

# NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 December 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. Childcare Board Liaison (Clinical Fellow) election
  - b. Basic Science Co-Chair election
6. **Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (15 Minutes)**
7. **Any other business (5 minutes)**

Next meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 4:02

## Remarks

### **Felcom Officers**

- Sarah Morgan – Report for postdoc stipends were presented to training directors committee with mixed responses; Sarah and Karlie Sharma are moving forward to present to the scientific directors meeting.
- Agnes Mwakingwe – Nothing to report.
- Katherine Reding – Please sign in if you are present, and if you are attending by phone send me your attendance via email.

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

- Lots of upcoming project in the new year but nothing specific to report
- Come to OITE for career advice, make an appointment or drop in.

### **Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf**

- Nothing to report

## New Business

- Childcare Board Liaison (Clinical Fellow) election – Blake Warner ran unopposed, welcome Blake!
- Basic Science Co-Chair election – Sarah Morgan won re-election by a majority vote, congratulations Sarah!

## Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements

Service and Outreach Subcommittee: FelCom digest was a success for recruiting volunteers for December 27<sup>th</sup> at DC Central Kitchen.

N.B. Send suggestions for what to include for this month's issue to Sarah Morgan ([sarah.morgan2@nih.gov](mailto:sarah.morgan2@nih.gov)).

FAES Liaison: We are soliciting ideas from postdocs on how FAES can better help fellows. Email the liaison Eric Refsland ([eric.refsland@nih.gov](mailto:eric.refsland@nih.gov)) if you have any ideas for how to improve health insurance options. Current initiatives include exploring options for dental insurance and a child care subsidy.

Childcare Board Liaisons: OITE updated their website for parenting resources and this info will be updated in a new addition of the postdoc handbook. [https://www.training.nih.gov/parenting\\_resources\\_at\\_the\\_nih](https://www.training.nih.gov/parenting_resources_at_the_nih)

- From Lori Conlan: Mom and Dad Docs also hosts some great programs for how to pick a daycare; financial planning for parents; link is available at this webpage.

Visiting Fellows Committee: “Science Voices from Home”, an ongoing VFC program will begin hosting webcast events in coordination with OITE. NIH Alumni working in another country will join via webinar and will talk about what it means to do science in that country.

- The first joint session will be on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am (Building 35, Room 610 or via webinar) with a previous fellow currently in Singapore and will also include the Singapore economic development group. See: [https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/1988/VFC\\_Science\\_Voices\\_from\\_Home\\_Singapore](https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/1988/VFC_Science_Voices_from_Home_Singapore)
- The next featured country will be Canada.
- If you are interested in a country, let VFC know.

OITE: We need help updating our list of grants and fellowships (non-NIH) that NIH fellows can apply for. The last list was updated 2014. Forward any/all opportunities to Lori Conlan ([conlanlo@mail.nih.gov](mailto:conlanlo@mail.nih.gov)).

Discussion: Is there a discussion forum for postdocs?

- Current communication options for postdocs/clinical fellows:
  - Fellow-L listserve: Must opt-in to list serve via <https://list.nih.gov>
  - Linked-In group: Fellows at the NIH - FelCom
- Other NIH community options:
  - Yahoo Group Club-PCR (mainly used by post-baccs but included information on local roommates, sublets, and buy/sell furniture, and other social and scientific discussions)
- There is currently no postdoc/clinical fellow discussion board similar to Club-PCR
  - Suggested platforms: Wikipage, SLACK.
  - Previous attempts to do this have not succeeded due to a lack of enthusiasm/usage by postdocs
- Alternative options to solve main problem – lack of information to incoming postdocs:
  - OITE has a prospective postdoc moving guide and FAQ, but they are buried within the website. Possibility need to restructure website.
  - Institute specific orientations are not all equally informative and OITE orientation is not mandatory
- Several members volunteered to help move these initiatives forward. If you are interested, contact Agnes Mwakingwe ([agnes.mwakingwe@nih.gov](mailto:agnes.mwakingwe@nih.gov)).
  - All plans must be checked with Lori Conlan & Charles Dearolf to see if they work with the government rules/regulations.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 4:56pm**

