

NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, February 2nd, 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 January minutes**
4. **Remarks (10 Minutes):**
 - a. FelCom Officers: Sarah Morgan, Agnes Mwakingwe, 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. Diane Cooper, NIH Biomedical Librarian, will be presenting on the library resources available for fellows.
 - b. Accessible Information for New Fellows Initiative
 - Kimberly LeBlanc, NIDDK (Childcare Liaison), kimberly.leblanc@nih.gov
 - Zelia Worman, NICHD (SOS Co-Chair), zelia.worman@nih.gov
 - Ruchi Sharma, NEI (Basic Rep), ruchi.ruchi@nih.gov
6. **Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (15 Minutes)**
7. **Any other business (5 minutes)**

Next meeting: March 2nd, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 4:02

Remarks

Felcom Officers

- Sarah Morgan – No Comments
- Agnes Mwakingwe – No Comments
- Katherine Reding – We will begin posting 508 compliant minutes on the FelCom page in OITE. Minutes can only be posted after approval during the following month's meeting.

Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE): Lori Conlan

- Not in attendance

Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf

- No comments

New Business

- Diane Cooper, NIH Biomedical Librarian
 - Diane would like to know what the information needs are for the fellows; including resources one can use here as a fellow or a tool take with you in the future
 - She explained the details of her recent interviews with fellows:
 - Interviewed 1st, 2nd, 3rd year intramural fellows regarding resources (N=49)
 - What are the major needs of fellows? Findings
 - Stay current on research field
 - How to manage bibliography databases

- How to conduct a systematic review
- Writing for publication
- A lot of special needs dependant on those interviewed
- Possible 'Core Curriculum'
 - Year 1: Basic library tools, case studies, review articles
 - Year 2: Advanced library tools, bioinformatics
 - Year 3: Writing manuscripts, other databases, data management
- Comments:
 - FelCom fellows suggest that there may be some significant differences between the needs of Clinical Fellows and Postdoctoral Fellows, might want to split needs based on the two.
 - Some commented they did not know about these resources, and maybe this should also be included in the postdoc/clinical fellow 'welcome package'.
- Accessible Information for New Fellows Initiative
 - If interested in working, contact Sarah or Agnes
 - Need to check with ICs to see what information they distribute to incoming fellows
 - Follow up question: Is there an OITE password protected area where postdocs/fellows can discuss?
- A few members of FelCom voiced concerns regarding the effects of the current federal hiring freeze on NIH fellows.
 - Charles Dearoff wanted to clarify that: "Trainees in Non-FTE positions at NIH (such as IRTA, CRTA, postbacs) are not NIH employees, so are not currently specified in the hiring freeze. However, Research Fellows (who are FTE employees) are affected."
- One member asked about policy on using/ordering electronic notebooks – Charles Dearoff made a few comments that there no central policy, but need institutes approval.

Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements

FARE committee – The FARE award committee will be recruiting a large number of FARE judges, so please consider serving as a FARE judge, just not for a study section where you yourself are applying for a FARE award.

WSA Committee – There is an upcoming WSA Scholar Symposia – March 3rd at 1pm, Wilson Hall Third Floor, Building 1 which includes two female FARE awardees from 2016.

N.B. More details of above announcements can be found in the full Subcommittee and Liaison Reports section below.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08

