

The NICHD Connection

June 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

So What's It Like Being a...? 2017 Career Round Table Recaps	1
Letter from the Editor	2
Searching for Grant Opportunities as an Intramural NIH Fellow?	15
Meet Our New Fellows	16
June Announcements	17
June Events	22

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shana R. Spindler, PhD
Shana.Spindler@gmail.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Nichole Swan

BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unsplash

CONTRIBUTORS

2017 Career Round Table
participants
Yvette Pittman, PhD

So What's It Like Being a...? 2017 Career Round Table Recaps

Several former NICHD fellows joined the Thirteenth Annual Fellows Retreat to share their career experiences with current fellows. For those who were unable to attend (or just want a nice recap), the former fellows have submitted the three most-common questions during the career round table discussions.

SADIE A. BERGERON, PhD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY
AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

WHAT I DO

I am a tenure-track assistant professor at West Virginia University in the department of biology. I utilize zebrafish as a model to study genetic control of vertebrate neurodevelopment and sensory mediated behavior control in both my research and teaching labs.

FUN FACT

Last year I was skeptical about information provided on a sunflower seed packet. After planting three seeds, they actually germinated and grew to be about 12 feet tall!

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

How do you balance everything that you have to do, namely teaching and research?

I find that it's less about balance and more about making sure that you are making at least some progress on all tasks. It's unrealistic with the number of things that you must do to think that everything will be going great at the same time, and you must prioritize tasks and/or capitalize on something at the right moment when it is taking off in a good direction. You will make more progress on some things and not others on a day-to-day basis, but I like to imagine it as rolling a bunch of balls, and I have done this since the early days of planning for my lab setup and renovations—all of the balls might be moving at different rates, but as long as they are all moving *forward* to some degree, that is what matters.



Dr. Sadie Bergeron

(continued on page 3)

Letter from the Editor

Please join us in celebrating seven years of *The NICHD Connection*! For our anniversary issue, we highlight the NICHD Office of Education's new "[Funding Opportunities](#)" webpage and feature the diverse careers of NICHD fellows.

During the Thirteenth Annual Fellows Retreat, nine former fellows (several of the whom were among the first contributors to this newsletter) shared stories about their career decisions and opportunities. Each year we ask the career speakers to recount the three most common question asked during their retreat discussions, [provided here](#) for your reading pleasure.

One comment stood out to me for its applicability to any career in science—and life in general. Dr. Sadie Bergeron, assistant professor at West Virginia University, offered this wisdom on finding balance while managing disparate tasks:

"You will make more progress on some things and not others on a day-to-day basis, but I like to imagine it as rolling a bunch of balls... all of the balls might be moving at different rates, but as long as they are all moving forward to some degree, that is what matters."

To moving forward!

Your Editor in Chief,
Shana R. Spindler, PhD



2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 1)

(SADIE A. BERGERON, PHD)

What is the biggest mistake you have made, thing you wish you'd done differently, or something that you wish you knew sooner?

Transitioning back to academia from the NIH was a bigger challenge at first than I thought it would be. It was difficult initially to get back onto an academic calendar-type schedule and to appreciate that my students had classes and other obligations that they needed to schedule their lab time around. Designing the right sized projects for top-notch undergraduates with packed schedules is a tricky skill to master, but I am improving on this! I admittedly have pretty high standards and expectations, which I attribute to my previous training environments, and I do not think that it's necessarily a bad thing; they just have to be tempered accordingly for each trainee you work with.

What did you do while at the NIH that helped you prepare for your job search and your current position?

I attended many useful workshops offered through the NICHD Office of Education about teaching and the academic job search. I believe that it is truly important to take advantage of these and any training opportunity you encounter as much as possible even though you may only take away one or two pieces of advice that actually resonate with you. I would not have been as comfortable on my on-site job interviews had it not been affirmed that stepping out of your scientist shoes at times and just being yourself was actually okay; after all you are not only being evaluated on your research and teaching abilities, but also on your capacity to be a good colleague and fit within sometimes an incredibly diverse department. In addition, I discovered many helpful active learning strategies, which I am working to employ in my classroom today. I echo the sentiment of Dr. Adam Ruben—do everything! You never know what you will learn or whom you will meet.

