

The Post-y Fall 2009

Semi-annual Newsletter of the Society of Toxicology Postdoctoral Assembly



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Message From the Chair

Betina Lew

Greetings! Fall is here and the PDA has planned several activities for the season focusing on the career development of our postdoctoral members. To celebrate the First Postdoctoral Appreciation Day on September 24th, 2009, we are promoting a webinar entitled, "From Postdoc to Faculty: Climbing the Ladder of Academia." This session will discuss the pathways to achieve a faculty position following postdoctoral training.

In collaboration with the SAC, we are organizing a second webinar that will take place in November during which postdoctoral fellows working in academia, government, industry and non-profit organizations will share their experiences with pre-doctoral members of the Society of Toxicology.

In addition, for our Annual Meeting in March, we are sponsoring one scientific session (co-sponsored by SAC) and one career development session that will focus on improving networking, communication skills and increasing the likelihood of advancing your scientific career. We are also endorsing several other sessions during the SOT Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City.

It is extremely rewarding to see that our hard work is being translated into so many important activities of interest for our postdoctoral members.

As the chairperson for the PDA, I would like to thank the PDA board officers Lauren Aleksunes, Sarah Campion, Alison Harrill, Patrick Shaw as well as our SOT Councilor Patricia Ganey and the staff liaison Betty Eidemiller and all postdoc reps for the excellent job done so far during the year.

In this opportunity, I want to remind you of some important dates and deadlines:

Abstract Submission for the Annual Meeting → Oct 3rd

Best Postdoctoral Publication Award submission deadline → Oct 9th

Hope to see you in Salt Lake City!

Betina Lew
PDA Chair



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First Annual National Postdoctoral Appreciation Day

Alison Harrill

The first Annual Postdoctoral Appreciation Day is set for September 24 and many institutions around the U.S. are preparing events and ceremonies to recognize their important contributions. This day has been designated by the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) as a day for celebrating the important role of postdocs in a variety of institutions.

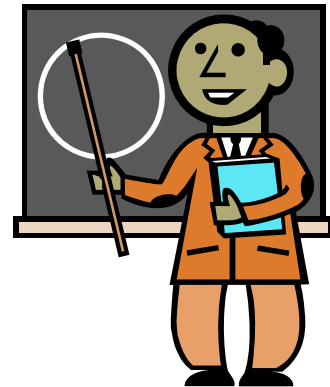
Not sure how to celebrate? There are some great suggestions on the NPDA website: <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/meetings-and-events/appreciation/appreciation-toolkit>. Planned events around the nation include happy hour gatherings (U-Penn, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Thomas Jefferson U., Drexel U. and Temple U.), poster sessions and symposia (UMDNJ-RW JMS), an ice cream social (NIH), and a "Postdokterfest" (U. Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center).

There is still plenty of time to organize an event in your research group or institution. We would love to highlight your event in our next issue of the Post-Y. Please send a short description of your event, no matter how small, and 1-2 pictures (optional) to the PDA secretary at aharrill@thehamner.org.

PDA Sponsored Webinars in 2009

Alison Harrill

Based on recent survey results, a major focus for this year's PDA initiatives is "Careers" and "Outreach." We chose to tie these two areas together with an over-arching theme of *transitions*. It is often tough to move from one job to another or to take on new roles and responsibilities. In order to learn more about these transitions, we are continuing our successful PDA seminar series to include two new webinars!



From Postdoc to Faculty: Climbing the Ladder of Academia is a webinar aimed at helping postdocs to navigate the often tricky transition to an academic position. Insight and advice will be given by George Corcoran, Wayne State University, who, with Lauren Aleksunes, will then field questions from the audience. This webinar will take place on National Postdoctoral Appreciation Day, **Sept. 24th, at 10:30 AM ET**. Register for this event at <https://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD/seminarSept09.asp>.