MEMBERSHIP

FelCom Subcommittee	Co-Chairs
Career Development Committee	Jennifer Symonds & Sarah Morgan
Clinical FelCom	Agnes Mwakingwe & Laura Wake
FARE Committee	John Gallagher & Pushpanathan Muthuirulan
Mentoring Committee	Jessica Pierce & Jennifer West
Service and Outreach Subcommittee	Douglas Dluzen & Zelia Worman
Social Committee	Reina Haddad, Marco Craveiro, Luiz Felipe Barella, & Stal Shrestha
Visiting Fellows Committee	Stéphanie Olivier-Van Stichelen & Fatima Ali-Rahmani
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	Sukanya Suresh
Child Care Board	Kimberly LeBlanc & Warner Blake
Committee on Scientific Conduct & Ethics	Andrew Frank-Wilson
Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES)	Anna Pasetto & Eric Refsland
Graduate Medical Education Committee	Ricardo Correa & Alexis Simpkins
Graduate Student Council (GSC)	Sara Kimmich & Jessica Schneller
Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee (HSRAC)	VACANT
Medical Executive Committee	Agnes Mwakingwe & Laura Wake
National Postdoc Association	Didier Chalhoub
Outreach Liaison	Craig Myrum
PRAT Liaison	Dylan Murray
Recreation and Welfare Committee	Stal Shrestha
Training Directors Committee	Valerie Miller & Belinda Hauser
Women Scientist Advisors Committee (WSA)	Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick

Institute/Center	Representative(s)	Institute/Center	Representative(s)
CCR-FYI (NCI)	Namal Liyanage	NICHD	Suna Gulay
FDA	Narayana Garimella	NIDA	Martin Job
NCATS	Mike Iannotti & Brittany Wright	NIDCD	Hiu-Tung (Candy) Wong
NCCIH	Eleni Frangos	NIDCR	Belinda Hauser
NCI-CPFP	Claire Meaney (Basic) & Maryam Doroudi (Clinical)	NIDDK	Sarah Morgan
NCI-Shady Grove	Alison Van Dyke	NIEHS	Deirdre Robinson
NEI	Ruchi Sharma	NIGMS	Dylan Murray
NHGRI	Jason Sinclair	NIMH	Kathy Reding
NHLBI	Elizabeth Gordon	NIMHD	VACANT
NIA	Doug Dluzen & Michael Rouse	NINDS	James Park (clinical) & Tatjana Atanasijevic (basic)
NIAAA	Karina Abrahao (Basic) & Alyssa Brooks (Clinical)	NINR	Paule Joseph
NIAID	Karlie Sharma	NLM	Amrita Roy Chowdhury & TBD
NIAMS	VACANT	USUHS	Debjani Mandal
NIBIB	Qianping He	VRC (NIAID)	April Killikelly

SUBCOMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Animal Research Advisory Committee

Sukanya Suresh

Nothing to report

Career Development Committee

Jennifer Symonds & Sarah Morgan

Our next meeting will be March 2nd, 2017 at 3PM in Building 2, Room 2W-15.

Our next panel, “Careers in Education Outreach and Teaching,” will be held on Tuesday, February 14th, 3-5PM in Building 49, Room 1A51.

Childcare Board Liaison

Kimberly LeBlanc & Blake Warner

The Child Care Board met on January 26th, 2017

NWCCC – ORF Construction Update:

Ms. Stephanie Hixon provided a detailed progress update on the NWCCC. Recently, the retaining wall was finished due to a fortunate break in weather. The blast-proof glass windows were received, which has been a variable. There have been some design changes. First, a firelane has been moved and replaced with greenspace. This has been approved with the Fire Department. Additionally, due to material warranty limitation of the canopy material, it will now be made of steel, not composite. The utilities are being set up and the building is being “energized” with steam and power. Additional changes include lighter doors (were 350-400 pounds, trying to get them down to ~200 pounds), but this has been a process. There are specific blast-proofing requirements for this building. Due to the technical challenges, materials, and additional labor, the overall increase in cost for the build on NIH campus is \$1.5-2.0M. There is also additional permitting required for this building. The projected completion time remains to be late May.

NWCCC Waitlist Update

The Child & Family Program Manager, Tonya Lee, described the waitlist update for the new Northwest Child Care Center (NWCCC). Of those who were already on the waiting list for an NIH child care center: There are currently 999 children on the waitlist overall with 758 children on the waitlist for the NWCCC. At NWCCC, there are 170 spaces for children, of which 33 spaces are planned to be taken up by ChildKind, Inc. children who are moving to NWCCC as ChildKind closes. All infant slots are currently allocated to siblings. The NWCCC will accommodate 14% of the existing waitlist. Dr. Richard Wyatt pointed out that this is only 14% and that although this is encouraging, the need is much greater than what is being accommodated by the new childcare center, given the cost, the demand remains HIGH.