(continued on page 4)



2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 3)

MEGAN SAMPLEY BOHN, PhD

ACADEMIC PROGRAM MANAGER FOR JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OFFICE OF POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

WHAT I DO

I analyze the training needs of fellows and design training outlets to meet those needs.

FUN FACT

I love photography. I wish I knew more about graphic design—I made the JHU Postdoc Office website and have learned that I have this interest I never considered before.

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

Were any experiences you had at NIH particularly helpful?

Through a connection I made at one of the NICHD Fellows Retreats, I participated in a teaching fellowship at the University of Maryland in the Integrated Life Sciences Program. I learned about research-driven teaching methods, but I also observed my mentor's role as a university administrator, and that made me interested in program development and management. I also worked as the NICHD Institute and Center's representative to FelCom, which enabled me to participate in wider discussions and initiatives to further fellows' training. These experiences combined with my graduate student experiences helped me be competitive for the position I eventually obtained.

How did you conduct your job search?

I found my position posted on the Johns Hopkins University website, and I applied through their online application portal. I wrote a very specific cover letter and resume for the position, paying painstaking attention to highlighting my experiences that were relevant to the position. I was invited for a Skype interview and then for two subsequent onsite visits before being offered the position.

(continued on page 5)



Dr. Megan
Sampley Bohn

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 4)

(MEGAN SAMPLEY BOHN, PhD)

Would you do anything differently if you were starting to job hunt now?

I wish I had the confidence to look for my desired position earlier in my training. I lacked confidence in myself. I let the frustrations common to research undercut my belief in myself. One of the single most important pieces of advice I can give to a fellow is figure out early what you want and take ownership of your own career. No one can do it for you. And, don't let a lack of confidence in yourself hold you back. This is good general life advice as well.

STEPHANIE COLOGNA, PhD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO



Dr. Stephanie
Cologna

WHAT I DO

I direct a research group focused on bioanalytical mass spectrometry and also teach undergraduate and graduate students.

FUN FACT

I enjoy working out.

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

How many applications did you submit?

I applied for around 20 positions. It is important to make sure you do a comprehensive search; however, be aware of fit and specifics. Also, turn in your applications before the deadline.

What does the complete academic package entail?

Generally a research statement, teaching statement, CV, and separate letters [of recommendation].

(continued on page 6)

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 5)

(STEPHANIE COLOGNA, PhD)

I don't have a publication in an elite (high-impact) journal, should I still apply?

YES! It is important to recognize what makes you competitive. Being a well-rounded applicant is important, so consider having other notable accomplishments in addition to your research. A thorough understanding of the type of institution that you are looking to move to is important.



*Dr. Rebecca
Hammond*

REBECCA HAMMOND, PhD

DIRECTOR OF *IN VIVO* PHARMACOLOGY AT SAGE THERAPEUTICS

WHAT I DO

Manage all *in vivo* pharmacology research for a small biopharmaceutical neuroscience company.

FUN FACT

We rarely go grocery shopping—we have a chest freezer for meats and milk; we get farm share eggs, fruits and veggies; and we bake our own bread weekly.

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

How did you get into industry?

During my postdoc, I put a focused effort into networking with individuals with industry connections and attending meetings I knew industry scientists would be at. This led to my first interview/job offer at a big pharmaceutical company. Subsequently, I moved on to smaller biopharmaceutical companies, including my current position. For my second position, I was unsuccessful at using job search sites. I highly recommend going directly to the websites of any and all companies you are interested in to see what positions they have posted on their websites. This is the first place the postings go up—and for small, resource-strapped companies, sometimes the only place.

(continued on page 7)

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 6)

(REBECCA HAMMOND, PHD)

What was the biggest challenge/down side of leaving a big pharmaceutical company?

I was surprised to get this question by most of the groups. Big pharma was a good place to learn about the industry as a starting point, but it was not a good fit for me, and I found small biotech to be much more enjoyable. It is hard in a big company to see the daily impact of your work, while at the smaller companies you directly see the products of your work and how it impacts the company and gets you closer to achieving your goal of bringing therapies to patients in need.

Advice for international fellows/fellows with Visas?

