Co-Presidents: Amina Abbadi and Timothy Mead
Secretary: Kelsey Bohn  Treasurer: Brian Yard

Subcommittees

A. Career Development and Resources
Chair: Madhav Sankuney
Members: Dola Das, Brian Yard, Sudipta Biswas, Sromona Mukherjee, Darshana Poddar, Iris Smith, Elizabeth Sweeney, 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: Tim 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-Rodríguez, Chinthasagar Bastian, Benjamin Krishna and Jordon Dunham
- Advertise postdoc-related events
- Social media (LinkedIn)
- Monthly Postdoctoral Fellow newsletter

D. Mentorship/Advocacy
Chair: Iris Smith
Members: Ángel Reyes-Rodríguez, 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 2)

Dr. Madhav Sankuny, chair of the Career Development and Resources subcommittee, is from Calicut, a small city in the state of Kerala in India. He received his B.Sc in Genetics and Biochemistry and M.Sc in Molecular Biology from India. Dr. Sankuny graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Ph.D. in Human Genetics. He is currently working on characterizing the functions of KLLN, a p53-regulated tumor suppressor gene, in DNA damage response in Dr. Charis Eng's lab in the Genomic Medicine Institute. "Cleveland Clinic is an institution whose reputation precedes itself. The work done here brings focus on healthcare and research as one entity rather than being separate. I wanted to be part of that experience." Dr. Sankuny continues, "I also like the work culture and the diversity in this institution."

Outside of work, Madhav spends time taking care of his one-year-old. He enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and also photography. He also has a passion for volunteer work.

Dr. Nara Yoon is native to South Korea, where she received her B.Sc and M.Sc degree from Ewha Woman’s University. She moved to the United States and completed her Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University. Currently she works in Dr. Jacob Scott’s lab where she works on mathematical modeling of tumor growth and studies the resistance of cancer therapies developed in tumors. Dr. Yoon chose the Cleveland Clinic to do her postdoc work because she believes that it is one of the best hospitals in the world, with access to huge research resources including great coworkers and collaborators who work together. During her downtime, Dr. Yoon enjoys relaxing with her family and cat at home. When the weather is good, she loves to play golf.

Dr. Nikhil Sharma completed his Ph.D. from Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, India. His Ph.D. work focused on the role of MicroRNAs in Japanese encephalitis virus pathogenesis. Dr. Sharma received recommendations from his senior graduate school classmates to join the Cleveland Clinic. He is impressed with not only the healthy and professional work environment Cleveland Clinic provides, but with the highly successful collaborations as well. Currently, he works in the lab of Dr. Ganes C Sen, deciphering the role of STING signaling in innate immune responses against viral pathogens. Dr. Sharma has a passion to travel, meet new people and explore new ideas.

"Cleveland Clinic is an institution whose reputation precedes itself. The work done here brings focus on healthcare and research as one entity rather than being separate" -
Dr. Sankuny

"I chose to work here because Cleveland Clinic is one of the best hospitals in the world" -
Dr. Yoon

"Cleveland Clinic provides successful collaborations" -
Dr. Sharma
Meet Your Fellow Research Associate

Dr. Peggy Robinet is originally from France, where she earned her PharmD and Ph.D. degrees from Paris XI University. She now works in Dr. Jonathan Smith’s lab in the department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, where she studies the role of lysosomes and autophagy in macrophage cholesterol metabolism in the context of atherosclerosis. During her Ph.D., she worked on cardiovascular disease, which made Cleveland Clinic the perfect destination to get international postdoctoral research experience. A position opened in Dr. Smith’s lab and after interviewing with him, she felt that it would be a great environment for her to grow as a scientist; now she knows that she was right! She likes to volunteer at work; she has been an organizing committee member for the LRI Science day, a VeloSano rest stop volunteer and a Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF) judge. She also volunteers at home; she is a citizen police academy graduate and citizen police association member, and an active member of the PTO at her son’s school, where she has helped organize the science fair and volunteered at several events organized by the school.

