

# NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Wilson Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Building 1  
Call-in number: 1 866 772-5230, Passcode: 8168509

1. **Welcome New Members**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of August minutes**
4. **Remarks (10 minutes):**
  - a. FelCom Officers: Katherine Reding, Peter Demaria, Eric Gonzalez
  - b. Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE): Lori Conlan
  - c. Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf
5. **New Business (25 minutes)**
  - a. Elections:
    - 1) Administrative Secretary
    - 2) Mentoring Sub-committee
  - b. “Bethesda Postdocs” Facebook Page and Google Group
  - c. Review of IC-rep dissemination of FelCom news and updates
6. **Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (15 minutes)**
7. **Any other business (5 minutes)**

Next meeting: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm
2. approval of the minutes
3. **Remarks**
  - a. Katherine Reding- There will be a memorial lecture/symposium for the Dr. Sang-A Park, NIH postdoc who died in January after being hit by car on campus, on September 17th. The symposium will be 9:30-11:30 in building 35. There will be a tree planting in her honor from 11:30-12 in front of building 30.
  - b. Charles Dearolf - Reminder that the NIH Research Festival begins of Sept 12th
4. **New Business (25 minutes)**
  - a. Elections:
    - 1) Administrative Secretary - new administrative secretary is Allison Cross
    - 2) Mentoring Sub-committee - new mentoring Sub-committee co-chair is Anshika Jain
  - b. **Updates from FAES liaisons**
    - 1) Patrick spoke about the new professional development seminar series that will be hosted by FAES. FAES is looking for feedback regarding topics fellows would be interested in hearing about. If you have ideas please send them to Patrick or Kathy.  
Professional Development:  
FAES will be beginning a new program to allow fellows to hear the personal career journeys of accomplished professionals and their paths to success. The series will be once a month for 1 hour during lunch (food will be provided). The invited speakers prepare a ~30min talk with the remaining time devoted to Q&A. Capacity will be limited to 30 individuals. The current topics to be covered are:
      1. Bench to Business
      2. Bench to Bedside
      3. Nonprofit Leadership
      4. Healthcare Leadership

5. Creativity in Leadership
6. Being a Supportive Leader
7. Mentorship
8. Women in Science and Leadership

- 2) FAES is working to finalize the details of the new health insurance benefit plan that will start this November. Although there will be more mental health coverage in the coming year, infertility treatments will no longer be covered. The next FAES board meeting is October 23rd and the FAES liaisons will bring up any comments/concerns from current fellows regarding how the new changes will affect them. There will be a survey monkey sent out for people to share their personal stories and comments/concerns.

c. “Bethesda Postdocs” Facebook Page and Google Group

- 1) Steven spoke about the one online social community they the committee has been working on. There is now a Bethesda Postdoc facebook page and google group. This will be a place where social events can be shared but you cannot post official NIH, OITE, or FELCOM business on either group. Links to both pages are below.
  - a. Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaPostdocs/>
    - i. For social networking, community service, sightseeing/cultural enrichment, etc. Anyone who would like to host an event can be made a moderator of the Facebook page, and will be able to post/promote their event.
  - b. Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bethesda-post>
    - i. go to destination for Buy/Sell/Trade, roommate requests, and housing searches.
    - ii. can use the Google Group to look for friends or like-minded people to join in on social sports, running groups, book clubs, hiking clubs, etc.
- Both pages are just in-house for this month, members of FELCOM are asked to play around with them and see if they would like any changes or adjustments made before the pages are made open to everyone
- the google group is a closed group- to join either request to join or send your gmail address to Steven and he will add you
- 2) The group name “bethesda postdocs” is not finalized and they are open to ideas for a different name (it must not be associated with NIH)
- 3) The group still needs a logo, if you are interested in creating one please send your submissions to Steven and Yingxi

d. NPA liaison

- 1) Reminders from Helena about upcoming National Postdoc Appreciation Week.
  - Lori Conlan sent an e-mail regarding NIH activities, any activities planned should be reported to her, so they can be submitted to the NPA webpage.
  - Please include hashtag #NPAW2018 when posting on social media to promote the event.
- 2) Helena is looking for ideas for the FELCOM poster at the annual NPA conference
  - the poster is intended to highlight programs being promoted by FELCOM
  - does your group/subcommittee have an event or project that they would like to highlight for the poster? the abstract is due October 5th so please submit ideas to Helena ASAP (helena.farkasova@nih.gov)
  - one idea that was brought up in the meeting was to talk about the FARE awards, this idea will be run past Lori, believe it has been done in the past but think it was several years ago

