



Postdoctoral Association  
**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER**

## MSU PDA Committee Updates

### Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

#### **Spring Series: Preparing for the Academic Job Market**

All events will be held via **Zoom from 12:00-1:30PM**

- The Academic Interview Process- May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Register [here!](#)
- Diversity Statement - May 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Register [here!](#)

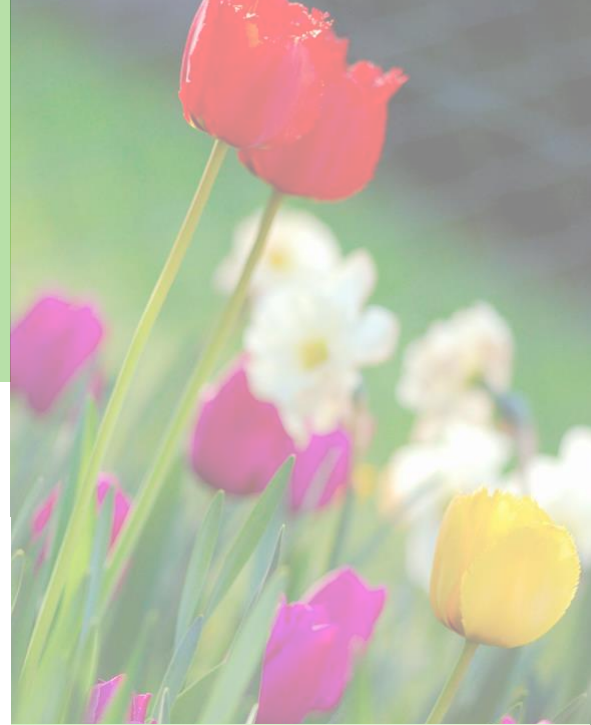
#### Writing Groups hosted by OPA

Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9am on the [MSU Postdocs Teams](#).

#### Congratulations to the 2020 PERA Recipients! 🎉

- Dr. Phillip Grete
- Dr. Dafna Groeneveld

To learn more about each winner check out page 3 & 4!



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New to MSU? Been here for years? [Sign up for](#) Postdoc Orientations to learn more about postdoc life at MSU!

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs has a new Website! Check it out: [postdocs.msu.edu](http://postdocs.msu.edu)

#### **CONTACT US!**

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION  
(MSU-PDA)

 [pda@grd.msu.edu](mailto:pda@grd.msu.edu)

 [Grad.msu.edu/pda](http://Grad.msu.edu/pda)

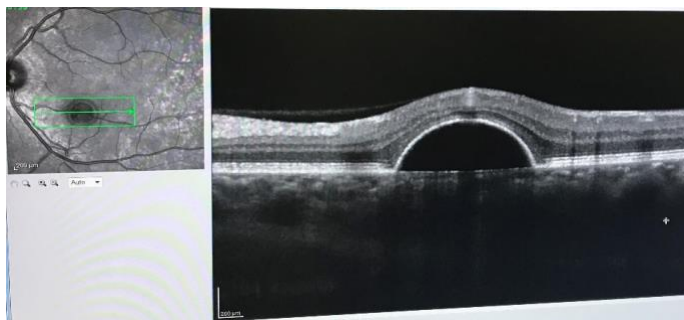
 [@MSUPDA](https://twitter.com/MSUPDA)

# A Message from the MSU OPA

Over the past weeks, new guidelines and regulations have come down from the University, state and federal government for shutting down in-person work and self-isolating for an unknown duration. In addition to the emotional turmoil that is proportionately amplified by the distance from home and loved ones (particularly as travel has been stymied), many postdocs are facing choices between safety and major interruptions in experiments. And the question hangs in the air, "What does it mean to be essential?" This is something that sounds all too familiar in my line of work.

It is very challenging to create a blanket description for the role and impact of the postdoctoral community, especially when the position has been marginalized and undefined for so long. It is not uncommon to see even well-meaning advocates and supporters of postdocs referring to individuals as "Postdoctoral Students", while postdocs are not taking classes, not paying tuition, not supported by student services, and not receiving a formal certificate or acknowledgement of completion of a program of study. However, postdocs are a critical part of the academic research system, just as lecturers and teachers are a critical part of the system of academic instruction.