From Grad Student to Postdoc: Insight Across Career Paths is an outreach webinar that is aimed at graduate students who are beginning to consider their career path after graduation. Postdocs who are now working for governmental agencies, academia, industry, and nonprofit organizations will share their experiences. These insights will be followed by a panel discussion and answers to submitted questions. The webinar will take place on **Nov. 12th, at 2pm**. Additional details will be forthcoming. If you are interested in volunteering to be a panel participant, please send your name and a brief description of your current employment to Alison Harrill (aharrill@thehamner.org).

Scientific Session at the 2010 Annual Meeting Highlights the Scientific Contributions of Postdocs and Graduate Students

Sarah Campion

Last year, the collaborative efforts of the PDA and SAC resulted in the first ever scientific session highlighting the research of early career scientists. Following up on this success at the 2009 annual meeting, the PDA and SAC have joined efforts once again to showcase the work of students and postdocs in a symposium session at the 2010 meeting.

This research symposium, titled “**MAP Kinase Signaling: A Common Target in Different Tissues,**” will highlight the most recent research progress made to characterize the alterations of MAPK signaling pathways in response to toxicant exposures, and how these alterations contribute to toxicity and/or pathogenesis in different tissues and cell types. This session will bring together a talented group of speakers who will present research addressing MAP kinase signaling in relation to the diverse areas of tumorigenesis, suppression of humoral immunity by dioxins, Parkinson’s disease, oxidative stress, and ethanol-induced suppression of innate immunity. It has been a pleasure working with SAC to plan this session, which will serve as a unique opportunity for the next generation of toxicologists to present their research and gain recognition for all of their hard work.

Please join us at the 2010 meeting to support our colleagues and continue the tradition of successful scientific sessions.

NIH Loan Repayment Programs

You do the research. NIH will repay your student loans.

The 2010 fiscal year deadline for submission to the NIH loan repayment program is fast approaching. The application cycle is now open and accepting new extramural and renewal deadlines until December 1, 2009.



NIH wants to encourage outstanding health professionals to pursue careers in biomedical, behavioral, social, and clinical research. If you commit at least two years to conducting qualified research funded by a domestic nonprofit organization or U.S. federal, state, or local government entity, NIH may repay up to \$35,000 of your qualified student loan debt per year, including most undergraduate, graduate, and medical school loans. Loan repayment benefits are in addition to the institutional salary you receive for your research.

If you are or will be conducting qualified research at a domestic nonprofit institution outside NIH, you may be eligible for one of the five extramural Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs):

- Clinical Research
- Pediatric Research
- Health Disparities Research
- Contraception and Infertility Research
- Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds

You may submit only one LRP application to NIH in any fiscal year, even though your research may be appropriate for more than one of the programs.

Please visit their Web site www.lrp.nih.gov for more information and eligibility.

Highlight: The National Postdoctoral Association

Alison Harrill

One of the major challenges for postdocs is having a voice in the national issues that confront the postdoctoral community. The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) is a non-profit organization that is designed to give a national voice to postdocs. Largely run by volunteers and a few professional staff members, the NPA seeks to maximize the effectiveness of the research community and to improve the American postdoctoral experience.

The NPA is organized into three committee types – the Executive Committee, the Governance Committees, and Committees of the Membership. These committees have oversight from a 12-member Board of Directors. The Committees of the Membership comprise four major areas that focus on the special needs of postdocs. The Advocacy Committee recommends and seeks to implement policy changes and practices that would increase the diversity of postdoctoral researchers and monitor the interests of international postdocs in the U.S. This committee has established relationships and maintains communication with federal agencies and national organizations. The Meetings Committee coordinates the agendas and logistics of NPA-sponsored regional and national meetings. The Outreach Committee promotes the mission and objectives of the NPA by increasing membership and by seeking out new partnerships with a variety of organizations. The Resource Development Committee develops and maintains resources for the postdoc community, such as the NPA website, the POSTDOCKet newsletter, quarterly informational publications, and surveys.

Finally, there are a few additional leadership positions: the Diversity Officers and the International Officers. The Diversity Officers' role is to promote dialogue and resources for minorities and to assist in implementing programs for the benefit of this important group of postdocs. The International Officers are tasked with being expert resources and advisors to the NPA, and to serve as public advocates for international postdocs.

