

NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, October 3rd, 2019
Wilson Hall, 3rd Floor, Building 1

Join by WebEx

[WebEx Link](#)

Meeting number (access code): 627 827 968

Meeting password: FelCom19

Join by phone

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

1. **Welcome New Members**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of August minutes**
4. **Remarks** (*10 minutes*):
 - a. FelCom Officers: Katherine Reding, Anne Martini, Eric Gonzalez, Allison Cross
 - 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 for the following positions
 - 1) Liaison to the NIH Training Directors' Committee
 - 2) Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - 3) Service and Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair
6. **Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements** (*15 minutes*)
7. **Any other business** (*5 minutes*)

Next Meeting – November 7th

Minutes

1. **Welcome New Members**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of August minutes**
4. **Remarks** (*10 minutes*):
 - a. FelCom Officers: Katherine Reding, Anne Martini, Eric Gonzalez, Allison Cross
 - b. Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE): Lori Conlan
 - 1) Kindness Initiative is still going – OITE has given away 250 kind bars, 250 to go- if you come by office to get a kind bar you can fill out pieces of paper to say who you are taking it for and why
 - 2) During NPA week, OITE served ice-cream to 650 people– thank you all for coming out
 - c. Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf
 - 1) Welcome everyone to new fiscal year
5. **New Business** (*25 minutes*)
 - a. Elections – congrats to our winners
 - 1) Liaison to the NIH Training Directors' Committee
 - o André Rose
 - 2) Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - o Ashleigh Hanner
 - 3) Service and Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair
 - o Surangi Perera

6. Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (15 minutes)

- a. VFC
 - 1) Events they planned for NPA week were well attending
 - 2) Upcoming Brown Bag Seminar - Thursday, October 17th, 2.30-4pm, FAES Health Insurance - Location FAES Conference Room, 1N241A, Building 10.
 - 3) Halloween party will be held on Friday Nov 1st at FAES house north of campus – ticket sales are already ongoing – about 20 early bird tickets left – there will be costume contest and DJ – also looking for volunteers to decorate or clean up- see report in agenda for more details
- b. Service and Outreach Subcommittee
 - 1) New collaboration with Graduate Student Council (GSC) for ongoing monthly events (the 3rd Thursday of the Month)
 - 2) Have several service opportunities available in October, please see agenda for more details
- c. NPA
 - 1) NPA is looking for volunteers to help committee judge the 2019 NPAW awards! Email outreach@nationalpostdoc.org for more info!
 - 2) Please spread the word about the Michelson Prizes --Applications are now open for the 2020 Michelson Prizes. These \$150K scientific awards are given annually to young investigators who are applying disruptive research concepts and inventive methods to advance vaccine and immunotherapy research for major global diseases. Applications are due October 31. Winners will be announced in June 2020. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/rA3s50w4K7g>.
- d. FAES
 - 1) New health insurance plan takes effect November 1st, 2019
 - o Changes include:
 - a. Deductible (in-network) is decreasing from \$250 to \$125 for individuals and from \$500 to \$250 for families
 - b. Out-of-pocket maximum (in-network) is decreasing from \$2500 to \$1500 for individuals and from \$5000 to \$3000 for families
 - c. Maternity-Delivery & Facility Services (in-network) is decreasing from deductible + 5% co-insurance to deductible only
- e. OHSRPC
 - 1) Several updates from the recent meeting can be found in the agenda – please see below for details
- f. Career development subcommittee
 - 1) The Career Development Subcommittee will be holding an Industry R&D panel on October 18, Friday, from 3-5pm in Bldg 50, Rm 1227.

7. Any other business (5 minutes)

- a. There was discussion regarding anti-harassment training
 - 1) Andre Rose asked whether training could be made available for victimization in the workplace especially if you were witness to such victimization and how you as an onlooker should respond to it.
 - 2) Lori mentioned they are working on something about this and reminded everyone to take the new anti-harassment training by November 15!
 - 3) There are issues with the new anti-harassment training module being slow/crashing –those have issues are advised to avoid taking the training during peak hours 10AM-4PM Lori
 - 4) Charles – discussed that OIR is aware of and discussing the inaccuracies in the whistle blower portion of the training- there are concerns about how negative this section of the training is portrayed

