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Dear Postdocs,
 Welcome to the Summer 2017 edition of the Postdoctoral Association (PDA) Newsletter! In this newsletter we will recap some recent events here on campus, highlight exciting upcoming events, and reach out to our postdocs! First, we here on the PDA board would like to invite all postdocs on campus to consider **getting involved in the PDA** by attending events, attending meetings, or even joining us as an Executive Board Member! You gain the opportunity to network with your contemporaries here on campus, guide the development and implementation of content for the upcoming year, interact with multiple organizations and individuals at Chicago area campuses as well as professionals in the scientific community, and bolster your resume thru networking, writing, organizing and participating. Additionally, this September the PDA has put together a career symposium that will coincide with the National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week (details below), which we encourage all graduate and postdoctoral scientists to register for and attend. Please read on for further details and we hope to see you soon at an upcoming event. So welcome, or welcome back! Please enjoy your research and all that the university and city have to offer to make this a rewarding and productive step in your career!

Brian Ferguson & Laura Cook, Editors

UIC Postdoctoral Association Presents:

Career Development Symposium - 2017

The UIC Postdoctoral association is hosting a signature event which welcomes postdoctoral researchers and graduate students from across Chicagoland. In an evolving scientific landscape, this symposium will highlight specific career tracks while also facilitating an opportunity to network with representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology, academic scientists, and more!

Goals of the Symposium

1. Educate researchers on career opportunities in academia and beyond
2. Foster cross-talk among graduate students, postdocs, and professionals

When: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 12-7pm
Where: Student Center West, 828 South Wolcott Avenue, University of Illinois at Chicago

Symposium Speakers

Keynote Speaker: **Joanne Kamens, PhD.**, Executive Director at **Addgene**

Guest Speaker: **Garry McDowell, PhD.**, Executive Director at **Future of Research (FOR) Inc.**

Panel Discussions: Four concurrent sessions that will each be held twice with expertise in:

Industry Careers:
 Industry research scientist, Project Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Science Communication Careers:
 Science/Medical writing, Medical Science Liaison, Science policy

Business of Science Careers:
 Consultant, Venture capitalists, Analysts, Technology Transfer Commercialization

Academic Careers:
 Grants officer, Core Facilities, Program Manager, Principal Investigator

Career Track Panelists

Kathleen Goss, PhD, Science Writer • **Robert Davis, PhD**, Senior Scientist, **Pfizer** • **Prem Sundivakkam, PhD, MBA**, Business Development Analyst • **Mike Foley, DVM, PhD**, Research Scientist, Safety Pharmacology, **AbbVie** • **Mike Burrows, PhD**, Healthcare Analyst, **Aspire Capital Partners** • **George Chellapa**, UIC Tech Transfer • **Leo Njongmeta**, UIC • **Abby Stayart**, myCHOICE • **Monica Metzler, JD, MA**, Illinois Science Council

Current Sponsors



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Grant opportunities

Below you will find a table of grant opportunities with deadlines in the next few months. Opportunities highlighted in green are open to international postdocs.

Field	Sponsor	Due Date	Information
All	NIH Ruth Kirschstein	August 8	http://grants.nih.gov/training/F_files_nrsa.htm
Any	EMBO	August 14	http://www.embo.org/funding-awards/fellowships
Cancer	Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation	August 11	http://www.embo.org/funding-awards/fellowships/long-term-fellowships#eligibility
Cancer	The Elsa U. Pardee Foundation	August 31	http://www.pardeefoundation.org/grants.aspx
Pharmacology / Toxicology	PhRMA Foundation	September 1	http://www.phrmafoundation.org/2018-awards/post-doctoral-fellowships/
Informatics	PhRMA Foundation	September 1	http://www.phrmafoundation.org/2018-awards/post-doctoral-fellowships/
Pharmaceutics	PhRMA Foundation	September 1	http://www.phrmafoundation.org/2018-awards/post-doctoral-fellowships/
Cancer	CRI Irvington	October 1	http://www.cancerresearch.org/postdoc/apply
Life Sciences	Life Sciences Research Foundation	October 1	http://www.lsrif.org/apply
Cancer	American Cancer Society	October 15	http://www.cancer.org/research/applyforaresearchgrant/granttypes/postdoctoral-fellowships