“Besides my research, I love to volunteer” - Dr. Robinet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! May 7 and 21 for the LEADERS sessions of the month

May 7 Dr. Donna Driscoll from the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
"How to Get the Most Out of Your Mentor"

May 21 Dr. Paul Fox from the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine
"Preparing Professional Materials for Presentation"

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
LPDA Career Development Seminar on May 18

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association
Career Development Seminar Series

How to Ace your Interview – An Expert Panel

Panelists:
Bela Anand-Apte, MD, PhD
Daniel Blankenberg, PhD
Tara DeSilva, PhD
Christopher Hine, PhD

Moderator:
Jennifer Kambies, MBA

Friday, May 18
NE1-205
2:00pm
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow & Research Associate Awards for Excellence

The LRI’s Research Education and Training Center (RETC) is pleased to invite applications for the 2018 Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate Awards for Excellence. Awardees receive a plaque, a cash prize and recognition at the State of the LRI event on June 15, 2018.

Guidelines for Submission:

- Submit an article which was published or accepted for publication in 2017. A copy of the published manuscript or the unpublished manuscript with documentation of final acceptance for publication is acceptable.

- The award applicant must be first author on the paper. The work must have been performed at LRI and the applicants must have been in a postdoctoral fellow or research associate position when the publication was submitted.

- Along with your article, submit a CV or NIH biosketch and a cover letter. The cover letter should be addressed to Dr. Christine Moravec, Director of RETC, and should briefly discuss the significance of the work and your role in it. The letter must also state that the work was done at the Lerner Research Institute. The cover letter must also be signed by the staff mentor.

- Questions may be directed to Dr. Moravec or to Matt Yako in RETC.

All documents must be submitted to Matthew Yako (yakom@ccf.org) no later than May 18, 2018 at midnight.
LOOKING FOR A JOB? NOW HIRING!

Postdoctoral Research Fellow- Cleveland Clinic
Excellent opportunities to join a laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute
Click Here for positions.

Postdoctoral Fellowship-Center for Integrative Brain Research-Seattle Children’s Research Institute
The SEPS lab at the Center for Integrative Brain Research, Seattle Children’s Research Institute, and the University of Washington invites applications for a postdoctoral position. Work in the SEPS lab focuses on shared molecular pathology among the many genetic causes of autism.
Click here for more information about the position.

Chemical Senses NIH Training Grant- Florida State University
Specialty postdoctoral training in chemical senses; olfaction & taste, programs of Neuroscience, Biology, Institute of Molecular Biophysics, & Psychology. Choose from 8 faculty preceptors (@FSUCTP) with a 3+ year placement of scholars into faculty & industry positions in chemoreception. Appointments starting June 1.
Click here for more information about the position.

Postdoctoral Fellowship-Center for Integrative Brain Research-Seattle Children’s Research Institute
The Nigam lab at the Center for Developmental Biology and Regenerative Medicine (CDBRM), Seattle Children’s Research Institute and the University of Washington is accepting applications for a postdoctoral position investigating the mechanisms involved in cardiac defects and developing translational approaches to improve outcomes for patients.
Click here for more information about the position.

Provost Postdoctoral Fellowship Program- Florida State University
This special training program is designed to support diversity scholars wanting to enter academic faculty positions with guided matched mentorship. 10 scholars are selected per year for a 2 year fellowship including salary, health insurance, retirement, and 20k training-related grant award.
Click here for more information about the position.

Staff Scientist - Early Target Discovery -Takeda Pharmaceutical - San Diego, CA
Join as a Staff Scientist, Early Target Discovery in San Diego office. Looking to recruit a scientist with Ph.D. in Genetics or related discipline with 2+ years of experience in biotech industry or academic setting and publication record. Primary role: “Functional understanding of GWAS/SNP association to disease” Extensive hands-on experience in some of the techniques: Rare disease genetics, molecular biology, recombinant expression, digital droplet PCR, cis, trans eQTLs, RNAseq, CHIPseq, WGS.
Click here for more information about the position.