**5. Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (15 minutes)**

a. Service and outreach subcommittee (Sarah)

- 1) there is an upcoming graduate and professional careers conference at Morgan State and they are seeking NIH fellows to help guide students in preparing CVs, resumes, and other applications as well as providing insight into NIH training opportunities. For more details please see the topic in the agenda below.
  - 2) Tree planting with DCs Casey Trees is scheduled for October 27th from 8:30-12:30. 10 spots have been reserved for NIH postdocs, if interested please email [Sarah.Hawes@nih.gov](mailto:Sarah.Hawes@nih.gov) to register. Registration closes October 17th
- b. From the visiting fellow committee - several events coming up
- 1) *Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm: **DMV Postdoc Appreciation Week Networking Event** at Public Bar (Dupont Circle), Washington, DC*
  - 2) *Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>: **Fellows into the Wild! Special Fellows Appreciation Week** in Sugarloaf Mountain or Rock Creek Park (TBD)*
  - 3) *Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm: **VFC Social Networking Event, special International Opportunities Expo** at Cesco Osteria (To be confirmed), Bethesda, MD*
  - 4) *Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm: **2018 VFC Halloween party** at FAES house, Bethesda, MD*
- c. Child Care Board Liaison – Mom-dad-docs is asking fellows to be more involved and possibly help with the organization, do you have ideas of topics you would like covered? If you have ideas or would like to get involved in planning, please email Ulrike Klenke ([klenkee@mail.nih.gov](mailto:klenkee@mail.nih.gov))

**Next meeting: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

### American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR)

*Amit Dey*

Nothing to report.

### Animal Research Advisory Committee

*Guru Nagarajan*

1. New Animal Study Proposal (ASP) template has two changes that were approved by the Animal Research Advisory Committee. These changes can be found in 'section E' and 'section O' of the new ASP template that incorporates 'Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV)'. Intramural Research Program aims to implement these changes into the current ASP templates and new ASPs by Oct 1, 2018. Information can be found at the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) website under NIH Policies: NIH IRP Animal Study Proposal Template.
2. Here is some information about upcoming webinars and select conferences. Share it with other fellows
  - **September 12, 2018:** One Health Academy lecture, "Dr. Daniel Lucey Smithsonian Exhibit on Outbreaks and One Health: A Synergy of Strengths 2014-2021," 6pm-?, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY, 1752 N St NW, Washington, DC 20036.
    - RSVP here: <http://onehealthacademy.org/rsvp.html>
  - **September 20, 2018:** OLAW webinar, "Monitoring for Humane Endpoints: Developing an Appropriate Strategy," 1-2pm, Bldg. 50, room 1328/1334, Kelly Cole/Melanie Billings POC
  - **October 17, 2018:** AALAS webinar with free CE, "Construction Noise and Vibration: Best Practices for Minimizing Impacts on Animals, Ongoing Research Studies, and Relationships with Scientists," 1-2:30pm, Bldg 49, rm 1851/1859 (first floor)
  - **Oct 10-11, 2018:** Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, NAL, Beltsville, MD (8-5pm day 1, 8-1:30pm day 2)
    - <https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awic-workshop>
    - Workshop slides: [https://nal.usda.gov/sites/default/files/workshoponweb\\_0.pdf](https://nal.usda.gov/sites/default/files/workshoponweb_0.pdf)
  - **October 28-November 1, 2018:** AALAS 69th National Meeting in Baltimore, MD
    - <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/AALAS-Invites-You-to-the-69th-National-Meeting.html?soid=1101442511563&aid=7KQHDJLwuHc>
  - **November 13, 2018:** AALAS webinar with free CE, "Humane Endpoints for Mice," 1-2:30pm, Bldg 10, rm 4-3330—directions will follow in a later digest.