Get Involved in Chicago's Science Scene By: Laura Cook

Chicago has become an important U.S. hub for science and technology led by major universities such as UIC, Northwestern, and the University of Chicago in addition to smaller colleges. There is also a vibrant professional community with numerous biotechnology companies both large and small. Tens of thousands attended Chicago's March for Science rally this April, while in 2015, the Future of Research (FOR) <http://futureofresearch.org/chicago/> held a major FOR event in Chicago. Both of these events emphasized the importance of science to this community. Recently, Chicago has also seen an uptick in the number of science related groups open to the public. This article highlights a few of these groups but there are many more. If you are interested in careers in science, networking with scientists, or just learning more about interesting scientific topics, check out some of these local science groups.

- **CHientist** <http://chientist.com/>: The aim of CHientist is to connect Chicago life scientists from academia and industry together to facilitate personal interactions. The group focuses on networking events as well as meet and greets to facilitate collaborations and encourage new ideas.
- **Women in Science groups**: Women are often the minority in many scientific fields and numerous groups are aiming to promote participation by women in the sciences.
 - **Field Museum Women in Science** <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/about/employee-groups/women-science> hosts monthly noon seminars as well as a yearly symposium and networking mixers.
 - **Graduate Women in Science** <http://gwischicago.org/> has monthly events focusing on professional development topics and has a mentorship program for women in all stages of their careers.
 - **UIC Women in Science and Engineering** <https://crwg.uic.edu/wise-home/> hosts events on campus monthly with the goal of increasing the number of women in the STEM fields
 - **Women in Bio** <http://www.womeninbio.org/wib-chapters/chicago> focuses on events to promote career development for women in the life sciences.
- **Chicago Council on Science and Technology** <https://www.c2st.org/> offers events meant to enhance understanding of science and technology topics in the general public. Events are meant to increase basic scientific literacy for the public as well as attract scientific industries to Chicago.
- **Illinois Science Council** <http://www.illinoisscience.org/> advertises itself as "science for the curious". Events are focused on educating as well as entertaining the public about topics in STEM and how they affect their everyday lives.
- **The Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (iBio)** <http://www.ibio.org/> is a life sciences group that hosts events to allow sciences to come together and educate policy makers to influence public change.
- **Science Innovation**: Many Chicago groups focus on helping the scientific community innovate and move ideas from the lab to market. These groups focus on helping startup companies and developing technologies.
 - **MATTER** <http://matter.health/> aids healthcare innovators in bringing new technologies to market and help researchers realize their visions by providing workshops and aimed at explaining topics such as trademarking, insurance, and financing.
 - **Chicago Innovation Exchange** <http://civicengagement.uchicago.edu/programs-partnerships-volunteering/detail/chicago-innovation-exchange/> is a center based at the University of Chicago that helps researchers and entrepreneurs translate ideas to technologies in start-up businesses.

These are just a few of the amazing science groups in Chicago. As a postdoc, people will always tell you that networking is a crucial part of starting your career whether that be in industry, government, academia or something completely different. These groups offer the perfect opportunity to get involved in science in your local community. Check out some of their programming today and open up a whole new world of Chicago scientists. Who know, maybe one of them will hire you someday!

Upcoming Events:

PDA sponsored events:

July 20, 2017: PDA BARBEQUE!

The PDA will be hosting a barbeque for postdocs. Come to the Pharmacy Atkin Garden to meet your fellow postdocs and share in catered food and drinks.

August: Networking 101

Postdocs will be offered the opportunity to learn more about how to efficiently network to promote their career development.

September 19, 2017 PDA CAREER SYMPOSIUM

For more information see the symposium announcement in this newsletter.

