

National Institutes of Health



Visiting Fellows Committee

NIH VFC Newsletter 2013 Spring Edition

Contributing to global science development by building careers

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Visiting Fellow in the Lab: An intrepid trailblazer

Chunzhang Yang, a visiting fellow, identifies rare HIF-2 α mutations and establishes a new research direction

By Jianfei (Jeffrey) Zhao, PhD

“The moment I got the sequencing result, I knew it would be a big finding,” says Chunzhang Yang, a baby-faced and soft-spoken visiting fellow of the Surgical Neurology Branch at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). “And that’s the most exciting moment since I joined the NIH three years ago.”

Yang should be excited. His work, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (2012;367:922-30), identified for the first time a mutation in HIF-2 α , a central player of hypoxia (low oxygen) pathway, which may contribute to tumorigenesis.

It all started when Yang signed on to a project to solve a medical mystery in 2011. Two patients were referred to the NIH for further diagnosis after multiple masses resulted from paraganglioma (PGL), a rare and usually benign tumor, were found and later removed. One of the patients had another tumor with a distinct origin, which is an even rarer event. Those two patients also had an increased erythropoietin (EPO) production, a hallmark of polycythemia.

Previous work showed that these two clinically unrelated diseases often share a genetic connection - both of them could be caused by dysregulation of the hypoxia pathway. After elimination of the usual suspects that are implicated in the diseases, Yang turned his focus on HIF-2 α , a transcription factor that is stabilized by hypoxia and turns on downstream responses, such as angiogenesis, glycolysis, and proliferation.

Despite the critical role of HIF-2 α in hypoxia regulation, HIF-2 α mutants had never been identified in PGL or any other cancer, until Yang’s eureka moment. The mutations were close to a region where the stability of HIF-2 α is regulated, and subsequent experiments proved Yang’s hypothesis that the HIF-2 α mutants have a longer half-life, leading to up-regulation of EPO and genes promoting tumor growth.

Yang was indeed lucky to strike some rare mutations. However, 19 papers within three years, including 14 papers in the last year alone, are achieved by much more than luck. Yang regularly works 100 hours per week. He says that the combination of his passion for helping patients and his cravings for success have helped him focus and propel into hard work.

The excellent research environment at the NIH is a big factor for his high productivity, says Yang. He almost immediately fell in love with the NIH because of the rich resources and the opportunities to collaborate with world-famous clinicians. Yang says that the scientists at the NIH are very collaborative, and that they are generally “dedicated and willing to share the credits.”

Yang also attributes his success to working closely with his mentor, Zhengping Zhuang. “Dr. Zhuang is both my mentor and my buddy,” He adds, “We often have lunch together.” Although there are regular lab meetings, Yang and his mentor could discuss their projects at any time, even during lunch. He felt pressured initially, but quickly got used to the unscheduled discussions. “It moves projects forward faster,” says Yang.

Yang’s biggest strength may be his confidence. He is never hesitant to try something new. “If someone else can master a technique and answer some questions, I should also be able to do it,” says Yang. That’s exactly what he did for the *NEJM* paper when he mostly learned mass spectrometry by himself and used it to test his hypothesis.

Yang's pioneering work opened up an entire new direction for the PGL and HIF-2 α research. Now Yang and his colleagues are busy characterizing HIF-2 α cofactors that play a role in disease progression. Drugs that could inhibit HIF-2 α activity are also being developed. Yang continues to log crazy long hours in the lab. "If we don't keep up, we will be crushed in this field sooner or later," says Yang.

International Activities of the National Science Foundation

By Gerhard Koenig, PhD and Martin Lang, PhD

On March 13, 2013, Dr. Anne-Marie Schmoltnner from the National Science Foundation (NSF) presented information about their international activities. The talk took place at the Austrian embassy and was organized in cooperation between the Austrian scientist network ASciNA and the Office of Science and Technology of the Austrian embassy.

The NSF is an independent US government agency that supports non-medical research in all fields of science and engineering. With a budget of about \$7 billion, it funds roughly 20% of the basic research in the US. For computer science, mathematics, and social sciences, the NSF is the major source of funding, but significant amounts of financial support also go to biology, chemistry and physics. Most NSF grants are awarded to institutions, facilities or individuals carrying out research within the US. In addition, the NSF also funds programs for graduate students and junior researchers. NSF international activities fall into five categories: a) US participation in global-scale projects and research networks; b) Support for international facilities; c) Linkages to research programs of other countries (intergovernmental agreements and joint programs); d) Support for new scientists and engineers; e) International science and engineering information.

