

## MSU Postdoctoral Association

# Monthly Newsletter

April 2, 2018

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## Leadership opportunities

### ***Strategic Planning***

*Do you think MSU could do more for you as a postdoc? **Now is the time to ask for it.*** The Graduate School is undergoing a strategic planning process that will reshape the Postdoctoral Office, with the potential for profound implications for the postdoctoral community. The new Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Thomas Jeitschko, has requested that the postdoctoral community participate by suggesting strategies to achieve the new goals of the graduate school. Please **come and voice your needs**. Topics can be wide ranging from salary and benefits to a better mentoring system from PIs.

*Meetings to discuss these issues will be held in **Biochem Room #208** on the following days:*

- **April 5, 12-1pm**
- **April 12, 12-1pm**
- **April 19, 12-1pm**
- *You can come to one or all of these meetings or express your opinion by emailing Natalia Martin at [nmartin@msu.edu](mailto:nmartin@msu.edu)*

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## Recruitment for the MSU-PDA Steering Committee 2018-2019, and PERA awards

Sponsored by the OVPRGS and The Graduate School, this luncheon will feature a recruitment event for the MSU-PDA Steering Committee 2018-2019, and a celebration of the MSU 2017-2018 Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Awards (PERA) awardees. **RSVPs required!** The event will be on **Wednesday, May 2nd**, from **11:30am-1:30pm** at **Chittenden Hall 110**. Please RSVP [here](#) by **April 27th, 2018**.

## Special opportunities

- **Spring 2018 Travel Award by MSU PDA**  
**Application opens: Sunday, April 1st, 2018**  
**Application deadline: Tuesday, May 1st, 2018 by 11:59PM EST**  
MSU-PDA will be accepting applications for the **Spring 2018 Travel Award** from **April 1st, 2018 until May 1st, 2018**. Three travel awards of \$500 each will be awarded for the travel period from March 1st, 2018 to August 31st, 2018. All current MSU postdoctoral fellows, research associates, senior research associates are eligible to apply. For more information, please visit [here](#) or email at [pda@grad.msu.edu](mailto:pda@grad.msu.edu).

## Outreach

- MSU Science Festival  
<http://sciencefestival.msu.edu/>  
**April 7, 2018 (all day)**  
Contact Travis Hagey ([hageyt@egr.msu.edu](mailto:hageyt@egr.msu.edu))
- Fascination of Plants Day  
<https://mps.natsci.msu.edu/fopd/>  
**May 19, 2018**  
For volunteering opportunity, contact Aparajita Banerjee ([banerj12@msu.edu](mailto:banerj12@msu.edu))
- [Astronomy on Tap](#) - Everything you ever wanted to know about astronomy while enjoying a fresh beverage! Takes place once a month.  
Are you interested in giving a short (15 min) public talk on an astronomy related topic?  
Contact [aotlansing@gmail.com](mailto:aotlansing@gmail.com)
- [Biology on Tap](#) - Currently looking for speakers! Sign up [here!](#)
  - Contact [tracymmontgomery@gmail.com](mailto:tracymmontgomery@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Professional Development Event(s)

- **"Instant Grant Improvement" workshop by the grant consultant Dr. Tom Hollon, on April 18 at 12-1:30pm at Chittenden Hall 110**  
This workshop will provide resources for postdocs to write competitive grants for submission to a wide range of funding sources (NIH, NSF, foundations, etc). Light refreshments will be provided.
- **Michigan Biosciences Capitol Day at the Capitol on April 25th**  
MichBio has organized a day-long event at the Lansing Capitol to discuss the importance of bio-industries in Michigan. There will be meetings with legislators but also a lunch for MichBio members which is a great opportunity to meet people from local bioscience companies in Michigan and a evening reception with legislators great for people interested in Science Policy. You can get more detail [here](#).  
This is a FREE event and as MSU is a MichBio member all you have to do to register is create a sub-account using this [link](#).

## Monthly Social Event(s)

- **Keep up to date with social activities and more by joining the [MSU-PDA Slack community!](#)**

## It's tax season!

- Taxes are due Tuesday, April 17th, 2018!
  - Filing taxes in a foreign country can be quite confusing. Thus, **international postdocs** have the opportunity to get support from the MSU College of **Law Tax Clinic**. **Walk-in advising** is available **every Friday 10am-12pm** in the International Center. For more information, see [OISS homepage](#).
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## Postdoctoral Accomplishments

- John Hume (Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife) had an [article](#) accepted in *Ecology and Evolution* on A death in the family: Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) avoidance of confamilial alarm cues diminishes with phylogenetic distance.
- John Hume (Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife) recently received a grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to further continue his research here at MSU.
- Sandra Hammer (Dept. of Physiology) has recently been awarded an F32 fellowship grant from the NIH.
- Debrup Chakraborty (Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology) has recently been awarded Postdoctoral Fellowship and Young Investigator Award from Carcinogenesis Speciality Section, SOT 2018 and Postdoctoral Travel Award sponsored by Charles River from Dermal Toxicology Speciality Section, SOT 2018.
- Debrup Chakraborty's (Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology) research has been selected for the [cover page](#) of the journal Cancer Prevention Research, March 2018, Volume 11, Issue 3.

**Published a paper? Awarded a grant? Have something else to celebrate? Let us know! Email the PDA ([pda@grd.msu.edu](mailto:pda@grd.msu.edu)) your accomplishment and we will feature it in our next newsletter.**

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The MSU PDA is an association of postdoctoral fellows from all disciplines across the Michigan State University campus.

Contact us:

<https://grad.msu.edu/pda>