The most important thing is to network and demonstrate your value to make it an easy decision for the interested company to hire you. For any applicant, always do whatever you can to make it easier for the hiring company. Offer to stop by for a brief meeting that, if it goes well, could lead to an interview. If there is a particular job you have interest in, plan to make the effort to stop by, even if far away, if you can do so. If you know someone with a local address, list it on your CV and explain in the HR call that you are looking to relocate to the area either way (if true) and that this is a local address they can contact you at.

(continued on page 8)

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 7)

YOLANDA D. HAWKINS, PhD, MBA
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SPECIALIST AT THE FDA-CENTER
FOR DRUG EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

WHAT I DO

In my position, I am responsible for preparing, negotiating, and executing various transactional agreements, such as Material Transfer Agreements, Confidential Disclosure Agreements, Research Collaboration Agreements, and Cooperative Research and Development Agreements.

FUN FACT

I love the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

What would I recommend to those interested in gaining hands-on experience in technology transfer?

Seek opportunities to volunteer in technology transfer offices and consider taking NIH-FAES courses in technology transfer.

What were the most challenging obstacles you experienced when you transitioned from your postdoc to starting your government career?

I lacked hands-on administrative experience; therefore, I supplemented my technical/scientific background by volunteering in various capacities to obtain additional skills.

Would you recommend getting an MBA?

Yes, only after you have done your research regarding the school, curriculum, time commitment, why the degree is needed, and cost.

(continued on page 9)



*Dr. Yolanda D.
Hawkins*

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 8)



Dr. Anthony
Hickey

ANTHONY HICKEY, PhD

SENIOR SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT AT NASA RESEARCH
EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

WHAT I DO

I am a support scientist for the NASA Space Biology Program, which funds research projects that characterize how biological systems respond to spaceflight (or spaceflight-like conditions). I work with the NASA Space Biology Program Scientist, who is somewhat analogous to an NIH Program Officer.

FUN FACT

I am an avid fan of science fiction and Monty Python.

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

How did you conduct your job search?

I used the job-hunting websites [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com), [Simplyhired.com](https://www.simplyhired.com), as well as company websites. I began my job search early to give myself plenty of time to find a position that I felt was a good fit for me and would move my career in the direction that I wanted.

Were any experiences you had at NIH particularly helpful?

I enjoyed my experience working with very supportive and knowledgeable people within my postdoctoral lab at NICHD. Networking at NIH was very helpful. A chance encounter at one of our NICHD retreats led to an opportunity for me to become a contributing writer to *The NICHD Connection* newsletter, which allowed me to write articles and communicate science to nonscientists. I also used and highly recommend the services offered by the NIH Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE), specifically the resume preparation resource.

What skills from your grad/postdoc training have come in handy in your professional life?

I have received training in multiple scientific disciplines throughout my academic career, ranging from immunology and infectious disease to molecular biology and bioinformatics. The diverse skills sets I acquired by working in labs with very different focuses have helped prepare me for my work at NASA, which requires a broad scientific knowledge base.

(continued on page 10)

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 9)

PRASANNA SATPUTE-KRISHNAN, PhD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
AT THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

WHAT I DO

I study how cells recognize and destroy misfolded proteins. Accumulation of misfolded proteins leads to degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's or prion diseases.

FUN FACT

While in grad school, I discovered that my 5-year-old red tabby cat, Raja, could fetch, roll over, beg, jump, and sit on command with minimal training. (Hope this does not reflect too much on my social life!)

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

Do I still have a chance at an academic career if I apply for jobs after completing five years of postdoctoral fellowship?

Yes. Do not lose hope or give up on your dream to have your own research lab if you are a senior postdoc. Most of my postdoc colleagues at NICHD (including me) had more than 5 years of postdoctoral experience before landing their tenure-track assistant professor position. Many of my lab mates and friends did second postdocs in order to develop their own unique research niches and skill sets.

To be competitive, it is helpful to have first-author publication(s) that represent a new direction of research that you have spearheaded and a publication record that demonstrates expertise in your field. Recommendation letters should reflect these two points. As for your research proposal, the "extra" years of experience may give you a broader perspective in which to frame your proposal, chalk talk, and job seminar, and this can be helpful in gaining an edge over other candidates.

(continued on page 11)



Dr. Prasanna
Satpute-Krishnan

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 10)

(PRASANNA SATPUTE-KRISHNAN, PhD)

What strategies should I use now to ensure my success in a job search?

