

Trainee Corner: 2014 Best Postdoctoral Publication Awardees

Presented by the Postdoctoral Assembly, the BBPA recognizes outstanding work accomplished during formal mentored postdoctoral traineeships by recognizing recently published exceptional papers in the field of toxicology (this year the paper should be accepted for publication between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013). Applications are reviewed by the Postdoctoral Assembly Board and outside reviewers with appropriate scientific expertise. The review process follows NIH conflict of interest, confidentiality, and nondisclosure rules. The 2014 BPPAs have been selected and will be formally presented at the Postdoctoral Luncheon during the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. A preview of this year's awardees is shown below. Please be sure to congratulate them at the Postdoctoral Luncheon!



Awardee: Annie Lumen, PhD, National Center for Toxicological Research/USFDA. *Evaluation of Perturbations in Serum Thyroid Hormones During Human Pregnancy Due to Dietary Iodide and Perchlorate Exposure Using a Biologically Based Dose-Response Model.* Toxicological Sciences 133(2): 320-341, 2013. Dr. Lumen is currently with the National Center for Toxicological

Research of U.S. Food and Drug Administration, working in the Division of Biochemical Toxicology. She joined NCTR as a postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Jeffrey Fisher. Her research interests include development of biologically-based mathematical models for application in quantitative assessment of human health risks associated with drug and chemical exposure. In 2011, she received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Drexel University for her work on mechanistic modeling of drug transport and interaction kinetics. She has a B.S./M.S degree in biological sciences and B.E. in chemical engineering from BITS-Pilani, India.

Awardee: Gul Mehnaz Mustafa, PhD, University of Texas Medical Branch.

Biomarker Discovery for Early Detection of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Hepatitis C (HCV) Infected Patients. Molecular & Cellular Proteomics 12(12):3640-3652, 2013. Dr. Mustafa received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 2009, from Jamia

Hamdard University, New Delhi, India. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow II at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Her postdoctoral advisor is Dr. Cornelis Elferink, and her current research endeavor centers on proteomics-based development of a simple and reliable screening tool for early Hepatocellular Carcinoma detection. The research focus stems from the recognition that early detection is critical for therapeutic efficacy—late detection normally associated with clinical presentation of symptoms comes with a poor prognosis and 5 year survival rates of less than 5%.



Awardee: Phoebe Stapleton, PhD, West Virginia University. *Maternal engineered nanomaterial exposure and fetal microvascular function: does the Barker hypothesis apply?* American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 209(3):227.e1-11, 2013. Dr. Stapleton, ATC, holds BS and MEd degrees from SUNY Cortland and Southern

Illinois University at Edwardsville, respectively. She received her Ph.D. from West Virginia University, and upon completion of her graduate work, she accepted a position in the Laboratory of Dr. Timothy Nurkiewicz. Currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at West Virginia University, her research interests include the microvascular adaptations associated with toxicological exposures alone or in combination with a variety of conditions, including pregnancy, cardiovascular disease, and metabolic disease. Outside of the laboratory, Phoebe enjoys finding new experiences to share with her husband and family.

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PDA Events at the Annual Meeting



**Please join us for these exciting events
at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ
March 23-27, 2014!!**

Poster Tour for Trainees: Hosted by the PDA, this program is offered at designated times Monday-Wednesday. Now in its third year, it is a great opportunity for graduate students and postdoctoral scientists to participate in a one-hour guided poster tour with an expert toxicologist. This activity allows trainees to take part in the critical evaluation of cutting-edge toxicology methods and research findings, network with an expert, and perhaps even build a long-term mentoring relationship with a senior toxicologist. Guides may sign up until February 28. Trainees may sign up beginning March 3. SOT grad students and postdocs will be sent the sign-up link via email, and can also find it on the Postdoc webpage beginning in March.

Chat with an Expert: Hosted by the Graduate Student Leadership Committee, the purpose of this program is to provide students and postdoctoral scholars the opportunity to informally network with well-established toxicologists, obtain career advice, and meet new colleagues. The expert for each group identifies a time and a place for an informal meeting, and the group meets at the “Chat with an Expert” bulletin board before proceeding to the meeting location. Postdocs may also sign up to serve as mentors for undergraduate students. Mentors may sign up until February 28. Trainees may begin signing up March 3. For more information visit:

www.toxicology.org/ai/spd/chatexpert.asp



Student/Postdoc Mixer: Sunday, March 23, 7:30PM-9:30PM, Convention Center (CC) Room 301C West. (*Ticket and Meeting Badge required*). This event is hosted by the Graduate Student Leadership Committee as a means for students and postdoctoral scholars to gather, meet new colleagues, and reestablish relationships in an informal setting at the beginning of the meeting. Tickets are obtained at no cost by registering for this event on the Annual Meeting Registration Form. Complimentary refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

Announcing: The SOT 2014 Annual Meeting Mobile Event App!!