The conversation continued with a discussion with the childcare center directors who were asked about where and when most declines in the waitlist were occurring. Briefly, the highest decline rates are in August.. Reportedly, it takes approximately 2 weeks to fill each vacant space in the childcare centers and the centers typically have to call 3 families in order to fill 1 opening. When asked on average how many spaces per month/year open, the response was that the filling of spaces is too variable and dynamic to predict. Each family has 48 hours to decline a spot from the waitlist – and an estimate of 35-45 openings per “season” was suggested by POPI.

Presentations

A number of groups have been or will be presented to by the Childcare Board including the Women in Biomedical Careers on 1/18, NICHD WE Committee on 2/21, NIGMS on 2/21, Deputy EO 2/28, NHLBI 3/7, HNGRI 5/5. Ms. Linda Owens stresses that if you have a group that you would like them to present to, please contact her. Also, she is willing to provide materials if you want to get the word out to individual campus newsletters. This is an ongoing process.

Outreach to remote locations was also discussed. Historically, these are the groups who underutilize the dependent care benefits (Montana, other sites).

Board Liaisons – Chair Reaya Reuss

A brief discussion on A) Liaisons to the board from other organizations or B) Liaisons appointed by the board to other organizations took place. A short discussion about what represents a liaison to the board followed by examples was had (Liaison to Aging and Adult Dependent Care Committee/Board). A short discussion on liaisons appointed by the board was also had. It was briefly discussed that liaisons should either be voting board members or had at least 1 year of experience on the board before becoming a liaison of the board to another organization. It was suggested that for non-voting board-appointed liaisons, they could have a voting board member sponsor. This would increase the pool of individuals who can communicate on the board's behalf with oversight. No votes on this were made and the discussion was tabled.

Back-up Care Committee Report – Voted for the recommendations based on the Back-up Care report.

More granular data on Back-up care was also given including the following: Managed by Bright Horizons. Most days of use are in August after summer camps stop but before school begins. 97% of back-up care spaces are filled and 337 work days saved by having the program in place in 2016. The use for elder care in the Back-Up Care program has increased from 1% in 2014-2015 to 7% in 2015-2016. The committee is continuing to discuss and work with Bright Horizons on how to expand the service to unlimited uses (currently capped at 400 uses) and other types of NIH workers (contractors and fellows) if move toward unlimited use. Presently, the number of uses is capped at 10 and we come close to maxing out the number of days total. 33 uses /month on average for all employees. The Backup Care Committee proposed to the Board members to: 1. Move to unlimited uses for the Back-Up Care program, given that the program is ~90% utilized. This would be cost-effective – if NIH goes over the currently allotted 400 uses, then NIH pays for each additional use – and the program could be utilized by other NIH populations, such as fellows and contractors. 2. For this year, allow 15 uses/month (instead of 10) for the months of July and August for parents of school-age children, given the recent changes in local school schedules (delaying the start date by one week). The Board was in support of these recommendations.

Introductions – NWCCC Provider

The Rockville Daycare Association (RDCA) will be the designated provider for NWCCC. They should be signing the NIH Use Agreement soon. They have been in the childcare business since 1969 and currently have 7 locations that the service. They are a private, non-profit, 501-(c)-3 organization. They offer a play-based learning environment and philosophy. The age ranges will be from 6 weeks to 4 years old (but 5 year olds stay until school starts for them). The new center will provide breakfast and 2 snacks, but currently children will have to bring their own lunches. They have an all-inclusive tuition/fee with no add-ons. They are proposing to be open from 7:30AM-6PM but are willing to adjust if necessary. They value parent involvement. They did not provide a cost per month for the daycare but it will be comparable to other NIH-sponsored daycare centers. They will be working closely with ChildKind as their program and staff develop, including potential hires of current ChildKind staff members.