Several NSF postdoctoral fellowships allow US-based scientists to perform research in a foreign country for more than nine months (among the eligible fields are biology and mathematics). However, multiple criteria must be fulfilled: Eligible individuals must come from US institutions, and the proposed research has to include a true intellectual collaborative component at the non-US location. In addition, an internationally renowned scientist must be the mentor. Importantly, it is not possible to request support to go to one's country of origin.

The Catalyzing New International Collaborations (CNIC) award supports international planning visits that are intended to result in submission of a full research proposal to NSF. It requires a one-page description of proposed activities, reasons why the international collaboration is necessary and a rough outline of how funds would be spent.

For researchers with NSF CAREER awards (junior faculty) or postdoctoral research fellowships, a new treaty makes it possible to undertake research collaborations with labs in Europe that are funded by the European Research Council (ERC). The NSF and ERC will fund short-term visits of up to a year by NSF researchers to ERC project teams and also covers the travel costs.

Finally, the Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) is a partnership between NSF and international funding agencies to provide NSF Graduate Research Fellows with training through research collaborations overseas. Partnerships exist with Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden (Nordic Research Opportunity) as well as France, Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

Overall, the NSF encourages the exchange of ideas with foreign countries and contributes monetarily to ensure that young US scientists gain professional experience abroad early in their careers. This is reflected in numerous international opportunities for scientists working in US institutions and/or on NSF-funded projects.

Where are they now? A successful transition to home: planning ahead helps

By Sanghamitra Mishra, PhD

Dr. Raghunath Chatterjee has recently moved back to India, after successfully completing his postdoctoral training at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the Laboratory of Metabolism with Dr. Charles R Vinson. He has joined the Human Genetics Unit (HGU) at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, as an Assistant Professor. I had a chance to chat with him over the phone about his academic journey, which I am sharing here. It could be an inspiration for Fellows who want to return to their home countries after their postdoctoral training at NIH.

SM: Hi Raghu. Thanks for finding time to discuss your recent academic transition. Briefly, tell us about your journey post-Ph.D.

RC: I completed my Ph.D. at the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, India, in 2006. Soon after this, I got a Scientist position in the National Institute for Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata. But I wanted to get some postdoctoral experience. So, in February 2008, I joined Harvard University for a postdoctoral position but soon moved to NCI in November of the same year. I got my present position in ISI Kolkata in January 2013.

SM: How was your postdoctoral experience at the NIH?

RC: The experience at the NIH was very good for me. I got nine publications from the work done here. Also, the NIH exposure made the job search easier for me. Being at NCI, I got the opportunity to take the course on Translational Research in Clinical Oncology. I also took the OITE courses on grant writing, CV writing, and preparing a job application package. All this helped me build a sound package.

SM: When did you realize you were ready to move beyond the postdoc towards an independent position?

RC: After three years of postdoc.

SM: So, that is when you started looking for jobs in India?

RC: Yes, I started looking for positions in India in 2011. In fact, I applied for only one job and got it. I was interviewed for this position in December 2011 and was selected in May 2012. Meanwhile, I also got a job offer from my lab at NCI. I asked ISI for more time here to complete my project and to submit publications and we reached a consensus for joining in January 2013.

SM: Do you consider yourself lucky to get the only job you applied for?

RC: I did not apply to many places as I was very specific in my job search in India. I wanted to stay in Kolkata, close to my family, and this played an important criterion in my job search. I was also looking for an interdisciplinary environment which was the reason why I applied to ISI. I researched about the Institute and presented my work there. My interest and their requirements matched.

SM: How do you like your current position? How was the transition back to India?

RC: Except for the logistics of travel and relocation overseas, this transition has been smooth for me and my family. I received a warm welcome in my department here. On my first day, I found my office ready and also got a formal welcome from the Head, faculty members, and students of the Unit. In India, paperwork can take a very long time but I had already received a start-up amount to start my lab. Students come with independent fellowships to ISI through a national level entrance exam in May and we have to submit applications for taking Ph.D. students before December. I expect to get students beginning next year.