Key activities within the NPA include three core areas: advocacy, community-building, and resource development. It is a testament to their efforts that more than 160 institutions have adopted portions of the NPA's Recommended Practices. The NPA develops resources for postdoc members that are often unavailable at member institutions. And, perhaps most importantly, the NPA provides opportunities for postdocs to connect at both the regional and national level in order to foster collaboration, networking, and professional development.

The NPA has a number of important recent accomplishments and advocacy programs that are worth mentioning. For example, the NPA has submitted a white paper to the NIH calling for the establishment of expanded career transition awards. They have represented postdocs at over 200 national meetings and conducted media interviews with high-profile outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, Science, the Lancet, and The Chronicle of Higher Education, among others. NIH leadership has identified the NPA as "one of the key drivers of its policies regarding postdoctoral training." The NPA has also used its influence to help enact a change in NSF policy which requires mentoring plans to be explicit in all grant applications that will support postdoctoral fellows. The list of recent accomplishments is too numerous to list here; however, further information may be obtained from the NPA website.

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the NPA will be held in Philadelphia, PA on March 12-14, 2010. More information on the NPA and how to become a member can be found at <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/>

Source: www.nationalpostdoc.org

Meet Your Postdoctoral Representatives

Lauren Aleksunes

These are exciting times for postdocs within SOT. It has only been the past few years that we have begun to see postdocs elected and appointed to key committees and groups within SOT. Our postdoc representatives are responsible for communicating between membership and leadership of their groups and the PDA. Feel free to contact your representatives regarding questions and suggestions for the chapters and sections.

Committees

Career Resource and Development
Committee on Diversity Initiatives
Education
Membership
Communication
Continuing Education

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Regional Chapter

Allegheny-Erie
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Gulf Coast
Michigan
Mountain West
National Capital
North Carolina
Northeast
Northern California
Ohio Valley
Pacific Northwest
Southern California

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Specialty Section

Carcinogenesis
Dermal
Drug Discovery Toxicology
Immunotoxicology
In Vitro and Alternative Methods
Inhalation and Respiratory
Mechanisms
Metals
Mixtures
Molecular Biology
Nanotoxicology
Neurotoxicology
Occupational and Public Health
Reproductive and Developmental
Risk Assessment
Toxicology and Exploratory Pathology

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Special Interest Groups

American Association of Chinese
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin
Hispanic Organization for Toxicologist
Women in Toxicology

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Best Postdoctoral Publication Award

The Postdoctoral Assembly (PDA) of the Society of Toxicology is pleased to announce the Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards. These awards were created to recognize talented postdoctoral researchers who have recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology. Applications are reviewed by the Postdoctoral Assembly Board and a committee containing appropriate scientific expertise. The review process follows NIH conflict of interest policy, confidentiality and nondisclosure policies. Three awards, each consisting of a plaque and a \$100 cash award, are presented at the Postdoctoral Assembly Luncheon during the SOT Annual Meeting.

Eligibility for 2010

- The research reported in the paper was conducted while the applicant was engaged in a postdoctoral research experience
- Member of SOT or membership application submitted by award application deadline
- First author on a peer-reviewed paper published on-line or in print, or in press, between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009
- Application supported by letter from the research advisor
- Only one paper may be submitted by each applicant
- Leaders of the Postdoctoral Assembly are eligible but applicants will not participate in the award determination

Additional information and application materials can be found on our website:

<https://www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/PD-PubAwardAnn.asp>



See you in Salt Lake City!



Full details at www.toxicology.org select “Members/Scientists: About SOT: Awards and Fellowships”