MEMBERSHIP

FelCom Subcommittee	Co-Chairs
Career Development Committee	Xin Huang & Raturaj Masvekar
Clinical FelCom	Vincent Chau & Anne Martini
FARE Committee	Helen Michael & Sara Young
Mentoring Committee	Fei Mo & Ashleigh Hanner
Service and Outreach Subcommittee	Rosario Jaime & Surangi Perera
Social Committee	Yingxi Chen & Steven Brooks
Visiting Fellows Committee	Vrushali Agashe & Michael Buch
Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS)	Salina Gairhe & Valerie Darcey

FelCom Liaison Position	Liaison(s)
American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR)	Amit Dey
Animal Research Advisory Committee	Guru Nagarajan
Child Care Board	Eric Gonzalez & Melissa Mazza
Committee on Scientific Conduct & Ethics	Jillian Varonin
Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES)	Patrick Wright & Katherine Reding
Graduate Medical Education Committee	Jessica Zolton
Graduate Student Council (GSC)	Carla Gibbs
Office of Human Subjects Research Protection Committee (OHSRPC)	Emma Kurnat-Thoma
Medical Executive Committee	Vincent Chau & Anne Martini
National Postdoc Association	Helena Fabryova
Outreach Liaison	Craig Myrum
PRAT Liaison	Sara Young-Baird
Recreation and Welfare Committee	Tiffany Zarrella
Training Directors Committee	Belinda Hauser & André Rose
Women Scientist Advisors Committee (WSA)	Jennifer Groebner & Mona Orr

Institute/Center	Representative(s)	Institute/Center	Representative(s)
CCR-FYI (NCI)	Allison Cross	NICHD	Suna Gulay (Basic) & Jessica Zolton (Clinical)
FDA	Narayana Garimella & Fardokht Abulwerdi	NIDA	Andrew Wright
NCATS	Atena Farkhondeh Kalat	NIDCD	Matt Fishl & Braulio Pequero
NCCIH	Eleni Frangos	NIDCR	Belinda Hauser
NCI-CFPF	Anne Julian	NIDDK	Shyamala Jadhav
NCI-Shady Grove	André Rose	NIEHS	Salahuddin Syed
NEI	Dinusha Rajapakse	NIGMS	Sara Young-Baird
NHGRI	Xin Huang	NIMH	Kathy Reding
NHLBI	Matthew Hannaford	NIMHD	Kristyn Kamke
NIA	Christina Banuelos & Srijita Dhar & Maja Mustapic	NINDS	Farinaz Safavi (Clinical) & Patrick Wright (Basic)
NIAAA	Patrick Piantadosi & Danielle Sambo	NINR	VACANT

Institute/Center	Representative(s)	Institute/Center	Representative(s)
NIAID	Steven Brooks	NCBI/NLM	Gurmeet Kaur
NIAMS	VACANT	USUHS	Faith Blum
NIBIB	Sumit Chaturvedi	VRC (NIAID)	Juan Moliva & Kizzmekia Corbett

COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR)

Amit Dey

Nothing to Report

Animal Research Advisory Committee

Guru Nagarajan

- 2019 Animal Tribute Ceremony was held on September 12 to honor research animals. Dr. Michael Gottesman, NIH Deputy Director for Intramural Research, and Paula Clifford, Executive Director of Americans for Medical Progress, provided their remarks during the ceremony.
- Five changes will soon be implemented to the Animal Bites, Scratch, Splash Exposure (BSSE) Prevention and Response Program. On the direction of DDIR and institutional officials, these changes will occur based on a root cause analysis.
- The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare has approved NIH's Animal Welfare Assurance that is accordance with the Public Health Service. The Assurance will be effective until June 2023.
- Below are some upcoming webinars and seminars. Most of them are free. Please share it with other fellows. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Evan Shukan (shukanet@mail.nih.gov)

October 13-17, 2019: AALAS National Meeting, Denver, CO

Stay tuned here for 2019 info: <https://www.aalas.org/national-meeting>

October 8-9, 2019 Beltsville, MD USDA Animal Welfare Information Center Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act: A Workshop

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/awic-workshop>

November 19, 2019: AALAS webinar with free CE, "Fish Welfare and Analgesia," 1-2:30 EST, location tbd, hosted by Lauren Pandolfo.

Career Development Committee

Neha Gupta & Xin Huang

The Career Development Subcommittee will be holding an Industry R&D panel on October 18, Friday, from 3-5pm in Bldg 50, Rm 1227. This is a traditional panel that has a high attendance from the fellows.