SM: What is your advice to postdocs at NIH who want to transition back to their home country?

RC: During your postdoctoral training, you must be able to define your interest. You must also figure out your priorities about the place and institute environment. Networking with people, visiting Institutes, and presenting your work help not only to know the place but also build interactions. After three years of postdoctoral training, it is time to start looking for positions back home, if you want to transition in your early career.

SM: Thanks Raghu for finding time to chat with me.

RC: Thank you. I just will like to add that collaboration with my postdoctoral lab has helped me a lot to start my own research lab here in India. It is an important topic to discuss with your lab chief during transition. It really helps to begin work in your new lab more quickly.

Career Tools: Decisions, decisions...myIDP can help

By Urvashi Ramphul, PhD

With the current academic job market looking desolate, and fewer postdocs moving on to research faculty positions, PhD level scientists are battling to stay competitive in the professional job market. Job hunting, particularly searching for the right job in a specific location, can be a challenging exercise especially for postdoctoral fellows approaching the end of their training at the NIH. With looming budget cuts, many scientists might be reconsidering their career options. Or perhaps, after numerous years working in a lab, a career in academic research is not as rosy as once envisioned or possibly one's interests and values have simply changed over time. Finding the perfect job, in or outside academia can be intimidating. In addition, successfully competing for any job requires careful planning, particularly for individuals choosing careers away from the bench. In this last instance the jump can be

daunting, particularly where greater importance is usually placed on transferrable skills.

The individual development plan (IDP) (<http://myidp.sciencecareers.org/>) is a free interactive career planning tool which helps scientists discover various career options that best suit them. This plan also develops a strategic plan to maintain the right track for a specific career path. MyIDP is a four step process, where the first step examines an individual's skills, values and interests through self-assessments. The second step evaluates career options in one's field and ultimately identifies one's preferential career and alternate careers that are still applicable based on one's skills and interests. The career options can include jobs in academia such as a principal investigator, teaching careers or careers outside academia such as research in industry, intellectual property, science policy, science writing and communications or research administration. The third step helps individuals prepare for their preferred career path by helping individuals set specific objectives. The final fourth step is discussing the strategy with the individual's mentor or mentors and implementing the plan.

Finding the perfect job which complements both an individual's skills and interests can be challenging. However, oftentimes, the salary or location of the job might not be ideal or inherent expectations such as publications or self-esteem might not satisfy you. MyIDP takes into account one's values together with skills and interests to find the most appropriate career path. It generates a list of scientific career options which are ranked according to ones that best fit your skills and interests and should provide you with the outcomes you value to make the preferred career a fruitful and content one. MyIDP also provides links and various resources about career options in order to explore these different career options. The resources include experiences shared by individuals currently working a specific job which gives further insight into their daily lives and what to expect in that job. This might clear previous misconceptions regarding these careers. MyIDP helps individuals set goals and objectives to track the career path so that individuals can build and

expand their professional network and gain the necessary experience needed for the future job. The extra skills you gain towards your next job may help you stand out from other candidates. Hence, suitable planning in taking the next step is important in being successfully competitive in your future career. MyIDP can also help shed some light on certain jobs you may not have ever considered; however, based on your skills and interests, you might certainly be capable of taking on these jobs.

Career Tools: NIH Fellows Provide Manuscript Editing Service

By Elizabeth Walsh, PhD

Don't miss this chance to become a better writer! Contact the Fellows Editorial Board (FEB) today! Yes, the previous two sentences read like a shameful television advertisement from a law firm of questionable repute; however, you shouldn't disregard them. If you're someone who struggles with writing journal manuscripts, wants to improve your writing and editing skills, or would like to gain valuable management and administrative experience, the FEB can help you! But wait, there's more!

The FEB is a volunteer, postdoctoral fellow-run organization that is limited to 30-35 members, so that each editor has ample opportunity to build editing skills. Although not every scientific discipline is represented on the FEB, its members come from diverse scientific backgrounds and many different institutes at NIH. The board is not responsible for critiquing the quality of the science in submitted manuscripts, but helps to improve grammar, logical flow, and adherence to journal guidelines in these articles. The board meets weekly to assess a maximum of three submitted manuscripts. Any NIH postdoctoral fellow or graduate student can submit an article to the FEB for critique. Manuscripts are scheduled for review in the order that they are received, and the average

turnaround time from article submission to when the authors receive the FEB's editorial reports is 10 days.