Jobs at Merck & Co Inc
Multiple positions are now open within Merck Research Labs. Click here and then select the "Apply Now" button. For postdoc positions, use keyword mrlpostdoc. For other positions, search using words relevant to your discipline.
RECENT EVENT

The National Postdoctoral Association 2018 Annual Meeting, April 6-8 in Cleveland

The National Postdoctoral Association 2018 Annual Meeting was held on April 6-8 in Cleveland. LPDA members attended sessions about how to improve our association and career development resources. Postdocs and Program Officers from all over the country attended to share ideas about how to best serve our postdocs. The meeting kicked off Friday with a plenary session by Dr. Rafael Luna from Boston College who spoke about transitioning from the bench to institutional leadership. On Friday evening, the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute and Garnett-Powers & Associates, Inc sponsored a networking event at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Dr. Christine Moravec, Director of the Research Education and Training Center at the LRI, opened the event by welcoming everyone to Cleveland and speaking about the Lerner postdoctoral program. The event was closed to the public, allowing meeting attendees private access to the entire museum. Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff, a consultant and founder of Intersections, SBD, delivered the keynote address on Saturday. She spoke about acknowledging implicit bias to improve diversity in higher education.

During the poster session, Dr. Kelsey Bohn, the LPDA Executive Board Secretary, presented a poster titled “Expanding and Developing a Supportive, Interactive and Leadership-Driven Postdoctoral Association.” The poster focused on the accomplishments of the LPDA over the past year and was very well received amongst attendees. Along with volunteers from Case Western Reserve University, LPDA members, Ángel Reyes-Rodríguez, Aimalie Hardaway, and Kelsey Bohn served as local hosts to bring small groups of meeting attendees to restaurants in downtown Cleveland for dinner. The conference was concluded on Sunday with a plenary session by Dr. Alison Gammie, Director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences’ Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity at the NIH. She presented about grant opportunities for trainees and led an audience discussion about how to improve opportunities for postdoctoral research fellows to obtain funding.

The LPDA is grateful to have had the opportunity to attend this meeting and came away with ideas to improve our association. We would like to incorporate workshops on topics such as CV/resume building, peer grant reviews, mental health discussion, networking, etc. Be on the lookout for a survey from the LPDA coming soon so that we can get a better idea of what postdocs want from their PDA. In the meantime, we welcome your input! The LPDA is here to serve our fellow postdocs and strives to continue to improve. If you have ideas or want to serve on the LPDA, please contact us at lri-postdoc-assoc@ecf.org
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Talks

Dr. Jonathan Schofield and Dr. Courtney Shell from the Lab for Bionic Integration in the Department of Biomedical Engineering were selected to give a talk at the 3rd Annual Orthotic and Prosthetic Innovative Technologies Conference in San Francisco, CA. The title of their talk was “Perceptual Integration of Illusory Kinesthetic Sensation in Bionic Prosthetic Hands.”

Dr. Timothy Mead from the Apte lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering was invited to give talks at the Denmark Technical University in Copenhagen, Denmark, Lund University in Lund, Sweden and the Karolinska Institute Center for Molecular Medicine in Stockholm, Sweden. The title of the talk was “ADAMTS Protease Regulation of Smooth Muscle and Musculoskeletal Biology.”

Dr. Brian Yard from the Abazeed Lab in Translational Hematology and Oncology Research (THOR) gave a symposium talk at the AACC 2018 in Chicago, IL. The title of his talk was ”Systematic Annotation of Genetic Variants that Determine Sensitivity to Radiation: a Pan-Cancer Encyclopedia.”

Dr. Onkar Sawant from the Rao Lab in the Department of Ophthamic Research was selected to give a talk at the annual conference of Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Honolulu, Hawaii. The title of his talk was “Circadian Clock Gene Bmal1 Governs Kinetics of Retinal Neurogenesis, Lamination and Visual Evoked Responses.”

Publications

“The Metalloproteinase-Proteoglycans ADAMTS7 and ADAMTS12 Provide an Innate, Tendon-Specific Protective Mechanism Against Heterotopic Ossification” published in Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight by Dr. Timothy J. Mead from the Apte Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

View Publication

“ADAMTS9-Regulated Pericellular Matrix Dynamics Governs Adhesion-Dependent Smooth Muscle Differentiation” published in Cell Reports by Dr. Timothy J. Mead from the Apte Lab in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

View Publication

“High Positive End-Expiratory Pressure During Ex Vivo Lung Perfusion: Recruiting Rejected Donor Lungs” published in Interactive CardioVascular and Thoracic Surgery by Dr. Kamal S. Ayyat from the McCurry Lab in the Department of Inflammation and Immunity.