Childcare Board Liaisons

Melissa Conti & Eric Gonzalez

The first NIH Child Care Board for the 2019-2020 year was held on September 26th. The following information was provided:

- Work and Family Month during all of October to educate about all the NIH resources available to help with work and family responsibilities. See the link (<https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/childcare/Pages/WorkFamilyMonth.aspx>) for a complete schedule of events including webinars on a variety of useful topics such as finances, nutrition, etc..., Foil the Flu free flu clinics both on and off campus, and meet and greets with various program members such as Nursing Mothers and the NIH Child Care board.
- The main event of the Work-Life @ NIH Information Fair will be on October 22nd which includes over 40 information tables on services available to FTEs, trainees, and contractors.
- In general, the meetings are open to guests and guests are welcome to join any of the subcommittees if interested (Back-up Care, Child Care Subsidy, Communication and Outreach, Innovative Programs,

Membership, and Wait List). The Innovative Programs committee, along with FAES, attempted to change the law to include trainees in subsidy programs exclusive to FTEs but this effort has been stalled.

- The next meeting will be held November 14th from 10-12 in building 35, room 640.

Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

Jillian Varonin

No Report Submitted

FAES Liaisons

Patrick Wright & Kathy Reding

- Next FAES Board of Directors' meeting is on Tuesday, October 29th.
- Health Insurance:
 - New plan effective November 1st, 2019
 - Changes include:
 - **Deductible** (in-network) is **decreasing** from \$250 to \$125 for individuals and from \$500 to \$250 for families
 - **Out-of-pocket maximum** (in-network) is **decreasing** from \$2500 to \$1500 for individuals and from \$5000 to \$3000 for families
 - **Maternity-Delivery & Facility Services** (in-network) is **decreasing** from deductible + 5% co-insurance to deductible only

FARE Committee

Helen Michael & Sara Young

The FARE 2020 competition ended with a successful award ceremony. Elections will be held for the FARE 2021 co-chairs at the November meeting.

Office of Human Subjects Research Protection Committee Liaison

Emma Kurnat-Thoma

Meeting Date: 9/9/2019

1. IRB Operations Updates.
 - a. Office of IRB operations are ramping up processes, but still have a smaller staff. Asked for patience. If anything urgent comes up, or there is a particularly challenging operations issue, or there is a patient safety issue, please contact: Tiffany Gommel, Melissa Bryant, or Liz Bartrum.
 - b. Checklist is available to assist fellows/investigators with initial IRB protocol review. More checklists for other applications (i.e. CRs, Reportable Events, coming soon). Accessible at: <https://irbo.nih.gov/confluence/display/IRBO/For+IRB+Members#ForIRBMembers-FindIRBChecklists>
 - c. Caution tip for fellows and investigators: please be sure you are using the most current template version before submitting documents to IRB. For example, informed consent document templates change on a regular basis with mandatory content, so if an older version is submitted, IRB staff will take this into account and it may result in additional edits/review time.
 - d. IRBO Staff moving to Rockledge Oct 15, 2019.
 - e. Newly transitioned IRB tab will be updated regularly w/trends-findings of IRB analysts' pre-reviews. IRB Office is working to harmonize review findings and requirements between analysts. Asked for continued patience.
2. iRIS Updates.
 - a. Fellows should please make sure their CITI accounts are all under the same name and matches to their NIH Active Directory email in NED. Otherwise iRIS cannot pick up your training

certificates. If you have multiple CITI accounts, please contact CITI to have them merged into 1 account that matches your NIH email.

- b. CITI can be accessed from the OHSRP training web pages.
 - c. Some institutes have their own CITI accounts not under the broader NIH umbrella (i.e. NIAID, NICHD). iRIS will not be able to access these automatically and you will have to manually upload your CITI cert.
3. Drs. Green and Gottesman gave a Training OHSRP Town Hall on 9/17/19
 4. Commercial IRB Training Sessions:
 - a. WIRB: September 18, 2019, from 2 to 4 p.m. in FAES #4, B1C205
 - b. Advarra: October 1, 2019, from 1 to 3 p.m. in FAES #6, B1C208
 - c. WIRB: November 6, 2019, from 12 to 2 p.m. in FAES #4, B1C205
 - d. Advarra: December 4, 2019 from 12 to 2 p.m. in FAES #1, B1C211

Short Form Consents and Interpreters updates: Interpreters at NIH Library for 11 languages. More can be added if needed. ICs must pay for translations. IRB must have already approved use of the short form. An interpreter plus written short form signature is required.