NIH Child Care use Agreements Overview

All NIH buildings used by outside groups, such as the RDCA for the NWCCC, do not pay rent. However, they are asked to transfer that cost savings onto the customers. There are certain requirements for use for these groups, which are reviewed annually and from time to time, these usage agreements need to be updated. The details of the updated NIH Child Care Use Agreements was not formally discussed, but the current revision may include aspects involving: better utilization of resources to support lower income families; the collection of data; and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each party. This will be an ongoing process.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting is **March 9th, 2017**. As usual, all are welcome to attend!

Clinical FelCom and Medical Executive Committee

Agnes Mwakingwe & Laura Wake

Nothing to Report

Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

Andrew Frank-Wilson

The Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics (CSCE) will meet next at the end of February to discuss the planning of Ethics Case Studies for 2018. We have been discussing next year's theme via e-mail, and there is broad support for the topic of implicit bias; how "**Gender, racial, ethnic, and other biases can affect aspects of research, such as mentoring, hiring/promotion, peer review, authorship**". As we begin planning out our case studies, I am encouraging

fellows willing to share stories or concepts related to this theme (to facilitate group discussions for learning purposes) to please contact me (Andrew.frank-wilson@nih.gov). Thus far, the committee is considering the case of Rosalind Franklin, and several other controversies in the recognition of deserving scholars, as well as some learning exercises geared towards making people aware of their unconscious biases. I am looking forward to helping shape this training module, and provide a perspective on behalf of the Fellow's community.

FAES Liaisons

Nothing to Report

Anna Pasetto & Eric Refsland

FARE Committee

The FARE committee has designed new fliers for the FARE award, so that fellows will find any of 4 different flier designs posted in their building.

The FARE award will be accepting applications February 16 to March 16. We will also be recruiting a large number of FARE judges, so please consider serving as a FARE judge, just not for a study section where you yourself are applying for a FARE award.

We have updated the automated emails for FARE2018 to reduce some common misunderstandings found during last year's FARE award. We have also made minor adjustments to the study sections available to applicants. We divided the two most requested study sections from last year, phased out three undersubscribed study sections that have reasonable alternatives available, and added a new study section for "Systems Biology".

The FARE committee received explicit approval from CIT to use the team communication tool "Slack" to mediate our committee communications when Microsoft Lync 2011 wasn't meeting our needs. Slack has enabled us to work closely together as a team even between meetings. Our experience has been positive, and we recommend it for other small teams that need a persistent medium to communicate.

Graduate Medical Education Committee

No Report Submitted

Alexis Simpkins & Cemre Robinson

Graduate Student Council Liaisons

For the Grad Student Council, one update is that we are holding our bi-monthly volunteering event at Manna Food Bank on Thursday February 16th at 7PM. Volunteers meet at the Kiss n Ride of the Medical Center Metro station at 6:30PM. Please contact me or Sara if interested.

Also, I, Jess Schneller will be stepping down as one of the GSC liaisons to Felcom, and we're in the process of locating a replacement.

Jess Schneller & Sara Kimmich

Mentoring Committee

Nothing to report.

Jessica Pierce & Jennifer West

NCI-Shady Grove (DCEG)

Alison Van Dyke

Upcoming Seminars at NCI Shady Grove:

February 7th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. TE level Seminar 110

Title: Investigation of germline variants and mosaic alterations and their contribution to cancer risk

Speaker: Mitchell Machiela, Sc.D., Research Fellow, Laboratory of Genetic Susceptibility, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute

February 9th, 10:30-11:30 a.m. TE406

Title: Can big data tell us what clinical trials don't? Emulation of sequential trials to address effectiveness and safety of screening colonoscopy.

