

NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, October 5th, 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 September 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 (30 minutes)**
 - a. Presentation by FARE Committee, “Summary and Future Directions”
 - b. Elections
 - 1) FARE Co-Chairs (2)
 - 2) Child Care Board Liaison (Basic)
6. **Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements (10 minutes)**
7. **Any other business (5 minutes)**

Next meeting: November 2nd, 2017

Meeting called to order at 4:01pm

Approval of minutes

Remarks:

Felcom Officers

- Sarah Morgan – Recently Lori sent out a FelCom recruitment email and we have already gotten some new interest, hopefully we can increase overall FelCom participation.
 - Upcoming elections:
 - Recreation and Welfare Committee Liaison
 - Social Committee Co-Chair
 - Training Director Liaison
 - Basic Science Co-Chair (December)
- Elizabeth Gordon – As reminder of the attendance policy, today’s meeting is the start of a clean slate for attendance. If someone has more than two unexcused absences, they will be asked to vacate their positions. Please let me know (prior to 12pm the day of the meeting) if you cannot attend, otherwise your absence will not be excused. For more information see the bylaws: <https://www.training.nih.gov/FelCom/Bylaws>

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

- Annual OITE Trick-or-Treat/ Meet-and-Greet Event – October 31st in Building 2, 2nd floor between 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Industry Exploration partnership between OITE, the State of Maryland, University of Maryland Medical School, Johns Hopkins University. A series of case studies at different industry partner sights, with approximately 15-20 NIH fellows at each session. Sessions occur every other week in October through January.

Office of Intramural Research (OIR): Charles Dearolf

- Not in attendance

New Business:

Presentation by FARE Committee, “Summary and Future Directions”, Speaker: John Gallagher

- Summary: Overview of FARE rules and regulation (FAQs on FARE website)
- Make-up of 2017 FARE Winner:
 - Even distribution of males and females
 - Mostly postdoctoral fellows applied and won
 - Number of winners per each ICs tracked to size of ICs
- Ongoing Issues/Opportunities to make FARE judging better:
 - Judges selection of appropriate study sections is biased and uneven (some study sections have more people than expected while others have less).
 - In the future, broader categories or renaming categories may solve this problem.
 - Any suggestions for how to better line up study section titles so that we have even representation of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices?
 - Resolving Conflicts of Interest (COIs):
 - Currently based on an honor system
 - Asking judges to identify COIs prior to scoring abstracts significantly increased amount of COIs reported.
 - However, an investigation by John Gallagher suggested that many judges were actually in close physical proximity (based on NED office location information) to the applicants, suggesting some COIs went uncaptured.
 - Is NIH too small to have so many judges?
 - Are there any other suggestions on how to reduce COIs?
 - Goals to increase submissions in 2018, as number appear to be declining. However, these numbers did not control for the total amount of fellows at the NIH, so more information is needed.
- Comments from FelCom members:
 - What level of COIs are you comfortable with?
 - Answer from JG: There is no guidance on this.
 - Why don't you try to randomize for one year?

Elections

1. FARE Co-Chairs: Congratulations Ying Fu and Carlos Guardia, who ran uncontested for two open positions.
2. Child Care Board Liaison (Basic): Congratulations Choon Kiat Sim, who won the majority vote.

Any Other Business:

Attendee Question: How does FelCom compare to other committees on campus, e.g. Fellow's Advisory Committee at NIAID?

- Established in 1991 – Unique fellows organization with representation from both clinical and basic fellows across all NIH ICs.
- FelCom's mission includes service, community building, and advocacy for all fellows within the NIH.

Subcommittee and Liaison Announcements:

Service and Outreach Subcommittee. Tree planting event will take place on Saturday, October, 21st, from 8:30AM-12:30PM. Spots are limited, please RSVP to Shu Hui Chen at shuhui.chen@nih.gov by October 10th.

Animal Research Advisory Committee. The Advisory committee has detected an increase in animal mortality following surgeries during the summer months that may stem from training/supervision issues during this time. They are asking FelCom for any suggestions on how to best monitor activities of trainees.

Responses from members:

- We need a more focused question, perhaps you can propose a focus group of fellows to address this issue.

- You likely need more data on who performed the surgeries, when did the deaths happen (surgery vs. recovery), what protocols were they following, and if they were supervised to better address the issues directly
- If interested in focus group or have any other suggestions, please email the liaison Guru Nagarajan at gurueswar.nagarajan@nih.gov

Social Committee Co-Chair. We are having a social event today at Rock Bottom in Bethesda, starting at 5:30pm!