### Career Development Committee

*Suna Gulay & Fany Messanvi*

- Our next meeting will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3PM in Building 2, Room 2W-15.
- Our next panel, "Careers in Grants Administration," will be held on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 3-5PM in Building 50, Room 1328.
- There will be a "Careers in Science Policy" panel on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Childcare Board Liaisons

*Blake Warner & Cynthia Abou Zeid*

- 1) Friday August 17, 2018: Meeting with Dr Ella Ulrike Klenke, the OITE representative working on the organization and promotion of the "Mom-Dad-Docs" conferences. The goal of these monthly meetings is to support NIH fellows who are also parents, by giving them resources and opportunities to meet and talk about the challenges of parenting, and about their perceived needs. Some examples of session topics from the previous year are: "legal family documents, job transitions as parents, bilingualism, developmental milestones and delays in children, and mindfulness for children".

The organizers are looking for the fellows' contributions to this series of meetings, since we are their prime audience. They would like to know about interested people who could represent the fellows alongside Dr

Klenke. They also want the input of the fellows regarding topics or issues we would like to tackle in future meetings.

- 2) The first NIH Child Care Board meeting for the new academic year will take place tomorrow, Thursday September 6, 2018 at 10 AM. Updates to follow during the FelCom meeting.

### **Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics**

*Cameron Palmer*

The CSCE met in August to discuss the beginning of the process of writing case studies for the 2019 ethics training module, tentatively focusing on workplace harassment and toxic environments. As has been the case for much of 2018, the development of particular case studies was postponed one month to allow for the finalization of the update to the NIH-wide sexual harassment policy, which has itself been repeatedly postponed. The committee also acknowledged the imminent departure of the current OIR AIRIO, Dr. Melissa Colbert, for retirement. Her replacement is likely to be taking over her responsibilities in liaising with the committee by the end of the year.

### **FAES Liaisons**

*Patrick Writgh & Kathy Reding*

#### **Graduate School:**

Fall registration for the upcoming FAES semester is open until Fri, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Late registration is from September 10<sup>th</sup>-September 28<sup>th</sup>. Classes begin on Mon, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Professional Development:**

FAES will be beginning a new program to allow fellows to hear the personal career journeys of accomplished professionals and their paths to success. The series will be once a month for 1 hour during lunch (food will be provided). The invited speakers prepare a ~30min talk with the remaining time devoted to Q&A. Capacity will be limited to 30 individuals. The current topics to be covered are:

1. Bench to Business
2. Bench to Bedside
3. Nonprofit Leadership
4. Healthcare Leadership
5. Creativity in Leadership
6. Being a Supportive Leader
7. Mentorship
8. Women in Science and Leadership

FAES is welcoming any feedback and ideas on these or other potential topics. Please share any thoughts with the FAES liaisons.

#### **Health Insurance:**

FAES is currently working through and finalizing the details of the new health insurance benefit plan that will start around this November (2018). We will have an FAES representative present at the next FelCom meeting (October 4<sup>th</sup>) to discuss and clarify any changes.

The next FAES board meeting is Tues, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, so please contact the FAES liaisons with any concerns/comments that you would like brought up at the meeting.

### **FARE Committee**

*Ying Fu & Carlos Guardia*

Nothing to report.

### **Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee**

*Rachel Sparks*

Nothing to report.

### **Medical Executive Committee**

*Peter Demaria & Chris Pleyer*

1. Maryland Licensing
  - The state of Maryland is moving toward harmonizing physician licensures. Everyone with a last name starting A-L will need to renew their medical license this year. Fingerprinting is now required prior to receiving re-approval/certification.
2. Patient Safety Update
  - JCO cited ligature risk (suicide risk in inpatient units) at their last visit. A lot of efforts are ongoing to reduce ligature risk in the behavioral health units.
  - There was also an event where medical information was inappropriately “copy forwarded” in CRIS notes. Attention is requested when the copy forward function is used.
3. Credentialing
  - There is ongoing discussion how to manage credentialing of medical providers across multiple sites within the NIH. There is ongoing discussion on how to best streamline the process. More input will be gathered on how other academic centers handle this to come up with a solution.

### **Mentoring Committee**

*Fei Mo & TBD*

Nothing to report.