Medical Executive Committee

Vincent Chau & Anne Martini

Nothing to Report

Mentoring Committee

Fei Mo & Ashleigh Hanner

No Report Submitted

NCI Shady Grove – DCEG

André Rose

Nothing to Report

NPA Liaison

Helena Fabryova

NPAW awards are currently being evaluated in the following categories: best new event, most creative event, best collaborative event, and best PDA-led event. There will be two awards per category, based on the size of the office/group at the institution (e.g. small PDOs/PDAs will not compete with larger PDOs). A total of eight awards will be given to organizations to highlight the work they do the postdocs at their respective institutions.

- FelCom organized a photo exhibition with short bios of our post docs “The Gallery of Us-NIH Fellows”. We had 23 contributions. Thank you all for your submissions!
- Volunteer Opportunity: Have you considered volunteering with the NPA, but don't have much time? Help the Outreach committee judge the 2019 NPAW awards! Email outreach@nationalpostdoc.org for more info!
- Now accepting applications for 2020 Annual Conference childcare support awards <http://ow.ly/Q3wU50w2PZW> as well as applications for the 2020 Annual Conference travel awards <http://ow.ly/890v50w2PLO>
- Stocking up for back to school? Shop at <https://lnkd.in/d8JvyaP> and AmazonSmile donates to the NPA!
- Applications are now open for the 2020 MichelsonPrizes. These \$150K scientific awards are given annually to young investigators who are applying disruptive research concepts and inventive methods to advance vaccine and immunotherapy research for major global diseases. Applications are due October 31. Winners will be announced in June 2020. Learn more: <http://ow.ly/rA3s50w4K7g>

myPostdoc monthly

View all past webinars in the myPostdoc archives <http://ow.ly/7bk550vXUjf>

This month's topic is “Identifying and Managing Career Anxiety” <http://ow.ly/wgu150w8MMF>

The new POSTDOCKET is now available and includes:

- The POSTDOCKET: Call for Lab Life Photo Essay <http://ow.ly/V5gI50vFZVD>

Hey postdocs! We want to see the community. Do you wear a lucky research shirt? Do you pray to a proverbial PCR god? Or maybe you only write your lab meeting notes with a black pen? Do you host an annual event for the lab (a dinner, a hike, game night?) If so, The POSTDOCKET wants would like you to show these scholarly superstitions, traditions, or habits.

- Accessing Medical Care in the United States
- NPAW 2019: Core Competencies for Postdocs to Develop to be THE MOST Appreciated
- NPAW 2019: How to be Proactive in Your Mentoring Relationships
- NPAW 2019: Preparing Postdocs for the Future through Mentorship: A Profile of Shannon Manning
- Promoting Mental Health Wellness in the Postdoctoral Community

JOIN the NPA!

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

If you are interested in volunteering with the NPA, start by joining one of the Committees of the Membership: Advocacy, Meetings, Outreach, The POSTDOCKET, or Resource Development, or working with the NPA Diversity and International Officers.

Outreach Liaison

Craig Myrum

Please send me ideas for the *I am Intramural* blog! If you or someone you know recently published a cool study that others might want to know about, let me know so I can write something up about it. It's a great platform to gain attention to your research! Note that takes a couple weeks between submitting and posting since many people must approve them.

2. The Sept-Oct *Catalyst* Training Page is about an article will be on summer students in NINDS. <https://irp.nih.gov/catalyst/v27i5/the-training-page>

3. The July-Aug *Catalyst* Training Page was about science writing training: <https://irp.nih.gov/catalyst/v27i4/the-training-page>

4. The next *Catalyst* Training Page will be about Science Policy training opportunities.

5. If you have an idea for a future *Catalyst* Training Page, let me know!

6. Be sure to join the LinkedIn page! [Fellows at the NIH - FelCom](#)

Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program

Sara K. Young-Baird

Nothing to report. Sara K. Young-Baird is replacing Abhi Subedi as the PRAT liaison.

Recreation and Welfare/Health and Wellness Committees Liaison

Tiffany Zarrell

Nothing to report. I will be going to the next R&W meeting on Oct. 8th!