Meeting adjourned at 4:47pm

MEMBERSHIP

FelCom Subcommittee	Co-Chairs
Career Development Committee	Qiong Fu & Shyamala Jadhav
Clinical FelCom	Scott Norberg & Chris Pleyer
FARE Committee	John Gallagher & Pushpanathan Muthuirulan
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)	<i>VACANT</i>
Animal Research Advisory Committee	Guru Nagarajan
Child Care Board	Blake Warner
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)	<i>VACANT</i>
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	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)	Manasi Apte	NICHD	Suna Gulay
FDA	Narayana Garimella	NIDA	Andrew Kesner
NCATS	Eric Gonzalez & Kirill Gorshkov	NIDCD	Hui-Tung (Candy) Wong
NCCIH	Eleni Frangos	NIDCR	Belinda Hauser
NCI-CFPF	Claire Meaney (Basic) & Maryam Doroudi (Clinical)	NIDDK	Sarah Morgan
NCI-Shady Grove	Alison Van Dyke	NIEHS	Deirdre Robinson
NEI	Aaron Rising	NIGMS	Dylan Murray
NHGRI	Jason Sinclair	NIMH	Kathy Reding
NHLBI	Elizabeth Gordon	NIMHD	<i>VACANT</i>
NIA	Christina Banelos	NINDS	James Park & Patrick Wright
NIAAA	Karina Abrahao (Basic) & Carlos Cortes (Clinical)	NINR	Joshua Todd
NIAID	Eric Refsland	NCBI/NLM	Gurmeet Kaur
NIAMS	<i>VACANT</i>	USUHS	Debjani Mandal
NIBIB	Qianping He	VRC (NIAID)	<i>VACANT</i>

SUBCOMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Animal Research Advisory Committee

Guru Nagarajan

New Electronic Report Form

To better facilitate animal care and use within the NIH IRP, we have a new electronic form in the Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU) website for anonymous reporting of potential research animal welfare concerns and issues (link is provided below). Unless chosen otherwise, all reports can be sent anonymously and will be kept confidential.

<https://oacu.oir.nih.gov/nih-policies/reporting-animal-welfare-concerns/anonymous-reporting-animal-welfare-concerns>

Career Development Committee

Qiong Fu & Shyamala Jadhav

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

Our next panel, "R&D Careers," will be held on Tuesday, October 17th, 3-5PM in Building 50, Room 1328/1334.

Childcare Board Liaisons

Blake Warner & To be elected

NO REPORT SUBMITTED.

Clinical FelCom and Medical Executive Committee

Scott Norberg & Chris Pleyer

Nothing to report.

Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

Andrew Frank-Wilson

The CSCE met on Friday September 29th to discuss and finalize the various drafts of the training cases developed for the 2018 year. Next year's topic will be on bias in mentorship and research. The Committee has worked to develop a half-dozen scenarios for discussion amongst P.I.s and their staff, with an emphasis on implicit biases. Implicit bias is described by the NIH Scientific Workforce Diversity (SWD) Office as "a form of bias that occurs automatically and unintentionally, that nevertheless affects judgments, decisions, and behaviors". As part of the training package, the CSCE will provide links to resources and online tools that are designed to help individuals identify their own implicit biases. Our next meeting will occur in late October.

FAES Liaisons

Eric Refsland & Simona Rosu

Nothing to report.

FARE Committee

John Gallagher & Pushpanathan Muthuirulan

The 2018 FARE award cycle concluded with an awards ceremony for awardees on September 14th, which was successful. Highlights included a moving closing statement by Deputy Director of Intramural Research, Michael Gottesman.

Co-chairs for FARE 2019 will be elected at this meeting.

Nothing to report.

NIEHS (RTP, NC)

Deirdre Robinson

- ELiTE will be participating in a site visit to KBI Pharma in mid-October (17th-20th)
- Distinguished Lecture Series 10/10/17 featuring Dr. Golkham Hotasmisligil
- Brown Bag Lunch Series on “Pharmaceutical Industry” on 10/12/17
- Dr. Brian Berridge has been named the new Associate Director, NTP and Director, DNTP

NPA Liaison

Didier Chalhoub

“You are a stronger force than you realize.”
Francis Collins, Ph.D., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director
NPA Annual Meeting, March 2010