Your Future in Science Events:

July 20, 2017: From Discovery to Patent: the Process of Intellectual Property

Have you ever wondered about the commercialization of intellectual property? Come hear UIC's Office of Technology Management describe the process and how their different backgrounds led them to this career.

If you have a question you'd like answered in an upcoming newsletter, email uic.pda@gmail.com!

Question: Dear PDA,

I'm a 2nd year postdoc and do not plan to continue on the academic route for a research faculty position. However, I'm very passionate about science and interested in using the skills acquired during my postdoc training in other science related industry careers. What other career opportunities are out there in terms of non-academic careers?

Answer: Dear Postdoc,

We understand your concern and it is always a good idea to plan ahead for the careers options you might be interested in if academic route is not what you want to pursue. Research training (graduate and postdoctoral) is very valuable and although you might not see the immediate value to fields outside of academia, there are actually many interesting careers to which you can apply these skills. Recently, the "traditional" career path has changed. These days, the career trajectory is most likely to be dotted with dips and plateaus as you build skills or change directions. Looking beyond academia for a career can be daunting but there are plenty of steps to initiate the process while you are still in your current postdoctoral role. Here are some of the career options available and how to start preparing your skills for a career outside of research.

Non-academic roles you can take:

- Entrepreneur/business/consultancy
- Patent law
- Science policy
- Teaching/education
- Science communication such as journalism, broadcast, museums, press and PR blogging
- Research charities – roles could include grants, communications, and events
- Events/conferences
- Non-academic roles in universities such as careers services and technology-transfer
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Publishing
- Pharma/medical sales
- Product development

Skills You need:

- **Communication:** The ability to clearly communicate information to broad audiences, from the lay public to leaders in the field, is an invaluable skill. You will need to be able to communicate scientific ideas in a clear, concise, and accessible way, whether that's to top scientists, policy makers or school children.
- **Adaptability:** For many of these jobs you will be expected to be able to get up to speed very quickly on different areas of science. Remember you already have this skill as, at one point, you were not an expert in your current area of research.
- **Team Work:** Most of these jobs involve team work, as well as a flexible and adaptable attitude.
- **Fast Pace:** In many careers you will need to work with shorter deadlines than in academia.
- **Additional training:** Some of the roles like patent law, will require further professional qualifications.

Places to start:

There are a few things you can do to start gaining these valuable skills while still a postdoc:

1. Perform a self-evaluation to determine the areas in science and research that you most enjoy. This can help guide you toward the most rewarding career for you. One useful tool to start with is <http://myidp.sciencecareers.org>
2. To improve your communication skills, seek out opportunities to practice communicating information in a variety of formats (oral, poster, written communication), start a blog, and engage with others using social media.
3. To facilitate a career change, networking is crucial. Start now – connect with people doing the kind of things you aspire to on LinkedIn. Get in touch with people and discover the ins and outs of the job, and make sure you actually listen to their advice.
4. Re-write your CV in a non-academic format as a resume. Your publications may not be the most important skills in non-academic roles, therefore, tailor your CV/resume according to the future role.
5. Look out for fellowships or training days run by charities, funding bodies or other organizations that will give you the skills and connections you currently lack. There are also science communication competitions you can take part in to sharpen your skills.
6. Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops and seminars here at UIC as well as within the greater Chicagoland science community (see the article on the Science Scene in this issue of the newsletter) to help with all facets of your career development. Remember, it is your career that you are defining!

We hope these ideas help you in your search for the most compatible future roles, where you feel happy and accomplished. In the meantime, UIC-PDA is organizing our first **Career Development Symposium** (details in this newsletter) on September 19, 2017 during the National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW). This symposium will be your one-stop meeting to learn about a variety of science careers and give you the opportunity to network with speakers, panelists, and company representatives who might be looking for someone with your unique skill set. Good luck!

Review of Recent Events

PDA sponsored events:

Strategic Financial Planning, March 2017:

Sherrie VanKoevering, a Financial Representative from Northwestern Mutual, spoke about financial planning strategies for postdocs.

