

NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, December 7th, 2017
Wilson Hall Third Floor, Building 1
Call-in number: 1 866 772-5230, Passcode: 8168509

1. Welcome New Members
2. Introductions
3. Approval of November minutes
4. Remarks (10 minutes):
 - a. FelCom Officers: Sarah Morgan, Scott Norberg, Elizabeth Gordon, Katherine Reding
 - b. Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE): Lori Conlan
 - c. Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf
5. New Business (15 minutes)
 - a. Training Directors' Committee Liaison election
 - b. Basic Science Co-Chair election
6. Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (15 minutes)
7. Any other business (5 minutes)

Next meeting: January 4th, 2018

Meeting called to order at 4:02pm

Approval of minutes

Remarks:

Felcom Officers

- Sarah Morgan – This is Sarah's last meeting as co-chair and she would like to thank all FelCom members, saying we make a big difference on campus and we should be proud of the work we do.
 - Upcoming elections in January for liaison positions:
 - Committee on Scientific Conduct & Ethics
 - Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee (vacant for past 3 years).

Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE): Phil Ryan

- OITE will be hosting their Holiday Party December 8th from 3-4:30 in Building 10 FAES Terrace. There will be refreshments and treats (No government funds were used).
 - There will be a 5-minute acapella showcase from Nerds In Harmony at 3:45pm.

Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf

- Nothing to announce

New Business:

Elections

- Training Directors' Committee Liaison: Congratulations David Borrego (NCI), who won the majority vote!
- Basic Science Co-Chair: Congratulations Eric Refsland (NIAID), who won the majority vote!

Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements:

Child Care Board –

- The new day care center is only at half capacity due to a lack of day care staff, the center is currently hiring to address this need.
- Child Care Board is interested in hearing from fellows on any ideas for new initiatives over the next year – please contact Choon Kiat Sim (choonkiat.sim@nih.gov) or Blake Warner (blake.warner@nih.gov) to let them know what needs do you have in terms of child care.
- Upcoming workshop for Intramural PIs to learn about programs related to fellows welfare (flyer distributed at meeting)

Training Directors Committee Liaison – Announced the creation of a new Outlook calendar that will contain events open to fellows across all ICs (NOTE: It is not clear if this includes OITE events as well).

- To participate in the shared calendar, you can add it from the address book in Outlook: Go to ‘Open Calender’, select ‘From Address Book’, search for and select “**NIH DIR Trainee Events**”.
- Right now, access is limited to TDs and NIH staff listed here: https://www.training.nih.gov/ic_contacts.
- To add an event, please contact your IC TD or relevant staff member with access.

NHLBI – Collecting gifts for the Children’s Inn (Flyer attached to minutes email). Gifts are due by Monday, December 11th. Please drop off gifts at the locations listed on the on flyer, or contact Elizabeth Gordon (Elizabeth.gordon@nih.gov) to collect these items. This drive not only helps provide gifts for children, but also the opportunity for children to shop for gifts for their parents.

NCI-CCR-FYI – Collecting gifts from the Children’s Inn (Flyer attached to minutes email). Gifts are due by Friday, December 15th. Please drop off gifts at the locations listed on the flyer.

Service and Outreach Subcommittee – The next volunteering event will be held at DC Central Kitchen on Wednesday, December 27th from 5-8pm. There are 8 open spots, to sign up please Zelina Worman at zelia.worman@nih.gov with the subject line “DC Central Kitchen Volunteer”.

Visiting Fellows Committee –

- Co-hosting a postdoctoral/fellows social with Georgetown, George Washington University, University of Maryland, and FDA postdoctoral associations at Mission Bar in DC on Friday, December 8th starting at 6pm.
- On either January 12th or 13th, VFC will host a Wizards basketball game event. Details are not finalized, but will advertise soon.
- Past brown bag seminar with FAES on insurance for fellows was a success. They will repeat this event in the spring, and hope to coordinate with OITE and other ICs to be sure there aren’t conflicting/overlapping events.