Individual value can be measured at different levels: At the highest level, when tallying up major contributions to new research publications, respective fields of research are dominated by postdocs holding primary authorship; at the institutional level, a great deal of work in the research space is taken on by postdocs in the form of ideas and data that turn into grant dollars; at the local level, postdocs contribute to guiding and mentoring students in research, contributing to the academic experience that makes the University successful. During normal times, postdocs are everywhere in research, keeping things running smoothly and holding things together. These are not normal times.



**Figure 1 - OCT image of my left eye. Larger panel at right shows a cross-section through the portion of the retina in the green box from the left panel. The atypical bulge (right panel) and dark patch (left panel) are characteristic of a Central Serous Chorioretinopathy (CSC).**

Our system is stressed in a way that most of us have never experienced. As a postdoc, I studied retinal circuitry and structure. Normally, retinas are beautifully layered and predictable, even as they are complex and diverse at the individual cellular level yet work together like a symphony. The cells in the neural retina are supported by nutrients from the choroid delivered by a thin layer of epithelial cells. When a body faces certain kinds of stress, the choroid can exert more pressure than the retina can withstand, and the retina can buckle and bulge (as in Figure 1), and even though the cells' connections and individual functions are intact, vision becomes warped and distorted. This is the feeling I have of our current crisis.

Our structures are still in place, and our wonderful, diverse, individual components are still functioning, but the picture is warped due to the immense stress on the system. Certain things are not possible during this time, and even the connections and interactions are stretched and tested. Unlike CSC, for which there is no treatment available, MSU is working to create solutions and ways to "unwarp" our current scene. While we each must determine what parts of our work are "essential" and how much risk we are willing to take on, we should keep connected, and believe that the landscape will flatten out. I am always an available resource for the community, and I will keep testing new interventions to assist with maintaining connectivity and support that our community needs.

**-Aaron Reifler, OPA Director**

**Dr. Philipp Grete** received a B.Sc. in Computer Science in 2008 from the University of Cooperative Education in Stuttgart, Germany, and then worked for Hewlett-Packard before studying Physics (B.Sc.) and Computer Science (M.Sc.) at the University of Göttingen, Germany, from 2010 to 2013. In his Ph.D. thesis (2014-2016, University of Göttingen, Germany) he developed a model for small scale magnetized turbulence that was recognized by the German Astronomical Society with the annual Best Dissertation Award. Since October 2016, he is a postdoctoral research associate at Michigan State University working across the Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering. His current research interests include fundamental processes involving magnetic fields in (astrophysical) fluids, numerical methods in computational fluid dynamics, and high-performance computing with an emphasis on performance portability. His most notable achievements at MSU include the development of a framework to study detailed scale-by-scale energy dynamics in compressible magnetized turbulence (which was featured in the *Physics of Plasma* journal) and the development of the performance portable K-Athena code that he demonstrated to run efficiently using 24576 GPUs in parallel on Summit - currently the fastest supercomputer in the world.

Dr. Grete authored 11 publications (of those 10 as first or second author and 7 during his time at MSU) in various disciplines (astrophysics, plasma physics, and computer science), and he presented his MSU research in 27 talks. As a strong advocate of open science and open scientific software Dr. Grete developed and contributed to multiple open source community software projects. His research is driven by large scale simulations that are enabled by multiple computing time grants he successfully obtained as PI or Co-PI. Most recently he obtained a Leadership Resource Allocation on NSF's latest flagship supercomputer Frontera.

Dr. Grete is also committed to support the next generation of scientists. He has mentored four students of whom two presented their work at international conferences and meetings. Moreover, he developed and implemented two different inquiry-based teaching activities with specific focus on equity and inclusion in STEM as part of a professional development program.

Finally, he is also supporting outreach activities, such as the local Astronomy on Tap chapter, and built an interactive supercomputer model that has been showcased multiple times, for example, at MSU's Science Festival Expo.



**Dr. Dafna Groeneveld** discovered her passion for blood clotting research during her bachelor internships. She received her bachelor's degree in Clinical Chemistry in 2005 from Saxion Hogeschool (Deventer, The Netherlands). After working as a research technician and obtaining her master's degree in Forensic Science from the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), she pursued her PhD in Medicine at the University Medical Center Leiden (The Netherlands). Her PhD studies focused on the blood clotting protein von Willebrand factor (VWF). In 2012, she received an award for scientific excellence from the Dutch Association for Thrombosis and Hemostasis for her work on the clearance mechanisms of VWF.