If you are applying for your PhD thesis lab, or for your first or second postdoc position, one important strategy is to inform your PhD or postdoctoral advisor of your ambitions as early as possible, ideally during your rotation or during your interview. She/he should express a commitment to helping you achieve your goals and allowing you to develop your own direction of research. Check with people in his/her lab and department what the success rate is for people who train in the lab. These discussions may be revealing about the PI's attitude toward nurturing others' careers. Perhaps you and your future advisor could outline a strategy together for your mutual success.

If you are a graduate student who is finishing up your PhD, consider applying for NIH's [Early Independence Award](#) or seeking out other such early career awards. If you are a postdoctoral fellow, apply for the [K99 award](#). Regardless of your career stage, go to scientific conferences to present your research and network with members of your field. Additionally, network within your department and institution and pursue opportunities to give seminars across departments at your current institution and at your past universities and friend's universities. Be a memorable face for your work.

What are some resources you used for job search advice?

My best resources were successful colleagues and academic job search career sessions at the NIH. Definitely let Dr. Yvette Pittman know as soon as you have decided to embark on your job search. It is important to be on her listserv. She organizes so many useful sessions for career advice, grant writing skills, and public speaking skills, including Three-minute Talk training, teaching workshops, and interviewing workshops (including chalk talk training). I attended any and all sessions with Scott Morgan and found them useful in improving my overall presentation and professional appearance. Another NIH resource is the NIH [Office of Intramural Training and Education](#) (OITE).

The most comprehensive academic career [job advice blog](#) I found is by Dr. Becca. Very recently, a former NICHD alumnus and successfully tenured professor, Dr. Erik Snapp, generously published a [free online book](#) titled "Strategies for Obtaining a Faculty Position in the Biomedical Sciences: Views from Both Sides of the Job Search Process," which provides a detailed guide to the process.

(continued on page 12)

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 11)

JOHN REICH, PHD

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT THE FOUNDATION FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH



Dr. John Reich

WHAT I DO

I am a scientific program director at the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. I get to set scientific priorities and build partnerships between the public and private sectors to advance science.

FUN FACT

My partner and I take lindy hop dance lessons.

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

What is your daily routine?

My routine is always changing. Being part of a startup, an employee often has to juggle multiple responsibilities, more than one would have at an established company. My schedule is always changing, and often it is in flux once I get to work. However, there are some constants, including meeting with different groups to determine how we can advance research and innovation in food and agriculture together.

What are some skills that prepared you for your job?

Multi-tasking and being able to process information quickly are two of the most important skills I gained as a scientist. However, the most important skill for my current position is the ability to form collaborations with diverse organizations. This is different than having good communication skills; it is more relationship building. For me, this is part problem solving, part having people trust you, and part being able to find connections between different topics/competing interests.

What advice would you give to someone leaving the bench?

Take opportunities when you get them, as you never know where they will lead. Also, focus on a topic of great interest to you. If it is an area where your skills can bring something unique to a field/team, even better. I feel it is better to have novel skills in a field you really care about, rather than have the same skills as everyone else you are competing with.

(continued on page 13)

2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 12)

SUSMEETA TEWARI SHARMA, MD

DIRECTOR IN PITUITARY ENDOCRINOLOGY AT MEDSTAR WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER

WHAT I DO

As the director of pituitary endocrinology at the Medstar WHC Pituitary Center, I am part of a multidisciplinary team that treats patients with various pituitary and adrenal disorders in collaboration with the neurosurgeons, otolaryngologists, neuro-ophthalmologists, and radiologists. I am involved in developing the pituitary center and educating the fellows, residents, and medical students.

FUN FACT

This endocrinologist loves to binge on potatoes—roasted, fried, boiled and salted! As they say, do what the doctor says, not what the doctor does!

TOP THREE RETREAT QUESTIONS

Was I always sure that I wanted to pursue clinical endocrinology, and how did I decide between clinical research and clinical endocrinology?

During my fellowship, I was fortunate to be able to work with Dr. Lynnette Nieman in NICHD, who is not only a great clinical researcher, but also a superb clinician and teacher. With her as my role model, I soon found out that a strong foundation in clinical endocrinology is absolutely essential to be a good clinical researcher. I loved taking care of patients with Cushing's syndrome and other complex endocrine disorders and found it particularly gratifying to see them get better.