Career Development Committee – Upcoming panel, “Careers in Sales and Marketing,” will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, 3-5PM in Building 35, Room 610.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44pm

MEMBERSHIP

FelCom Subcommittee	Co-Chairs
Career Development Committee	Qiong Fu & Shyamala Jadhav
Clinical FelCom	Scott Norberg & Chris Pleyer
FARE Committee	Ying Fu & Carlos Guardia
Mentoring Committee	Gloria Laryea & Nivedita Sengupta
Service and Outreach Subcommittee	Zelia Worman & TBD
Social Committee	Luiz Felipe Barella & Stal Shrestha
Visiting Fellows Committee	Ulrike Boehm & Daphnée Villoing
Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS)	Fatima Chowdhry & Salina Gairhe

FelCom Liaison Position	Liaison(s)
American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR)	VACANT
Animal Research Advisory Committee	Guru Nagarajan
Child Care Board	Blake Warner & Choon Kiat Sim
Committee on Scientific Conduct & Ethics	Andrew Frank-Wilson
Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES)	Eric Refsland & Simona Rosu
Graduate Medical Education Committee	Devika Kapuria & Kannan Kasturi
Graduate Student Council (GSC)	Sara Kimmich & Laura Gorrell
Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee (HSRAC)	VACANT
Medical Executive Committee	Scott Norberg & Chris Pleyer
National Postdoc Association	Didier Chalhoub
Outreach Liaison	Craig Myrum
PRAT Liaison	Dylan Murray
Recreation and Welfare Committee	Stal Shrestha
Training Directors Committee	David Borrego & Belinda Hauser
Women Scientist Advisors Committee (WSA)	Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick

Institute/Center	Representative(s)	Institute/Center	Representative(s)
CCR-FYI (NCI)	Manasi Apte	NICHD	Suna Gulay
FDA	Narayana Garimella	NIDA	Andrew Kesner
NCATS	Eric Gonzalez & Kirill Gorshkov	NIDCD	Hiu-Tung (Candy) Wong
NCCIH	Eleni Frangos	NIDCR	Belinda Hauser
NCI-CFPF	Claire Meaney (Basic) & Maryam Doroudi (Clinical)	NIDDK	Sarah Morgan
NCI-Shady Grove	David Borrego	NIEHS	Deirdre Robinson
NEI	Aaron Rising	NIGMS	Dylan Murray
NHGRI	Jason Sinclair	NIMH	Kathy Reding
NHLBI	Elizabeth Gordon	NIMHD	VACANT
NIA	Christina Banelos	NINDS	Brian Trummer & Patrick Wright
NIAAA	Chuck Chen (Basic) & Carlos Cortes (Clinical)	NINR	Joshua Todd
NIAID	Eric Refsland	NCBI/NLM	Gurmeet Kaur
NIAMS	VACANT	USUHS	Debjani Mandal
NIBIB	Qianping He	VRC (NIAID)	VACANT

SUBCOMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Animal Research Advisory Committee

Guru Nagarajan

- 1) Following tremendous efforts by the Animal Research Advisory Committee (ARAC), the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC International) Council has confirmed full accreditation to continue at the NIH. Below is an excerpt from the letter sent by the President of the Council on Accreditation to the Director of the Office of Animal Care and Use at the NIH.

“The AAALAC International Council on Accreditation had reviewed the report of the recent site visit to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Intramural Research Program, Department of Health and Human Services, Bethesda, Maryland. The Council is pleased to inform you that the program conforms with AAALAC International standards as set forth by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC 2011, Therefore, FULL ACCREDITATION shall continue.”

- 2) Rocky Mountain Laboratories Animal Field Study Proposal template has been provided for use. For further information please contact Dr. Olivia Steele-Mortimer.
- 3) In the near future, a minor revision will be made on the Guidelines for Diet Control in Laboratory Animals (particularly fluid restriction) and Guidelines for the Genotyping of Mice and Rats (size of tissue excised for genotyping).
- 4) After 17 years at the NIH as the Director of the Office of Animal Care and Use, Rear Admiral Dr. Terri Clark will be retiring from the service in January 2018 and Dr. Stephen Denny will serve as the Acting Director from January 5th, 2018. Further, Dr. Ted Usdin replaced Dr. Richard Saunders as the Chair for the NIMH ACUC and Dr. Bruce Cummings will replace Dr. Rachel Caspi as the Chair for the NEI ACUC.

Career Development Committee

Qiong Fu & Shyamala Jadhav

Our next meeting will be January 4th, 2018 at 3PM in Building 2, Room 2W-15.