Speaker: Xabier Adrian Garcia-De-Albeniz, M.D., Ph.D., Research Associate, Department of Epidemiology, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University

February 16th, 2:00-3:00 p.m. TE Level Seminar 110

Title: New insights into environmental radiation exposure and cancer risks

Speaker: Elizabeth Cahoon, Ph.D., S.M., M.H.S., Research Fellow, Radiation Epidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute

NIEHS NTA (North Carolina)

Deirdre Robinson

No Report submitted

NPA Liaison

Didier Chalhouh

“You are a stronger force than you realize.”

Francis Collins, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director

NPA Annual Meeting, March 2010

- **The 2017 NPA annual meeting will take place this coming March in San Francisco**
 - NPA registration is now open. You can read about the Keynote and Plenary speakers: <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/general/custom.asp?page=2017AnnualMeeting>
 - Lodging at the Fairmont Hotel is full! A second room block has been secured at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel
- **NPA announcements and updates**
 - NPA Board of Directors has appointed officers for year 2017.
The executive committee includes:
Chair: Kate Sleeth, Ph.D, vice chair: Yvette Seger, Ph.D., treasurer: Josh Henkin, Ph.D., oversight office: Tracy Costello, Ph.D.
 - Please note that the NPA address and phone number changed. It is located at the Nonprofit Village, Rockville, MD; phone: 301-984-4800
 - A Postdoc guide to advocacy was created by Jennifer Hobin and Jennifer Zeitzer. Link to the guide: <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/?page=advocacyguide>
 - Diversity webinar on implicit bias was uploaded on NPA website, [here](#) (for members only).
 - Malene Hansen, Ph.D. has been named the recipient of the 2017 NPA Garnett-Powers & Associates, Inc. Mentor Award. The award recognizes a faculty member who has engaged in exceptional mentoring of postdoctoral scholars.
 - NPA provided retirement planning guidelines for postdocs (members only): <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/Login.aspx#retirement>
 - The NPA is seeking an Outreach Committee Leader and a Resource development Leader (**application deadline:** February 15)

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. It's been a while since I've submitted anything to the *I am Intramural* blog, so I need your help to find ideas! 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. A plan was in place for another postdoc to write something with Sharon Milgram for the Mar-April *Catalyst*, but it seems like plans fell through. I'm checking with the editor to see if there is something else lined up for the Training Page.

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

Reina Haddad, Marco Craveiro, Luiz Felipe Barella, & Stal Shrestha

No Report Submitted

Service and Outreach Subcommittee

Douglas Dluzen & Zelia Worman

No Report Submitted

Training Directors Committee

Valerie Miller and Belinda Hauser

The January Training Directors Committee meeting was held on January, 19th. Events of interest to NIH Trainees and Training Directors:

OITE events

- February 23, 2017- 13th Annual NIH Graduate Student Research Symposium - <https://www.training.nih.gov/gsc/symposium/13th> Contact: [Philip Wang](#) [Phil Ryan](#)
- Opening in February – Registration for Postbac Poster Day (May 4, 2017) - https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/1947/Postbac_Poster_Day_2017
- 10th Annual NIH Career Symposium – May 10, 2017 – Lori Conlan is looking for names of NIH alumni to serve on the various career panels. https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/1920/10th_Annual_NIH_Career_Symposium
- NIAMS – Academic career panel with NIAMS alumni who recently transitioned. March 30, 2017 in Bldg 10 – contact Dr. Robert Walker. This will be open to trainees beyond NIAMS.
- CC – Clinical and Translational Research Course for PhD Students - <https://www.cc.nih.gov/training/phdcourse/index.html> Applications open today - January 30, 2017. Course is July 10-21, 2017. Flyer attached.

The Postdoc Subcommittee meeting scheduled for January was held via email. Opportunities for social events in various ICs were discussed. Ideas from institutes that participated are summarized below:

NCI DCEG:

- There is a monthly social hour after work organized by one fellow. This activity is open to fellows and non-fellows and is dependent on the having a fellow interested in coordinating and announcing the events.

