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Postdoctoral Association
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Fall 2019 Newsletter

► Committee Updates

National Postdoc Appreciation Week 2019

The National Postdoc Association started National Postdoc Appreciation Week to recognize the significant contributions and hard work of postdocs.

To celebrate the 10th edition of NPAW, the MSU-PDA Steering Committee has organized a series of workshops, resources, and social events.

See the full schedule in this newsletter!



**National
Postdoc
Appreciation
Week**

September 16 - 20, 2019



#NPAW2019

MSU-PDA Spring 2020 Travel Awards

We are now accepting applications for the Spring 2020 Travel Award! Three awards of \$500 will be granted to postdocs needing some extra funds for travel. To apply, your travel must take place between December 1st 2019 and May 31st 2020. Instructions and the application form can be found here: <https://grad.msu.edu/pda/how-to-apply-travel-award>

Outreach Opportunities

- The Kiwanis Club of Lansing is looking for volunteers! Club members perform a variety of service work in the community. Visit lansingkiwanis.org/ to learn more.
- Talk to students for 30-60 minutes about science via the Skype a Scientist program. Learn more at www.skypeascientist.com/
- “Biology on Tap” and “Astronomy on Tap” are looking for speakers to give 15-minute talks to a public audience. Contact the [BoT](#) organizer or the [AoT](#) organizer for more information.

► Contact Us!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION (MSU-PDA)

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



@MSUPDA



► National Postdoc Appreciation Week 2019

Kick off the week with social get togethers!

Monday, Sept 16th – 6pm – Networking Happy Hour

Where: Dublin Square, 237 Abbot Rd, East Lansing ([map](#))

Free appetizers, beverages at your own expense.

Tuesday, Sept 17th – 10-11.30am – Coffee Hour

Where: Chittenden Hall, Lounge Room (basement) ([map](#))

Come meet fellow postdocs over coffee and pastries!

Thursday, Sept 19th – 10-11.30am – Teaching Workshop

Where: Plant Biology Building, Room 247 ([map](#))

Want to learn new practices to improve your teaching?

Join Dr. Nate Emery, Research Associate in the Plant Biology Department, to find out more about backward design and student-focused teaching!

Friday, Sept 20th – 11.30am – Luncheon & Resource Fair

Where: Molecular Plant Sciences Atrium ([map](#))

Come enjoy (free) lunch and take the time to know more about resources available for postdocs on campus!

Friday, Sept 20th – 1-4pm – Career Development Workshops

Where: Molecular Plant Sciences Auditorium, Room 1200 ([map](#))

@ 1pm “Writing to Win: Grantsmanship Fundamentals” with Dr. Sara Steenrod, MSU Grant Consultant

@ 2.30pm Coffee Break

@ 3pm “Planning and Executing an Effective Postdoc Training” with Dr. Arjun Krishnan, Asst. Professor, CMSE/BMB

RSVP by Friday, September 13th using your MSU NetID

► Other Opportunities for NPAW2019

At Wayne State University - Sept 20, 2019

Full day of professional and career development events. Register [here!](#)

At University of Michigan - Sept 16-20, 2019

Social Activities, Picnic and more. See details [here!](#)

We want to hear from you!

Give us updates about your work or suggestions for what you'd like to hear about!

1. News (press releases, big announcements)
2. Publications
3. Conferences, Jobs, Outreach Opportunities, etc
4. Topics of interest/ anything to be addressed in future newsletters
5. Comments or concerns

CONTACT US!