Our next panel, “Careers in Sales and Marketing,” will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, 3-5PM in Bldg 35, Room 610.

Childcare Board Liaisons

Blake Warner & Choon Kiat Sim

Nothing to report.

Clinical FelCom and Medical Executive Committee

Scott Norberg & Chris Pleyer

Current Topics:

- Peer Review of Attending Physicians
 - o A subcommittee was formed to determine how to incorporate valuable peer review and give proper feedback of attending physicians.
 - Areas of practitioner competences to be evaluated:
 - Patient Care
 - Medical Knowledge
 - Problem-Based Learning Skills
 - Interpersonal Skills
 - Professional Development
 - Recommendations to provide more effective feedback by the committee:
 - Co-signature of employee on the annual/quarterly feedback form

- Provide guaranteed direct feedback to employee about the annual/quarterly evaluation
- Every two years have an in-person peer evaluation
- Think about incorporating self-assessments

Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

Andrew Frank-Wilson

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

FAES Liaisons

Eric Refsland & Simona Rosu

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR FAES GRADUATE SCHOOL COURSES.

Enroll today and earn academic credit in more than 70 evening courses offered during the Spring 2018 term at the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES) Graduate School at NIH, Bethesda. MD.

SPRING 2018 SEMESTER SCHEDULE

November 13 – January 26: Online Registration.

January 11: Open House (Bldg. 10, FAES Academic Center, 4:00 - 6:00 pm).

January 29 – February 16: Late Registration (\$10 late fee per course applies).

January 29: Classes begin.

May 11: Classes end.

*note: Select courses are between 4-10 weeks long.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN BIOINFORMATICS AND DATA SCIENCE, ADVANCED STUDIES IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADVANCED STUDIES IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Further your professional goals through our Advanced Studies in bioinformatics and data science, public health, or technology transfer. All three programs have been designed to fit the needs of working professionals. The program can serve as a great bridge for those thinking of a career change or just looking to strengthen their health sciences research skill set.

CATALOG OF COURSES AND CLASS SCHEDULE

To access the FAES Catalog of Courses, visit <https://faes.org/content/explore-courses> and click on the specified link, or get your copy at the FAES administrative offices or the FAES bookstore (in Building 10, near Masur Auditorium). Prospective students can look up course descriptions, class time and locations as well as schedules by entering the course ID (with no spaces) at <https://my.faes.org/Common/CourseSchedule.aspx>.

NEW COURSES IN SPRING 2018

BIOF 395	Introduction to Text Mining
BIOL 342	Post-Translational Modifications of Proteins (4 weeks)
BIOL 385	The Biology of Aging
ENGL 355	English Listening and Conversation: Insights into U.S. Culture, Science and Society
GENL 199	General Psychology
MEDI 510	Advances in Metastasis Research
PBHL 510	Alcohol Across the Lifespan
PBHL 537	Health Policy Analysis Using SAS and STATA
STAT 330	Introduction to SAS - Statistical Analysis System

ONLINE COURSES

BIOL 325	Human Neuroscience (Hybrid)
GENL 322	GRE Review (7 weeks; Online)
PBHL518	Introduction to Program Evaluation for Planning, Improvement, and Measurement of Public Health
STAT 317	Introduction to Epidemiology (Online)

STAT 500 II-O Statistics for Biomedical Scientists II (Online)

ADMISSION

FAES Graduate School at NIH has an open enrollment policy. Courses are open to all qualified persons in the NIH, other federal agencies, and the general public.

ENROLLMENT

The fastest and easiest way to register and make a payment is at <https://my.faes.org/Common/CourseSchedule.aspx>.

TUITION

\$160 per credit, or \$160-\$480 per course (courses are 1-3 credits).

SCHOLARSHIPS

FAES offers 20 partial tuition-remission scholarships for self-funding students. For deadlines and details on how to apply, visit <https://faes.org/content/tuition-and-funding>.

EDUCATION WITHIN REACH: BUILD A CAREER: EXPLORE NEW IDEAS FAES GRADUATE SCHOOL OFFICE AT THE NIH: 10 CENTER DRIVE, ROOM 1N241: BETHESDA, MD 20892
<http://faes.org>; E-mail registrar@faes.org; Telephone 301-496-7976

Individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation to take FAES classes should contact the Graduate School at registrar@faes.org or 301-496-7976. Requests should be made at least five days in advance.

