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

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Our Postdoc Web site:

http://www.med.emory.edu/postdoc/PostdocComm

Cover photo by Dr. Cengiz Gunay
Atlanta skyline from Stone Mountain
UPCOMING POSTDOCTORAL EVENTS

September

14/Wednesday  CVs, Resumes and Biosketches
   Time: 3-5PM   Room: SOM_120

22/Thursday  What to do with a PhD Symposium
   Time: 1-5PM   Room: SOM_110

22/Thursday  Postdoctoral Fellows Appreciation Reception
   Time: 5-6PM   SOM Lobby

October

04/Tuesday  Pharma Jobs – What’s the Outlook/Where to look
   “Your Industry network LINKED In”
   Time: 12_1:30pm   Room: SOM_153A

06/Thursday  Ethics Course I (Pre-registration required)
   Time: 3-5:30PM   Room: SOM_153A

11/Tuesday  Postdoctoral Orientation
   Time: 9-11:30am   Room: SOM_178P

12/Wednesday  Academia Jobs – What’s the Outlook/Where to look
   “Your Industry network”
   Time: 12_1:30pm   Room: SOM_153A

19/Thursday  Ethics Course II (Pre-registration required)
   Time: 3-5:30PM   Room: SOM_153A

20/Thursday  NRSA Workshop
   “Your own funding and the road to Academia & Research in Industry”
   Time: 1-3pm   Room: SOM_120

November

03/Tuesday  How to apply for a Job in Industry, Cover letters, Resumes, Reviews
   Time: 3:15-5PM   Room: SOM_120

09/Wednesday  Ethics Course III (Pre-registration required)
   Time: 3-5:30PM   Room: SOM_153A

15/Tuesday  Brown Bag Workshop
   Time: 12-1PM   Room: SOM_153A

21/Monday  Ethics Course IV (Pre-registration required)
   Time: 3-5:30PM   Room: SOM_153A

December

01/Thursday  Career Development Awards in Academia
   Time: 3-5pm   Room: SOM_120

15/Thursday  How to Apply for a Job in Academia, Cover letters, CVs, Reviews
   Time: 2-4pm   Room: SOM_110

15/Thursday  Postdoctoral Holiday Social
   Time: 4 - 6pm   Room: SOM Lobby

OPE Web site:  http://www.med.emory.edu/postdoc

Career Building Opportunities

WANTED! CREATIVE POSTDOCS
Friendly editors looking for writers and artists to share informative, funny and interesting articles, poetry, jokes, or drawings. Offering an easy peer-review process and fast publication turn around! Submit now! (adolocm@emory.edu)
By Anca Doloc-Mihu, Ph.D.

The 4th Annual Symposium held on May 26, 2011, was a great success. We had well over 250 attendees of postdocs, faculty and others – a testimony to your research!

Check it out at: http://www.med.emory.edu/postdoc/PostdocComm/Research/symp2011

Emory postdocs from 35 different departments presented 92 posters throughout the day. In addition, nineteen postdocs, selected based on the merit of their submitted abstracts, gave a 15 minute oral presentation of their research.

Posters were grouped into seven categories, and for each category, the poster with the highest score, as judged by a group of thirty seven judges (Emory professors), was awarded.

The Postdoc poster winners were:
- Ziad Eletr - Cell Biology/ Biochemistry
- Mohammad Rahman - Cancer Biology
- Chesnal Arepalli - Disease Systems
- Katherine Mills Lujan - Genetics
- Yu Cuiling - Vaccine Research
- Abdel Alli - Other Dept.

In the past year, Postdoctoral Fellows who had distinguished themselves in the research were recognized, and each received an Honor Award. Forty three postdocs received training awards, grants and fellowships, 28 won travel awards to research meetings, and 30 postdocs were invited to give talks.

Six Emory mentors, nominated by their postdocs for their excellent mentoring skills, joined the "One-in-a-Hundred" Club and received the Outstanding Mentor Award. The awarded mentors were:
- Dr. Art English, Ph.D., Professor
- Dr. Judith Fridovich-Keilm, Ph.D., Professor
- Dr. Haian Fu, Ph.D., Professor
- Dr. Pratibha Joshi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
- Dr. Yuying Liang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
- Dr. Astrid Prinz, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Congratulations to our seven outstanding poster award winners and their mentors, Honor Award postdocs, and to our "One-in-a-Hundred" mentors.

In photo: Our keynote speaker Dr Helen Mayberg, our Symposium Committee Chair, Dr. Alaine Keebaugh, and the OPE Director, Dr. Mary DeLong.