Postdoctoral Scholars			
Title	Recognizes	Membership requirement	Deadline
Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards	Best papers published from postdoctoral research	SOT Member <i>or</i> Pending	Oct. 9, 2009
Colgate-Palmolive Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in <i>In Vitro</i> Toxicology	Research proposed to promote alternative research methods; \$38,500 fellowship	SOT Member <i>or</i> Pending	Oct. 9, 2010
Colgate-Palmolive Grants for Alternative Research	Proposed research involving alternative methods; \$40,000 grant	SOT Member or Non-member*	Oct. 9, 2009
Syngenta Fellowship Award in Human Health Applications of New Technologies	Proposed mode-of-action research to characterize dose-dependent effects of xenobiotics on mammalian systems; \$15,000 fellowship plus travel funding	SOT Member or Non-member*	Oct. 9, 2009
Allegheny-Erie RC Student Travel Award	Outstanding abstract; \$500 Travel Award for SOT Annual Meeting	Allegheny-Erie RC Member or pending	Jan. 31, 2010
Central States RC Graduate and Postdoctoral Student Travel Award	Best oral and poster presentation at the Central States RC Annual Meeting	None	Sept. 25, 2009
Michigan RC Student Poster Award	Best postdoctoral poster at the Michigan RC fall meeting	None	Nov. 14, 2009
National Capital Area Chapter Bern Schwetz Student Travel Award	Best abstract from a pre- or postdoctoral student	National Capital Area RC Member	Jan. 12, 2010
National Capital Area Chapter Student Poster Award	Best poster student presentation at the National Capital Area RC Spring Symposium.	National Capital Area RC Member	April 12, 2010
North Carolina RC President’s Award for Research Competition (PARC)	Best abstract; \$500 stipend and the opportunity to present your abstract at the North Carolina RC Fall Meeting.	North Carolina RC Member or pending	Sept. 26, 2009
Northeast RC Student Travel Award	Best abstract	Northeast RC Student Member	Dec. 21, 2009
Northern California RC Young Investigator Award	Best abstract by a student or postdoctoral scholar	Northern California RC Member	Dec. 15, 2009
South Central RC Fall Meeting Presentation Awards	Outstanding presentations at the fall South Central RC meeting	None	Oct. 8, 2009
South Central RC Student Travel Award	Best abstract of a graduate student or a postdoctoral fellow; \$500 or more travel for the SOT Annual Meeting	South Central RC Member	Feb. 13, 2010
Biological Modeling SS Perry J. Gehring Student Award	Meritorious poster/platform on biologically-based modeling in toxicology at the SOT Annual Meeting	None	Jan. 15, 2010

Title	Recognizes	Membership requirement	Deadline
Carcinogenesis Postdoctoral Fellowship Award	Best abstract in carcinogenesis by postdoctoral fellow	None	Nov. 16, 2009
Comparative and Veterinary SS and Toxicological and Exploratory Pathology SS Roger O. McClellan Student Award	Abstracts exemplifying role of comparative medicine in evaluating the safety/risk of exposure to chemicals or physical agents	None	Jan. 25, 2010
Comparative and Veterinary SS Student Award	Best abstract in comparative and veterinary toxicology by graduate or postdoctoral student	None	Nov. 30, 2009
Dermal Toxicology SS Annual Paper of the Year Award	Exceptional recent publication in skin toxicology and pharmacology	SOT Member	Jan. 31, 2010
Dermal Toxicology SS Student and Postdoc Awards	Outstanding contribution by trainees in skin toxicology and pharmacology	None	Jan. 31, 2010
Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues SS Student Awards	Best abstract by a pre- or postdoctoral student	None	Feb. 1, 2010
Immunotoxicology SS Best Presentation by a Postdoctoral Trainee Award	Best presentation by a postdoc in immunotoxicology.	None	Feb. 1, 2010
Immunotoxicology SS HESI Immunotoxicology Young Investigator Travel Award	Contribution to immunotoxicology within 5 years of Ph.D.	None	Dec. 30, 2009
<i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Methods SS MB Research Best Poster: Distinction in Practical <i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Methods Toxicology	Best abstract by a postdoctoral fellow in <i>in vitro</i> toxicology	None	Jan. 1, 2010
<i>In Vitro</i> and Alternative Methods SS Student Award	Scientific merit of abstract	None	Jan. 23, 2010
Inhalation and Respiratory SS Paper of the Year Award	Best paper in the area of respiratory/inhalation toxicology	SOT Member	Dec. 18, 2009
Inhalation and Respiratory SS Postdoctoral Award	Best abstract in respiratory/inhalation toxicology	Inhalation & Respiratory SS Member	Dec. 18, 2009
Mechanisms SS Postdoctoral Student Travel Award	Best abstract in mechanisms toxicology	None	Oct. 12, 2009
Mechanisms SS Renal Toxicology Award	Excellence in understanding mechanisms of renal toxicology; stipend	None T	BD
Metals SS Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Awards	Best platform presentation by a graduate student and a postdoctoral fellow	Metals SS Member	Jan. 5, 2010
Mixtures SS Best Student Abstract Award	Best abstract by graduate student or postdoc in mixtures research	None	Feb. 20, 2010
Mixtures SS Wiley's Best Postdoctoral Presentation	Best presentation by a postdoctoral fellow in mixtures toxicology	None	Jan. 15, 2010
Molecular Biology SS Postdoctoral Fellow Research Award	Best abstract by a postdoc in molecular toxicology	SOT Member	Nov. 1, 2009
Neurotoxicology SS Postdoctoral Fellow/Associate Poster Award	Best poster presentation by a postdoctoral fellow in neurotoxicology	Neurotoxicology SS Member	Jan. 15, 2010