The NIH-Duke combined Masters in Clinical Research helped me better understand the process of clinical research, and I was hoping to continue working in the field of clinical research in adrenal and pituitary disorders, possibly as an Assistant Clinical Investigator. However, when looking at job opportunities, I found that academic positions either primarily focused on clinical or research, and in order to be successful, one needs to decide which is more important in his/her career path.

I found that clinical endocrinology and teaching was really important to me. I was fortunate to find my current position as the director of pituitary endocrinology in the geographical area of my choice that allowed me to use the clinical knowledge that I had gained at NIH, be involved in building up a pituitary center from the start, and over time, build a research base allowing me to still be able to conduct/participate in some clinical research while taking care of patients.

(continued on page 14)



Dr. Susmeeta
Tewari Sharma



2017 Career Round Table Recaps

(continued from page 13)

(SUSMEETA TEWARI SHARMA, MD)

How did I find my current position? What advice do I have regarding job search?

I was looking for an academic position that allowed me to do some clinical research along with practicing clinical endocrinology, where I could utilize the knowledge that I had gained at NIH, particularly in managing pituitary and adrenal disorders. However, I was limited to the Washington DC-Baltimore metropolitan area due to family reasons. I therefore reached out to all universities/academic institutions in the area letting them know that I was looking for an academic position and what skills I had to offer.

Initially, the job openings that I found were more directed towards general endocrinology, while I was more interested in developing a niche in adrenal and pituitary disorders. Fortunately, after two years of job search, I found out that the Medstar WHC-GUH program was starting a pituitary center and was looking for an endocrinologist to join their team.

My advice would be to be proactive, reach out to the institutions that you are interested in with your resume, and make them aware that you are looking for a position and what skills you have to offer, as not all job openings are advertised right away. Be persistent, network, and do not settle for a position that does not fit some of the main criteria that you are looking for in a job.

What is most critical to convey in a job interview?

I think it is important to convey what your strengths are and how you can use them to add to their program and be an asset for them. Be as specific as possible so that they can see that you have given the position some thought and are truly interested.

Searching for Grant Opportunities as an Intramural NIH Fellow?

By Yvette Pittman, PhD



Having trouble finding grant opportunities as an intramural fellow, or you're not sure what you are eligible for while working for a federal agency?

The NICHD Office of Education invites you to explore our new **[“Funding Opportunities”](#)** on the NICHD fellows’ wiki page. In support of your career development, our leadership encourages fellows to apply for competitive funding, either from intramural NIH or outside organizations and agencies. We all understand the importance of you developing your grant writing skills.

With the help of our NICHD Fellows Advisory committee, the Office of Education has compiled a list of organizations that accepts applications from NIH intramural fellows, both NIH and non-NIH funding mechanisms. Plus, we indicate if the grant can be awarded to a non-US citizen. This valuable resource could jump start your grant search. We will update the webpage on a monthly basis as we continue to vet other funding opportunities.

After you have identified a fellowship announcement you are interested in, it is important to read through the details carefully to make sure you match the applicant requirements and that the deadline works well with your training timeline. Pay attention to specifics about citizenship requirements, when you received your terminal degree, and what academic level is eligible (graduate student or postdoctoral).

If you are planning to apply, please contact Dr. Yvette Pittman (yvette.pittman@nih.gov) in the NICHD Office of Education as soon as possible. Prior to your submission, we want to make sure the intellectual property policy is cleared and the Scientific Director has reviewed and approved your application. A grants-tracking system is maintained for the Division of Intramural Research, from application through award dates.

Meet Our New Fellows

We are happy to welcome two new fellows to the NICHD family. If you recently arrived at the NICHD and would like us to introduce you in our quarterly “Meet Our New Fellows” column, please contact our editor, Dr. Shana Spindler, at Shana.Spindler@gmail.com.



◀ **SANGEETHA HAREENDRAN, PHD**
Postdoctoral Fellow

Home city: Calicut, Kerala, India

Degree institution: PhD from Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, India

NICHD mentor: Dr. Peng Loh

Area of research: I study the expression of CPE-E protein and its splice variant CPE-ΔN in exosomes derived from cancer cells and patient sera.

KEITA SAEKI, MD, PHD

Postdoctoral Fellow

Home city: Tokyo, Japan

Degree institution: MD from Keio University School of Medicine and PhD from Keio University

NICHD mentor: Dr. Keiko Ozato

Area of research: I'm studying epigenetic regulation in macrophages.