## MEMBERSHIP

FelCom Subcommittee	Co-Chairs
<b>Career Development Committee</b>	Jennifer Symonds & Sarah Morgan
<b>Clinical FelCom</b>	Agnes Mwakingwe & Laura Wake
<b>FARE Committee</b>	John Gallagher & Pushpanathan Muthuirulan
<b>Mentoring Committee</b>	Jessica Pierce & Jennifer West
<b>Service and Outreach Subcommittee</b>	Douglas Dluzen & Zelia Worman
<b>Social Committee</b>	Reina Haddad, Marco Craveiro, Luiz Felipe Barella, & Stal Shrestha
<b>Visiting Fellows Committee</b>	Stéphanie Olivier-Van Stichelen & Fatima Ali-Rahmani
<b>Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS)</b>	Fatima Chowdhry & Salina Gairhe

FelCom Liaison Position	Liaison(s)
<b>American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR)</b>	<i>VACANT</i>
<b>Animal Research Advisory Committee</b>	Sukanya Suresh
<b>Child Care Board</b>	Kimberly LeBlanc & <i>to be elected</i>
<b>Committee on Scientific Conduct &amp; Ethics</b>	Andrew Frank-Wilson
<b>Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES)</b>	Anna Pasetto & Eric Refsland
<b>Graduate Medical Education Committee</b>	Ricardo Correa & Alexis Simpkins
<b>Graduate Student Council (GSC)</b>	Sara Kimmich & Jessica Schneller
<b>Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee (HSRAC)</b>	<i>VACANT</i>
<b>Medical Executive Committee</b>	Agnes Mwakingwe & Laura Wake
<b>National Postdoc Association</b>	Didier Chalhoub
<b>Outreach Liaison</b>	Craig Myrum
<b>PRAT Liaison</b>	Dylan Murray
<b>Recreation and Welfare Committee</b>	Stal Shrestha
<b>Training Directors Committee</b>	Valerie Miller & Belinda Hauser
<b>Women Scientist Advisors Committee (WSA)</b>	Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick

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

## SUBCOMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

### Animal Research Advisory Committee

*Sukanya Suresh*

There was no ARAC meeting in December 2016.

### Career Development Committee

*Jennifer Symonds & Sarah Morgan*

Our next meeting will be **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017** at 3PM in Building 2, Room 2W-15.

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

### Childcare Board Liaison

*Kimberly LeBlanc & To be elected*

The Child Care Board met on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

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: 540 families opted in, ~50-60 declined, ~100 did not respond, and 10 took their name off of the waiting list completely.

Dr. Sheri Schully gave an update on the Women in Biomedical Careers group. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Schully and Ms. Lee, met with this group and provided: a brief update of the NWCCC, guidance for the waitlist, updates on the Adult Dependent Care program, and *encouraged fellows to take advantage of the programs available to them* (for instance, Title 42 fellows now have access to the Subsidy program). The group was very interested and they will likely invite the Child Care Board members back.

Next, the various committees gave reports regarding the 2016 WorkLife Benchmark Study:

- Adult Dependent Care Committee:
  - NIH's service for adult dependent care is about the same as the other organizations from the survey.
  - Goals of the committee are:
    - Promote the elder care resources.
    - Support and promote the services for this target population.
  - The committee has created a charter and is waiting for approval (it is currently with the ORS Director). The committee will have members starting May 2017. Members from the Child Care Board may wish to join this committee, and there was discussion of a liaison to the Child Care Board for this group as well.
  - Before May, they expect to have an article in the NIH Record.
  - They have decided NOT to have a support group because there is a one-on-one consultant that seems to be working well.
  
- Waitlist Committee:
  - From the survey, the waitlist numbers were better in 2016 compared to the 2008 survey. There are currently 926 children compared to 1300+ before the one-decline policy took effect.
  - Following the opening of the NWCCC, they will have to assess the communication strategies and messaging.
  - The current messages now include:
    - The waitlist is transparent, equitable, efficient, flexible, and free.
    - The wait is approximately 1 year (~8-9 months of this could be the pregnancy).
    - It's worth the wait!