Sources for funding opportunities can be found at the OPE website:

http://med.emory.edu/postdoc/CurPostdoc/funding_opportunities.cfm
The National Postdoctoral Association’s (NPA) 9th Annual Meeting was held on March 25th thru 27th in Washington, DC. Around 250 people among graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty attended the meeting. A breakfast networking session was offered to first-time attendees on the first day of the conference to learn about NPA’s mission, values, objectives and accomplishments. NPA staff and representatives as well as NPA committees and committee members were introduced at that session. The NPA website (http://www.nationalpostdoc.org) was also highlighted as an important reference tool for information regarding fellowship options for minority groups, grant opportunities for international postdocs as well as visa issues and regulations.

“Innovation in Action” sessions were offered each day of the conference as concurrent workshops/seminars oriented to individual postdoctoral scholars (IPS), postdoctoral association (PDA) and/or postdoctoral office (PDO) representatives. The first one was a very dynamic discussion and a very enriching experience. In this session each participant provided their name, organization and what they hoped to get out of the meeting. It was interesting to identify common concerns among institutions such as increasing postdoctoral involvement in PDA’s events, integration of non-biomedical and biomedical postdocs, and funding and professional development opportunities for postdocs. Interesting ideas were shared at that session addressing diverse concerns such as the organization of sports tournaments, extending invitation to family members among others. Additional tools to increase IPD involvement were also proposed: establishing an alumni database, creation of a weekly newsletter of events and seminars, offering travel awards to IPSs, implementation/creation of a postdoc orientation handbook and the use of internet to establish community networks via Facebook or Linked-in. The implementation of a survey targeting the IPSs, similar to the one our Office of Postdoctoral Education (OPE) at Emory has recently distributed, was also highlighted as a way to identify their concerns and interests and tailor events accordingly.

The following “Innovation in Action” sessions addressed the institutional advancement of postdoc women, marketing for scientists, scientific teaching and active learning in undergraduate science, preparing academic scientists for careers in industry, balancing work/family responsibilities, policies impacting postdoc hiring and diversity, and pedagogy, technology and educational assessment tools. Some of these presentations are available at the NPA website. There was a great attendance at all these sessions and although it was not possible to attend all of them as they were concurrent, the overall feedback I got from other postdocs is that they all were excellent. I would like to highlight the teaching workshop conducted by Emory postdocs Drew Kohlhorst, Darlene Mitran, Jennifer Wilhelm, Katie Wilkinson and Kristy Wilson, aimed to provide teaching-specific resources and other helpful materials to implement instructional teaching workshops at institutions. At the IPS level, it was of great interest to individual attendees as highly-competitive applicants in academic positions often require teaching and educational assessment experience.

Besides all the interesting ideas I collected throughout the conference, the poster sessions were also a great source of innovative tools to enhance career and professional development in our PDA. Women’s mentoring lunches, postdoctoral seminar series, mentored lunches to promote networking, parent-scientist mentoring programs and implementation of courses/seminars/workshops to help IPSs establish a successful independent research career, were some of the ideas I collected from other institutions’ experiences.

This was my first NPA meeting and a truly enriching experience as it was not only a great networking opportunity for me but also an important source of tools and ideas to bring to our OPE. Our OPE is currently working on turning some of these new ideas into actions for the benefit of our postdoctoral community here at Emory. I would encourage all postdocs to attend the next NPA meeting as it has been one of the most highly engaging and productive experiences I have ever had.

The next annual meeting will be held in San Francisco, CA from March 16th thru 18th, 2012. See you there!

National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) web-site:
http://www.nationalpostdoc.org
Dear Dr. Knowitall,

I am currently in the final year of my postdoc appointment and I have recently obtained some promising results on a project that my Principal Investigator (PI) abandoned a year ago. However, after sharing my new results with my PI they have expressed interest in revitalizing the project. The problem is that I really want to take this research with me as I transition into an independent researcher role. How do I nicely tell my PI to back off?

Signed First Dibs

Blog maintained by Jacqueline Failey, Ph.D., Neurology

Dear First Dibs,

Congrats on coming to the end of your postdoc experience! Now let us tackle that pesky research “ownership” problem. In response to your request for nice ways to tell your PI to back off...well leaving the word “back off” out be a great start. In this situation it would be a good idea to recall that it was indeed your PI that brought you to your new found passion for the current project. Keeping the latter in mind should provide you with a new perspective on a commonly encountered research dilemma-establishing an effective collaboration. Oh, yes- Dr. Knowitall included that bothersome word “collaborate.” Efficient research is often completed with a team effort, so it is great that you will now be able to obtain experience in this vital component of the research process.