Service and Outreach Subcommittee

Rosario B. Jaime-Lara & Surangi Perera

Announcements:

- New collaboration with Graduate Student Council (GSC) for ongoing monthly events (the 3rd Thursday of the Month)
- 2 Events in October
- Looking for co-chair

Upcoming/ Ongoing Events:

FelCom Sarah Hawes & Rosario Jaime-Lara
 Representatives
 GSC Representatives Heather Rusch & Katelyn McCann

Monthly Activities	Responsible Party	Date #1	Date #2	Date #3	Date #4	Date #5	Date #6
Children’s Inn Bi-Monthly Outreach	Sarah & Rosario		11/21/19 Thanksgiving Goodie Bags	1/16/20 Prepare Family Dinner	3/19/20 Origami	5/21/20 TBD	7/16/20 TBD
Manna Food Drive Bi-Monthly Outreach	Heather & Katelyn	10/17/19	12/19/19	2/20/20	4/16/20	6/18/20	8/20/20
One-Time Activities							
Halloween Goodie Bags for Children’s Inn	Rosario	10/30/17					
Past Activities							
Leadership Initiative Youth Development Program	Tara Mowery (NLM)	7/25/19	7/26/19	8/1/19	8/2/19		
Ambassador Leaders Student Leadership Program	Tara Mowery (NLM)	7/31/19					
International Dinner at Children’s Inn	Elena Hernandez-Rosario	7/31/19					
NIH Blood Drive							
NCI Scientists in the Community Outreach							
Howard University Center of Excellence Summer Program	Tara Mowery (NLM)						
JHU Center for Talented Youth Summer Program	Tara Mowery (NLM)						
Tree Planting with Casey Trees							
Helping Up Mission (Baltimore)							
Morgan State Career Conference (Baltimore)							

- **Learning Undefeated- ONGOING** (an organization that offers STEM education and career opportunities to underserved communities) is looking for judges for the Maryland BioGENEius Challenge. It is done **virtually**

and the commitment is 1-2 hours. Support these high school students as they pursue their interest in STEM. More information is included below. If you have questions, please contact: Ali Main (Learning Undeclared Event and Travel Coordinator)

Ali@learningundeclared.org | www.learningundeclared.org | @learningUNDFTD

- **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) at the HUM for further information on training and participation, etc.



Social Committee

Nothing to Report

Yingxi Chen & Steven Brooks

Training Directors Committee

Nothing to report

Belinda Hauser & André Rose

CCR-FYI

The CCR-FYI will be hosting our **Fall hike** at Sugarloaf Mountain on Sunday, October 20th at 1pm. We will meet at the East View parking lot near where the orange and white trails meet. From there we will start and end our 2.5 mi hike of the white trail. Everyone is welcome: postdocs, postbacs, visiting fellows, graduate students, family members, friends and dogs.

Allison Cross

If you are planning on attending, need a ride or are willing to drive a carpool, please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/pf3QE42oBva7MLzB9>. Carpools will be formed the week of Oct. 14th. We will try to

accommodate last minute RSVPs, but cannot guarantee placement in a carpool for those who RSVP on or after October 18th.

NIAID

Steven Brooks

The NIAID Office of Research Training and Development is presenting the annual Fellow's Workshop on November 13th at Natcher Auditorium. The Workshop will feature Keynotes from Dr. Peter Agre, MD (Nobel Laureate from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) and Dr. Courtney Murdock, PhD (Assistant Professor from University of Georgia), as well as featured talks from NIAID Trainees, and career panels with representatives from government, academia, industry, and science policy/communication fields. All NIAID trainees are invited to attend!

Visiting Fellows Committee

Vrushali Agashe & Michael Buch

Co-chairs: Vrushali AGASHE, Michael BUCH

Secretary: Elias PADILHA

Social subcommittee: Maja BUSZKO, Andrea CONTE, Emma GROARKE, Subhasis RAY

Country rep. coordinator: Selami DEMIRCI

Sciences Voices from Home (SVH): Fany MESSANVI

Brown Bag seminars: Ashish SHARMA

Communication - Webpage: open position

OITE advisor: Ulli KLENKE

1. VFC Social

Past events:

- *Saturday, September 7th, 12.30pm, Air and Space Museum visit*, 8 participants.
- *Saturday, September 21st, Hike on the Glover Archibold Trail* near Tenleytown for Postdoc Appreciation Day, 21 participants!
- *Thursday, September 26th, 6-9 pm. VFC Social Networking Event* – Caddies on Cordell, 30 participants.