- Our fellow committee is currently working on coordinating a monthly volunteer activity that will be open to fellows and their families. The activities will be wide-ranging, open to fellows and their families, and will be held on weekends.
- After our annual fellows' retreat, there is always a social/networking hour held in a nearby location. This is organized by a retreat organizing committee member.
- We have a monthly fellow meeting on a research/career development topic (hosted on by the different branches, each takes a turn, one/yr), and before the meeting begins there is a 15 minutes eating/networking time. Total time is about 1 hr 15 min.
- During fellow appreciation week each fall, my office hosts a fellows breakfast (we collect donations to buy food), and the fellows just come, eat, and network.
- Once per month, one of our branches/lab (there are 8 total) hosts a tea time for the division (once/year for each branch), and the whole division is invited to eat and network for an hour or so. The director is a strong proponent of these, and follows up with a division-wide thank you note to the organizing branch after each. These events are complemented by our annual Halloween party, summer picnic, and holiday pot luck.

NCI CFPF:

- Every other Tuesday morning, they have planned "tea times" between our regular fellows' meeting and our colloquia series, where two fellows each time are responsible for coffee/tea/snacks.
- The Fellows take the lead planning a specific fall outing (e.g., a hayride and bonfire) open to all fellows and their families.
- The more senior Fellows plan a dinner at a local restaurant during our orientation week in June, to welcome new fellows to the program. They also hold onsite informal lunches during the orientation week.
- Following our regular Fall Training Day on main campus, the fellows plan a happy hour, usually in Bethesda.
- The Fellows take the lead in planning going-away parties for every fellow who leaves the program.
- We host a potluck holiday party in December, as well as a potluck brunch in June (where we give awards and new fellows get to meet current fellows).

NCI CCR:

- Social events are planned by the Social Chairs from the CCR-Fellows and Young Investigators (FYI) Steering Committee. 6-8 events are typically planned per year, and all CCR postdocs and their families are invited to attend. Past events have included outings such as fall picnics, bowling, happy hours, paint nights, baseball games, etc.
- We also tried to have a brown bag lunch for fellows to meet up on campus during the day, but that was met with limited success.
- The two main times that CCR offers social events are during postdoc appreciation week, in which several events are planned for fellows, and with social networking happy hours after our annual Colloquium in March. By far, our best attended events are the happy hours following the Colloquium.
- We've tried sending surveys to see what kinds of events the fellows are looking for, but that hasn't seemed to help us reach more people. Most people who attend the social events are those who already participate on the CCR-FYI Steering Committee. We're also in the unique position in that our fellows are split between Frederick and Bethesda, which creates other issues as well.

NIEHS:

- Each month the Trainees host a coffee hour which is BYO-mug & snacks are provided; a small group of trainees attend and sometimes these sessions are co-hosted by the library, or used as a way to have a special farewell for trainees that are leaving NIEHS
- The trainees assembly has a social chairperson that organizes various events throughout the year. Some past examples: A) The fellows collaborated with EPA (and other local Postdocs) to rent a covered section at the Durham Bulls ballpark where they also organized a catered meal with hotdogs/hamburgers. (this was well-attended) B) This past halloween, the fellows partnered with EPA to host a Halloween potluck & social that involved pumpkin carving, a halloween costume contest, & trick-or-treating for kids. (I don't think this was well-attended) C) At Christmas, the fellows hosted a holiday potluck & White Elephant gift exchange. D) In

February, the fellows are partnering with EPA & NCSU to attend the Carolina Hurricanes Hockey game and tailgate beforehand. E) Past social chairs have organized outings to local breweries, sometimes involving trivia night (I think the attendance at these is small)

- Viewed ‘The PhD Movie’ & had cookie-decorating contests &/or potlucks during past holidays, including Chinese New Year.
- During postdoc appreciation week, we’ve hosted a range of events over the years, all from money donated by PIs: examples: ice cream socials, pizza parties, pancake breakfast, international potluck celebration (individuals are asked to bring cuisine from their home country or US geographic region). Since it was NIEHS’ 50th anniversary this year, I organized an NIEHS Alumni networking mixer & social at a local pub...both past & present fellows were invited to attend. Attendance at this wasn’t great, but I had a number of people say that they’d like to see regular alumni networking events. We also have a trivia challenge each year during PDApp week, where prizes are given for the trivia winners as well as those with the best team names. During one of the days during PDApp week, we encourage PI’s to do something special with their lab, such as take them to lunch, host a lab-specific ice cream social/etc.