FAES also offers short (3-4 days, 8:45 AM- 5 PM) Biotech courses:

Jan 9 - 12, 2018 [BioTech 78 | Data Integration, Analysis and Visualization](#)

Feb 6 - 9, 2018 [BioTech 45 | Bioinformatic Analysis of Next Generation Sequencing Data](#)

Feb 13 - 16, 2018 [BioTech 82 | Bioinformatics for Beginners](#)

Feb 22 - 23, 2018 [BioTech 89 | Microbiome Bioinformatics with QIIME 2](#) (EARLYBIRD UNTIL DEC 31)

Feb 27 - Mar 2, 2018 [BioTech 79 | Variant Analysis](#)

Mar 6 - 9, 2018 [BioTech 76 | Creating Plots, Graphs and Maps using R](#)

Mar 13 - 16, 2018 [BioTech 77 | Molecular Modeling and Molecular Dynamics](#)

Mar 27 - 30, 2018 [BioTech 74 | Advanced Transcriptomics \(RNA Seq\) Analysis](#)

Apr 24 - 27, 2018 [BioTech 84 | Pharmacometric Analyses in Clinical Trials using R](#)

Apr 24 - 27, 2018 [BioTech 87 | Programming for Biomedical Researchers](#)

For more information visit: www.faes.org/biotech.

FARE Committee

Ying Fu & Carlos Guardia

1) We confirmed that all the members of the committee have access to the OITE website through which we will start managing the entire process of the competition.

2) We had a successful first meeting with the committee where we discussed the changes for this year's FARE award competition. The decisions that we took are:

- Expand the advertising and start as early as possible.
 - -Posters/fliers
 - -Institute newsletters
 - -NIH Catalyst
 - -Fellow-L
 - -FelCom
 - -Twitter OITE
 - -Direct email to PIs and staff

- Send email/survey requesting information from the last year's winners (2016 competition that JUST travelled during FY17). Lori Conlan will deliver the email to former winners. This information will help us to evaluate the outcome of the competition and gather opinions and more data for advertising.
- Tentative dates for next year competition:
FARE2019 schedule:
 - Application Open: Wednesday, February 14th**
 - Submission Deadline: Wednesday, March 14th 5 pm ET**
 - Mentor Approval Deadline: Wednesday, March 21th 5 pm ET**
 - Judging starts: around a week after mentor deadline
 - Judging ends: end April/start May
 - Ranking finalized: a week after judging
 - Novelty check finalized: within 10 days of ranking
 - FARE Results presented to SDs: start of June
 - Letters sent to everyone: after SD meeting – make clear in letters about Research Festival applications
 - Awards Ceremony: Research Festival in October
- We will have a side-competition to create the logo of the FARE award competition. We need to come up with clear rules on how to select it, who is going to select it, and if there's going to be a prize. We agreed that the committee will decide the winner, so no extra-judges will be required.
- We are in the process of changing some of the study sections. We think that there are too many and this makes difficult the judging recruitment and evaluation. We will decide the final composition by the end of the year.
- We are happy to announce that in addition to the Virology Interest Group (VIG) and the Women Scientist Advisors (WSA) committees, this year we will include more IGs to select their own special honorific awardees from the pool of FARE winners. So far, we have the participation of four more interest groups:
 - Antibody,
 - RNA,
 - Decode Chromatin and,
 - Protein Trafficking.

Food and Drug Administration Fellows

Narayana Garimella

Teams

Chairs: Brittany Duke and Geoffrey Heinzl

Secretary: Dongying Li

Social: Omozusi Andrews and Peter Petrochenko

Others: Jessica Dewar, Janelle Rowell, Ramesh Venna

Recent events:

Executive board elections (Brittany, Geoffrey, Dongying, Omozusi, Peter, Ramesh)

Advisory committee at Jefferson Lab campus (NCTR/ARL):

NCTR/ARL fellow activities

Recently at the Jefferson Lab campus (NCTR and ARL), under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Acosta, the Deputy Director of NCTR, an advisory committee for fellows was assembled. The primary role of the committee to provide an opportunity for the fellows to relay their needs with upper management directly and vice-versa. The committee is also tasked with devising plans of action to promote opportunities for social and research interactions among NCTR and ARL fellows. The NCTR/ARL liaison for the FFA committee serves on the Jefferson Fellows advisory committee and will seek to bridge communications between fellows activities in Jefferson, Arkansas, to the activities of FFA at the Headquarters in the DC area.