Future events:

- *Saturday, October 26th, Fellows into the Wild*, Location and time TBD.
- *Thursday, October 31st, 6-9 pm. VFC Social Networking Event* – Cancelled due to proximity with the Halloween party.
- Visit to a Mosque, **Diyanet Center of America** followed by food at a Turkish restaurant, in October/November. Trying to see if we can arrange for a tour.

2. Science Voices from Home

- Science Voices from Home: Japan; September 5, Building 2, Room 2W15, 7 people online, 8 in person.

Future events:

- Date and Location TBD Science Voices from Home: Germany, October, Week of 10/15 – 10/18, 1-2pm with the German Embassy and two NIH alumni.
- Date and Location TBD Science Voices from Home: Russia, November
- Date and Location TBD Science Voices from Home: Portugal, December

3. Brown Bag Seminar

- Thursday, October 17th, 2.30-4pm, FAES Health Insurance Brown Bag - Location FAES Conference Room, 1N241A, Building 10.

Email invites to be sent out soon with a link to a survey gathering questions for the insurance folks.

- Thursday, November 7th, 12-1pm, Scott Morgan Brown Bag - Topic and Location: TBD

4. Country representatives/DIS

- Advertise for NPA in the DIS Newsletter. Helena was kind enough to write up a paragraph describing the NPA and its activities. The write up and a NPA logo was sent to DIS.

5. NPAW

- Table at the activities Fair, Several people stopped by, took flyers!

6. Open Positions at VFC

The open position will be advertised in the coming month.

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

7. Halloween party

- November 1st, 2019, FAES house. Details to be discussed at the next VFC meeting.

- There will likely be a separate meeting to discuss organizational details.

- Site is now active <https://visitingfellows.wixsite.com/committee/2019-vfc-halloween-party>, Early Bird ticket (\$12) sales ongoing,

- First Release (\$14), Second Release and at door (\$17) ticket prices tentatively.

- Seeking volunteers for distributing flyers, buying food/decorations, setup before the party, helping during the party and clean up after the party.

- Contact Vrushali or Michael if interested in Volunteering.

8. Next VFC meeting.

10/09/2019, 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

The NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS) will host following speakers for the month of October 2019.

Date	Speaker	Home Institute	Title of the Talk
Oct 2	Max D. Cooper, M.D. <u>William E. Paul Lecture</u>	Emory University School of Medicine	Evolution of adaptive immunity in vertebrates

Oct 16	Miguel A. Nicolelis, M.D., Ph.D. <i>NIH Director's Lecture</i>	Duke University Medical Center	Brain Machine Interfaces: from basic science to neuroprostheses and neurological recovery
Oct 23	Christina D. Smolke, Ph.D. <i>DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Lecture</i>	Stanford University	Scalable platforms for generating RNA sensors and controllers

Women Scientist Advisors Committee

Jennifer Groebner & Mona Orr

2 winners have been selected for the 2020 WSA Scholars award and planning for the 10th Annual WSA Scholars Symposium to highlight their achievements are underway. The Symposium will be scheduled in the Spring of 2020 and more details will be forthcoming.

ELECTIONS

Liaison to the NIH Training Directors' Committee

1. Pete DelNero

I am nominating myself for postdoc liaison to the NIH Training Directors' Committee. I firmly believe that trainees are the single greatest product of the NIH enterprise. Postdoctoral training is a critical stage of scientific preparation, in which we acquire the capacity to begin an independent career. Professional formation does not happen spontaneously; it requires diligence toward the institutional contexts that surround us. In a special way, the FelCom liaison aligns the commitments and priorities of the training directors' committee to ensure an environment in which all trainees can flourish. I pledge to contribute my talents and energies to enhance the NIH postdoctoral training experience.

I am a postdoc in the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program. I completed a PhD in biomedical engineering at Cornell University, where I helped develop a graduate-level certificate program in cancer research ([dx.doi.org/ 10.1126/science.358.6361.414](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.358.6361.414)). I received an MPH at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

2. Pragya Prakash

I am currently a postdoctoral fellow in NIDCD.