► Postdoc Accomplishments

- **Dr. Katie E. Yoest**, postdoc in Dr. Alexa Veenema's [Neurobiology of Social Behavior Lab](#), has been awarded two postdoctoral fellowships to be served consecutively. The first is from the [2019 Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs](#) competition administered by the Fellowships Office of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The programs seek to increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, to maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and to increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students. The second is a [Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Biology from the National Science Foundation](#). Katie is investigating sex differences in how oxytocin regulates social behaviors in juveniles.
- **Dr. Christina J. Reppucci**, postdoc in Dr. Alexa Veenema's [Neurobiology of Social Behavior Lab](#), received a New Investigator Award from the [Society of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology](#) (SBN). SBN awards this distinction to new investigators for their notable research that pushes behavioral neuroendocrinology into new frontiers. Dr. Reppucci received her award at the [23rd Annual Meeting](#) at Indiana University June 19-23, where she gave a talk titled "Involvement of the ventral tegmental area in socially rewarding behavior in juvenile male and female rats".
- **Dr. Sunil Kenchanmane Raju**, a postdoc in the Department of Plant Biology, was recently selected to serve as the [Assistant Features Editor](#) in the Plant Cell Journal.
- **Dr. Lichchavi Dan Rajasinghe**, a postdoc in the Pestka lab (Nutrition and Food Science Department) was the grand prize-winner from the Nutritional Immunology Emerging Leaders in the Nutrition Science research poster competition at the [American Society for Nutrition \(ASN\)](#) Annual meeting 2018. This is one very competitive and prestigious research competition in the field. He also gave an oral presentation in the Postdoctoral Award Competition, Lichchavi was among 6 finalists and received a travel award.
- **Dr. Andrea Glassmire** (Dept. of Entomology, Wetzel lab) and **Dr. Kelsey K. Graham** (Dept. of Entomology, Isaacs lab) were both awarded USDA NIFA postdoctoral fellowships. [Read about their research plans here.](#)
- **Dr. Bethany Huot**, former postdoc in the He lab, recently started a [new position](#) in the Department of Biological Sciences. She will incorporate her "Strategic Career Management" ideas - the path to become the most attractive candidate for one's dream job - into the program.
- **Dr. Christopher Mancuso** of the [Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering](#) has been awarded a [Kirschstein-NRSA postdoctoral fellowship](#) from the [National Institute of General Medical Sciences](#) at the [National Institutes of Health](#). This fellowship is awarded to enhance the research training of promising postdoctoral candidates who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators in scientific health-related research fields relevant to the missions of NIGMS. The fellowship provides a three-year stipend as well as an institutional allowance of \$10k a year. As part of the fellowship, Dr. Mancuso will develop new computational approaches that leverage large-scale gene interaction networks to create accurate and interpretable data-driven models for elucidating the roles of genes in complex traits and diseases. This work will be carried out with [Dr. Arjun Krishnan](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering and the [Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#).

Good news makes great stories!

Fellow MSU postdoc Dr. Murielle Ålund is now an Associate Editor for the POSTDOcket, the National Postdoc Association Newsletter. If you have ideas for stories/articles relevant to postdocs nationwide, contact Murielle! (aalundmu@msu.edu)

All good news should be celebrated & shared broadly, so if you have any updates you want to share with the postdoc community (project funded, paper published, award, etc) please email the [MSU-PDA Digital Presence Committee](#)



► Jobs & Opportunities

Looking for an academic position? Get your application together and check job ads now!

- Identify your letter-writers and contact them as soon as possible.
- Update your CV! Service, outreach, peer review experience, and presentations at local symposia: all count!
- Need help? Contact [PhD Career Services](#) and schedule an appointment today!
- Get feedback! Ask - experts and non-experts in your field - to read your application material (cover letter, research plans, teaching philosophy, etc...)
- Take advantage of resources from previous PDA-organized [workshops](#) too!

Job Aggregation Sites (including non-academic track):

- [MSU Careers](#)
 - [National Postdoc Association](#)
 - [HigherEd Jobs](#)
 - [Nature Jobs](#)
 - [Science Careers](#)
 - [European Science Jobs](#)
 - [Mendeley Careers](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Glassdoor](#)
- Dr. Omayma Alshaarawy, former MSU postdoc and current MSU faculty, is looking for a [postdoc](#) to study the metabolic effects of cannabinoids.
 - The Hamberger lab is looking for a [postdoc](#) to engineer terpene synthetic pathways in heterologous hosts!
 - [CPRIT TRIUMPH Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) applications are open. Deadline to apply: September 30th, 2019!

► Scholarly Events in September

Brews and Views (see [details](#))

“Will Genomic Approaches to Health Redefine Illness and Disease?”