### **NCI-CCR**

*Allison Cross*

Fellows are making plans for National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW):

1. CCR FYI will be hosting a seminar Thursday, Sept 20th from 10AM-11AM
  - Building 40 1st floor conference room - rm #1201
  - Lori Conlan will be presenting about how to make the most out of/how to be successful in your postdoc
  - She will go beyond the typical, “Make sure you publish and publish a lot”
  - Everyone is invited!
2. We would like to plan a social networking event and are considering Thursday Sept 20th in Bethesda (at Tapp’d or Rock Bottom). We want to know if FELCOM is planning a social networking event for NPAW and if so, could we collaborate/combine our events?

### **NCI Shady Grove – DCEG**

*David Borrego*

1. Do you know any students of age 10+ who may be interested in learning about nuclear science?

In celebration of National Nuclear Science week one of our staff scientists, Matthew Mille ([matthew.mille@nih.gov](mailto:matthew.mille@nih.gov)) in collaboration with the local Health Physics Society, will hold a nuclear science merit badge program on October 13<sup>th</sup> on board the NS Savannah.

The NS Savannah was America’s first (and last) nuclear powered merchant ship. If interested Register at <https://bwchps.wildapricot.org/event-3015474>

2. The next joint DCEG-Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP) Grant Writing Course for fellows is set to take place this fall. The workshop will take place over the course of several weeks in order to allow fellows time to incorporate information into their own mini-grants. All fellows are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Jackie Lavigne [lavignej@mail.nih.gov](mailto:lavignej@mail.nih.gov)

### **NPA Liaison**

*Helena Farkasova*

- The National Postdoc Association promotes the upcoming National Postdoc Appreciation Week.
  1. Lori Conlan sent an e-mail regarding NIH activities, any activities planned should be reported to her, so we can submit them to the NPA webpage.
  2. Please submit any planned events.
  3. Please include hashtag #NPAW2018 when posting on social media to promote the event.
- NPA hosted a webinar by J. Marcela Hernandez, Ph.D. about diversity on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>
- NPA calls for the applications for the outstanding mentor award. Please submit suggestions by October 12<sup>th</sup> <https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/news/415323/Nominations-Being-Accepted-for-the-2019-Mentor-Award.htm>
- NPA published a responsible conduct of research toolkit [https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/page/RCR\\_toolkit](https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/page/RCR_toolkit) with link to various useful case study material and links to guides and various articles about effective communication and ethics.
- Amazon donates to NPA if you shop using Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3577441>
- The August issue of the POSTDOCKET is now available and includes:
  1. National Postdoc Appreciation Week planning information
  2. Information about NIH loan repayment programs
  3. Article about secondary mentors and how they boost the postdoctoral experience.
  4. Article about mastering the art of mentorship
  5. Addressing disparities in postdoctoral benefits packages
  6. Information about Rally for Medical Research <https://rallyformedicalresearch.org/Pages/default.aspx>; held on September 13<sup>th</sup>; it aims to ask policymakers to support increased funding for NIH.

### **JOIN the NPA!**

Log on to the NPA member community, and engage with other members through blogs, forums, and member search functionality.

- Remember to join one or more of the committees listed below:
  - A. Advocacy Committee:** Addresses all advocacy and policy issues relating to and affecting the postdoctoral community (including but not limited to general policy, diversity, and international postdoc issues).
  - B. Outreach Committee:** Promotes the mission, values, goals, and business objectives of the NPA
  - C. Meetings Committee:** Plans and organizes the NPA Annual Meeting
  - D. The POSTDOCKET Committee:** Plans and publishes *The POSTDOCKET*, the NPA's quarterly newsletter. POSTDOCKET archives is members-only. However, you might be eligible for a free Affiliate membership.
  - E. Diversity and international officers:** Diversity officers work organization-wide to promote awareness of diversity issues and the practice of inclusion at every level. International officers work with all of the committees to support the needs of international scholars.

### **Outreach Liaison**

*Craig Myrum*

No report submitted.

### **Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program**

*Abhi Subedi*

PRAT deadline is October 3rd.

Following are the useful links for the potential applicant:

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/PRAT/Documents/PRAT-webinarslides2018.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/qgeqz7z3fP8?rel=0&start=75>

### **Recreation and Welfare/Health and Wellness Committees Liaison**

*Nisha Nagarsheth*

Nothing to report.