The best part about your current position is this: being the leader of revitalizing this project has allowed you to not only see why past approaches were ineffective, causing the project to be abandoned, but to also establish efficient methods to ensure that the project is now feasible and attractive. Another important aspect of your current leadership role is that you most likely have a big-picture overview of the major project components. Dr. Knowitall advises you to divide this big picture into smaller projects such that critical components of the entire project are addressed in small steps. Also, do your due diligence and research on/about which sub-project(s) you believe will best fit within your future career plans. Your metrics for selecting which of the smaller projects might best fit your long-term career goals might include: personal interest, fundability, innovation, skill set enhancement, and etc. Once you have decided which of the smaller projects are of interest to you, schedule a meeting with your PI to present your current plan. In an ideal world your PI will be ecstatic to learn that you have worked out the logistics required to get the project up and going and will give you first dibs on the smaller projects of your choosing.

Of course, we do not always live in an ideal world and the probability exists that your PI may not be interested in your current plan because it does not fit their vision for the project. If this is the case, Dr. Knowitall suggests that you hone up on your negotiation skills. A first step in the negotiation process might include establishing a written agreement on tangible aspects of the project which might include the number of publications you may submit as first author along with any grant submissions placing you as the PI. This written agreement will not only be an excellent record of the role you will take within the project but can also be an excellent start for your career development plan providing you with well defined project deliverables.

Although you may not walk away from the negotiation process with everything you want, be sure to conclude by retaining aspects of the project that will place you in the optimal positioning to reach your career goals as an independent researcher. If you are still in need of more practical advice on negotiation methods check out the following link:


In all of Dr. Knowitall’s infinite wisdom I’m sure that this experience will spark the beginning of many negotiation meetings throughout your career!

Happy Negotiating,

Dr. Knowitall

Postdocs, start blogging at  http://postdocknowitall.blogspot.com/
By Chalonda R. Handy, Ph.D., Neurosurgery

Emory University's mission lies in two essential, interwoven purposes: teaching and the quest for new knowledge to improve human well-being. As vital members of the Emory community who are tasked with helping to fulfill the mission of the institution, we are obligated to do both. That's right my fellow postdocs, it is our duty to communicate relevant scientific findings that would benefit the general public as well as add to the body of knowledge with the creation of new technologies and concepts. After all, we are individuals privileged with having the highest degree possible - the PhD; therefore, we are compelled to pursue scholastic achievement and make discoveries concerning things that matter, and intellectual property matters.

Intellectual property includes creations of the mind such as inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols and designs. For university researchers at all levels, PIs, postdocs, and students alike, intellectual property rights are governed by a set of contractual agreements between the university, its researchers, investors, license holders and funding agencies. However, all technologies developed using federal funds must comply with the principles of the Bayh-Dole Act, which takes precedence over any university policy and has been responsible for a steady boom of university-created works since it was enacted in 1980. Emory itself boasts of an amazing find and the development for the most widely used HIV therapies. Yes, those therapies were discovered here at Emory by researchers not so unlike you and me. In fact, there is a team of highly trained individuals who work tirelessly to advance Emory innovations. The collective body known as the Emory University Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) is dedicated to working with individuals at all levels of the research game. Best of all, most of the case managers have a science background and PhDs so they speak our language and really understand our ideas.

To get an appreciation of the level of commitment Emory OTT has for advancing the ideas of postdoctoral fellows I spoke with Todd Sherer, Associate VP for Research and Director of the Emory OTT. According to Todd it is the pleasure of the OTT to serve the Emory community and their obligation to identify and alert the general public of new and important discoveries that advance the common good. That’s why they work quickly to move on all technologies and divide their attention and resources among them equally. After all the next big thing is not always very obvious so if they neglect some for others, they could very well miss the chance to advance on a major scientific find. Considering the inventor of that landmark technology could be you, Todd and the Emory OTT want you to know that they are available to help you establish and retain the rights to your scientific discovery. Above all, Emory OTT wants you to understand that being an inventor is not a far-fetched phenomenon and it is an achievable goal.