- **The 2018 NPA annual meeting abstract deadline is on October 6th!**
 - Thank you Sarah, Daphnee, Zelia for suggesting great ideas.
 - FelCom abstract this year will be about the Visiting Fellows Committee. We thought that it would be a good idea to increase the visibility of this subcommittee and its accomplishments. Did you know that 60% of postdocs at NIH are VFs?
 - Conference will take place in Cleveland, April 6-8.
- **NPA announcements and updates**
 - Leader wanted to serve as co-chair of the NPA Meetings Committee
 - Postdoctoral Research Symposium Toolkit on Guidelines and Best Practices has been finalized.
 - Interesting essay on how to get in shape and find a job, click [here](#).
 - The September issue of the POSTDOCKET has been published:
<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/news/364387/The-New-Issue-of-The-POSTDOCKET-is-Available.html>
 - The 8th National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) was held September 18 - 22, 2017, and during the week a total of **114 institutions in 37 states, Canada, the United Kingdom, Asia and Oceania, and Germany organized 389 events**. Photos are published here:
<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/gallery/ViewAlbum.aspx?album=4394463>

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 September-October *Catalyst* article was on pedagogy training: <https://irp.nih.gov/catalyst/v25i5/the-training-page>
3. The November-December *Catalyst* article is being taken care of by the editor.
4. If you have an idea for the January-February *Catalyst* article, let me know! The deadlines for these articles are very early, so it helps to look far ahead.
5. Be sure to join the LinkedIn page! [Fellows at the NIH - FelCom](#)

Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program

Dylan Murray

Nothing to report.

This October, the Wellness @ NIH is providing the following 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

Social Committee

Luiz Felipe Barella & Stal Shrestha

We are holding a Social Event today, October 5th, at Rock Bottom, starting at 5:30 pm. All are welcome.

Service and Outreach Subcommittee

Zelia Worman

Announcements:

The SOS is looking for a **new Baltimore Co-Chair** to begin this Summer! Please email Zelia Worman (Zelia.worman@nih.gov) for more information

Hello Fellows!

Come participate in a great team building experience as well as get some fresh air and exercise brought to you by the FelCom Service and Outreach Subcommittee (SOS)! We have a limited number of spots reserved for “FelCom SOS” volunteers **RSVP by OCTOBER 10th** to **Shu Hui Chen** at shuhui.chen@nih.gov for more instructions with “Casey Tree Mt. Olivet Tree Planting Volunteer” Subject line.

Tree planting with Casey Trees will take place [on Saturday, October, 21st, from 8:30AM-12:30PM](#) tree planting event at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The goal of this planting is to replenish the cemetery’s tree canopy, aid in stormwater management and to beautify these historic and sacred burial grounds.

Address:

Mount Olivet Cemetery
[1300 Bladensburg Rd NE](#)
[Washington, DC 20002](#)

** IMPORTANT: We do not know where we will be scheduled to plant at this time. The Tuesday before this planting, Casey Trees will send a logistics and directions email with detailed information about how to get to the site for those registered. You will receive this email ONLY if you have contacted Sue at shuhui.chen@nih.gov and registered for the event. **

Upcoming Events:

- (Bethesda) Casey Trees** Tree planting in Washington, D.C. – October 21st 2017
- (Bethesda) Science Communication/Education Volunteer Opportunities with [DIYbio](#)/Citizen Science Group** (Capital Area BioSpace - CABS), in collaboration with Beth Tuck. More details to come!
- (Bethesda) DC Central Kitchen** – December event – Date TBD
- (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.

The TDC met on Thursday, September 28th, and the following items were discussed:

- II. Discussion of Research Fellow appointments – Dr. Arlyn Garcia-Perez (OIR)
 - i. Research Fellow positions are being reduced/phased-out. Current postdocs must be advised that staying on as a Research Fellow is most likely no longer a viable option to extend training
 - ii. Postdocs who wish to extend their training beyond a 5th year will now have two options: extend for a 6th year, with the understanding that this is a terminal position and the postdoc is then ineligible to work for NIH in any capacity for two years OR stay on through a contract position. However, contract positions are very expensive and therefore may not be viable for all PIs/labs. Fellows wishing to explore these options MUST discuss with their PIs ASAP and be prepared to plan for the future
- III. Discussion of changes and updates to FAES health insurance – Christina Farias (CEO/Executive Officer of FAES)
- IV. Discussion of Postdoctoral Subcommittee future activities – Dr. Elyssa Monzack (NIDCD)
 - i. The Postdoctoral Subcommittee is working with the Visiting Fellows Committee to identify tangible areas of action. Mentoring activities were discussed as a potential area of interest
- V. Announcement of TDC Chair-elect
 - i. Dr. Deborah Philp, Director of the Office of Education at NIDCR, was named the chair-elect of the TDC