After our career symposium, the fellows organize and host a networking dinner with each other & career panelists or speakers

Visiting Fellows Committee

Stéphanie Olivier-Van Stichelen & Fatima Ali-Rahmani

1. Team

Chairs: Stéphanie OLIVIER-VAN STICHELEN and Fatima ALI-RAHMANI Secretary: Amir MANZOUR

Social: Reina HADDAD, Dario MARANGONI, Inbal GAZY

Country rep. coordinator: Gulcan Akgul

Sciences Voices from Home (SVH): Martin LANG, Kasia PLACEK

Brown bag: Randi PARKS

Webpage: Sophia JEON, Reina HADDAD, Marco Craveiro

Communication coordinator: Sayantan Chakraborty

OITE advisors: Ella (Ulli) KLENKE

2. Science voices from home

Past events:

-VFC/OITE Science Voices from Home: SINGAPORE (Friday, Jan 13, 2017)

NIH Alumni Christiane Kuschal currently a researcher at the Cancer Institute of Singapore, and the area director of Contact Singapore, Kelly Tan

-VFC Science Voices from Home: FRANCE

Prof. Moatti from the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development.

Upcoming events:

-VFC/OITE Science Voices from Home: CANADA (in planning)

3. VFC Social

Past events:

- Jan 19th: **VFC lunch**, Bldg 10, 2nd floor cafeteria (Dario).

- Jan 26th: **VFC social**, Lebanese Taverna, 6pm, extended happy hour and 15% off group discount (Reina).

Upcoming events:

- Mar-2nd: VFC lunch with participants of **English Communication for visiting scientists program**.

4. Brown Bag update

Past events:

Managing Difficult Conversations (Tuesday, January 24th, 2017)

Hosting: Tyler Smith, Associate Ombudsman for the NIH Office of the Ombudsman, Center for Cooperative Resolution, will advise fellows on how to approach conflict and difficult conversations related to interpersonal and scientific issues. See below for a more detailed description of the seminar:

5. Immigration symposium

Upcoming events:

-DIS/VFc immigration symposium (March 29th, 2017)

More information to come.

6. Country representative report

Upcoming events:

- **Country rep lunch** will be on Feb 3rd Bldg 35

7. Ressources available

Tumblr page has listed all the country rep as well as linked to important page and information for Fellows.

<http://visitingfellows.tumblr.com/>

8. Next VFC meeting

02/08/2017, 12:00

Bldg 2, 2W15 12:00 pm

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 speakers for the month of February 2017.

Date	Speaker	Home Institute	Title of the Talk
Feb 1, 2017	Louis M. Staudt, M.D., Ph.D.	National Cancer Institute	Therapy of lymphoma inspired by functional and structural genomics
Feb 8, 2017	George Church, Ph.D.	Harvard Medical School	The future of genetic codes and BRAIN codes
Feb 15, 2017	Kim Lewis, Ph.D.	Northeastern University	New antibiotics from the microbial dark matter
Feb 22, 2017	Dan R. Littman, M.D., Ph.D.	NYU School of Medicine	The microbiota as instructor and arbiter of immune responses in health and disease