## Social Committee

*Yingxi Chen & Steven Brooks*

The Social Committee would like to report the new “Bethesda Postdocs” online social community. Bethesda Postdocs currently consists of a public Facebook page, and an invited Google Group.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaPostdocs/>

The Facebook page will be the place to post events of all kinds- social networking, community service, sightseeing/cultural enrichment, etc. Anyone who would like to host an event can be made a moderator of the Facebook page, and will be able to post/promote their event.

Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bethesda-postdocs>

The social committee will solicit personal Gmail addresses from anyone wishing to join the Google Group. The Google Group will be the go-to destination for Buy/Sell/Trade, roommate requests, and housing searches. Additionally, people can use the Google Group to look for friends or like-minded people to join in on social sports, running groups, book clubs, hiking clubs, etc.

We would like to emphasize to everyone that these “Bethesda Postdocs” pages are for personal use by postdocs and fellows only; they are not in any way formally affiliated with NIH, OITE, FelCom, or any other governmental institution or agency. Therefore, **please do not post** official NIH, OITE, or FelCom business on either the Facebook page or Google Group. A separate social media presence can be considered to represent FelCom more officially.

## Service and Outreach Subcommittee

*Sarah Hawes & Mahamat Babagana*

**Lead-Chair:** Sarah Hawes, NIA (Bethesda)

**Co-Chair:** Mahamat Babagana, NIA (Baltimore)

### Recent Events:

- Baltimore SOS co-chair initiated a relationship with Morgan State University to begin a mentoring program matching Morgan students with NIH postdoctoral mentors
- A conference call was held with Morgan State faculty and SOS co-chairs to discuss this new initiative, and Fellow outreach at a Sept 20<sup>th</sup> professional development event for Morgan students
- 10 slots were reserved for NIH fellows at Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Casey Trees planting event
- SOS chair attended a meeting on new Bethesda Postdocs FB and google accounts platforms

### Upcoming Events:

- **Participating at Morgan State’s Graduate and Professional Careers Conference (September 20<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Morgan State University is an urban public research university located in Baltimore, MD, and is the largest of Maryland’s historically black colleges. Morgan State is seeking NIH fellows to provide outreach to Morgan students at an upcoming Graduate and Professional Careers Conference to be held on Thursday, **September 20<sup>th</sup>**.
  - There will be an **open table session from 3:00-4:50**. At this session, Morgan students can bring their CVs, resumes, and other application materials to meet one-on-one with faculty and other mentors (*like you!*) as they prepare to apply to the NIA summer program, schools, and other opportunities. Morgan State would love to have some NIH postdocs on campus to work individually with students to help guide those materials and provide insight into NIH training opportunities. For instance, if you have acted as a mentor or a trainee in any NIH summer internship program, post-bac program, Graduate Partnership Program, etc., then please consider making yourself available to discuss these with Morgan students on September 20<sup>th</sup>. To register and obtain additional details including directions to the session, please email [Sarah.Hawes@nih.gov](mailto:Sarah.Hawes@nih.gov)

- Additional outreach opportunities with Morgan are in the works, including a focused mentorship program. Participation in the Graduate and Professional Careers Conference would be a great way for post-docs to start connecting with students, and vice versa.
- **Tree Planting with DC's Casey Trees (October 27<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Do you love trees, fall color, and playing in the dirt? Enjoy all three alongside fellow NIH postdocs and other Casey Trees volunteers on **Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**, as we botanically-enhance eastern Washington DC's Carver Terrace. The planting will begin at 9 am with opening remarks and instructions. Please arrive between 8:30 am and 8:50 am to check in, get your gear, and grab a bite to eat! A light breakfast and a celebratory lunch will be provided. We have **just 10 spots** reserved for NIH postdocs, and registration will close after Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. To register, please email [Sarah.Hawes@nih.gov](mailto:Sarah.Hawes@nih.gov)
- **Helping Up Mission: <https://helpingupmission.org/> (Baltimore, ongoing)**
  - You can volunteer in downtown Baltimore to help at a homeless shelter doing a variety of activities; GED prep, tutoring, and computer skills. Please contact Maria Wetherington ([maweth821@gmail.com](mailto:maweth821@gmail.com)) at the HUM for further information on training and participation, etc.