- Subsidy Committee:
  - The NIH currently has 3 forms of subsidy:
    - Dependent Care FSA
    - Subsidy Program
    - Sliding scale tuition for NIH Child Care Centers.
  - The subsidy was rated about the same as it was in 2008, and it was rated about the same as other organizations again in 2016.
  - The messaging of this group included: 1). There are different types of programs to promote. 2). The NIH subsidy is about the same with competitors. 3). ***There are opportunities to serve more populations at NIH (such as postdocs).***
  - There are sliding scales at community child care centers, and it was suggested to have the Resource and Referral Service ask about discounts and sliding scale for NIH federal employees.
  - The committee plans to revisit the \$75,000 AGI income limit and the percentage of tuition covered (which was raised about 3 years ago).
    - The current number is similar to other HHS agencies
  - The committee decided they will not:
    - Ask for discounts at community child care centers
    - Subsidize cost of back up care
    - Subsidize adoption cost
  - The group is targeting Feb – April time frame for messaging and outreach effort.
  - **Tonya Lee reached out to FelCom on December 1<sup>st</sup> and clinical fellows at ClinFelCom on December 5<sup>th</sup>. She explained the programs available to each group.**
- Back-Up Care Committee:
  - In 2008, the survey indicated that NIH's backup care was not as good as competitors. In 2016, NIH's backup care program is now rated better than other organizations.
    - Only half of the comparison organizations from the study provide back-up care staffing services.
  - The committee's messaging includes:
    - 1. Back-up care is important for flexible workplace environment
    - 2. It is under-recognized that you can use it for work related travel
    - 3. Feedback is that the NIH community feels comforted knowing that the program exists
    - 4. NIH can serve as a model for other agencies – many have contacted NIH to learn how to implement.
  - The program has saved 350 work days since it began.
  - The committee is exploring:
    - **1. How to expand the service to unlimited uses (currently capped at 400 uses; program could be available to contractors and fellows if move toward unlimited use).**
    - 2. Possibility of defraying the costs? The Treble Amendment prohibits NIH directly paying the cost.
    - 3. How to get the message out better?
      - Promoting workplace flexibility.
  - The committee is NOT exploring:
    - Subsidizing the cost of back-up care.
    - Changing the cap of 10 uses per year per employee.
  - The target groups include: Women in Biomedical Careers; Scientific Review individuals who come in; suggestions are welcome.
  - There are many times during the year to send out message: Holidays, winter weather, flu time; also spring/summer
  - Care use versus contract use? Up to 10 hours per day/per contract use

- Care uses far exceed our contract use (i.e., care center for 2 kids will take 2 uses, but contract person coming to home for 2 kids will be one use).
- 363 contract uses for this year; close to 500 for the care uses.
- Legislative Committee:
  - The Benchmark study indicated that some of the agencies were doing community acquired care. However, upon further inspection and contacts with these agencies, they do not. They have off-site centers that they are managing through a use-agreement (just like the NIH does with ECDC).
  - There are discussions with the Office of Intramural Research about (if the opportunity arises) to change the definition of employee to expand to fellows for the purposes of child care programs only.
    - This regrettably was not prepared in time for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act.
  - The Office of General Council (OGC) needs the Child Care Board to put together a full program proposal for community acquired care (DoD is the only other agency that we can find that does this – how would an NIH one be similar, be different, etc. – but need to say that someone else has already done it). The NIH Director can then use the same authority as other agency directors. Department of Justice was using a Back-Up care program and that is what they did to implement one at NIH.
  - **Fellows specific program – ICs do pay for certain funds using appropriated funds – such as FAES health insurance.**
    - *Tonya Lee, Kristin Dupre, Kimberly LeBlanc, and Eric Refsland have been in contact regarding reaching out to FAES for assistance with developing a subsidy program specifically for postdoctoral fellows. These discussions are new and will continue in January and thereafter.*

The next Child Care Board meeting will be on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm in Building 31/6C Room 10. All are welcome to attend!