Take James Galloway for instance, a recent medical school graduate who has a pending patent on a discovery made here at Emory. Working with Kevin Lei, the Venture Lab Director in the OTT, James is well on his way to becoming a young, innovative patent holder and the steps he took to achieve this is proof that the Emory OTT well serves junior researchers. This is how it happened. He had a great idea; he notified the OTT about his idea, he worked with the venture capital team to submit the application and, now James is actively involved in meetings with investors to bring his technology to commercialization. The best part is that he doesn’t have to do it alone. The Emory OTT is there with him every step of the way protecting his technology and working in his best interest. There is no meeting regarding his technology that he is not a part of. If he has relevant concerns, someone is always on standby to address them and he has a personal relationship with his case manager. Above all else, to help him fully understand the process, he has been given the opportunity to intern in the OTT to get a first-hand perspective on advancing a technology at Emory.

So what are the benefits of working with Emory OTT? Emory covers all of the expenses of advancing the technology and the OTT knows the best way to market the technology. Moreover, Emory OTT has a very extensive network in all areas of scientific interest such as: enzymes, antibodies, transgenic animals, viral vectors, research tools, detergents, surgical devices, just to name a few. Best of all, you- the inventor get a share.
in the royalties.
Now I could go on and on about Emory OTT, but if you want to know more check out their website or sign up for the internship. The OTT internship is a 6 month training session where individuals commit to 6-10 hrs per week to learn about university technology transfer, technology valuation, patenting as well as technology commercialization and marketing.

It is not a regular file papers, go get coffee, answer phone calls office internship. It has individual training rotations tailored to fit each intern. Meaning if you want to learn about patenting an idea, you work with the patent group. If you want to learn about alternative careers in science, it can be an excellent resource. If you just want to know what a day in the life of an OTT agent is, stop by and check them out. If you have a hot new concept and want to know how to best advance your idea, contact them now! Why? Because time matters and the longer you delay the less likely your chances could be to patent your idea.
So if you have something novel, something exciting, or something that you think is ‘kinda cool’ and want to know how to make sure you establish and retain ownership of your original idea, no matter if it is a new way of applying an old therapy, or a crazy gadget that makes surgery or lab work easier or even an optimized enzyme with advanced catalytic activity, give them a call or send an email, and do it soon, because hey it’s your idea so it matters and yes, intellectual property policy matters.

OUT AND ABOUT IN ATLANTA

By JoAnna Perry, D.V.M.
Yerkes Research Center

In case any of you missed the first installment of ‘Out and About in Atlanta,’ this is a new segment in the newsletter to encourage fellow postdocs to enjoy what the wonderful city of Atlanta has to offer. By sharing our own experience about local restaurants and various cultural activities, we hope that the postdoc community will take some time to enjoy life outside of the lab. Here’s a list to get you started for the summer:

Il Bacio Pizzeria- An excellent Italian restaurant conveniently located in Buckhead. The food is excellent and very reasonably priced. Now that it’s warmer outside, you can enjoy your food while getting some fresh air.
http://ilbacioatl.com/index.html

2571 Piedmont Rd. Suite 120, Atlanta, GA 30324

Gekko Sushi- A delicious sushi restaurant with a wide variety of menu options to choose from. The atmosphere is cozy, relaxed, yet upscale.
http://gekkosushiandlounge.com
620 Glen Iris Dr. Unit C Atlanta, GA 30308

Desta Ethiopian Kitchen- This is a great Ethiopian restaurant with a warm and inviting dining atmosphere.
http://www.destaethiopiankitchen.com
3086 Briarcliff Rd. NE Atlanta, GA 30329

Mac McGee- This is a cozy Irish pub located in Decatur Square offering “Irish cuisine with a fresh twist!”

http://www.macmcgeeirishpub.com
111 Sycamore Street Decatur GA 30030

Kats Café- For a little something different, this is a cozy lounge where you can kick back and enjoy great food and great music.
http://www.katscafeatlanta.com
970 Piedmont Ave Atlanta, GA 30309

Sweet Georgia’s Juke Joint- If you’re in the mood for some delicious southern cooking, this is definitely the place to go. With live music, friendly staff, and a warm atmosphere, this restaurant provides the perfect dining out experience.
http://www.sweetgeorgiasjukejoint.com
200 Peachtree St Atlanta, GA 30303

Of course, it would be impossible to list all of the cultural activities going on in Atlanta this fall. However, we encourage you to check out various museum exhibits, outdoor festivals, state parks and maybe a baseball game or two while the weather is nice.

http://www.scoutmob.com
This is a free website where you can receive daily 50% off coupons for restaurants in Atlanta and surrounding cities.

http://www.livingsocial.com
http://www.halfoffdepot.com
http://www.groupon.com

Here are few websites to help you save money… always a good thing!

http://www.livingsocial.com
http://www.halfoffdepot.com
http://www.groupon.com
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 also welcome the new Postdocs who have joined the Emory University in this session.

Cheers!

Science Writers Committee