Upcoming events:

AAAS Workshop on Communicating Science & Public Engagement
Participation in NIH/GWU/Georgetown networking event

Next FFA meeting

Friday, December 15, discussion of 2018 professional development

Continuing Programs/Initiatives

- a. Professional Development Seminars
- b. Summer Intern Seminar Series
- c. Social and Networking Events
- d. FFA Newsletter
- e. Welcome Packet and Orientations

New Programs/Initiatives

- a. Outreach Events
- b. Meetings/Liaisons at Branch Campuses
Constitution and Bylaws/FFA Charter

Mentoring Committee

Gloria Laryea & Nivedita Sengupta

Nothing to report.

NCI – Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program

Claire Meaney

CPFP Summer Curriculum

The Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP) offers each summer two free courses in cancer prevention and control, one population-based and one focused on molecular mechanisms. The application period for the Summer Curriculum Program is now open until February 1, 2018. To apply go to https://cpfp.cancer.gov/summer-curriculum/how-apply?cid=eb_govdel Testimonials about the program can be found at <https://cpfp.cancer.gov/index.php/about-us/testimonials>

NCI Shady Grove – DCEG

David Borrego

From NCI-Shady Grove we have the following upcoming seminars:

1. Title: Statistical Methods for Integrative Genomic Analyses in Cancer
Speaker: Bin Zhu, Ph.D.
When: December 7, 2017
2. Title: Shifting Trends in Cancer Risk and Burden Among People Living with HIV in the United States
Speaker: Meredith Shiels, Ph.D., M.H.S.
When: December 11, 2017
Registration: <https://epi.grants.cancer.gov/events/infectious-agents/index.html#shiels>

Hello Fellows,

During this season of thanksgiving, we are reaching out in the hopes that you will help us collect gifts for The Children's Inn, located here on the NIH campus. These gifts are not just for the children at the Inn, but they also provide gifts that the children can pick out to give their parents while they stay at The Children's Inn. The staff will wrap the gifts for the children so they have a gift to give their parents during the holiday season. This simple act helps to provide a little normalcy in their lives.

Below is a flyer (attached to agenda email) with a list of common gifts that the children and parents are in need of. Gift cards are also very much needed. If you would like to donate a gift and purchase your gift through AmazonSmile, be sure to select The Children's Inn as your charity and a portion of your purchase will go to the Children's Inn.

The NHLBI Fellow's Advisory Committee and the Office of Education will be collecting gifts for those of you that would like to donate. Any gift amount you are willing to donate will be much appreciated. There are several drop-off locations for your convenience. Please see the flyer to find a drop-off location near you. I am also willing to come to your building to pick up any items you wish to donate. The deadline is Monday by noon.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

NPA Liaison

Didier Chalhoub

**“You are a stronger force than you realize.”
Francis Collins, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director**

• **NPA announcements and updates**

- If you are interested in addressing advocacy and policy issues, consider applying for the role of co-chair of the NPA's Advocacy Committee.
- Register for the 2018 NPA Annual Conference that will take place April 6-8 in Cleveland.
- Learn about the plenary speakers for the 16th NPA Annual Meeting, [here](#).
- The November issue of the POSTDOCKET is available and features articles on:
 - ✓ The National Research Mentoring Network
 - ✓ The 2018 Annual NPA Conference
 - ✓ Self-care and social media event during NPAW
 - ✓ Postdoctoral positions as a core part of academic career growth
 - ✓ Immigration policies
 - ✓ Understanding burnout

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. Resource Development Committee**

Develops tools and resources for the postdoctoral community. New Potential projects are in need of volunteers. Contact me if interested.

E. 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.

Outreach Liaison

Craig Myrum

1. 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 January-February *Catalyst* article, will be about wellness.
3. Be sure to join the LinkedIn page! [Fellows at the NIH - FelCom](#)

Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program

Dylan Murray

Nothing to report.