The FEB editing process employs a four-tiered approach. First, each manuscript is assigned to one associate editor and three primary editors. These editors individually analyze the manuscript to identify problem areas. At the weekly meeting, the assigned associate editor and primary editors lead a discussion of each manuscript, and all other FEB members can offer editorial suggestions. Second, each primary editor marks up all suggested changes, which are compiled into one document, called the soft copy. Each primary editor also writes an e-Report that provides a section-by-section analysis of the manuscript and catalogs key features that might be improved. Third, the associate editor evaluates the compiled soft copy and e-Report to ensure the editorial suggestions are clear and concise and to make some final additions before handing the reports to the senior editor, who evaluates the manuscript and editing comments one last time. Finally, an NIH staff member reviews the senior editor's reports and adds any final suggestions before sending the reports to the manuscript author. To sum it up, you will receive grammatical analyses from at least six editors. That sounds amazing, right? What else could this fabulous organization possibly offer?

The answer to this question is quite simple. The FEB benefits its members by affording them opportunities to put skills that are attractive to employers on their resumes. The FEB editing process is **deadline-driven** and requires working together in small groups, which promotes **teamwork** and **communication** skills. The editing process also requires **attention to detail**, **analytical** skills, and requires clear and succinct **writing** abilities. Plus, the occasional FEB social allows you to build a **network** of potential future colleagues. If you look at any job description, you will find these skills mentioned over and over again. Working with the FEB will provide you with ample opportunity to develop these qualities. Also, if you work with the FEB as a senior editor or associate editor, you will obtain valuable

management and administrative experience by leading small editing teams and interfacing with submitting authors. Are you convinced that becoming an editor for the FEB should be on your must-do list yet? If not, here comes my final plug.

Working with the FEB is a challenging and rewarding experience. Submitting authors respond to feedback from the board with glowing praise and grateful appreciation, providing evidence that what the FEB does really makes a difference. And, speaking of rewards and making a difference, the experience acquired as a member of the FEB can give you that extra edge on your resume that may make the difference between a hiring manager using it to practice a hook shot into the recycle bin and picking up the phone to call you for an interview. Now that's a two-for-one deal that's irresistible!

E-mail the FEB today at ncieditors@mail.nih.gov if you're interested in submitting an article or joining the FEB as an editor.

Visiting Fellow's life: Learning in Science Begins in Early Childhood

Science Fair in Elementary School

By Ping Chen, MD-PhD

Are you a better scientist than a 1st grader? I naturally thought that I was, because I went through so many years of science education, got an MD and PhD, and trained in clinical translational research at Johns Hopkins University and the NIH. Though now I am doing scientific research every day, I did not really understand what science was until I was in graduate school. It didn't cross my mind that very young children can also readily and professionally grasp the scientific process until I volunteered to be a judge in an elementary school science fair.

I have attended many scientific conferences over my career, but the most interesting and impressive

one was at my daughter's elementary school on February 21, 2013. When I received the advertisement from her school about the fair, I thought it was a joke. I worked on my first project when I was a PhD student; how can my daughter in 1st grade do a science project? Despite my initial doubts, I always like to try new things as a scientist, so I decided to encourage my daughter to participate.

The first challenge was how to choose a topic. I tried my best to explain to my daughter what a science project was. She told me that it sounded boring and she didn't like it. Then, I thought probably we can invite her good friends to work together to make it a fun project. My daughter was excited to invite her two friends to participate and looked forward to playing together. I told her we need to pick a topic first and then we can meet together with her friends. I thought about topics for a whole day to determine one that was easy and suitable for kids. But after this time the topic still wasn't clear. Surprisingly, my daughter generated two topics in five minutes. "Why do people get dental cavities?" and "Why do people need vaccines?" I was so happy and proud of her because these two sounded really scientific. I picked the first one because I wanted her to know how to prevent cavities.