I am **sincerely interested in this opportunity to be the liaison to the FelCom's Training Directors' Committee**. I believe that my diverse and extensive postdoctoral training along with my dedication would help me to better understand and communicate the perspective and issues related to the postdoctoral community.

3. Marwa Afifi

My name is Marwa Afifi and I am currently a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Steven Cappell at the Center for Cancer Research. I get a lot of eyebrows raised when I share with members of the NIH community that I am a dentist and an assistant professor of oral pathology, on sabbatical. My life and career trajectory have been nothing but a rollercoaster and if I can do it again, I wouldn't change a thing.

I am applying for the Training Director's Committee Liaison position since I got to backwardly experience being a mentor and then a mentee. I have been mentoring undergraduate dental students as well as postgraduate students for 12 years. However, to relaunch my career in the science field here in the US, I am currently a postdoc thriving to become an independent investigator. The NIH, despite of what I was told, has an excellent support system for the trainees to thrive and develop a holistic experience no matter what their future goals and interests are. There is something for everyone. I personally don't see a gap between trainees and the decision makers that needs to be filled. On the contrary, everything under the sun is being offered to trainees to develop a wide array of much needed skills. Unfortunately, I think it's the trainees that need to be motivated and educated to reach out and grab those opportunities. From where I stand, a lot of trainees are overwhelmed with the benchwork and they drift away from the main purpose of being a postdoc fellow which is enhancing your skills to be competitive for the real world. Another cohort feel stuck in the lab due to the lack of mentorship and guidance. Even worse, some fellows have the perfect environment to grow but not sure what they want to do after their training.

If I get elected as a liaison, I would put my collective background of being an assistant professor (on sabbatical), a clinician and an active postdoctoral fellow to represent the postdocs, clinical fellows in decision making venues. As a current postdoc and mentor, I would like to use my dual perspective to advocate for the professional and personal development of postdoc trainees at the NIH.

Thank you for your consideration for the liaison position and I am looking forward to this experience.

4. Sofiya Hupalo

As someone with a passion for mentorship, a history of collaborative leadership, and a commitment to shaping an inclusive scientific environment, I am excited about the opportunity to advocate for and represent my fellow postdoctoral colleagues as a liaison to the Training Directors Committee. I am a second-year postdoc at NINDS and a fellow in the Postdoctoral Research Associate Training program at NIGMS. In addition to my desire to improve working conditions for my colleagues, my mentorship, collaborative, and organizational skills make me well-suited for this role. In the past 10 years of my scientific training, I have mentored over 20 undergraduate and/or graduate students. In addition to training these students in research techniques, I complemented their training by leading journal clubs and helping them craft scientific posters, presentations, and applications for internships, scholarships, and awards. Along with my own experience as a trainee, these relationships have broadened my understanding of the personal and systemic issues that trainees face, including maintaining mental and physical health, navigating workplace conflicts, and balancing professional responsibilities with financial and academic stress. Beyond mentorship, I have spearheaded multiple scientific collaborations, organized and chaired a conference symposium, led the writing effort on a publication between multiple laboratories, and planned service events for my graduate program's outreach committee. Together, my experiences will bring a diversity of leadership, organizational, and communication skills to the role of liaison to the Training Directors Committee. I am eager to apply these skills on behalf of my peers and to work with a diversity of FelCom members from various NIH institutes. Holding the belief that NIH trainees need committed support and effective communication with our Training Directors in order to succeed, I will be a vocal advocate for policies and initiatives that support postdocs, and a reliable representative at the Postdoctoral Subcommittee and FelCom meetings.

5. André Rose

My name is André Rose. I am a post-doctoral fellow with the NCI in the Radiation Epidemiology Branch. I am applying for the position of liaison to the Training Directors' Committee. I am interested in ensuring that the training needs of all fellows and especially those from disparate communities are met. During my tenure as the President of the Public Health Association of South Africa I gained valuable advocacy skills that will assist me to raise awareness for the needs of fellows at NIH. This role ensured that I was able to engage people at grassroot level, understand their needs and translate this need to policy makers. This skill will be very useful as