This exciting feature offers you multiplatform mobile solutions for the SOT Annual Meeting and ToxExpo, provided free of charge to attendees and exhibitors. You will be able to engage with organizers, exhibitors, and each other, and to manage your time and maximize your experience while at the Annual Meeting. The mobile event app is available via app marketplaces and the SOT website.



Annual Meeting Events, Continued

Trainee Discussion with Plenary Lecturer: Dr. Gurdon: Monday, March 24, 10:00AM-11:00AM, CC Room 103A West. Hosted by PDA Chair Dr. Ebany Martinez-Finley. Dr. Gurdon will meet informally for discussion with graduate students and postdocs following his Plenary Opening Lecture. Room size is limited. **SOLD OUT! Current ticket holders please note: The number of tickets for this important networking opportunity is very limited. If you will not be able to attend, please contact jim@toxicology.org to return your ticket so that it is available to another trainee.**



In Vitro Toxicology Lecture and Luncheon: Helena Kandarova, MatTek Corp. & MatTek In Vitro Life Science Laboratories, Bratislava, Slovakia: Monday, March 24 12:00 Noon-1:20PM, CC Room 301C West. The *In Vitro* Toxicology Lecture series serves to features important research using in vitro and alternative techniques to study basic mechanisms and to illustrate how these test methods benefit animal welfare through the 3 Rs. Dr. Kandarova will present an introduction, challenge participants to discuss specific questions at their tables, and then participants will report responses. Students and postdocs must register for \$10 (nonrefundable) with their Annual Meeting registration.

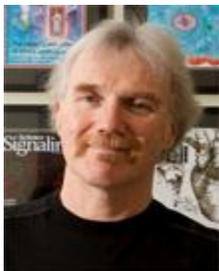
Symposium Session: Is Neuroimmune Crosstalk Important to Neurotoxicology? Critical Insight from Animal and Human Studies: Sponsored by GSLC, Neurotoxicology SS, PDA. Monday, March 24, 2:00PM-4:45PM, Room 122. Chairpersons: Traci A. Brown, University of Montana, Center for Environmental Health Sciences, Missoula, MT, and PDA Vice-Chair Colleen E. McLoughlin, NIOSH, Morgantown, WV.

PDA Luncheon: Tuesday, March 25, 12:00 Noon-1:15PM, CC Room 301C West. (*Ticket required and Meeting Badge required*). Amidst the hub-bub of Annual Meeting events, the PDA Luncheon is time for postdocs to relax, celebrate achievements, and have fun! All postdoctoral scholars are invited to a casual luncheon organized by the PDA. SOT Council members will be in attendance, so this is a great opportunity to network and chat with SOT leaders in an informal setting! The agenda includes: Best Postdoctoral Publication Awards, recognition of Regional Chapter, Special Interest Group, and Specialty Section postdoc award recipients, and introduction of the newly elected 2014-2015 PDA Board members. Door prizes will be given away, but you must be present to win!! Postdocs may reserve a non-refundable ticket for \$10 when registering for the Annual Meeting.



Workshop Session: The Role of Toxicology in Undergraduate STEM Education Reform: Sponsored by CRAD, Education Committee, PDA. Tuesday, March 25, 1:30PM-4:15PM, Room 126. Chairpersons: Richard S. Pollenz, University of South Florida, Cell Biology, Tampa, FL, and Marie M. Bourgeois, University of South Florida, Environmental and Occupational Health, Tampa, FL.

Annual Meeting Events, Continued



Trainee Discussion with Medical Research Council Lecturer:

Dr. Scott: Wednesday, March 26, 10:00AM-11:00AM, CC Room 103A West. (*Ticket Required*). Hosted by PDA Vice-Chair Dr. Colleen McLoughlin. Dr. Scott will meet informally for discussion with graduate students and postdocs following his keynote MRC lecture. Room size is limited. **SOLD OUT! Current ticket holders please note: The number of tickets for this important networking opportunity is very limited. If you will not be able to attend, please contact jim@toxicology.org to return your ticket so that it is available to another trainee.**

Informational Session: Leadership in Science: Skills and Styles: Sponsored by CRAD, PDA, WIT. Wednesday, March 26, 4:30PM-5:50PM, Room 126. Chairpersons: Brinda Mahadevan, Abbott Laboratories, Medical Safety & Surveillance, Columbus, OH, and Prathibha Rao, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Princeton, NJ.

DON'T FORGET:

Register for the SOT Job Bank before the Annual Meeting!!!