We had the first meeting for this project at her friend's house. Three kids wrote down their own assignments after a discussion, which included three parts (background and significance, how to prevent, and how to treat). That was a really successful and efficient meeting. My daughter started to search for pictures of dental cavities, dentists treating cavities and drew some pictures for decoration. The second meeting was held after one week and all the kids brought their materials. They worked together to paste the pictures on the board and wrote down more information. They helped each other, shared ideas, and enjoyed the friendship. They also seriously practiced to present the project when it was their turn to present.

The exciting day finally arrived. 125 projects were exhibited in the school. Topics included everything you can imagine and not imagine.

Little scientists presented data and answered questions professionally. Some showed confidence and some were shy. I judged three interesting projects. The first one was ‘Is a tomato a fruit or vegetable?’ to which I didn’t know the answer. The second one was ‘Heart rate and exercise’ which was medical science. The last one was ‘Exploring the mammoth cave’ which was very cool. At last, I awarded each one a ribbon with their names on it. I saw the school principal in attendance and asking kids questions. I saw my daughter’s teacher listening to their presentations. Some student volunteers took pictures of the science fair. Everything looked so scientific.

I was so impressed by those professional little scientists: by their scientific topics, by the way they presented their data, by their innovative thought in science, by their passion in science. I feel that the quality of their science fair can definitely compete with our scientific conferences for grown-ups.

My post-doctoral schedule is very busy but I was very pleased and honored to participate in this science fair. As Page Keeley, former President of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), indicated, “Learning in science begins in early childhood. This is a time when young minds are curious about science and ready to engage in the practices and language of science that form a foundation to be built upon. Young children bring to science views of the natural world and ways of thinking that have a major impact on their learning as they progress from one grade level to the next. Ignoring these ideas and delaying the development of science language and practices until students formally encounter science in middle school certainly violates what we know about systems: If one part is missing, it affects the other parts of the system.”(1). I am so happy students in elementary school have the opportunity to explore science early, and the evidence has shown they can do it very well.

(1) NSTA Reports “Elementary Science Education in the K–12 System”

<http://www.nsta.org/publications/news/story.aspx?id=55954>

Visiting Fellow’s life: Explore the Spring: Maintaining your Work/Life Balance

By Hui Geng, PhD

Springtime, sunny weather, a nice breeze- what a perfect time to enjoy some outdoorsy activities! A slow walk around the Tidal Basin during the National Cherry Blossom Festival is historically a great start to spring, and this year did not disappoint! The whole city was in bloom just two weeks ago and it was a beautiful sight to behold. Some of you may know that it was the 101st anniversary of Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki’s gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the city of Washington. But, did you find the clone of the tree that the first Lady Helen Herron Taft planted at the Tidal Basin in 1912? If not, better luck next year!

The Washington D.C. area has a lot to offer. A good day consists of touring the nation’s capital, visiting historical sites, and gaining a deep appreciation of American History. If you prefer to explore the natural landscapes and breathe some fresh air, why not take a hike? Old Rag Mountain and White Oak Canyon hikes in Shenandoah National Park are two of my favorites. Be prepared for hand-over-hand climbing in Old Rag Mountain. This 8-mile circuit trail is full of challenges. For example, the rock scrambles can be very steep and require climbing through cracks, some of which are narrow passages that only fit one person. There are several “false summits” before you reach the real one, probably an hour scrambling and bouldering on the scary and dangerous rocks. But all the effort is worth it when you see the incredible panoramic view on the mountain’s top. With eyes closed, arms stretched, how proud you are! Oh, one more thing I almost forgot to mention- before reaching the minor summit, there is a very nice, small cave, which reminded me of the “Immortal Bridge” of Mount Tai in China. Mount Tai is a mountain full of historical and cultural significance located in the

middle-east part of China. The most popular thing to do there is to watch the sunrise on the summit. It is very exciting to wait for the sun to rise slowly from the horizon, in spite of climbing all the way up during the night. The scene is so wonderful that words cannot express the feeling deep inside. Shall we also check the sunrise on the top of Old Rag Mountain some day?

Now, that you have experienced the tough trail, let's try some easier ones. The White Oak Canyon hike is highly recommended and contains a nice series of waterfalls. One can start from the top of the trail and hike all the way down the lower falls. The first third of the trail is moderate and you can reach the upper falls easily. You are right along the stream! But, please watch out- some otters may just run into the water and swim under the rocks. The hike down to the lower falls becomes very steep and challenging, requiring some rock climbing. After enjoying the boulders, you will find a breathtaking waterfall is splashing over the mountain's side. What an amazing view!

