Welcome to the Postdoctoral Newsletter for the Emory Scientific Community. The Postdoctoral Newsletter will provide information, resources, articles, views and opinions for and by Postdoctoral Fellows at Emory University.

UPCOMING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS 2009-2010

Orientation Schedule for New Emory SOM Postdocs
- January 29, 2010, Timing & Room TBA
- April 30, 2010, Timing & Room TBA

Green Card Session for International Postdocs
- Thursday, December 10, 2009
  Brown Bag Lunch, SOM Rm 130, 12:30-1:30pm

Grant Writing Workshops
(Registration required for the NRSA and the K Award)
- Mondays December 7, 14 & January 4, 2010
  Preparing K Awards and other CDAs (a 3-class series)
  9:00am - 11:00am, Room TBA
- Monday, January 4 2010
  K - Preparing a Resubmission
  11:15am - 12:30, Room TBA
- Fridays February 19, 26, March 5 2010
  NRSA Grant Writing Tutorials (this is a 3-class series)
  9:00am - 11:00am, Room TBA

Social Events
- Thursday, December 17
  Postdoctoral Holiday Party
  SOM, Lobby & Rm 130 3:00pm - 6:00pm
  TBA = To Be Announced
HOLIDAY PARTY

HOLIDAY PARTY.... Please come celebrate with your fellow post-docs as the OPE wishes everyone a very Happy Holiday!! We will be having our annual party on Thursday, December 17 from 3-6pm in the School of Medicine, Room 130. To make this year’s event extra special, we are asking for $2 at the door. As always there will be beer and wine to enhance the merriment!
Please RSVP to Lisa Flowers at lflowe3@emory.edu.

Hope to see you there!!!

- Heather E. Ross, PhD
Dept. of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

GREEN CARD INFORMATION SESSION

Cengiz Gunay,
Chair of the International Postdoc Committee, Dept. Biology

We, as the volunteers in the International Postdocs Committee (IPC) and the Office of Postdoctoral Education (OPE), are organizing a "Green Card Information Session" at 12:30pm on Dec 10th 2009 at the School of Medicine, Rm. 130. This will be a brown bag lunch meeting, meaning you can bring your own lunch and we will offer free drinks.

A green card brings several benefits to a postdoc: it extends the work permit beyond the 6-year limit of a H1-B visa, and it provides eligibility to many governmental grants (e.g., the NIH NRSA grants that are specifically offered to postdocs).

Emory University can only sponsor a green card for tenure-track positions and not for postdocs by definition. However, the same definition allows other benefits and training for postdocs. Therefore, for getting a green card, postdocs need to self-petition in one of the employment-based application categories: EB-2 NIW "members of the professions holding advanced degrees or their equivalent, and aliens who because of their exceptional ability in the sciences, arts, or business will substantially benefit the national economy, cultural, or educational interests or welfare of the United States" or EB-1 "extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics which has been demonstrated by sustained national or international acclaim and whose achievements have been recognized in the field through extensive documentation", including "Outstanding professors and researchers."
A lawyer is often used for this application, which is why we invited an ISSP-recommended immigration attorney, Karen Weinstock*, to talk about the eligibility, requirements and other technical details of such an application. An Emory postdoc from IPC, Lara Pereira, will also give a few pointers from her own recent experience of obtaining a green card. All international postdocs are welcome and can bring along interested graduate students. Please RSVP to Lisa Flowers by Tuesday, Dec 8th, so that she can correctly estimate the amount drinks to offer.

I want to acknowledge the current IPC members (Alexandre R. Franco, Hima Bindu Gunturi, Patricia Paola Jumbo Lucioni, Lara Pereira, and Shuzhao Li), and the OPE; Mary DeLong and especially Lisa Flowers for her help in organizing this event.

Please note that the IPC is open to all postdocs and we would like to have your input and suggestions for future events. Specifically, we would like to organize a regular postdoc presentation event and an information session for available grants for international postdocs. If any of you already have a list of such grants, we would love to hear from you. Please email me (at cgunay@emory.edu) or other IPC members.

Hope to see you at the green card info session!

* The material presented by Karen Weinstock has been prepared by her, and has not been reviewed or approved by Emory University for accuracy or appropriateness. This material is not intended to represent the only, nor necessarily best, methods or procedures appropriate for the business contracting situations discussed, but rather is intended to present an approach or opinion which may be helpful. Emory does not endorse the use of the services of Karen Weinstock.

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**WOMAN IN SCIENCE, A CLOSE LOOK AT THE FEMALE POSTDOC**

**Yan Liang**

Pharmacology Dept

The topic of women in science is not new. Many reports have covered the tremendous achievements of women in the scientific field over the past hundred years. As the world has become more open and as society has become more tolerant to the differences and changes, women have gained more opportunities including the pursuit of scientific careers. Thus, I want to focus on one specific group in scientific field of which I am a member, female postdocs.

Having a Ph.D. degree, we are labeled as smart women. And we are
smart. On the way to becoming a postdoc, we have taken exams, passed qualifications, defended, and fulfilled elevation processes. Yet, at this postdoc stage, many of us still have not reached a settled career. Many still are not sure what they want to do in their lives. We still have an unknown future ahead of us. As postdocs, most of us are over 30 years old with pressures concerning family, having (or taking care of) children and all manner regarding the challenges of life.

