



Special  
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terest:

- Committee Updates
- Free flu shots!
- Postdocs join forces for job applications

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## November

**SPECIAL REMINDER:** President's Reception is TONIGHT from 5-6:30pm at the Cowles House.

### Committee Updates

#### Outreach

**-Biology on Tap** is a monthly science pub night focused on scientific outreach for adults. Events have two speakers, and we usually get an audience of around 100 people.

Talks are ~20 minutes long and are geared toward slightly inebriated non-scientist adults. Talks are not intended to be a conference presentation of your own work, but rather a talk about concepts, systems, or organisms.

**Would you like to speak at Biology on Tap?** Fill out the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/ML6qvh17uUrVuFKj1> and let us know!

#### Professional Development

Graduate Student Career Forum, **Thursday, November 8th, 11am-12:30pm in BPS 1400**. The Genetics Program Graduate Student Organization have organized a fantastic panel of scientists who have found fulfilling careers both inside and outside academia. Come hear about how they navigated life inside and outside the PI route, and how you can too. **(cont. on pg 5)**.

Check out more Professional Development events at [grad.msu.edu/calendar](http://grad.msu.edu/calendar)

### Postdoctoral Accomplishments

**-Natalia Martin (PDA co-chair)** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Postdoctoral Association for a three-year term of service beginning on January 1, 2019. Congrats, Natalia!

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

Additional events/workshops open to postdocs can be found at the COGS website:

<https://cogs.msu.edu/calendar/>

For additional events and resources for postdocs, check out the PDA website [grad.msu.edu/pda](http://grad.msu.edu/pda).

#### Social committee

##### November

**November 17th, 2-6pm (Chittenden Hall, Rm 110):** Join fellow MSU postdocs for the annual MSU PDA Thanksgiving Potluck! Bring something to share: a dish from your home country, side dish, drinks, dessert... the choice is yours! This is a family friendly event. RSVP [here!](#)

#### Newsletter committee

We are soliciting short commentary pieces for the newsletter. Topics can include anything deemed relevant to postdocs at MSU. Including: professional development opportunities and/or advice, "a day in the life" blog-type pieces, book reviews, etc.

Please send an article pitch to: [grad.newsletter.pda@msu.edu](mailto:grad.newsletter.pda@msu.edu)



Some picture highlights of the 2018 MSU vs. UofM Tailgate and Viewing party. Unfortunately, MSU wasn't able to pull out a win, but we all had fun anyway!

## Postdoc news and activities

MSU postdocs and grad students participated in the "2018 Southeast Michigan Regional Postdoctoral Symposium" held at University of Michigan on Saturday, October 8, 2018.

The symposium had multiple professional development seminars, a poster session, a 3MT talk competition, and keynote address by Shaughnessy Naughton, founder of [314 Action](#). Overall it was an excellent day, and was a great opportunity for networking. Congrats to MSU grad students Tyler Derr & Peter Hsueh for winning prizes in the talk & poster competitions, respectively.

**(Not so) Anonymous IBIO postdocs are navigating faculty job applications together**

The "Postdocs Anonymous" group at IBIO was initiated by postdocs John G. Phillips (now at university of Idaho) and Helen McCreery (moving to Harvard this month). We have been between 12 and 14 postdocs, primarily from IBIO, attending meetings every other week to help each other navigating our current and future professional lives.

The fact that we are keeping the group small, and often even working in smaller groups of 2 or 3, has allowed us to give detailed feedback on each other's application material. So far, we have discussed and practiced writing research and teaching statements, CVs and personal websites and we also keep each other informed about relevant changes at the department and faculty level, workshops and job opportunities.

One of my favorite meetings so far was a recent workshop led by Helen on mentoring and how to tackle this difficult issue with our current and future students, following a recent paper that I highly recommend reading, for anybody who likely will be mentoring at some point! (A. Hund et al. Ecology and Evolution 2018, "Transforming mentorship in STEM by training scientists to be better leaders", DOI: 10.1002/ece3.4527).

I felt very welcome to MSU joining this group during my first weeks here, and am looking forward to be organizing our meetings from now on. I highly recommend postdocs at other departments to join forces in similar ways, and hope that others will find it just as stimulating and reassuring to share thoughts and ideas with researchers at similar career stages!

- Murielle Ålund, IBIO postdoc, <https://muriellealund.wordpress.com/>





# Special Opportunities

## Outreach/Teaching

### SACNAS Service/Mentoring Opportunity: **Monday, November 26th**

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, MSU Chapter is seeking postdoc volunteers to participate in a career panel aimed to provide advice to graduate students on how to navigate the grad school to postdoc transition and find postdoc opportunities.

If interested, please email Natalia Martin ([nmartin@msu.edu](mailto:nmartin@msu.edu)).

## Conferences

### Apply to the 18th Annual New England Science Symposium (NESS): Abstract submission deadline: **January 4th, 2019**

Held by the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership and the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP).

Registration is free!

To submit abstracts or to register: <http://www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org>

For more information, please contact Rodolfo Ramos at [rodolfo\\_amos@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:rodolfo_amos@hms.harvard.edu) or [617.432.5580](tel:617.432.5580).

## Job opportunities

UMass Amherst is looking for a faculty in translational neuroscience—

**Biology/IALS Faculty position: Application reviews start **Monday, November 5th**, [see job ad here](#).**

## Other opportunities

**Introduction to Tidy Data with R- November 5th, 6-7:30PM BPS 1425 (see attached flyer)**

RSVP required: [bit.ly/rlel-meetup](http://bit.ly/rlel-meetup)

Questions? Contact [eastlansing@rladies.org](mailto:eastlansing@rladies.org)

**Free flu shots on campus:** Free for MSU faculty, staff and retirees.

**11/6/18**, 11:30am-1:30pm, Engineering Building—Rm 3405A&B

**11/9/18**, 11:30am-1:30pm, Food Stores—Conference Rm 101

The cost for non-MSU employees and students is \$30.

## Committee Updates Continued...

### Professional Development

#### Graduate Student Career Forum (open to postdocs)

**Thursday, November 8th, 2018, 11AM—12:30PM in BPS 1400**

We have a fantastic panel of scientists who have found fulfilling careers both inside and outside academia. Come hear about how they navigated life inside and outside the PI route, and how you can too.

Panel members will briefly introduce themselves, and then we'll open the floor for questions from the audience

After the panel discussion, we'll adjourn for lunch, where you can mingle with our guests and get answers to any lingering questions. Lunch is provided for all attendees.

This year's panelists include:

- Dr. Ryan Bixenmann, Director, MSU PhD Career Services
- Dr. Anne Casper, Associate Professor, Eastern Michigan University Department of Biology
- Dr. Kelly Chandler, Policy Analyst, NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Dr. Ron Chandler, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, MSU College of Human Medicine
- Dr. Hans Cheng, Research Geneticist, USDA Agricultural Research Service
- Dr. Gonzalo Rincon, Lead Scientist, Zoetis

We hope to see you there!

-The Genetics Program Graduate Student Organization



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Postdocs at the Annual Picnic (July 2017)

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