<https://www.toxicology.org/ai/newcrad/>

The Society of Toxicology CRAD Job Bank provides employers and candidates who are seeking jobs with the opportunity to establish contacts relating to their specific needs and areas of interest. Registrations for job seekers remain active as long as they wish to remain in the system, and all registrants may access the system as often as they wish. At the Annual Meeting the Job Bank Center operates Sunday-Thursday. (See Program for complete list of Annual Meeting Career Resource and Development offerings.) Please complete the online survey, located on the main menu, as this provides the feedback needed to make improvements or enhancements to the Job Bank service.

You may also be interested in [Mentor Match](#), the SOT Online Mentoring Program for SOT members!!

Annual Meeting Events, Continued

Community Outreach Opportunities During the Annual Meeting:

Attention Arizona postdoc members!! If you have mentored a high school student who would like to attend the SOT Annual Meeting and present a poster, please have them register for the poster exposition ASAP!! Information and a link for registration is shown below.

Also, any Arizona postdoc members who have mentored a high school student, please encourage your students and their teachers to attend the workshop shown below.

If you have any questions or are in the Phoenix/Tucson area and would like to help promote these events, please contact Dr. Angela Slitt (aslitt@uri.edu).

High School Student and Teacher Workshop: Lotions Are Not Potions:

Toxicology and Product Safety: Saturday, March 22, 8:30AM-4:15PM, Health Science Education Building, University of Arizona, Phoenix Biomedical Campus. Chairpersons: Angela Slitt, University of Rhode Island; Todd Camenisch, University of Arizona; Virunya Bhat, NSF International. Sponsored by Education Committee, K-12 Subcommittee, Mountain West Regional Chapter. The Society of Toxicology will host Arizona area high school students and teachers at an all-day workshop to convey the theme that toxicologists help ensure safer homes and healthy living. Authentic learning activities will include features presentations by SOT members and a consumer products safety activity that includes making lotion and exploration of safety evaluation data. Students and teachers will meet informally at lunch with toxicologists to learn about the exciting and diverse options for careers in toxicology.

High School Poster Exposition: Tuesday, March 25, 10:30AM-2:30PM, Exhibit Hall (Across from the SOT Pavilion, Booth 1623). Hosted by Daniel E. Acosta, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP; sponsored by the Education Committee and K-12 Subcommittee. High school student research related to toxicology is featured in an area across from SOT Pavilion, This display recognizes student effort and provides the high school students who have engaged in research with scientific meeting experience. Meeting attendees are invited to drop by to visit with these outstanding potential future toxicologists. Students can register at <http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2014/edout.asp>

PDA Executive Board Election Results

THE RESULTS ARE IN!!!!

The new officers for the positions of vice-chair, treasurer, and two councilors were recently selected by electronic ballot. All new officers will be introduced at the PDA Luncheon during the Annual Meeting in March. The results are as follows:

Vice-Chair (2 year term, second year advances to Chair): Kathryn Page, UC Berkeley

Treasurer (1 year term): April Lake, UNC/EPA

Councilors (2 positions, each 1 year term): John Clarke, University of Arizona, and Caitlin Murphy, UT Austin

Thank you all for your participation in the election process!!

Save the Date!! 2015 Gordon Research Seminar: Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity



This is a conference for trainees, by trainees!! Organized by PDA Councilor Rhiannon Hardwick (Chair) and GSLC representative Alessandro Venosa (Associate Chair), this meeting aims to provide trainees with the opportunity to present their cutting-edge research and attend mentored career development training sessions in a fun, informal conference atmosphere.

**The meeting will be held August 8-9, 2015
at Proctor Academy, Andover, NH followed by the
accompanying Gordon Research Conference**

*Check your future Post-y listings and the website below for
conference updates and program information.*

www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=15534

Spring Career Webinar Focus: Board Certifications

As part of the SOT's efforts to provide continuing education and training opportunities to graduate students and postdocs, the PDA will sponsor a career-focused webinar following the Annual Meeting on **April 16, 2014 1pm EST**. This event will be hosted by Councilors Katie Paul and Rhiannon Hardwick and Treasurer Kellie Fay to focus on the board certification processes for toxicologists. A synopsis and confirmed speakers are outlined below.

Please check your email in the following weeks for webinar registration details!!

