



Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
& Postdoctoral Association
Annual Report

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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I. INTRODUCTION

The [Office of Postdoctoral Affairs \(OPA\)](#) is committed to enhancing, supporting and promoting the postdoctoral experience at NC State University and helps to prepare postdoctoral scholars for successful careers through coaching and professional development opportunities. OPA offers a variety of programs to support professional development and, in collaboration with the Postdoctoral Association, build community within the postdoc population.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs was established in 2008 to serve as a clearinghouse for information related to postdoctoral appointments and provide professional development opportunities and career coaching to all postdocs across the NC State University campus. The office is unique in that it is the only central resource available to all postdocs, independent of discipline.

This annual report serves to document the programs, professional development opportunities, and accomplishments of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The success of our programs is due to productive collaborations, but in particular, our partnerships with the Graduate School's Preparing Future Leaders program and the Postdoctoral Association.

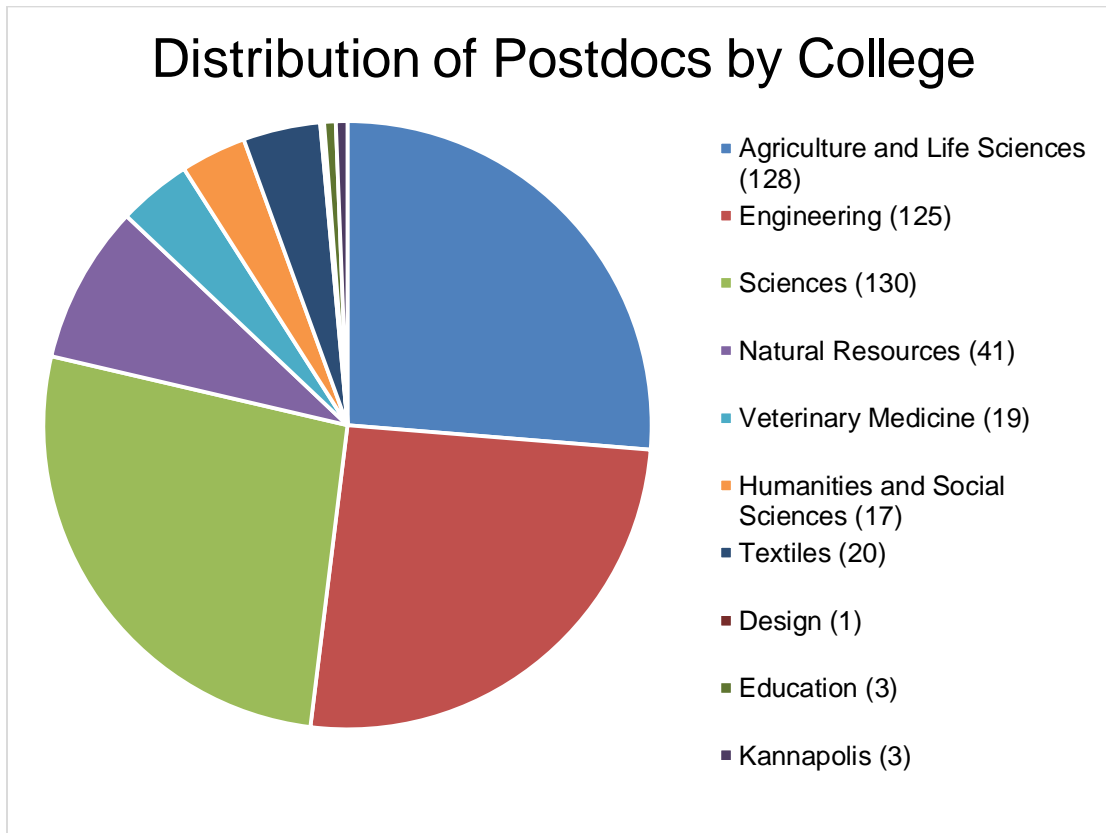
Major accomplishments in 2014-2015:

- Five postdocs were selected for the 2014-2015 Professional Development Awards (up to \$1,000 each)
- Six postdocs were selected to present their research in the Nature Research Center SECU Globe Theater as part of National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week
- 4th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015; the event included a keynote presentation from Rob Nelson of Untamed Science and 60 different posters were presented from 5 different research institutions
- The Postdoctoral Association Leadership Team created new positions and committees (Diversity Committee, Diversity Officer, International Committee, and International Officers) and grew to its largest size of 24 members!
- The Director, Dr. Nisha Cavanaugh, presented on the institutional perspective as part of the symposium, "The Postdoctoral Landscape: Collaborating Through Research and Practice to Address Policy" at the Association for the Study of Higher Education conference in Washington D.C. (November 2014)
- Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, along with the Graduate School, moved to a new location! (1000 Main Campus Drive)

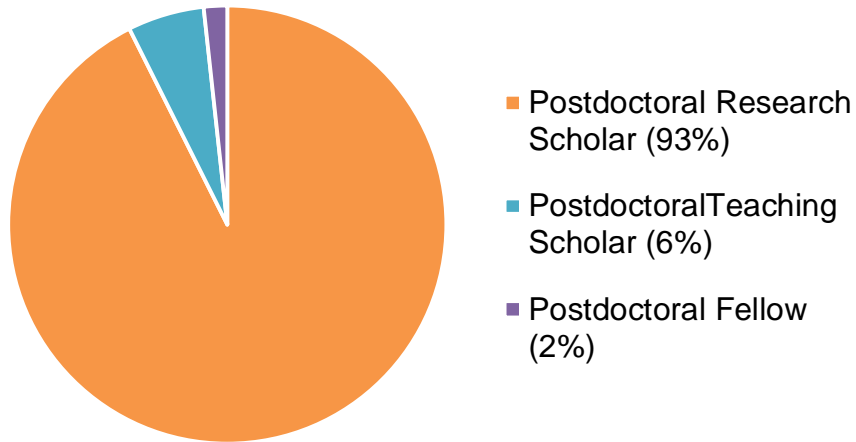
II. DEMOGRAPHICS: THE POSTDOCTORAL LANDSCAPE

The postdoc population at NC State University is very diverse. In order to recognize their challenges and accurately meet their needs, it is important to understand the demographics of the postdoctoral body. Based on the data that was submitted to the NSF as part of the annual Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates, below are several graphs illustrating how diverse the postdoc population is.

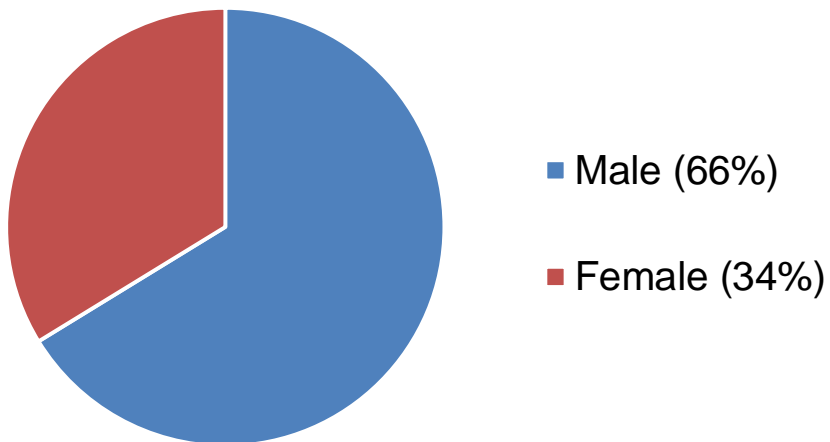
- In 2014, NC State University had **487 postdocs across 10 different colleges**, including our satellite campus in Kannapolis. The majority of the postdocs are in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the College of Sciences. These numbers are very similar to the distribution of postdocs in 2013 (see Annual Report 2013-2014).
- Not surprisingly, the majority of our postdocs (93%) are Postdoctoral Research Scholars (or postdocs who primarily conduct research). A few postdocs have their own funding and are paid externally to the University; these individuals are classified as Postdoctoral Fellows. The number of Postdoctoral Teaching Scholars (or postdocs who teach 50% and conduct research 50%) has increased since last year.
- Only about one-third of the population (34%) is female, while the majority is male (66%). In 2014, we had a few more males and fewer females than in 2013 (see Annual Report 2013-2014).
- More than half of the population (53%) is international (i.e., the United States is not their place of birth and they possess either a green card or a visa).
- Most of the postdocs identified themselves as either White or Asian (sum is 72%); there are fewer Blacks, American Indians, and Hispanic or Latino postdocs. These numbers are not true reflections, however, since ~20% did not identify their race or nationality.



