

# MSU Postdoctoral Association

## Monthly Newsletter

March 2, 2018

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### Special opportunity

- **2018 MSU Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award (PERA)**  
**Application deadline: Friday, March 23rd by 11:59PM EST**

MSU-PDA is now accepting applications for the 2018 MSU Postdoctoral Excellence in Research Award (PERA). The top two applicants will be eligible to receive a monetary award (\$1,000) and a plaque recognizing their achievement, provided by the OVPRGS (<https://vprgs.msu.edu/>) and the MSU Postdoctoral Office. For more information visit <https://grad.msu.edu/pda/PERAaward>.

To apply, please fill out the application form and send all required documents as a single PDF to [pda@grd.msu.edu](mailto:pda@grd.msu.edu) by **Friday, March 23rd by 11:59PM EST**.

The two awardees will be recognized at our **annual spring luncheon on Wednesday, May 2nd 2018**, where they will give a brief presentation of their research.

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## Leadership opportunities

### **Strategic Planning**

The graduate school is undergoing a strategic planning process aimed to restructure and reshape the graduate school. The Postdoctoral Office (PDO) falls within the graduate school, so this process could significantly affect the MSU postdoc community. It also provides us the opportunity to make our needs and priorities heard by administration.

- *If you have ideas about how the PDO can better serve you and our community, please contact Natalia Martin ([nmartin@msu.edu](mailto:nmartin@msu.edu)), who is serving as our representative.*

## Outreach

### **Upcoming opportunities**

- [Astronomy on Tap](#) - Everything you ever wanted to know about astronomy while enjoying a fresh beverage! Takes place once a month.  
Next event **Mar 14 7:30pm @ The Loft**  
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.
- Science night events at local elementary schools  
**Mar 23, 2018 (evening)**
- Darwin Day Roadshow events (**March 5-9, March 12, May 21**) at middle/high schools around Michigan (all within about an hour drive of Lansing). Need volunteer speakers (10 min talks)
  - Contact Travis Hagey to volunteer or get more information ([hageyt@egr.msu.edu](mailto:hageyt@egr.msu.edu))

### **Future events**

- MSU Science Festival  
<http://sciencefestival.msu.edu/>  
**April 7, 2018 (all day)**  
Contact Travis Hagey ([hageyt@egr.msu.edu](mailto:hageyt@egr.msu.edu))

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- 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))

## Professional Development Event(s)

- Graduate Student Life & Wellness is putting on a workshop called “**Saying Goodbye to the Impostor Syndrome**: Success Begins with the Real You.” Postdocs are welcome! - Thursday, March 19, 6-8pm.

Registration link: [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3ldHgcoCs7P86ix](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ldHgcoCs7P86ix)

- **Developing Communication and Conflict Management Skills for Optimal Productivity** - Friday, March 23, 10am-noon. Register here:

<https://grad.msu.edu/events/developing-communication-and-conflict-management-skills-optimal-productivity-3>

- **Be the stream, not the leaf** - Dr. Victor DiRita, Rudolph Hugh Endowed Chair in Microbial Pathogenesis & Chair Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics

Description: Taking charge of your career is your responsibility. How do you do that? Who should be involved? Is your PI the right person? Are you using an Individual Development Plans (IDPs) and building a network of multiple mentors EARLY during your postdoctoral training? Join the MSU Postdoctoral Association and invited speaker Dr. Victor DiRita for a discussion about strategies on how to efficiently achieve this.

Thursday, March 29, 2245 BPS 12pm.

- **National Postdoctoral Association: Annual conference in Cleveland, OH April 6-8, 2018**

Online registration open until March, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018

Register here <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=851713>



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## Monthly Social Event(s)

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

## It's tax season!

- MSU started to send out tax forms - so better think early about taking care of them than too late
- 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](#).

## Postdoctoral Accomplishments

- Kelsey Graham (Dept. of Entomology) had an [article](#) accepted in *Ecological Indicators* on habitat suitability modeling for a recent generalist invader, the European wool-carder bee.
- Christina Reppucci (Dept. of Psychology) had an [article](#) accepted in the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology* on activation patterns of vasopressinergic and oxytocinergic brain regions following social play exposure in juvenile male and female rats.

**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>