- WSA Scholar Symposia – March 3rd at 1pm, Wilson Hall Third Floor, Building 1
 - Sarah Deasy, NCI-CCR. (Kent Hunter, advisor). Abstract title: A systems genetics approach reveals a novel Rnaseh2c-immune response axis that affects metastasis severity in breast cancer.
 - Shuang Tang, NIEHS. (Xiaoling Li, advisor). Abstract title: Metabolic and epigenetic regulation of mouse embryonic stem cell maintenance and embryogenesis by SIRT1.
- WALs Margaret Pittman Lecture, Dr. Linda Buck – March 29th at 3pm, Masur Auditorium, Building 10
- Anita Roberts Lecture, Dr. Gigi Storz (NICHD) – May 16th at 1pm, Lipsett Auditorium, Building 10
- Post-doc exit survey
 - Dr. Debbie Hinton has done an amazing job working on this! While there are some final approvals needed, this will roll-out at FAES.
 - When post-docs go to FAES to terminate their health insurance, they will be asked to complete the short survey. Upon completion, they will receive a \$5 card for the FAES coffee shop, compliments of FAES.
 - This survey will provide important information on what post-docs next steps are and why they choose that path. The purpose is to provide WSA information on what, if anything, can be done to help improve the “leaky pipeline”, where women drop-off during the tenure-track path. Currently, there is not a centralized place to collection information on what post-docs next steps are.
 - However, there is currently no way to capture what happens to research fellows.
- NIH Sexual Harassment Policy
 - Anyone that signs a PMAP is a mandatory reporter – this applies to most advisors. Issues cannot be discussed confidentially with them, as they are required to report.
 - Discussion of creating a confidential hotline for reporting.
 - Working on creating scenarios to run-through to determine weaknesses in the proposed policy and to be used for future training.
- Task Force on Gender Inequity
 - Stadtman search was only 25-30% women, which is well below the eligible pool, but all recent hires through this mechanism were women.
 - Talk of creating an impartial negotiator to help with hiring, as anecdotal evidence suggests that women are not as effective as negotiating (or being offered) as men are.
 - Trying to move the emphasis to being institutional and not blaming the woman for doing the right things.
 - Talk of providing central mentorship for tenure-track – for both men and women – as some institutes are better at this than others. This was also discussed as a possibility for fellows. WSA does have informal mentoring/discussion groups for tenure-track that are open to both men and women.
 - Proposal for tenure-track to have a staff scientist or someone to keep the laboratory running while out on family or parental leave.
 - Reminder that it is the WSA responsibility to review salaries with the scientific director to identify instances where there is no justification for a pay gap.

ELECTIONS

No elections this meeting

Continuing Discussion: Accessible Information for New Fellows Initiative FelCom, February 2017

Volunteers:

Kimberly LeBlanc, NIDDK (Childcare Liaison), kimberly.leblanc@nih.gov

Zelia Worman, NICHD (SOS Co-Chair), zelia.worman@nih.gov

Ruchi Sharma, NEI (Basic Rep), ruchi.ruchi@nih.gov

Ideas / Potential Actions:

1. Investigate if/how FelCom is being publicized in new fellow orientations; create/update advertisement materials and ensure their discussion and/or distribution at the various levels of orientation (OITE, IC-specific, DIS).
2. Ask for a list of new fellows from the training directors of each institute or possibly OITE. Use this list to send a welcome email with directions to FAQ-type resources and a person to contact if the individual has additional questions.
 - a. Is there some way to get information for people BEFORE they start, to disseminate information on housing, living in DC, etc?
3. Make the pages that already has some of this information more accessible (easier to find) and/or specifically direct new fellows to them.
 - https://www.training.nih.gov/you_are_not_alone
 - <https://www.training.nih.gov/felcom/visitingfellows2>
 - https://www.training.nih.gov/more_postdoc_resources
 - https://www.training.nih.gov/trainee_-_postdoc_faqs
 - <https://www.training.nih.gov/resources/justarrived> (could not figure out how to navigate to this page on the OITE site despite knowing the URL, even by searching for it)
4. Create some sort of group (akin to ClubPCR) for new postdocs.
 - a. Platform? Suggested: LinkedIn, Wikipage, SLACK.
 - b. How to administrate? In accordance with social media policies and FOIA jurisdiction.
5. Form a new FelCom subcommittee to address these issues.