Immigration, April 2017:

Brendan Delany led a talk on Immigration for international postdocs. He focused on visa issues and how to complete immigration paperwork.

A step into global research: How to share resources and knowledge, May 2017:

Gary Cooper, the founder and CEO of Rheaply, Inc discussed the reason for his startup company, Rheaply, to recycle resources cheaply. This is the only marketplace for researchers to share their ideas and excess resources with colleagues to reduce the time and cost of getting experiments done.

YFIS Sponsored Events:

Careers in Drug Discovery March 2017:

Scott Mittelstadt, the Director of Safety Pharmacology at Abbvie discussed the skills needed in a career in Drug Discovery in Big Pharma.

Networking, April 2017:

Thomas Magaldi of the Sloan Kettering Institute spoke about building professional relationships to be successful in science.

Managing Communication and Conflict in Scientific Research Teams, May 2017:

Howard Gadlin from the National Institutes of Health spoke about the challenges of working in collaborative research and how to address these issues productively.

Launching a Faculty Job Search and Preparing Application Materials, June 2017:

Bill Lindstaedt of the University of California San Francisco led an interactive session on the skills needed for a job in academia and discussed tips for improving cover letters and CVs to get an interview.

Call for new PDA Executive Committee Members!

The UIC Postdoctoral Association (PDA) is looking for new committee members and wants you! Serving on the executive committee is a great way to get experience in event planning, program development, and networking. PDA Executive Board participation can range from attending monthly meetings and helping out with one or two events a year to becoming a PDA Officer and leading a team of postdocs in planning the programming events. The PDA is looking to fill many of its officer positions in the 2017-2018 academic year and would love to have new voices on the team. If you are a new (or old!) postdoc and want your voice to be heard in the UIC community, join the PDA today! For more information, check out the PDA website at <http://research.uic.edu/resources/uic-postdoc-association/home>, attend one of our Executive Board Meetings, and come to our events. The PDA Officers will be happy to answer any questions you might have. **Join us today!**

Selected Awards, and first author publications by UIC postdocs

Publications:

- **Angell, A. M.**, & Solomon, O. 2017. "If I was a different ethnicity, would she treat me the same?": Latino parents' experiences obtaining autism services. *Disability & Society*. doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2017.1339589
- Basu, M. Sengupta, I. **Khan, MW**, Srivastava, D., Chakrabarti, P., Roy, S., and Chandrima Das. 2017. Dual histone reader ZMYND8 inhibits cancer cell invasion by positively regulating epithelial genes. *Biochemical Journal*. 474 1919–1934. doi:10.1042/BCJ20170223
- **Maniscalco JW**, Rinaman L. 2017. Interoceptive modulation of neuroendocrine, emotional, and hypophagic responses to stress. *Physiol Behav*. Jul 1;176:195-206. doi: 10.1016/j.physbeh.2017.01.027
- **Rakotomamonjy J**, Brunner M, Jüschke C, Zang K, Huang EJ, Reichardt LF, Chenn A. 2017. Afadin controls cell polarization and mitotic spindle orientation in developing cortical radial glia. *Neural Dev*. 2017 May 8;12(1):7. doi: 10.1186/s13064-017-0085-2.
- **Yuan, Y.** et al. 2016. The influence of large cations on the electrochemical properties of tunnel-structured metal oxides. *Nature Communications*. 7:13374. doi:10.1038/ncomms13374.

Awards:

- **Emre Firlar, Laty Cahoon, Jeffrey Klomp** and **Fernando Magelano Verduzco** were awarded Postdoctoral grants from the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC).
- **Cindy Veldhuis** received the Early Career Psychologist Travel Award from the American Psychological Association and the Junior Investigator Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism as well as an NIH F32 grant.
- **Harinder Singh** received the Research Poster Presentation Award, Chicago Chapter of Society for Neuroscience (SfN).

Jobs:

- **Natalia Marangoni**, the former PDA Director of Programming, recently took a position as a Medical Science Liaison at Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Congratulations to all !!!

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