Postdoc Subcommittee

- I. Discussion of mentors and mentee (visiting fellows)
 - a. Concerns visiting fellow have the following:
 - i. Administration staff
 - ii. Belonging and inclusiveness
 - 1. I.e. fellows in the wild- low attendance from fellows
 - 2. How can we get fellows to attend (every fellow not only the visiting)?
 - iii. Developing mentoring committees and or secondary mentors
 - b. Topics for mentors
 - i. Conflict resolution
 - ii. Careers and interest
 - iii. Management
 - iv. Developing mentors outside of NIH as a second mentor – science and career advice

Visiting Fellows Committee

1. Teams

Past co-Chairs: Stéphanie OLIVIER-VAN STICHELEN & Fatima ALI-RAHMANI
New co-chairs: Ulrike BOEHM and Daphnée VILLOING
Secretary: Amir MANZOUR
Social: 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

2. VFC Social

Past events:

- *Tuesday, August 22th: VFC Picnic Lunch.* [12 fellows]
- *Thursday, August 24th: Outdoor Movie Night* at Strathmore. [7 fellows + 2 kids]
- *Saturday, August 26th: Fellows into the Wild* – hike at the Potomac Heritage Trail. [5 fellows]
- *Thursday, August 31st: VFC Happy Hour* at Rock Bottom, Bethesda. [25 fellows]
- *Wednesday, September 13th: GU/ GWU/ NIH PDA networking event* at Bier Baron, Washington, DC.
- *Monday, September 18th: VFC Lunch.*
- *Sunday, September 24th: Fellows into the Wild* – hike in Rock Creek Park. [14 fellows]
- *Thursday, September 28th: VFC Happy Hour* at Lebanese Taverna, Bethesda.

3. Brown Bag seminar:

The next **NIH-VFC Brown Bag seminar** will be held on **October 10, 2017** from **12:00pm to 1:00pm** at the **NIH Library Training Room** (Main campus, building 10, 1st floor).

The topic of this seminar will be the "**NIH Library Resources and Services to NIH Fellows**". For fellows who can't join in person, the seminar will be accessible online through WebEx (nih.webex.com; meeting number: 620.810.938; meeting password: fellows).

Description:

The NIH Library offers a variety of information and technology services to NIH Fellows. We will go over resources and services the library provides to help you in your work during your fellowship. Participants will learn about the following opportunities and services available to them:

- NIH Library resources [online books, journals, databases, tutorials]
- Types of services [translation services; editing services; data services; bioinformatics services; etc.]
- Instruction [electronic lab notebooks; Introduction to R for data analysis; and more]
- Access full text articles directly from a literature search and how to obtain articles not found online

4. Science Voices from Home

The next Science Voices from Home webinar will be focused on **India**. This webinar should happen around October 20th, to be confirmed. In December, Science Voices from Home will be focused on **Sweden**, date still to be determined.

5. New Positions at VFC

- After 2 years of service as **co-chairs of the VFC**, Stéphanie OLIVIER-VAN STICHELEN and Fatima ALI-RAHMANI passed the baton to Ulrike BOEHM and Daphnée VILLOING.
- Two new positions will be available soon in the **VFC Social team**. The mission will be to help organizing the current social events organized by VFC, in collaboration with Dario MARANGONI and Ray SUBHASIS. It will include communications to the VFC list, prospection and negotiations with providers and participation to the monthly VFC meetings.
- A new position will open soon 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 October 2nd.

7. Next VFC meeting

10/11/2017, 12:00 pm – 1:00 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 the following speakers for the month of October 2017.

Date	Speaker	Home Institute	Title of the Talk
Oct 11, 2017	Michal Schwartz, Ph.D.	Weizmann Institute of Science	Systemic immunity protects the mind: Can immune checkpoint blockade combat Alzheimer's disease?
Oct 18, 2017	Jennifer J. Manly, Ph.D.	Columbia University Medical Center	Deconstructing life course mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease disparities
Oct 25, 2017	Rommie E. Amaro, Ph.D. (DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Lecture)	UC San Diego	Computing cures: discovery through the lens of a computational microscope

Women Scientist Advisors Committee

Fatima Ali-Rahmani & Jessica Petrick

The WSA Scholar Symposium, which are for selected female FARE winners, is scheduled for Thursday, March 15th, 1:00-3:00pm, in Wilson Hall.