- **In other child care related news, OITE has added a new page for resources for parents, with links to all of the resources available for fellows with children. You can access it directly, or find the link at the bottom of the postdoc page: <https://www.training.nih.gov/trainees/postdocs>**  
**Please check it out and pass it on! [https://www.training.nih.gov/parenting\\_resources\\_at\\_the\\_nih](https://www.training.nih.gov/parenting_resources_at_the_nih)**

### Clinical FelCom and Medical Executive Committee

*Agnes Mwakingwe & Laura Wake*

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

### Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

*Andrew Frank-Wilson*

The NIH Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics met in late December. Our meeting involved a discussion of the final wordings for each of the drafted 2017 Case Studies where the theme is “Social Responsibility”. In particular, I proposed that links to contextual information on specific topics (i.e. what is a “select agent”) are provided within the case studies given the diversity of experiences and laboratory environments within the NIH. We also discussed some of the feedback we received from the NIH community on the 2016 Case Studies, in particular that the appendices of potential factors that can affect research reproducibility was an appreciated learning tool.

### FAES Liaisons

*Anna Pasetto & Eric Refsland*

FAES GRADUATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE for the Spring 2017 term will be held in the FAES Academic Center in Building 10 (Rooms B1C206-B1C208) at the NIH in Bethesda on Thursday, January 12, 2017 from 4:00 – 6:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served!

FAES faculty will be present and registration will be accepted for more than 70 evening courses in biochemistry, bioinformatics, biology, chemistry, genetics, immunology, mathematics, medicine, pharmacology, public health, statistics, technology transfer, toxicology, American Sign Language, English as a Second Language (ESL), French, Italian, Spanish, mindfulness, and more: <https://faes.org/content/explore-courses>. Courses are between 4 -14 weeks long.

The following courses might be of special interest:

BIOC505 - Emerging Trends in Membrane Biology: Advanced Cell Trafficking  
BIOC527 - Lipid Metabolism in Physiology and Disease (8 weeks)  
BIOC532 - Biological Importance of Modifications in DNA and Chromatin  
BIOF395 - Introduction to Text Mining  
BIOF450 - Evolutionary Genomics, Metagenomics and Computational Biology  
BIOL325 - Human Neuroscience  
BIOL385 - The Biology of Aging (8 weeks)  
ENGL355 - English Listening & Conversation: Insights into US Culture, Science & Society  
GENL399 - Medical Humanities: An Introduction  
PBHL425 - Public Policy in Science and Medicine: Oral Health  
PBHL501 - Environmental Health Sciences  
PBHL533 - Chronic Care in Global Health  
TECH512 - Global Bioethics  
TECH565 - Biomedical Business Development for Scientists (FREDERICK CAMPUS)  
TECH584 - Translational Medical Product Development

FAES ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE IN BIOINFORMATICS AND DATA SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. Further your professional goals through our Advanced Studies Programs designed to fit the needs of working professionals that can serve as a great bridge for those thinking of a career change or just looking strengthen their health sciences research skill set.

#### SPRING 2017 SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Through January 27: Online Registration.

January 30 – February 17: Late Registration (\$10 late fee per course applies).

January 30: Classes begin.

May 13: Classes end.

#### ENROLLMENT

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

Finally, the next FAES Board Meeting is Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like brought to the board's attention please email Eric ([eric.refsland@nih.gov](mailto:eric.refsland@nih.gov)).

#### **FARE Committee**

*John Gallagher & Pushpanathan Muthuirulan*

We have formed a committee of 7 members, meeting for the first time Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. We are reviewing documents from previous FARE committees. We have set initial goals of drawing a larger pool of applicants to the award, and creating additional checks for conflicts of interest during abstract judging. We are beginning work on our first milestones of creating the FARE award flier, and reviewing FARE announcement emails focusing specifically on clarity of communication.

#### **Graduate Medical Education Committee**

*Alexis Simpkins & Cemre Robinson*

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

**Graduate Student Council Liaisons**

*Jess Schneller & Sara Kimmich*

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

**Mentoring Committee**

*Jessica Pierce & Jennifer West*

Nothing to report.

**NCI-Shady Grove (DCEG)**

*Alison Van Dyke*

Nothing to report.

**NIEHS NTA (North Carolina)**

*Deirdre Robinson*

Nothing to report.

**NPA Liaison**

*Didier Chalhoub*

Nothing to report.

**Outreach Liaison**

*Craig Myrum*

1. The *I am Intramural* blog highlights the great science being done at NIH. It's a great platform to gain attention to your research! Shoot me an email if you want me to highlight your work or a colleague's work. Note that takes a couple weeks between submitting and posting since many people must approve them.
2. The *Catalyst* editor already has something lined up for the Jan-Feb edition. The current plan for the Mar-April edition is for postdoc Cristina Banuelos to work with Sharon Milgram. They have begun to discuss which sort of angle to take.
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*

Happy 2017!!!