Toxicology Board Certifications across Sectors: The Benefits of Certification in the Job Market and for Career Development

Synopsis:

Further certification beyond education may confer many advantages and opportunities in a toxicology career. The American Board of Toxicology (ABT) and the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS) are two routes for certification and recognition in the field of toxicology, and both work to advance standards for professional practice and to recognize competent toxicologists. Designation as a Diplomate of the ABT (DABT) or as a Fellow of the ATS (FATS) serves as a benchmark of professional knowledge, and can provide strong advantages in the job market for preclinical, regulatory, and consulting roles. These certifications support toxicology practice across all sectors, including academia, government, industry, and non-profit toxicology. According to SOT-specific surveys of postdoctoral members, key areas of interest include transition into industry positions, careers outside of academia, and increasing marketability across sectors in a competitive economy. Thus, this session addresses how board certification may be beneficial in establishing a toxicology career that can span multiple sectors. This session is designed to introduce what certifications are available, and how to achieve certification, and to provide early career toxicologists with career perspectives. Speakers will focus on: (1) the basics of the DABT and the ATS, including the pro's and con's; (2) how being a DABT or FATS has been useful in their personal career path in industry, government, and/or academia; (3) the unique opportunities afforded to them via their certification status; (4) how professional certification serves international societies' health protection goals; and (5) advice to early career toxicologists regarding professional certification in the marketplace. Attendees will learn the benefits of pursuing a DABT or FATS, and how this may help in their unique career path. This discussion will be applicable to toxicologists at multiple career stages who are interested in establishing a new career or enhancing their current career with further certification.

Speakers Include:

- **Virginia C. Moser, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS**
US Environmental Protection Agency
- **Janis Hulla, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS, ERT, Registered Toxicologist (United Kingdom and European Registries)**
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
- **James C. Lamb, IV, PhD, DABT, Fellow ATS**
Principal Scientist and Center Director, Center for Toxicology and Mechanistic Biology, E^xponent[®]
- **José Manautou, PhD, Fellow ATS**
Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Connecticut

Individual Training Plan: PDA Secretary Karin Streifel

In October the NIH is encouraging all graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to implement individual development plans (IDP) to help foster professional development for young scientists. Stipulation of the IDP by a prominent funding agency purveys the importance of personally shouldering this responsibility early within ones career. Moreover, this provides an opportunity for all junior scientists to be in charge of advancing their career paths. MyIDP, sponsored through Science Careers, benefits scientists at any level to assess their skills, interests, and values; all while exploring and identifying career options in academia, industry, government, nonprofits, and more. This science based career-planning tool provides resources for personalized career exploration (*beyond traditional career paths*). MyIDP helps scientists develop an action plan by setting incremental tasks to achieve long-term goals toward a productive career. Goal setting is essential to structuring your path and development as a professional. Postdocs who have a structured plan with their mentors to achieve overarching career goals have been shown to have a more satisfying and productive training experience¹. “The discipline of writing <these goals> down is the first step toward making it happen.”²

To take initiative and better define and explore options for your career path with your individualized skillset and interests, go to:

<http://myidp.sciencecareers.org/>

¹ Davis, G, 2006. Improving the Postdoctoral Experience: An Empirical Approach. In R. Freeman and D. Foroff (Eds.), *The Science and Engineering Workforce in the United States*, Chicago, IL. NBER/University of Chicago Press.

² Lee Iacocca, former CEO of Chrysler.

*“Toxicology is what we do,
but risk assessment is why
we do it.” –Dr. John Doull.”*

Career Task Force: International Postdocs

This year, the PDA Board solicited volunteers from the RC, SIG, and SS postdoc reps to form a career task force with a focus on issues facing international postdocs. The goal of this task force was to collect resources focused on various issues facing incoming international postdocs. The task force has amassed several useful websites shown below.

SOT PDA Resources for International Postdocs:

1. NPA has a great resource list on their site, including information on visa status, legal seminars, income taxation, and mentoring advice:
<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/international-issues-34>
2. NPA also has a very useful document entitled "International Postdoc Survival Guide":
<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/publications/international-postdoc-resources/international-postdoc-survival-guide>
3. NCSU has a great webpage with resources, including translator services, detailed guides of what to do upon arrival to the US, obtain housing and utilities services, getting a driver's license and SSN: <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/postdoctoral-affairs/resources.html>
4. Stanford's international postdoc webpage is very useful. They have links to workshops and seminars that are held on campus for their postdocs. They also post PDF files of the workshop presentations and include numerous useful links that would be of interest to international postdocs. Topics include items such as tax information, spouse/partner information, scholarship information.
<http://postdocs.stanford.edu/scholars/international.html>
5. Links to postdoctoral fellowships for non-citizens:
 - a. Rockefeller has compiled a list available here: <http://www.rockefeller.edu/sr-pd/index.php?page=PostdocPrograms>
 - b. A lab website from Brandeis includes funding for non-US-citizens, European citizens, and research exchange programs: <http://grigoriefflab.janelia.org/fellowships>
 - c. Smithsonian has two or three postdoc fellowships that are open to everyone: <http://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/>
 - d. NIH fellowships open to non-US citizens:
 - i. <https://www.training.nih.gov/postdoctoral/vf.asp>
 - ii. <https://www.training.nih.gov/postdoctoral/index.asp>