June Announcements

CONGRATS TO OUR 2017 NICHD BEST POSTBAC POSTER WINNERS

During the 2017 Postbac Poster Day on May 4, 2017, NICHD postdocs and graduate students selected the four top postbac poster presentations from our institute. The judging criteria were based on the fellow's knowledge of the lab's research, the fellow's ability to describe the project clearly, and the design and layout of the poster, highlighting hypothesis-driven questions.

Congratulations to the 2017 NICHD "Best" postbac poster winners!

- » Margaret Burns (Weinstein Lab)
- » Katherine Gillis (Machner Lab)
- » Kelly Tomins (Weinstein Lab)
- » Elizabeth Turcotte (Dasso Lab)

THE 2017 NIH-WIDE AWARDS FROM POSTBAC POSTER DAY

Congratulations to our postbacs who received an Outstanding Poster Award during the NIH-wide competition, hosted by the Office of Intramural Training and Education, during the 2017 Postbac Poster Day. The following NICHD postbacs authored posters that scored in the top 20 percent of all posters presented.

Kurt Berckmueller (Chou)	George Tabor (Hoffman)
Luke Brandenberger (Pfeifer)	Kelly Tomins (Weinstein)
Elena Ghanaim (Lilly)	Elizabeth Turcotte (Dasso)
Nicholas Johnson (Lilly)	Katherine Wolf (Pacak)
Jeff Mercurio (Bonifacino)	Sokena Zaidi (Kaler)
Viraj Parikh (Yanovski)	Rachel Zaragoza (Gandjbakhche)

To see award recipients from other institutes, please visit https://www.training.nih.gov/postbac_poster_day_awards_no_year.

(continued on page 18)

June Announcements

(continued from page 17)

NICHD POSTBACS ACCEPTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

MD PROGRAMS

University of Maryland
Virginia Commonwealth
University
University of Kansas
University of California,
Berkeley
Georgetown University
University of Arizona
University of Utah
SUNY Downstate
University of North
Carolina
Mayo Clinic School of
Medicine
University of Arkansas

PHD PROGRAMS

Cornell University
University of California,
San Diego
Johns Hopkins University
Vanderbilt University
Brown University

MD/PHD PROGRAMS

University of Utah

(continued on page 19)

June Announcements

(continued from page 18)

SUMMER WORKSHOPS, SAVE THE DATES!



COLLEGE TEACHING, A THREE-WEEK SERIES

Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 11 to July 27, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Kate Monzo of the University of Maryland will lead our summer workshop series, “College Teaching for the 21st Century.” She is a colleague of Dr. Quimby, the creator of this course, and the evaluations from previous years are always outstanding. For those of you anticipating a career involving teaching, this is a great learning opportunity for you! Plus it would be a great addition to your C.V., for professional development. Teaching institutions look for your training and experience when they are hiring.

Participants will read current research related to college teaching and learning, write well-designed learning outcomes, develop effective assessment strategies, and design active learning activities for the classroom. Also, to help you prepare for the academic job market, the last session will focus on writing a teaching statement.

Since we only have 10 slots for NICHD, please contact Dr. Yvette Pittman (yvette.pittman@nih.gov) by **Friday, June 23** to register.

WRITE WINNING NIH GRANT PROPOSALS

Thursday, July 13, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

This workshop will address both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to the proposal writing process. Attendees will receive the “Grant Writer’s Workbook”—an invaluable, up-to-date reference tool for those who intend to write NIH grant proposals.

The way in which NIH research grant proposals are both prepared and reviewed will be specifically covered in the seminar. Topics to be addressed include:

- » A detailed format for the preparation of the 12-page application
- » Description of how to prepare a compelling Specific Aims section
- » A discussion of funding the applications of New/Early Stage Investigators
- » Insights into which review criteria are most important
- » How to include review of literature and presentation of preliminary data in the Approach section
- » Tighter linkage of sections of the application to each of the five core review criteria

If you would like to register, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov. There are only 25 slots for NICHD fellows.

(continued on page 20)

June Announcements

(continued from page 19)

SUMMER WORKSHOPS, SAVE THE DATES!



