Many thanks to all of you for making National Postdoc Appreciation Week a success. A special thanks to the group of postdocs who took the time to work on organizing those events.

This month Dr. Suzy Comhair will talk about “Data Acquisition and Lab Tools” (October 18) as part of the LEADERS seminars. Also, our Career Development Seminar Series continues with a panel discussion focused on alternate careers for scientists (October 19).

In this newsletter edition, we feature our fellow postdoc Dr. Onkar Sawant and our alumnus Dr. Crystal Miller. Finally, we want to thank our Latino and Latina postdocs for all their valuable contributions during the second half of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15).

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

~ LPDA Communication team

Join our LinkedIn group

The Lerner Postdoctoral Association and Alumni Network is a group of current and former postdoctoral fellows, research associates and graduate students at 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: Defne Bayik and Timothy Mead
Secretary: Kelsey Bohn    Treasurer: Madhav Sankunny

Subcommittees

Career Development and Resources
Chair: Elizabeth Sweeny
Members: Sromona Mukherjee, Nneha Sakre, Madhav Sankunny, 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)

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

Mentorship/Advocacy
Chair: Iris Smith
Members: Elise Bara, Defne Bayik, Sudipta Biswas, Ángel Reyes-Rodriguez, 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
- Interacting with RETC and the Lerner Chair office

Social/ Outreach
Chair: Aimalie Hardaway
Members: Tim Mead, Vijay Nagampalli, Nneha Sakre, Carrie Smallcombe, and Lingjun Zhang
- Social events
- Promote networking opportunities
- Community outreach
Interview with a Lerner Alumni - Dr. Crystal Miller

In which lab were you a Postdoc? How long ago?

*Dr. Miller:* I did my Postdoc work from 2011 to 2015 in the Neurosciences Department in the lab of Bruce Lamb, who has since moved to Indiana.

What did you work on at the LRI?

*Dr. Miller:* My project focused on the role of inflammation in Alzheimer’s disease and tauopathies. TREM2 variants were a recently discovered risk factor and my research sought to characterize the location and role of TREM2 in both healthy and AD brain tissue of humans and mice.

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

*Dr. Miller:* I am now the Director of the Center for Science Research & Engineering at Hathaway Brown School, an all-girls’, independent school in Shaker Heights. The program partners with area research institutions, such as Cleveland Clinic, to allow high school students to conduct multi-year research projects to encourage their interest in STEM fields.

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

*Dr. Miller:* Working at the LRI allowed me to meet and network with a variety of research scientists whom I now can partner with through my current position. In addition, mentoring others in the lab, learning presentation and writing skills, and simply understanding the culture of research at an institution like the LRI has aided me in my ability to teach the research experience to others.

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

*Dr. Miller:* There are times when I miss the bench research and the comradery of the lab. In a secondary school environment, teachers can be cut off from each other as they teach in different classrooms all day. The lab environment, with benches side-by-side, allowed for easy access to colleagues for questions, support, or banter.

How was the transition to your current role?

*Dr. Miller:* The transition was surprisingly smooth as I served in a part-time capacity as a Postdoc during my final year in the Lamb lab and part-time at Hathaway Brown learning from the previous Director of the program.

What is your favorite part of your current job?

*Dr. Miller:* While I had little prior teaching experience, the position relied most on my research background and ability to guide and mentor students. Since the mentoring aspect of research had always been one I enjoyed, leading the Science Research & Engineering Program at HB was a natural fit. I will never tire of sharing in the enthusiasm of a high school student’s research discovery and cultivating their love of science.

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

*Dr. Miller:* Figure out the parts of research that you enjoy the most (grant writing? mentoring? bench work? advocacy?) and find a career where you can best utilize those talents and interests.
MEET YOUR FELLOW

Dr. Sawant is originally from Mumbai, India where he earned a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree in 2008. He moved to College Station, Texas in 2008 to pursue graduate school at the Texas A&M University where he earned a Masters in biotechnology with certificate in business in 2010 and then a PhD in Biomedical Sciences in 2013.

He joined the lab of Dr. Sujata Rao at the Cole Eye Institute in Jan 2014 for post-doctoral training, because he was interested in understanding mouse genetics and retinal developmental biology. He studies the role of circadian clock genes and components of thyroid hormone signaling in retinal development. As a lab, they study how these circadian clock genes control the development as well as “aging” of different retinal neurons and the vasculature that makes them susceptible for a number of diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP).

Onkar is a sports fanatic. He follows all the Cleveland major league teams, Texas A&M football, and the Indian cricket team with passion. He’s a distance runner and has so far completed 7 half marathons. He started training for long runs when he was in Texas and gets some of his best research ideas while running!

"I get some of my best research ideas while running!"
-Dr. Sawant

ADVERTISEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SIGN UP TODAY!

L A R T I

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

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

For more information or to sign up:
Arts & Crafts - Jasmine Gajetan (gajetan@ccf.org)
Musicians & Performers - Mike Berk (berkmi@ccf.org)
Lerner Experience in Advanced Development of Educational and Research Skills (LEADERS)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the LEADERS sessions of the month!