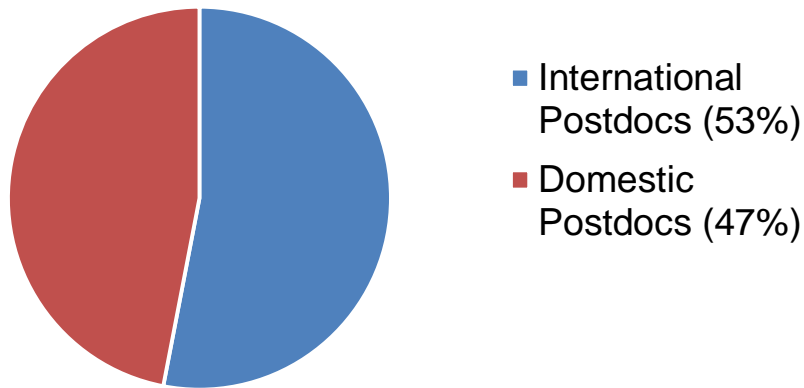
Type of Postdoctoral Appointment



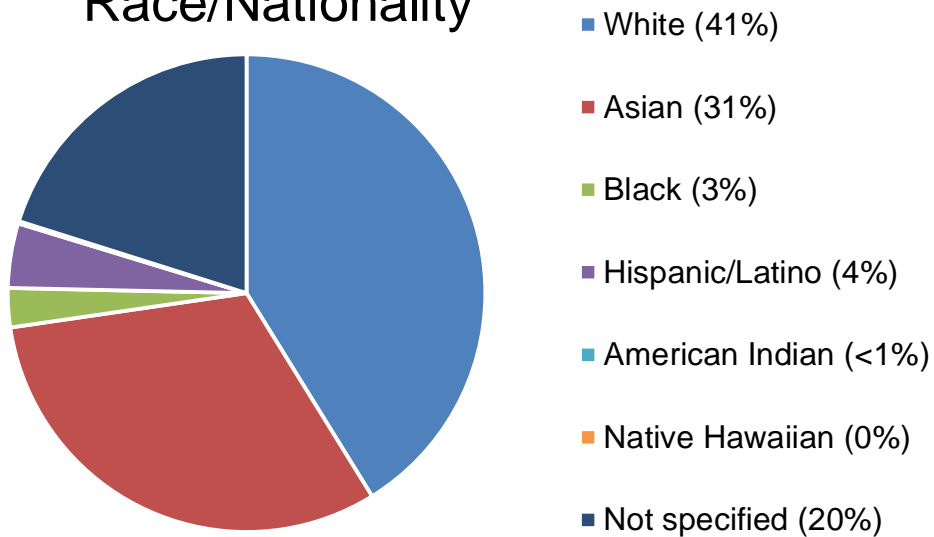
Distribution of Postdocs by Gender



Distribution of Postdocs by Nationality Type



Distribution of Postdocs by Race/Nationality



III. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A. The Certificate in Teaching Techniques (CITT) Program

The Certificate in Teaching Techniques (CITT) program was initiated in the Fall of 2009. Postdocs must register to be a part of this program and are required to obtain a minimum of twelve (12) hours of professional development in teaching through programs that are offered through the Fundamentals in Teaching (FIT) program (part of the Preparing Future Leaders program through the Graduate School), the Office of Faculty Development (OFD) or DELTA (Distance Education and Learning Technology Applications). In 2013, a new feature was added to the CITT program to encourage postdocs to apply the concepts and skills they learned in the teaching workshops. The new CITT program requires participants to complete one of three teaching assignments: *teach a lab or lecture, compose a teaching philosophy, or compose two essays synthesizing the knowledge from the teaching workshops.*