ELECTIONS

FARE Co-Chairs (ELECTING 2)

1. Ying Fu, Ph.D. | IRTA Postdoc Fellow, Laboratory of Molecular Biology:

I am Ying Fu from The Center for Cancer Research (CCR), which is the largest division of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) intramural research program. Recently, my research lead to “A phase I single-arm, multicenter pilot study aimed at validating γ -OHPdG as a biomarker and testing the effects of Polyphenon E® on its levels in patients with cirrhosis.” In addition to research, I am currently serve as an adjunct faculty member of Northern Virginia Community College. I am involved in service at the NIH by participating as a judge for NIH poster sessions as well as the 12th Annual Undergraduate Student Caucus and Poster Competition of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). Additionally, I remain involved with the current direction of cancer research by being an active reviewer for eight scientific journals. Thank you for your consideration.

2. Carlos Guardia, Ph.D. | Visiting Fellow, Section on Intracellular Protein Trafficking:

My name is Carlos Guardia and I am a senior postdoc starting his fourth year in Juan Bonifacino’s lab (NICHD). I study the role of various molecular motors in the intracellular transport of organelles. My first work involved the comparison between two kinesins responsible for the movement of lysosomes, and the abstract of this study won a FARE award (2016). Thanks to the prize, this year I could participate in a conference in Boston that in no other way my boss would have suggested going to. And I certainly learned a lot, met new colleagues from the field and had an overall great experience. This year two things happened: first, as an awardee in the previous edition, I became a jury of the FARE award competition. And secondly, I decided to apply myself again with a new abstract. This time I did not win. So this edition of the FARE award had a bittersweet flavor, but I definitely had the chance to have a sneak peek at what the organization of the competition means and I felt I wanted to become part of it. I have explored the whole spectrum of possible outcomes and I feel ready to continue participating in the FARE competition. I am naturally a very organized person (I love Google Calendar and fill it with colors and activities like a Tetris!) who answers emails in a timely manner, enjoys discussions and exchanges with his peers, and has some new ideas for the 2019 FARE award, if the rest of the FelCom is willing to discuss them. That is why, through these words, I offer myself as a candidate for co-chair of the FARE Committee, and I look forward to working with the rest of the fellows and to keeping alive the scientific spirit behind this competition that yearly joins all kind of fellows of the Intramural Program at NIH.

Child Care Board Liaison (Basic Science)

1. Eric Gonzalez

I’m very interested in the NIH Child Care Board Liaison position. I admit that I am not yet a parent, but my wife, Amy, and I plan to have a child as soon as possible. Through my participation in the Child Care Board, I believe I will provide the input that new parents would want to voice in such meetings. The endeavor of having and raising a child is daunting, especially when removed from family. I am certain that many of our fellow postdocs fall into such a category. I intend to ensure that the Child Care Board is considerate of new parents and their struggles. Moreover, I would gladly help inform new parents of the existing (and new) resources on behalf of the Child Care Board. If I can in some way help alleviate the stress burden new parents experience with regard to child care, they may be able to better focus on their research. This would be very rewarding to me.

2. Choon Kiat Sim

I am interested to apply for the position for the Felcom liaison to the NIH Child Care Board. My primary interest for the position arises because I have a baby girl arriving in November, my first child and a major milestone in my life. I am curious about the resources available to fathers and hope that others like myself are able to access these resources in a timely fashion. If I get the position, I will reach out to fellows to disseminate relevant childcare information, and also provide feedback to the Child Care Board about the needs of fellows. For relevant

experiences, I can describe a few related to planning and organizing events. During my PhD, I was the graduate representative at the Singapore Association at Stanford University. The association is primarily run by enthusiastic undergraduates, so having a graduate voice helps. The association organized routine events such as celebrations for major festive holidays, or ad hoc events such as the visit of a minister from Singapore. Second, in my first workplace after PhD in 2014, I was co-organizer for the first scientific symposium for my research institute, planning the list of speakers, poster sessions and other logistics for 200 people to attend a one-day symposium. Third, as an alumni of the University of Michigan, I was on the organizing committee for a pan-Asia Alumni Reunion in Singapore in 2015, where there were >300 alumni participants, 4 Deans from University of Michigan and a list of high-profile business/law/medical leaders who were Michigan alumni.