View Publication
Awards

Dr. Onkar Sawant from the Rao lab in the Department of Ophthalmic Research received the "Pediatric Ophthalmology - Career Starter Research Grant from the Knights Templar Eye Foundation" as a Principal investigator. The title of his grant is “Effect of Maternal and Congenital Thyroid Anomalies on Fetal Retinal Programming.” The goal of this project is to understand the role of thyroid dysfunction during pregnancy and the neonatal period on long-term fetal photoreceptor functioning, survival and disease susceptibility.

Click here for more information on The Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

"The Alumni Relations Travel Award is critical to the professional development of young investigators such as myself." - Dr. Poulson

The LPDA would like to congratulate Dr. Kyle Poulson from the Department of Inflammation and Immunity on being one of ten winners of the 2017 Alumni Relations Travel Award. This award is offered by the Alumni Association in conjunction with RETC to enable postdoctoral fellows to attend an event, workshop or program to aid in professional development. Dr. Poulson, a Postdoctoral fellow from the Nagy Lab, presented his research on the role of the innate immune system in the progression of alcoholic liver disease to the Alumni Association in the Foundation House on campus. The travel awards provided by the Alumni Association are critical to the professional development of young investigators. Trainees can present their work at conferences to broad, international audiences of both peers and leaders in their fields, as well as focus and improve their developing research programs.

Dr. Poulson, one of ten winners of the 2017 Alumni Relations Travel Award, presenting his work at the Foundation House on campus
On Two Wheels: An Introduction to Bike Month and Suggestions to Keep Riders Safe

BY DR. ÁNGL REYES-RODRÍGUEZ

May has been the National Bike Month since 1956. During this time, bicycling advocates celebrate their communities and encourage people to use their bicycle for commuting and transportation, as well as for recreation. According to the American League of Bicyclists, it is estimated that 40% of trips in the US are 2 miles or less. These distances are short enough to make a bicycle a practical and efficient mode of transportation. In addition, riding a bicycle is fun, low impact physical activity, accessible to many, and good for both the rider and the environment.

There are several events for riders around town this month. For instance, May 14-18 is "Bike to Work Week" and May 18 is "Bike to Work Day" where bicycling advocates and their community partners have refueling stations around town. Many of these stations are conveniently located on routes that can lead to the Clinic and offer riders free coffee and snacks in the morning. The stations closest to main campus will be on Edgehill Rd in Cleveland Heights, Shaker Square, and Downtown Cleveland. There are also organized rides like "The Ride of Silence," a ride to commemorate cyclists that have died in accidents with motorists.

For additional information click here to check your local bicycling organization.

If you decide to bike to work, work on your safety first. Consult your physician if you have a condition and are unsure whether biking is appropriate for you or not. Always wear a helmet and follow traffic rules.

Make yourself visible. Take advantage of bicycling lanes and pay attention to parked/stopped cars opening their doors. And, of course make sure your bike and its components are in good condition. At the Clinic, most parking lots and garages, as well as many buildings, have bike racks to secure bikes. Always secure your front tire, especially if it has a quick release. If your commute is a bit too long, consider taking advantage of public transportation to complement your ride, or consider riding to work only part of the week.

If bike commuting is not for you, it’s not for you. However, "Share the road"; bicyclists have the same right to use the roads as motorists do. One could argue that most bicyclists have cars, so they pay taxes and license fees, but contribute much less to traffic jams and to road damage than people who only commute by car, so they benefit motorists. Remember to leave at least 3 feet of buffer space between your vehicle and a bicyclist. Don’t ask a cyclist to use the sidewalk; it is unsafe for both cyclists and pedestrians, and in many communities it’s against the law. If a bicyclist annoys you on the road, please avoid road rage. The cyclist is much more vulnerable than a motorist and an accident can result in serious injuries or death.

Whether you ride or not this month, consider participating at this year’s VeloSano. VeloSano is a fundraiser in which riders commit to raise funds for cancer research at Cleveland Clinic. If you ride, you decide the distance and the fundraising goal you want to commit to.

If you don’t want to ride, you can volunteer to help with the event itself, or you can make a donation to support a team, an individual, or the event as a whole.

Oh, and remember to have fun!
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Click here for more information.

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