Recreation and Welfare/Health and Wellness Committees Liaison

Stal Shrestha

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

Social Committee

Luiz Felipe Barella & Stal Shrestha

We held a pre-Thanksgiving happy hour in November.
Currently we are planning a New Year fellows' party, most likely for January.

Service and Outreach Subcommittee

Zelia Worman

Announcements:

1. The SOS is looking for a **new Baltimore Co-Chair!** Please email Zelia Worman (Zelia.worman@nih.gov) for more information.
2. **(Bethesda) DC Central Kitchen – December event – December 27th 5pm-8pm 8 spots available! The deadline is December 13th.**

In the spirit of helping our community and feeding our neighbors, this holiday season the SOS has prepared a volunteering opportunity at the DC Central Kitchen Organization (<https://dccentralkitchen.org/volunteer/>). This organization aims to use food as a tool to strengthen bodies, empower minds, and build communities. They help train unemployed adults for culinary careers, transform wasted food into nutritious meals for homeless shelters and nonprofits, and provide Healthy School Food among other activities.

For the Bethesda campus Fellows, we allocated 10 volunteering spots (8 spots free!) to help prepare meals for the homeless in the District of Columbia with the DC Central Kitchen Organization for **December 27th at 5pm** (until 8pm). You will help prepare nutritious meals for the community by cutting, chopping, or peeling food. No experience required... just a smile and desire to help! DC Central Kitchen is located at:

DC Central Kitchen
425 Second Street NW Washington, DC 20001
Closest metro: Judiciary Square on the Red Line.

Email me at Zelia.worman@nih.gov with the subject line “DC Central Kitchen Volunteer”.

3. Science Communication/Education Volunteer Opportunities for Fellows

Are you interested in practicing your science communication skills with a public audience?

The Capital Area BioSpace (CABS) is a new community/DIY biology lab organization founded here in the DC area dedicated to supporting public engagement with science through public talks, hands-on science, and participation in biology research projects (see attached for more details). Our typical audience is adults, age 20-65 who consider themselves lifelong learners hungry to understand more biology and try it themselves.

We are looking for NIH fellows who would like to volunteer to give a guest talk to our meetup group, help teach or lead a hands-on science workshop or class, or help mentor science projects as they emerge. We typically meet on Sunday afternoons, and we are open to hosting events weekday evenings and other times as needed.

All areas of biology/biomedical research are welcome, and we are especially interested in talks with informatics and computational aspects that could spark new research questions and projects from our participants.

Please contact Beth Tuck, co-founder of CABS, for more information at elizabeth.tuck@gmail.com and visit the CABS [website](#) and [meetup](#) for examples of programs and workshops we've hosted in the past.

Upcoming Events:

- **(Baltimore) SABES** – STEM-Achievement in Baltimore Elementary Schools (recruiting for 2016-2017; please contact Zelia Worman (Zelia.worman@nih.gov) for more information
- **(Baltimore) Helping Up Mission:** <https://helpingupmission.org/>. 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.

Training Directors Committee

To be elected & Belinda Hauser

The Postdoc subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 8th.

At the meeting, the following items were discussed:

- Recap of meeting with the Visiting Fellows Committee chairs
- Issues arising with 5th year postdocs: converting to a contractor or extending for a 6th year
- A potential new project will be the creation of an outlook calendar shared with fellows in which Training Directors from all institutes can add events, workshops, courses, etc. that are open to all fellows. This calendar will help to compile all the events of interest that are happening around the various campuses.

To participate in the shared calendar, you can add it from the address book in Outlook- it is called “**NIH DIR Trainee Events**”. Right now, access has been given to everyone who is listed as a Training Director or contact on the OITE page (https://www.training.nih.gov/ic_contacts), but if you or your staff need access, please let me know. We can plan to discuss this in more detail at the December TDC meeting as well.