In China, when people look at the female Ph.D., they have a special feeling about them, which is a kind of bitter, sour, and ironic. They are called "XXX", which is not man, nor woman, but something between man and woman. It is a term of severe discrimination. In Chinese tradition, women should not be stronger than men. With a woman attaining the highest degree a person can get, how then can the boyfriend or husband achieve higher? Regarding marriage, or building a family, there is less on an option for a female Ph.D., mainly because there are few men who want to have a Ph.D. wife. The husband would be judged as inferior.

Another reason for discrimination is that people tend to think the female Ph.D., in spending so much time on research and work, is not spending the proper time on fashion, hygiene or physical matters. There is an incorrect logic that by dedicating oneself too much to science, the female Ph.D. couldn’t possibly know all the important issues regarding, fashion, looks, style: What some believe is the essence of femininity. The worst the discrimination comes when the female Ph.D.s are seen as stubborn and insubordinate. Science teaches gives a woman the confidence to think for herself and this can be daunting to a culture historically dominated by men. Indications show that times are changing, but we’ve got a long way to go.

I am sure some of us have had the moment when we thought if we could just enter graduate school, our lives would be better. We probably never thought about doing postdoc work after neither graduate school, nor imagined that postdoc work could have been simply monotonous and laborious, lacking in creativity. I have been doing my postdoc for about nine months. Most of my lab colleagues and senior faculties agree, moving beyond the postdoc position is an ultimate goal.

To pursue an ideal academic career, many positions require the postdoctoral training. Regarding the National Postdoctoral Association, a postdoctoral scholar ("postdoc") is an individual holding a doctoral degree who is engaged in a temporary period of mentored research and/or scholarly training for the purpose of acquiring the professional skills needed to pursue a career path of his or her choosing. As female and postdoc I see the value in this education era of my life, but I also find myself impatient to move from it, so I can spend more time balancing the rest of my life, such as home, hobbies, family, and fun. The challenge for women is to endure
ENGLISH CLASSES

If you are interested in improving your speaking ability by attending English language classes, there are a number of them available at the Emory University. Below is the link to the ISSP website with the information regarding ESL Classes for Emory Research Employees. The deadline for receiving application forms is January 2, 2010. This is through the graduate school and there is a fee for registering in the course.


In addition, on the ISSP website there is also a list of other English language classes that includes some free classes as well. More information can be found on the following link

http://www.emory.edu/ISSP/survival/handbook/other/english.htm

-Anca Doloc-Mihu
Dept. Biology

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Yan Liang
Pharmacology Dept.

Sometimes it's hard for the science world to enjoy the spirit of Christmas, what with all that whole “logical versus magical” debate. But with the speed of a Glenn Beck teardrop, the Christmas season is upon us and the fun is about as hard to resist as the H1N1 virus.

But still, there are some dangers in trying to mix the two, diverse institutions. For example, see how quickly the magic of Christmas dies when a child is told that the idea of Santa coming down the chimney is about as likely to happen as Rush Limbaugh inviting Barack Obama to the NRA Cotillion.

On the other side, when scientists do try their hand at the frivolity of the yuletide season the reactions can be a little, uh, frosty. Witness this list, I dug up, of The Worst Science-Based Christmas Carols Ever:

“Rudolf the Phosphorescent-Nosed Rangifer Tarandus”

“North Pole Hypothermic Diseases of the Extremities… Fa la la la la La la la la”

“I Saw Mommy Interfacing with Santa Claus”

“It’s Not the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, It’s Cold Dammit”

“Ag Bells”

“It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Winter Solstice Disambiguation”

“God (Yeah, Right) Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

“All I Want for Christmas is My Two Central Incisors”

Maybe I dreamed this list, or maybe I really found it. But, either way, it teaches me that for this season to be fun, you have to treat it like love or The Bell Curve: For it to work, you’ve got to disregard any semblance of common sense.
### New words in English dictionary

Do you know these words?

Some of the wombo (word + combo) we know are:

- **spork** = spoon + fork
- **Fraturday** = Friday + Saturday
- **video + log** = vlog
- **postdoc + rich** = oxymoron (this one is a joke!)
- **Breakfast + Lunch** = Brunch
- **Reversible + Belt** = Reversabelt
- **Lunch + Dinner** = Linner
- **Stay + Vacation** = Staycation
- **Word + Combo** = Wombo
- **Potatomato** = Potato and tomato
- **co-lover** = co-worker + lover
- **silgle** = still single
- **singleble** = single and available
- **mitoclave** = microwave and autoclave

Collected by Anca, Bob, Usha & Jackie

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We would like to thank all our Postdocs for their contribution to the newsletter.

We are highly encouraging and requesting Postdocs to come forward and send in their articles, views, opinions, research work, jokes, light hearted entertainment for the coming issues of the newsletter.

We welcome the new Postdocs who have joined the Emory University in this session.

We warmly wish all the Postdocs, their families and friends Happy Holidays & a very Happy New Year from the Office of Postdoctoral Education & the Newsletter desk.

Cheers!!!!!!!