When: September 13, 5-7pm

Where: IQ building, Atrium ([map](#))

Moderated discussion hosted by the Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering (IQ) and the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences.

Must be 21+ (ID required)

Biology on Tap (see [details](#))

When: September 27th, 7:30pm

Where: The Loft, 414 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933



Take a Break!

If you need to unplug for a bit, try exploring these natural areas on campus during the cool, breezy days of fall:

- The Riverwalk and the Sanford natural Area, which follows the Red Cedar River through campus ([map](#))
- Horticultural and Children's Gardens, near Wilson Rd and Bogue St ([map](#))
- Baker Woodlot, south of Service Rd and east of Farm Ln ([map](#))
- Cherry Lane Park, on Harrison Rd between Shaw Ln and Wilson Rd



► Professional Development Events

- **CMSE 890: Gaps, Missteps, & Errors in Statistical Data Analysis:** A short course on essential concepts for rigorous practice & critical interpretation of statistical data analyses, led by Dr. Arjun Krishnan, will be offered this fall from November 6th to December 4th, M-W, 3pm-5pm. Questions, contact Dr. Krishnan (arjun@msu.edu).
- **Brush up on your R Skills:** [Two CSTAT R Tutorials are now open for registration:](#) (Sep 13 and Oct 11), and CSTAT will be starting an R helpdesk one day a week. [Check out their newly redesigned website for more info.](#)
- **Science Policy Luncheon** is a series of lunch events designed to introduce and discuss the role of science and scientists in policy. The series meets twice a month and goes through November. [Read more and RSVP here.](#)
- **Developing Conflict Management & Communication Skills in Research Teams** (September 20th – 9.30am-12pm): This is an interactive workshop that teaches communication skills and how to use them to set expectations jointly following an interest-based approach of negotiation. Such skills are essential to establish and nurture productive relationships among members of research teams, and between faculty, and graduate students and postdocs. [RSVP](#) is required!
- **Optimizing mentoring relationships** (September 27th – 10am-2pm): The Graduate School and Postdoctoral Office invite graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to gather for an extended workshop about how to optimize research mentoring relationships. Attendees will discuss strategies they use in negotiating their constellation of mentoring relationships, learn about evidence-based practices, and engage in self assessment to identify mentoring needs. [RSVP](#) required as lunch is provided!
- **The STEM Teaching Essentials workshop series** is focused on helping current, new, and future (post-docs and graduate students) STEM faculty and academic staff develop their instructional practices. Workshops are held once a month. [For more info and to RSVP click here.](#)
- **Organization and Professional Development (OPD)**, a functional area of MSU Human Resources, [offers a wide range of learning opportunities to help MSU employees enhance their careers.](#)

► 2019 National Postdoc Survey

Dear Postdocs,

Are you interested in winning a travel award, and in sharing your experiences as a postdoc to a large national postdoc survey? All responses are anonymous, and participants have a chance to enter a drawing for a \$200 travel award to a scientific meeting!

The [2019 National Postdoc Survey](#) was conceived and developed by postdocs to benefit all members of the postdoctoral community, and is a follow-up to our very successful [2016 National Postdoc Survey](#). Since 2016, changes in postdoc policies have been implemented, including an increase in the postdoctoral salary levels set by NIH. An updated survey is needed now in order to capture the current experiences of postdoc fellows and scholars, and inform and equip those who advocate for policy on behalf of postdocs.

Survey link: <https://redcap.uchicago.edu/surveys/?s=KY8RE88RRR>

Thank you very much for your participation, and please forward this important survey to your postdoc colleagues!

The National Postdoctoral Survey Team at UChicago

Questions? Email us at postdocsurvey@uchicago.edu or visit <https://postdocsurvey.uchicago.edu/>.

Did you know!?

Since MSU is an institutional member of the National Postdoc Association, **all MSU postdocs get FREE affiliate membership!**

[Register](#) today to benefit from all their resources!

Do you know of other professional & career development opportunities happening on campus?

Email the MSU-PDA and we'd be happy to spread to the word!

[CONTACT US!](#)