**October 1st**
Dr. Charles Tannenbaum from the Department of Inflammation and Immunity
"Writing a Grant, Part 3"

**October 18th**
Dr. Suzy Comhair from the Department of Inflammation and Immunity
"Data Acquisition and Lab Tools"

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.
Social/Outreach event

Day of Service and Fun for Post-docs
1st Annual Halloween Trick or Treat Event

Wednesday
October 31, 2018

11:00am Meet in LRI Commons for cider and donuts
12:00pm Distribute treats to families of surgical patients
Location: P Building
Costumes are highly encouraged!
LPDA Group Mentoring Roundtable

The Mentorship and Advocacy subcommittee of the LPDA hosted the Group Mentorship Roundtable on August 28th. At this event, 21 postdoctoral fellows received career advice from mentors at different career stages. Drs. Charis Eng, Dola Das, Judith Drazba, Justin Lathia, and Ritika Jaini led candid discussions that included, but were not limited to, how to be effective postdocs, how cores are structured, and how to position yourself as a competitive candidate for a future job. The LPDA Group Mentoring Roundtable was organized as intimate small groups led by one of our mentors with up to 5 mentees in each group. 20 minutes into the event, the mentees switched and talked to a different mentor. This mentorship session had positive feedback from the participants and mentors alike, so expect another Group Mentoring Roundtable in the near future.

National Postdoc Appreciation Week

Coffee & Donuts: Meet Your LPDA Representative
Postdocs bonded over coffee and sweets while giving each other encouragement and scientific/career advice.

Career Development Seminar: Lunch with speaker, Dr. Jessica Taylor
Her talk emphasized how hard work pays off, even when you have to go down the road less traveled.
National Postdoc Appreciation Week continued

Postdoc Town Hall
The Lerner Postdocs asked questions directly to Dr. Erzurum, Chair of the LRI, and provided feedback on several subjects.

Postdoc Social Event
After a week of hard work, postdocs met at the Happy Dog at the Euclid Tavern for some food, drinks, and karaoke.

Postdoc Family & Friends Hike
National Postdoc Appreciation Week ended with a hike around Bedford Reservation (Cleveland Metroparks).
LOOKING FOR A JOB? NOW HIRING!

Postdoctoral position- Penn State Univ College of Medicine
A NIH-funded post-doctoral position is available in Dr. Shengyu Yang’s lab at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine to study the role of mitochondrial actin filaments in cancer metastasis. Successful applicant will be a highly motivated recent graduate with a Ph.D. or equivalent degree and will have expertise in cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology or related fields. Experience with fluorescence imaging, super-resolution microscopy and genetically engineered mouse models will be desirable but not required. For more details, click here.

Senior Scientist-Biomarker assay- Takeda, Greater Boston Area
Required B.S./M.S. with at least 5 years or PhD with at least 2 years of biomarker assay experience. Subject matter expert in cytometry platforms such as flow and mass cytometry. Working knowledge with other cytometric platforms including imaging cytometry is a plus. Experience with immunoassays such as ELISA and electrochemiluminescence (MSD) is a plus. Biological knowledge in a relevant scientific area, e.g., Immuno-oncology, Oncology, Immunology, Gastrointestinal, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or Cell Biology is required. For more information, click here.

Computational biologist-Merck & Co Inc
Seeking an innovative Computational Biologist to join Merck’s Exploratory Science Center (ESC) in Cambridge, MA. Required Master’s of Science degree in computational biology, genomics, bioinformatics, biostatistics, or related field (e.g. molecular biology) with strong computational component with a minimum of 2 years of relevant industry experience. PhD with less than one year postdoctoral experience will be considered. Research experience in any of the following areas: microbiome/microbiology, immunology, host-pathogen interactions, ecology, next generation sequencing data analysis, metabolomics, proteomics, data science. For more details, click here.

Associate Research Scientist-University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC)
The selected candidate will have a PhD in Immunology (or closely related field) and will oversee a core Human Immune Monitoring Service (HIMS) that provides technical and scientific expertise for clinical trials across the UACC and the University of Arizona. Required expertise in multi-color flow cytometry, ELISpot, Metabolic assays, ELISA, RT-PCR, immune cell functional assays. For more details, click here.

Scientific Researcher/Senior Scientific Researcher, Biochemical and Cellular Pharmacology Department-Genetech, Inc.
Seeking a talented Scientific Researcher/Senior Scientific Researcher to join Genetech in Biochemical and Cellular Pharmacology Department. The successful candidate will have a unique opportunity to contribute to drug discovery for ion channels, GPCRs and transporter targets, from identification of hits to identification of clinical candidates. Required BS/MS degree in biological science; sound understanding of structure-function and pharmacology of ion channels, GPCRs and transporters; excellent skills in electrophysiology, with at least 5-year, hands-on experience; or experience in working with GPCR and transporter targets. For more details, click here.
Awards

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

Dr. Mead was chosen to attend the 2018 Neonatal Cardiopulmonary Biology Young Investigators Forum in Chicago, IL. He was awarded a Travel Award as well as a 2018 Excellence in Research Grant.

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.