Of course, there are lots of other popular places for hiking around the DC area, such as Great Falls Park, Sugarloaf Mountain, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, Catoctin Mountain National Park, Seneca Creek State Park, and so on. It is time for you to figure it out and explore the spring!

Country Groups: A taste of Italy at NIH/ DC area

By Natascia Marino, PhD

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Visiting Program provides opportunities for foreign scientists to train and conduct collaborative research at the NIH. Annually, more than 2,000 scientists from other nations conduct research in basic and clinical science laboratories on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. NIH is indeed an excellent place for networking/meeting post-docs from all over the world.

However, sometimes foreigners feel the need to re-enter and taste their own culture.

As a representative of the Italian community here at NIH, I would like to give you some tips on how to connect with the two major Italian associations located in Bethesda/ DC area.

Several people may take advantage of these Italian associations: newly arrived fellows, post-docs willing to go back to Europe and looking for more job-related news, whoever wants to practice speaking Italian or to network outside the NIH campus.

Italians@NIH was recently created by a small group of Italian post-docs working in different laboratories at NIH. They were trying to interact more with the Italian embassy in order to have updates about job opportunities in Italy as well as to increase the interest of the embassy in science. This group is an excellent tool for networking with all Italian scientists working at the NIH. Group members can obtain updates on funding and job opportunities in Italy and Europe, and on scientific events at NIH and the Italian embassy. Anyone may connect to the group either through LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/pub/italians-nih/56/409/2a7) or the email list (ITALIANS_AT_NIH@LIST.NIH.GOV).

Italians in Washington, DC or IDC was created in 2009 by a group of friends who were sharing events through Facebook. Then, two years ago it became an official association. Through happy hours, cook outs, and parties, IDC links Italians who live, work, study, or do research in the DC area, enriching the lives of Italians during their stay in DC. Other than helping Italians meet each other, Italians in DC serves as an information exchange network, or reference, supporting people who have already been through a particular DC experience and linking them with those who have yet to go through it.

When people have the chance to meet each other, they discover common interests, generate ideas, and build projects. To ensure that these ideas are not shelved, IDC is developing the capacity to support various ideas and projects of group

members. Each proposal submitted by a member of Italians in DC is taken into consideration! This is how many of our events are born.

I had the chance to interview Ivan Butina, IDC co-founder and President.

What is the mission of IDC?

Italians in DC aims to connect, create meeting opportunities, and assist Italians in Washington, DC, facilitating their integration in the US capital environment. Italians in DC wants to connect people so to add to their personal as well as professional success thereby creating a strong Italian community in Washington, DC.

What is the goal of this association?

To connect Italians in the Washington, DC metro area and promote contemporary Italian culture.

Which audience is IDC addressing?

Although our target audience is Italians in DC, most of our events are open also to Italian-Americans, Italy lovers, and all friends of Italians in DC.

How is IDC helping to increase networking?

We have monthly "aperitivi", which are Italian happy hours. About 100 people show up each time to enjoy each other's company. Then we have three dedicated professional networking events each year. Usually the audience is a bit older at these events compared to the "aperitivi." We also have many cultural activities that still offer opportunities for people to meet and socialize: movie nights at the Embassy, a book club with monthly meetings, book presentations, art exhibits, and wine tastings. There even is some room for soccer games on Sundays. Finally, we helped launch the US-Italy Global Affairs Forum, which is a platform to discuss global affairs from the perspective of Italian–American relations.

You may find information about all the events IDC organizes online (www.italiansindc.com/ or www.facebook.com/italiansindcCached).

Upcoming Events

Science Voices from Home - Japan

May 21, 2013 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Natcher Conference Center, Building 45, Lower Conference Room A

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Looking for Leadership Opportunities?

Be a part of an organization that is:

- dedicated to building community amongst NIH's diverse fellow population;
- committed to helping bring career building resources and events;

Be a voice regarding issues that are of importance to visiting fellows.

Help your career as you help your colleagues.

Contact any of the Visiting Fellows Committee officers below to find out about being a part of the VFC.

National Institutes of Health Visiting Fellows Committee

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WE ARE ON THE WEB

<https://www.training.nih.gov/felcom/visitingfellows2>