After obtaining her PhD in 2015, Dr. Groeneveld started her postdoctoral career in laboratory of Dr. Ton Lisman (Groningen, The Netherlands). Her research focused on the interphase between blood clotting and liver disease in a more clinical setting. During her postdoc work, she successfully obtained two research grants as co-applicant. In direct alignment with these research interests, she accepted a position as postdoctoral research associate in the laboratory of Dr. James Luyendyk in fall 2017 after securing a prestigious non-clinical junior research grant from the European Hematology Association. Her work focusses on how the blood clotting system contributes to liver injury and repair using advanced in vivo and in vitro approaches.

Dr. Groeneveld has published 16 peer-reviewed publications, 5 during her time at MSU. Since 2015, her work has been cited over 250 times. During her first two years at MSU, she has presented her work at multiple invited platforms and won several awards including the MSU PDA travel award. Her work on the role of the blood clotting system in liver regeneration is published in the number one hematology journal *Blood* (impact factor 16.6). Her most recent work on the role of VWF in liver injury and repair has been published in number one journal in hepatology *Journal of Hepatology* (impact factor 19). In addition, Dr. Groeneveld has mentored many students during her postdoctoral career and is an active reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals within her field.

To learn more about the PERA award click [here!](#)



# POSTDOC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **Anne Rea starts assistant features editor position at *The Plant Cell*!**

Anne Rea, a postdoctoral research associate in [Jianping Hu's Lab](#) at the [MSU-DOE Plant](#)

[Research Laboratory](#) (PRL), has started a position as an Assistant Features Editor (AFE) with the journal *The Plant Cell*.

She will primarily write In Brief articles that highlight recently published papers in the journal. Read Anne's full interview [here](#)!



## **Former MSU Postdoc Sharifa Love-Rutledge nominated as one of 100 inspiring black scientists!**

Check out Dr. Love-Rutledge research program [here](#)!

Full list of all nominees [here](#)!



## **Katie Yoest wins prestigious NIH Outstanding Scholars in Neuroscience Award Program (OSNAP)!**

The program seeks to recognize neuroscientists with great academic potential and includes an invitation to visit the NIH campus in Bethesda in order to meet with NIH leadership, investigators, program staff, and research trainees to learn about the unique resources and research conducted in the Intramural Research Program. Katie is investigating sex differences in how oxytocin regulates social behaviors in juveniles.



## **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](mailto: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 Communications & Digital Presence Committee](#)

# JOB 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 [MSU OPA](#) to 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!  
Check out examples of application material and other resources on [Versatile PhD.](#)

## Job Aggregation Sites (including non-academic track):

- [MSU Careers](#)
- [National Postdoc Association](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Science Careers](#)
- [European Science Jobs](#)
- [HigherEd Jobs](#)
- [Nature Jobs](#)
- [Glassdoor](#)
- [Mendeley Careers](#)



The Postdoc Academy's online course, "**Succeeding as a Postdoc**" starts **Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. This 6-week online course provides resources to support skill development for new postdocs to postdocs ready for the next career step.

To learn more about the Postdoc Academy and take advantage of all the resources available for postdocs click [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!](#)



# WORKING FROM HOME RESOURCES

## Working from home tips

1. Maintain regular working hours
2. Have a morning routine
3. Schedule breaks
4. Identify a separate working space
5. Discover your high productivity periods
6. Eat a healthy lunch and snacks
7. Don't start your work day in PJs
8. Go outside (while social distancing)
9. Exercise and stretch regularly
10. Know when to turn off

More tips from [MSU Today](#), [NPR](#), [Forbes](#) and [Science](#)

## Managing stress and anxiety

1. Take breaks from news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
2. Take care of your body.
3. Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
4. Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and feelings.

## Parents Section

### Kid friendly podcasts;

[NPR Wow in the World](#)  
[NPR Circle Round](#)  
[Story Pirates](#), [Noodle Loaf](#)  
[What if world](#), [Book club for kids](#)

### Other fun resources:

[Cosmic Kids Yoga](#)  
[PBS Kids Online Games](#)  
[ABCmouse](#)



**Tips for working at home with kids:** [here](#)

## 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!

Check out a wide range of **free** webinars! Link [here!](#)

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!](#)**