1. Teams

Co-chairs: Ulrike BOEHM and Daphnée VILLOING Secretary: Amir MANZOUR

Social: Michael BUCH, Maja BUSZKO, Dario MARANGONI, Ray SUBHASIS Country rep. coordinator: Gulcan AKGUL

Sciences Voices from Home (SVH): Martin LANG, Fany MESSANVI Brown Bag seminars: Randi PARKS

Webpage: Gulcan AKGUL, Sayantan CHAKRABORTY Communication coordinator: Sayantan CHAKRABORTY
OITE advisors: Ella (Ulli) KLENKE

Further members: Stéphanie OLIVIER-VAN STICHELEN & Fatima ALI-RAHMANI

2. VFC Social

Past events:

- *Tuesday, November 21st: VFC Lunch.* [4 fellows]
- *Saturday, November 25th: Fellows into the Wild* – US Botanic Garden tour. [12 fellows]
- *Thursday, November 30th: VFC Happy hour.* Rock Bottom [35 fellows] Upcoming events:
- *December 8th: DC area Postdocs Networking event* with GU, GWU, and potentially UMD, NIST, FDA.
- *Saturday, December 9th: Fellows into the Wild* – 6 miles walk on Lincoln Memorial/Virginia riverfront/Georgetown waterfront/Dupont circle.
- *Tuesday, December 12th: VFC Lunch.*
- *Friday, January 12 OR Saturday, January 13: Basketball – Wizards games*

3. Brown Bag seminar:

Past event:

- *December 1st: NIH-VFC Brown Bag seminar* about the "FAES Health Insurance: Information for NIH Fellows" with Q&A given by Mary Jo Mujemulta (FAES insurance specialist)

This event will be repeated in springtime.

4. Science Voices from Home

Past event:

- *Monday, November 13th, 2:30 – 3:30 pm, Building 45, Room F1/F2.*
VFC Science Voices from Home: TAIWAN
with a professor from the Academia Sinica [11 attendees]
https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/2207/VFC_Science_Voices_from_Home_Taiwan
- *December 4th, 9:00 – 10:00 am, Building 50, Room 1328.*
VFC Science Voices from Home: SWEDEN
3 speakers from the Karolinska Institutes [12 attendees + 12 attendees by webinar]
https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/2215/VFC_Science_Voices_from_Home_Sweden

Upcoming events:

- *January, Date/Time and Room TBD*
Science Voices from Home: ISRAEL (Speaker = Prof. Ashery from Tel Aviv)
- *February, Date/Time and Room TBD: Science Voices from Home: CHINA* (Webinar)
- *March, Date/Time and Room TBD: Science Voices from Home: BRAZIL*

5. New Positions at VFC

- We welcomed Maja BUSZKO to be part of the **VFC Social team**. She will work in collaboration with Dario MARANGONI, Ray SUBHASIS and Michael BUCH, and be in charge of organizing Trivia nights.
- A new position is open in the **Brown Bag seminar team**, to help organizing bimonthly seminars, in collaboration with Randi PARKS. It will include communications to the VFC list, prospection of speakers and participation to the monthly VFC meetings.

6. Webpage

The webpage <http://visitingfellows.tumblr.com/> was updated on December 4th.

7. Next VFC meeting

12/13/2017, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; Main campus, Building 2, Room 2W15. Call in No: 1-(866)-556-1965.
Participant code: 2706089

WALS Subcommittee

Fatima Chowdhry & Salina Gairhe

The NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS) will host following speaker for the month of December 2017.

Date	Speaker	Home Institute	Title of the Talk
Dec 6, 2017	Michael B. Elowitz, Ph.D.	California Institute of Technology	Cellular communication: how cells control who they're talking to and what they're saying
Dec 13, 2017	Susan L. Ackerman, Ph.D.	University of California, San Diego	Translational fidelity and neurodegeneration

If you would like to submit nominations for WALS speakers for next season on behalf of FELCOM, you could enter in nominations using the link provided by this Friday, December 8. <https://research.nhgri.nih.gov/Events/WALS>

Women Scientist Advisors Committee

Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

ELECTIONS

Training Directors' Committee Liaison

1. Ye Yan, NHLBI

I would like to serve as liaison to the Training Director' committee. I have been a research fellow in NHLBI for 3 years. Prior to join NIH, I had been in Johns Hopkins Medical Institution(JHMI) as a trainee for a couple of years. There, I received career development training by the professional development office including Grant Craft, writing for publication and research leadership. After joining NHLBI, I have attended numerous workshops by OITE, including workplace dynamics series, summer research mentor training, CV and Resumes/Interview/Job search Strategies, etc. Currently, I am on rotation for grants management and portfolio analysis in the extramural branch of NHLBI. I have served on career development subcommittee of FELCOM and also 2018 NIH career symposium planning committee. I have helped planning the upcoming December FELCOM event on Careers in Sales and Marketing. I have also been serving as a keyworker for 2017 NHLBI combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and member of FAPAC (Federal Asian Pacific American Council) NIH chapter. Throughout my professional life, I have mentored over ten trainees including high school students, graduate students and postdocs.