**Disclaimer:** These are not NIH-sponsored or endorsed events. If you attend an event, you do so as an individual; you are not representing the NIH and should not represent yourself as such. Volunteering and outreach are valuable components of professional development and help strengthen the scientific community. Fellows should weigh the importance of this specific activity in their overall career development. If the event falls on a weekday and requires you to leave the NIH during normal working hours, participation depends on permission of your supervisor

### Training Directors Committee

*David Borrego & Belinda Hauser*

- FAES Insurance highlighted proposed changes to fellows' insurance coverage. Several TDs and Sharon Milgram raised serious concerns about mental health coverage:
  - Within the DMV, many mental health professionals are out-of-network and the corresponding 1,000 deductible would be cost prohibitive for many.
  - Elimination of coverage for infertility treatment.  
See <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2015.07.1139>
  - FAES to meet with Scientific Directors on Sept 5<sup>th</sup> to provide an update that addresses these concerns.
- FAES Health Insurance contact no. 301-496-8083
- Fellows should be aware of a FAES emergency fund to help offset out-of-pocket expenses for households making less than \$50k.
- Sharon also gave a talk on OITE wellness resources
  - Wants to change the format by setting up a health and wellness platform.
  - New initiatives at OITE include:
    - Wellness Wednesdays
    - Enhanced drop-in groups over 4 weeks (e.g., job search stress, thesis stress, application anxiety)
    - Journaling program

### Visiting Fellows Committee

*Ulrike Boehm & Daphnée Villoing*

Co-chairs: Ulrike BÖHM and Daphnée VILLOING

Secretary: Amir MANZOUR

Social subcommittee: Michael BUCH, Maja BUSZKO, Andrea CONTE, Subhasis RAY

Country rep. coordinator: Selami DEMIRCI

Sciences Voices from Home (SVH): Charles BOU-NADER, Martin LANG, Fany MESSANVI,

Brown Bag seminars: Aude NICOLAS

Communication - Webpage: open position

OITE advisor: Ella (Ulli) KLENKE

## 1. VFC Social

Past events:

- *Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>:* **Fellows into the Wild!** Seneca Creek Park [14 attendees]
- *Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>:* **Outdoor Movie** at Strathmore (“Coco”) [5 attendees]
- *Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 6pm:* **VFC Social Networking Event.** Karaoke Night at Barking Dog pub, Bethesda, MD [20 attendees]

Upcoming events:

- *Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6pm:* **DMV Postdoc Appreciation Week Networking Event** at Public Bar (Dupont Circle), Washington, DC
- *Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>:* **Fellows into the Wild! Special Fellows Appreciation Week** in Sugarloaf Mountain or Rock Creek Park (TBD)
- *Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm:* **VFC Social Networking Event, special International Opportunities Expo** at Cesco Osteria (To be confirmed), Bethesda, MD
- *Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm:* **2018 VFC Halloween party** at FAES house, Bethesda, MD

## 2. Brown Bag seminars:

Upcoming Event:

- *Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm, NIH Library:* **“Immigration: Getting familiar with American culture”** with the DIS.

## 3. Science Voices from Home

Past Events:

- *Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 pm:* **Science Voices from Home: AUSTRALIA** [24 attendees in the room, 26 online]
- *Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4-5pm:* **Science Voices from Home: BRAZIL** Building 50, Room 1227 [10 attendees in the room, 15 online]

Upcoming events (November 2018 and later):

- *Time & location TBD:* **Science Voices from Home: POLAND**
- *Time & location TBD:* **Science Voices from Home: JAPAN**

Future possible countries:

NIGERIA, ENGLAND

## 4. International EXPO

- *Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 12pm – 4:30pm:* **2018 VFC International Opportunities Expo and Career Fair**, FAES terrace and FAES rooms 1-4, Building 10, NIH main campus, Bethesda, MD
- 21 registrations from agencies/embassies/companies, program to be released soon. Registrations open to attendees coming soon.

## 5. Open Positions at VFC

- A position is still open in the **Communication team**, as the new VFC website admin.