Title	Recognizes	Membership requirement	Deadline
Occupational and Public Health SS Best Abstract Award	Best abstract by a pre- or postdoctoral student related to occupational and/or environmental public health	None	Jan. 15, 2010
Occupational and Public Health SS Best Manuscript Award	Best paper by a doctoral or postdoctoral student published in a peer-reviewed journal related to occupational and/or environmental public health	None	Jan. 31, 2010
Regulatory and Safety SS Student Travel Award	Best presentation by a student or postdoctoral fellow in regulatory toxicology or safety evaluation	None	Dec. 31, 2009
Reproductive and Developmental SS Best Reproductive/Developmental Toxicology Paper in <i>Toxicological Sciences</i>	Best paper in <i>Toxicological Sciences</i> related to reproductive and developmental toxicology	None	Jan. 31, 2010
Reproductive and Developmental SS Student/Postdoc Award	Best poster presentation by a student or postdoc in reproductive and developmental toxicology	None	Mar. 1, 2010
Risk Assessment SS Perry J. Gehring Best Postdoctoral Abstract Award	Best abstract by a postdoctoral fellow in risk assessment	None	Jan. 22, 2010
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology SS Charles Capen Student Travel Award	Achievements in toxicologic pathology by graduate student or postdoctoral fellow	None	Jan. 25, 2010
Toxicologic and Exploratory Pathology SS Travel Award	Best abstract in toxicologic pathology by a graduate or postdoctoral student	None	Jan. 25, 2010
American Association of Chinese in Toxicology SIG and Charles River Best Abstract Award	Best presentation by a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow of Chinese descent.	AACT SIG Member	Jan. 1, 2010
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin SIG Laxman S. Desai Student Award	Outstanding graduate student and postdoctoral fellow of Indian origin pursuing advanced studies in toxicology	ASIO SIG Member	Jan. 30, 2010
Association of Scientists of Indian Origin SIG Mehendale and Singh Student/Postdoctoral-Young Investigator Merit Award	Best abstract by a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow	None	Jan. 30, 2010
Hispanic Organization for Toxicologists SIG Hispanic Travel Award	Outstanding Hispanic graduate and post-graduate in toxicology	HOT SIG Member	Feb. 5, 2010
Korean Toxicologists Association in America SIG Best Presentation by a Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Trainee Award	Meritorious presentations at the SOT Annual Meeting by a graduate student or postdoctoral trainee	None	Feb. 13, 2010
Korean Toxicologists Association in America SIG Young Soo Choi Student Scholarship Award	Outstanding Korean student in toxicology; scholarship	None	TBD
Women in Toxicology SIG Student Achievement Award	Demonstrated academic achievement in toxicology and leadership and service in chosen field and/or community	SOT Member <i>or</i> pending	Jan. 11, 2010



Some of these awards are funded from the SOT Endowment.

**Full descriptions, criteria, and applications are at www.toxicology.org.
Select “Member/Scientist: About SOT: Awards and Fellowships”**