I would like to serve as an advocate for the postdoc perspective and interact with IC training offices, OIR, OITE etc. I would devote my time to identify gaps and develop new initiatives in IRP training program which is actually similar to what I have been learning during my current rotation. I hope my experience and dedication to this position will help every trainee to reach their professional and personal development goals.

Thank you so much for the consideration.

2. David Borrego, NCI

I recently became involved in FelCom and would welcome the opportunity to take on a larger role as the liaison to the Training Directors' Committee. I have had the pleasure of mentoring trainees in both undergraduate and graduate school, and in part, these experiences have instilled a sense of duty to advocate on behalf of trainees, myself included, to make sure that they are afforded the best training experience. The same sense of responsibility can be found in the Training Directors Committee Charter, and that is why I am expressing my interest in this position to better help serve the NIH fellows community.

Basic Science Co-Chair

- Eric Refsland
4th year IRTA Postdoctoral Fellow, NIAID
FAES liaison, January 2016-present
NIAID Basic Science Representative, March 2017-present

Dear Members of FelCom,

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as the Basic Science Co-Chair and I appreciate your consideration. I have been an active member of FelCom for 2 years as the FAES liaison and the NIAID representative since March 2017.

At the institute level, in addition to being the NIAID Basic Science Representative listening and addressing the needs of the institute's trainees, I am a member of the NIAID Fellows Advisory Committee (FAC) in the Office of Training and Diversity (OTD). As part of this committee, I have helped organize four, annual all-day workshops for the approximately 400 NIAID trainees including twice as a co-chair. These events celebrate the diverse community of the institute's trainees and provide valuable career development tools. My roles have

included identifying the workshop themes and formats, inviting speakers and panelists, and finalizing the agenda for the day. For me, these events have greatly honed my communication and organizational skills while serving the NIAID fellow community.

At the NIH level, I have served as the intermediary between the NIH and FAES, a nonprofit educational institution, sharing the fellows' perspective and improving policies, procedures, and services that affect nearly every NIH fellow. I have leveraged my position as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors to advocate for quality health, eye and dental insurance for all fellows. This involves me communicating directly with both the scientists and non-scientists on the Board as they make their strategic decisions regarding the health insurance program and the FAES graduate school. Here, I believe that interacting with the individuals with diverse interests and backgrounds has strengthened my leadership abilities.

I believe that FelCom can play a very positive role on our campuses for the community of postdoctoral fellows. While we come from diverse institutes and laboratories, we have many shared interests and we face the same obstacles during our training and search for that elusive job at the end. One approach to tackle these obstacles is increased cross-talk and cooperation between ICs, committees, and liaisons. Many institutes can benefit from the trail-blazing of another and communication between committees can lead to more efficient and beneficial efforts in the search for a solution for the training community at large.

FelCom owes a debt of gratitude to Sarah Morgan and all of her hard work co-chairing this committee for the last 2 years. She has pursued the worthy goal of increased representation and organization, and if elected, I hope to continue this trajectory for the committee. In summary, I think that my previous leadership roles have prepared me well for the Basic Science Co-chair position. I look forward to communicating clearly with my peers and the NIH administration about the concerns our community. I would be honored to do this as your next Basic Science Co-Chair.

Thank you for your consideration!

- Kathy Reding, NIMH

I have been a member of the NIH Fellow's Committee (FelCom) as a basic science representative for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) since February 2015, and have had the pleasure of serving as the FelCom administrative secretary since November 2016. I believe that FelCom is one of the greatest resources for all NIH fellows as it provides us with a platform to stand together across all institutes on issues we see to be important for our training, salaries, health, and well-being. It would be my honor to serve as the next basic science Co-Chair. In addition to fulfilling the official duties of the Co-Chair position, my personal goals as Co-Chair would be to support the growth of new inter-institute initiatives that impact all fellows and to help connect fellows to resources that may help them move forward on initiatives within their own institutes.