On January 11, NIH Health and Wellness Council Meeting will be held in Bldg. 1 Wilson Hall from 1-3 pm.

This month, the Wellness @ NIH is providing the fitness classes for FREE!

For more information, please go to

<http://wellnessatnih.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/wellness/Pages/index.aspx>

All classes are free and open to all NIH staff.

Please feel free to email if you have any question or suggestion! [stal.shrestha@nih.gov](mailto:stal.shrestha@nih.gov)

### **Social Committee**

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

We are organizing a New Year's Party in Bethesda on January 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). If you have any suggestion for a venue, please let us know.

### **Service and Outreach Subcommittee**

*Douglas Dluzen & Zelia Worman*

#### Announcements:

The SOS is looking for a new Baltimore Co-Chair to begin sometime in Spring 2017. Please email Doug Dluzen ([douglas.dluzen@nih.gov](mailto:douglas.dluzen@nih.gov)) for more information.

#### Recent Events:

-Holiday volunteer opportunity at DC Central Kitchen December 27<sup>th</sup> 2016.

We had 10 spots open, 6 people signed up and they all showed up to volunteer. The volunteer coordinator Jessica Towers from DC Central Kitchen was not present at the time of the volunteering of our fellows but her staff reported no problems, everything went smoothly.

#### Upcoming Events:

- (Bethesda) Safra Lodge Dinner – **February 2017 (date TBA)**
- (Bethesda) Joint campus (Bethesda and Baltimore) – **Spring 2017 TBA**
- (Baltimore) Baltimore Science Fair Judging – Towson University – March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, [Sign Up Here](#)
- (D.C.) Montgomery County Science Fair Judging – FDA – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, [Register Here by Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>!](#)
- (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](mailto:maweth821@gmail.com)) at the HUM for further information on training and participation, etc.

### **Training Directors Committee**

*Valerie Miller and Belinda Hauser*

- Felcom Presentations: Rewarding Mentors- Jennifer West (NIDDK)
  - TDC major question: what are the next steps to ensure better mentoring and communication
  - TDC common concerns: How to get mentors who aren't doing well (i.e. "Bad Mentor) motivated.
  - Suggestion: Subject Mentoring to the BSC review criteria
    - Communication between the Mentor and Mentee and insuring both needs are met.
- Postdoctoral IRTA student Report-Sarah Morgan (NIDDK) and Karlie Sharma (NIAID)
  - TDC was open to hearing the concerns presented by Felcom
  - NCI justified postdoctoral pay and why it was higher than other institutions.
  - FelCom was open to analyzing any additional data given by the training committee to better understand the (1) pay scale and (2) stipends between NRSAs and IRTAs
  - Generally TDC agreed that communication between PI and postdoc needs to be better regarding the stipend system and awards/promotions in pay.
- If any member of FelCom has a suggestion for a topic to be discussed at a future meeting, to please send it to Belinda Hauser at [belinda.hauser@nih.gov](mailto:belinda.hauser@nih.gov) and Valerie Miller at [Valerie.miller@nih.gov](mailto:Valerie.miller@nih.gov)
  - We can bring it up for discussion at the upcoming meeting as well

**Visiting Fellows Committee***Stéphanie Olivier-Van Stichelen & Fatima Ali-Rahmani*

On January 24<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the Office of the Ombudsman who will speak on managing difficult conversations, as a follow-up to their session in August. For this particular seminar, they have requested a 2-hour time period so we are planning on holding it from noon to 2pm in the library training room.

**WALS Subcommittee***Fatima Chowdhry & Salina Gairhe*

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Home Institute</b>	<b>Title of the Talk</b>
<b>Jan 11, 2017</b>	<b>Jeffrey Friedman, M.D., Ph.D.</b>	The Rockefeller University	<a href="#"><u>Leptin and the neural circuit regulating food intake and glucose metabolism</u></a>
<b>Jan 18, 2017</b>	<b>Hollis Cline, Ph.D.</b>	The Scripps Research Institute	<b>The dynamic connectome</b>
<b>Jan 25, 2017</b>	<b>Christine Mummery, Ph.D.</b>	Leiden University Medical Center	<b>Human pluripotent stem cells: the new patient?</b>

**Women Scientist Advisors Committee***Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick*

Nothing to report.