I promote the interests of fellows at senior management level. My diplomacy skills will ensure that I am able to lobby for the needs of fellows. In South Africa I was a senior faculty member at a University and played a key role in the training needs of public health residents. This experience helped me understand the need for mentoring a diversity of scientists and it will benefit me promoting training equity within the NIH Fellows' Community. I had the privilege to be instrumental in aiding the Free State provincial government of health in South Africa to develop the public health competencies of nurse managers. These were mainly black women from a previously disadvantaged background. I am passionate about justice, inclusivity and promoting equity. These characteristics will guide me as the liaison to the Training Directors' Committee. I think training is more than just been offered the chance to acquire a set of skills. Training is about being offered the opportunity to be equipped to fulfil the potential you have in you. I believe that leadership is about being able to influence people and that this leadership exists within all of us. We only need the correct environment, opportunity and encouragement to do so. The next generation of scientists' leaders should be trained at the NIH and our fellowships should be training ground for this role. It is thus imperative that we forge an agenda that ensures we are getting this level of training. My goal will be to hold the leadership of the Training Directors' Committee accountable to fulfilling this objective.

6. Ashleigh Hanner

I am interested in this position because I want to help trainees by listening to what they want and communicating it to the training directors. I feel qualified as when I got here, I helped with our Institute's yearly Fellows Scientific Training. During these meetings to organize this event I proposed the idea of bringing in alumni of our institute and create a network event so trainees could speak to people that were in their shoes and able to speak to them on the next steps in their career. It was quite successful as that was one of the biggest liked part on our feedback surveys. I would like to be involved more with helping even more trainees and I believe this would be a great opportunity to help and listen to bring more open discussions between the training department and the fellows.

Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair

1. Pragya Prakash

I am sincerely interested in this opportunity to be the Mentoring Subcommittee Co-Chair. I believe that my diverse and extensive postdoctoral training along with my dedication would help me to better understand and communicate the perspective and issues related to the postdoctoral community.

2. Kumari Kavita Thakur

I have deep interest in helping people to get success at NIH. I have been attending many mentoring seminars organized by NIH. I got summer mentor award (CCEP) and currently Co-chairing NIH India group where I am providing resources mentoring resources by organizing talks for Indian postdoc.

I have introduced a new strategy- "Bring your lunch" to the group, invited PIs.

I took SciPhD and workplace dynamic for management training series organized by NIH. Wrote article for visiting fellow newsletter- "Academia is not the only way". I have worked with Lori and Erika for various event as Judge, Mentor.

Now that I look backward I know at what time trainee should considering going to OITE and what will be the best strategy to get success. I think my experience of exploring career options with the eye of OITE will be incredibly helpful for NIH fellows.

3. Ashleigh Hanner

I am interested in this position as I have much experience in mentoring students. While in graduate school I not only did I mentor students while I was a TA but I also mentored students in the laboratory setting. I helped one of the students in our lab get into a graduate school. Following my PhD and prior to arriving here I was a laboratory coordinator at Niagara University. There I also met with students and helped mentor a few on career advice with going into medical school or academia or into industry. I am hoping to bring all these experiences here and help fellow trainees find mentors and strengthen those relationships so that they can get the most out of being a trainee here at the NIH.

Service and Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair

1. Domingo Uceda

I am a 4th year medical student at Indiana school of medicine, currently enrolled as a research fellow in the NIH medical research scholars program for 2019-2020 year (August to August 2020). During my year here I would love to get involved here at the NIH and in the DC and Baltimore area, and what interested me the most was the Fellows Committee. Prior to medical school I spent a year in Americorps, working at an inner city high school in Atlanta GA, developing a mentoring and tutoring program, within that year I spent a great deal of energy finding and setting up service events for the students in my program. I got a lot of enjoyment out of getting a diverse group of people together and putting them in unique and fun service events that challenge them to get out of their comfort zone while having a good time. While I am not originally from this region, I am eager to explore and I believe because of this I can do a good job expanding service opportunities across the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

2. Surangi Perera

My name is Surangi Perera, and I am a Sang-A Park Postdoctoral Fellow in the Neural Crest Development & Disease unit at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. As a new postdoctoral fellow, I would like to join the Fellows Committee (FelCom) to increase my engagement in the FelCom community. Specifically, I am interested in serving in the Service and Outreach Subcommittee (SOS) as I share the mission of SOS and strongly believe in the importance of giving back to our local community. During my PhD, I was involved with several science outreach events (including organising some of them) providing information about careers in science or demonstrating biological concepts to students of different age groups in the local community. I am looking forward to similarly engaging with the communities in the greater DC area and organising such activities for my fellow postdoctoral colleagues.