NICHD FELLOWS: INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR FUTURE PRAT APPLICANTS

Wednesday, July 19, 11:00 a.m.
Building 31, Room 2A48

The NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) Program supports postdoctoral fellowships within the NIH Intramural Research Program. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States with no more than two years of postdoctoral experience at NIH by the time of appointment to the PRAT program. **The deadline is October 3.** More information about the program can be found at <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/Pages/PRAT.aspx>.

Postdoc applicants must now apply with the NIH Fi2 funding mechanism, and all applications must be submitted via grants.gov.

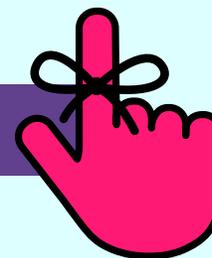
If you are planning to apply, the Office of Education is offering this session to discuss in detail how to prepare for the application submission, and more importantly, provide you with some valuable documents.

Please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov if you plan to attend.

(continued on page 21)

June Announcements

(continued from page 20)



SUMMER WORKSHOPS, SAVE THE DATES!

SCIPHD WORKSHOP FOR NICHD FELLOWS: DEFINING YOUR BRAND!

“How to Use Your Total Research Experiences to Make You Business-Ready and Most Qualified for Your First Professional Job”

Monday, July 31, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The challenge for new PhD scientists to find permanent employment that is rewarding both financially and intellectually cannot be understated. Traditional training for academic scientists largely ignores many of the critical business and social skills that make scientists “business ready.”

In this two-hour workshop, we will explore the general and specific skills valued by employers as they select the best-qualified candidate for any job. Each participant will relate specific skills to the experiences gained as an academic scientist, identify any gaps in those experiences and create a career development plan to address those gaps. We will focus on the business skills associated with project planning, innovation, and execution, as well as the social skills that demonstrate an ability to work with others in a diverse team environment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- » Identify scientific, business and social skills valued by professional organizations (academic and non-academic)
- » Relate personal and professional experiences and accomplishments to critical skills
- » Develop a targeted resume that demonstrates these skills
- » Learn effective communications techniques that demonstrate your value, regardless of your audience

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH TRAINING FOR NEW POSTDOCS

“Discussion of Ethical Research Practices: Making Good Choices”

Wednesday, August 2, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Building 31, Room 2A48

This MANDATORY training is for all postdocs who started after January 1, 2016.

This is an interactive session that promotes both self-directed and team-based learning required for all new postdoctoral fellows, through the Office of Education. Led by Dr. Gisela Storz, this session will include case studies and reading assignments related to research integrity and discussions on ways to reduce risk factors.

The session will begin with a brief discussion on pre-assigned reading materials, followed by small-group, team-based learning exercises involving complex cases that promote discussions of either fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, mentoring expectations, and/or trainee responsibilities. The workshop will include good practices of data management and presentation, including lab notebook management—both physical and electronic.

For additional details and planned reading assignments, contact Dr. Yvette Pittman (yvette.pittman@nih.gov).

June Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1 – 2:30 PM

*2017 Three-minute Talk (TmT) Program: The Final Competition
Lipsett Auditorium*

Imagine describing your research in less than three minutes. See how it's done!

We would like to invite everyone to our final TmT event for 2017, where our NICHD finalists (listed below) will present their research stories with others from NHGRI and NIDCR while competing for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the competition.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

- » Miranda Broadney (Clinical fellow, Yanovski)
- » Afrouz Anderson (Postdoctoral fellow, Gandjbakhche)
- » Neda Sadeghi (Postdoctoral fellow, Bassler)
- » Arup Chakraborty (Research fellow, DePamphilis)
- » Hadis Dashtestani (Graduate student, Gandjbakhche)

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 10 – 11 AM

*NICHD Postdoc and Graduate Student Orientation
(For new postdocs and graduate students)
Building 31, Room 2A48*

Led by the NICHD Office of Education, the orientation will highlight both NICHD and NIH-wide intramural resources for postdoc fellows and graduate students. Topics will include:

- » Career planning tools
- » Grant opportunities for fellows
- » Ideas for presenting your science locally
- » Core facilities available to you

We will share information about key programs to support your professional development, complementing the mentored experience you will have at the bench. Don't miss this opportunity to meet fellows from other research areas and different buildings on campus.

To register, please contact Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov.