## **ELECTIONS**

### **Childcare Board Liaison (Clinical Fellow)**

1. Blake Warner

My name is Blake Warner, I am 35 years old, married and proudly the parent to a two-year old daughter. I am also a dentist-scientist with specialty training in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and graduate training in public health (MPH, PhD). Currently, I am the Clinical Research Fellow and Clinical FelCom Representative for the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research. I am interested in applying for Clinical FelCom Liaison to the NIH Child Care Board. I have a diverse experience set that makes me qualified for productive representation to the board.

Fellows experience unique stressors and hurdles in their training, however for parents, these can be complicated by the uncertainty of inconsistent or inadequate childcare. The childcare board works to encourage a successful experience of fellows NIH. I believe the successful representative to the Board would be a person who is compassion for fellows and their families and can translate this into a voice. I understand the dichotomy of the working parent and the intangible benefit to my work knowing our child is adequately cared for. Moreover, I am familiar with the childcare benefits afforded by employment by NIH and have even relied on some of them (e.g., NIH Back-up Care Program, NIH Childcare Waitlist).

Briefly, my leadership experience includes Board Member for the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) (2010-2011), President of the AADR - National Student Research Group (2010-2011), Dental School Faculty Committees (Associate Dean Search, College of Public Health; Division Chair Search, Oral Biology), and Chief Resident (2015-2016). I have participated in the planning committees for The Ohio State University College of Public Health Strategic Planning Committee and The Ohio State University College of Dentistry Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Committee.

At a basic level, I am interested in this position because I like committee/board representation work. I have a unique combination of education, training, experiences, and life-skills to provide thoughtful representation to fellows across the NIH. Lastly, I understand facilitating balanced discourse to achieve meaningful, mutually beneficial outcomes for concerned parties. Given this, I hope to have the chance to liaise with the NIH Child Care Board as the Clinical FelCom representative.

### **Basic Science Co-Chair**

1. Karlie Sharma

I am a fourth year postdoc here at NIH in the Laboratory of Host Defenses, NIAID. I have served on FelCom as the NIAID science representative since 2014 and through this post have gained significant experience working with NIH committees and officials. As a member of FelCom, I, along with Sarah Morgan, have spearheaded the drafting of a proposal to increase postdoc salaries and have presented this to the Training Directors Committee while working to move this forward to the Scientific Directors Committee. I have also worked closely with OITE on several endeavors and through these interactions have gained expertise coordinating complex meetings and events. I have further served as the co-chair to both the FARE committee and the FelCom Career Development Subcommittee, giving me ample experience in communicating with all levels of NIH administration and Fellows and in completing day-to-day committee responsibilities. I would love the opportunity to serve as the scientific co-chair to FelCom for 2017.

2. Sarah Morgan

Dear Members of FelCom,

It has been an honor to serve as your Basic Science Co-Chair for the past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you and hope to continue to do so for another term.

In 2016, we made great strides in organizing this large and sometimes unruly committee. In January, 50% of our ICs were not represented on FelCom. Through tremendous effort, we now have representation from all but 2 Institutes. This increase in membership, coupled with the introduction of a standardized welcome email outlining our policies, has contributed to a particularly productive year for the committee. Earlier this year, we made substantial revisions to the bylaws which have allowed us to operate more systematically and efficiently.

We have also made considerable progress in further promoting FelCom and its activities, including starting a monthly “Digest” email for all fellows toward the end of the year. This has resulted in increased awareness amongst Fellows, higher participation on our various subcommittees, and larger crowds at our recent events. I hope to continue and even broaden these efforts over the coming year.

Personally, I have had the pleasure of helping with the abstract for the upcoming NPA meeting, attending interviews for a new OITE career counselor, drafting a report on postdoc stipends and presenting this information to the Training Directors Committee, and working with many people and offices around the NIH to further the goals of FelCom. I am eager to continue working on these and new projects in 2017.

I hope to continue advocating for Fellows and FelCom as Basic Science Co-Chair for the next year. Thank you for your support and consideration!