## 6. Next VFC meeting

- 9/12/2018, **1:00 - 2:00 pm**; Main campus, Building 2, Room 2W15.
- Call in No: 1-(866)-556-1965. Participant code: 2706089

## WALS Subcommittee

*Salina Gairhe & Valerie Darcey*

Nothing to report.

## Women Scientist Advisors Committee

*Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick*

### 1. Sept. 14 2:30 -4:30 pm Bldg 35A, Rm 620/630

Elaine Ostrander (NICHD WSA committee sponsored event) will discuss challenges she has faced during her career and her views on mentoring. This will be followed by a short break for refreshments before we reconvene to have an open discussion/question and answer period on topics of interests to those in attendance.

### 2. Oct. 5 12:30-2:30 pm at the Cloisters

WSA/AWIS of Bethesda (American Women in Science) will hold a joint symposium ‘Breaking Through the Petri Dish Lid – Ways for Women and Underrepresented Groups to Advance Their Careers in Science’, which will feature Dr. Hannah Valantine (Scientific Workforce Diversity/Office of the Director/NIH), Dr. Kathy Zoon (Laboratory of Infectious Disease/ NIAID/NIH; previous Scientific Director NIAID), and Dr. Nesrine Taha (Founder and CEO of the Foundation for American Advancement; <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nesrine-taha-a7361523/>), who will offer ideas on how underrepresented groups can move into leadership positions and become more aware of leadership/award opportunities that will advance their careers. Each panelist will speak for about 20 min. There will be time for questions. AWIS will provide Refreshments.

### 3. Oct. 12th 12-1 pm in Lipsett

Dr. Frazier Benya (sponsored by NCI) will report on the recent NAS Sexual Harassment report, possibly followed by discussion of new NIH policy. This will be during the CCR Grand Rounds slot and will also be available for online viewing.

## ELECTIONS

### 1. Administrative Secretary

#### **Gurmeet Kaur, NCBI/NLM**

Greetings. I am Gurmeet Kaur, a postdoctoral fellow at the NCBI and would like to serve as the Administrative Secretary for FelCom. I began my postdoctoral fellowship at the National Center for Biotechnology Information, NIH in July 2016 after graduating with a Ph.D. degree in Life Science from the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, India. I have been an active member of the FelCom since May 2017 as the basic science representative for my center. I was seeking an opportunity to contribute and get further involved in the FelCom

since some time now and this is a perfect one. After discussion with Katherine and understanding the duties, I believe that I would be able to lead the position of administrative secretary responsibly. All FelCom meetings that I have attended have been in person and I meticulously follow the minutes. I enjoy taking notes and organizing things, and if elected, I consider myself apt to record the minutes and distribute them to the members. Being a computational biologist, I work on the computer all day and thus, compiling and sending emails and updating other members and postdocs would not be a hard task for me. If needed, I would be happy to take up the duties of the membership secretary and record the attendance and absences of the FelCom members. Please consider me for this position.

## 2. Co-Chair of Mentoring Sub-Committee

### **Anshika Jain, NICHD**

Full of spirit, confidence and motivation just like many other post-docs, I dove into my project and got absorbed in my research right from day-1 at NIH. It was only somewhere in the middle of the term that I felt a little lost and was unsure of my future path. The thought of having an honest conversation with my PI about my doubts and dilemmas seemed like a nightmare and that is when I realized the significance of having a mentor outside of the research environment. Learning from my own experiences, I feel that having a second mentor should be mandated by all institutes. However, in order to promote and encourage this relationship, as a co-chair of the mentoring subcommittee, I would like to organize an annual workshop to introduce the post-docs (particularly in their early years) to the idea and the advantages of having a mentor in addition to their PIs. Furthermore, presenting and introducing a panel of mentors interested to serve on the committee could be an attractive feature of this workshop as it would remove the post-docs' search-work and could initiate the mentor-mentee relationship immediately. Annual or bi-annual one-on-one meeting with the mentor and the mentee would not only relieve the stress and the struggle of a post-doc but it could be the first step towards networking, which will go a long way for their professional development. Additionally, introducing various courses and resources offered at the NIH for personal and professional development could be an additional feature to attract more post-docs to such workshops. This in turn, would attract more members with new ideas to run the mentoring sub-committee and benefit the fellows throughout their stay at NIH.