- All CITT participants must complete the *Introduction to Teaching* workshop as well as three of the following ten workshops: *Active Learning: Getting Started; Classroom Assessment Techniques; Classroom Management: Getting Started; Collaborative Learning and Group Work; Effective Questioning Techniques; Establishing Credibility and Authority in the Classroom; Evaluation and Grading; Learning Styles; Motivational Teaching Strategies; and/or Writing Learning Outcomes.* In addition, CITT participants must take two electives offered through FIT, OFD and/or DELTA.
- In Spring and Summer 2015, fewer Fundamentals in Teaching workshops were offered in person. Therefore, postdocs were permitted to count up to three on-demand (online) workshops towards certification.
- **From July 2014 to June 2015, 22 postdocs registered to participate in the CITT program** (in addition to the postdocs who were already enrolled) **and 30 postdocs completed the requirements for certification. Since its inception in the fall of 2009, >200 postdocs have registered for the CITT and 122 of those have successfully completed the CITT.** More information about the CITT can be found online at: http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/postdoctoral-affairs/ncsu_citt.html.

B. The Certificate in Leadership Development (CILD) Program

The Certificate in Leadership Development (CILD) program was initiated in Spring 2014 to encourage postdocs to develop their leadership skills in preparation for their future careers.

- All CILD participants must attend a leadership development workshop series sponsored by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and facilitated by Dr. Diane Klotz (Director of Office of Training and Academic Services at Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute): *Developing Your Leadership Style: Understanding your Style as a Leader and Appreciating the Styles of the People You Lead*, and then *Leading with Intention: Mentoring and Motivating Others toward a Common Vision*. The sessions focused on the DiSC model. In the first workshop, through self-assessment, participants identified with one of four leadership styles: “D=dominant,” “i=influence,” “S=steadiness,” and “C=conscientiousness.” The second workshop empowered postdocs to think about how to effectively work in a team with the other leadership styles, by considering their motivators and their fears.
- In addition, participants completed one of three follow-up assignments: *reflect on a leadership experience, develop a leadership plan, or attend a peer leadership discussion session.*
- **In 2014-2015, funding was limited and could not support the CILD program.**

C. 2014-2015 Professional Development Awards for Postdocs (PDAP)

The Professional Development Awards for Postdocs (PDAP; up to \$1,000 each) were created in Fall 2013. The awards are designed to assist postdoctoral scholars in pursuit of professional development or training opportunities that directly enhance their professional growth. Each applicant submitted: a CV, a letter of support from his/her faculty advisor, a budget proposal, and a one-page statement of how the award will help him/her reach his/her professional goal(s). This year's selection committee consisted of the Dean of the Graduate School, a faculty member, and a previous PDAP recipient who reviewed the applications and selected the awardees. The award recipients were required to spend the funds within the 2014-2015 fiscal year and choose to participate in either a) two professional development workshops or b) the annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium.

In 2014-2015, 23 postdocs applied and 5 postdocs were awarded. The awards were presented at the National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week Celebration on September 25, 2014.

2014-2015 PDAP Recipient	Department & Faculty Advisor	Professional Development Activity
Dr. Brian Cummins	Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering Dr. Frances Ligler's group	Participated in the 4 th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium and won 1 st place
Dr. Megan Fritz	Entomology Dr. Fred Gould's group	Attended five professional development workshops (one sponsored by OPA and four sponsored by FIT) and participated in the 4 th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium
Dr. Carlos Goller	Biotechnology Program Dr. Robert Kelly's group	Attended six professional development workshops (all sponsored by FIT)
Dr. Ying Liu	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Dr. Michael Dickey's group	Attended three professional development workshops (two sponsored by OPA and one sponsored by FIT) and participated in the 4 th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium
Dr. Liliana Mellor	Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering Dr. Elizabeth Lobo's group	Attended three professional development workshops (all sponsored by FIT) and participated in the 4 th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium

2014-2015 PDAP Recipient	Outcomes (how the award was used)
Dr. Brian Cummins	Implemented the coaching support and resources of the Udacity “How to Build a Startup” course and attended Triangle Startup Weekend; developed Bluetooth enabled blood-glucose meter and incentivized teens with Type 1 Diabetes to test themselves more frequently throughout the day, and then receive user feedback; submitted a UNC TraCS pilot grant
Dr. Megan Fritz	Organized and hosted Software Carpentry’s “A Programming Boot Camp for Biologists” event on January 29 and 30, 2015 in the Hunt Library; open to postdocs, graduate students, faculty, and research staff; collected feedback from participants following event
Dr. Carlos Goller	Hired an undergraduate to help develop a new “Yeast Metabolic Engineering Course” offered in Spring 2015 for 7 undergraduate and graduate students; will be offered in Fall 2015 for 18 undergraduate and graduate students; Submitted manuscript to Journal of Young Investigators
Dr. Ying Liu	Attended the 2014 American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ conference in Atlanta, GA (November 16-21, 2014); Attended day-long event “Women Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows in Chemical Engineering: Developing your Career” by the AIChE’s Women’s Initiatives Committee; Attended workshop “Looking for an Academic Job – The Process and the Package” by the AIChE’s Women’s Initiatives Committee; Attended Luncheon with keynote speaker, Dr. Jennifer Sinclair Curtis (“Thriving at Every Career Stage”)
Dr. Liliana Mellor	Delivered a podium presentation, <i>Changes in Articular Cartilage Associated with Reduced Gravity May Contribute to Subchondral Bone Loss</i> , at the 2014 American Society for Gravitational and Space Research in Pasadena, CA (October 2014); Led outreach activity at Swift Creek Elementary School (Raleigh, NC) in March 2015 for ~30 fifth graders using “Genes in a Bottle” kits

D. The Scholar Invited Talk Exchange (SITE) Program

The Scholar Invited Talk Exchange (SITE) program was created in Spring 2012, under the leadership of Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Dr. Kyle Grant (Chemical & Biochemical Engineering). The SITE program serves to enhance the communication skills of postdoc researchers by establishing an “invited speaker” exchange program in collaboration with the Postdoctoral Associations at NC State University, Texas A&M University, and the University of Georgia.

- All NC State University postdocs are encouraged to submit titles and abstracts of their presentations. The Postdoctoral Associations at the other universities select one postdoc each from the abstract submissions to present at their institution.
- The selected speakers schedule a site visit where they give a formal presentation/lecture and meet with faculty members within the department. Travel costs for postdocs from NC State University are covered by funds from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.
- Results for the postdocs: opportunity to give an invited talk at another institution to enhance your communication skills and a feature to add to a CV/resume
- Results for the institution: opportunity for the faculty and the department to “pre-interview” a potential colleague and faculty member
- **In 2014-2015, funding was limited and could not support the SITE program.**

IV. SPECIAL EVENTS

A. National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week

Since 2009, the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) established National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week (NPAW) and universities across the country celebrated the achievements of their postdocs by organizing workshops, special events, and socials. The week of September 15-19, 2014, NC State University celebrated NPAW for the second time with a full week of events, co-organized by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and the Postdoctoral Association, to recognize the hard work and dedication of our research and teaching postdocs. To learn more about NPAW and events organized at other institutions, visit <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/?NPAW>.

i. Week's Schedule of Events

Date(s)	Event	Location
September 15-17, 2014	Invited Research Talks (given by selected postdocs)	Nature Research Center (Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC)
September 20, 2014	Postdoc Potluck and Family Social	University Club Pavilion
September 25, 2014	Postdoc Appreciation Celebration	Hunt Library 2 nd floor Multipurpose Room

ii. Invited Research Talks at the Nature Research Center (Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC)

With the assistance of Dr. Holly Menninger (Director of Public Science for Your Wild Life, NC State University) and Brian Malow (Science Comedian and Curator of the SECU Daily Planet at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences; *see photo*), OPA and the Postdoctoral Association scheduled six time slots in the SECU Daily Planet Theater for selected postdocs to give brief 10-minute presentations on their research. These talks were designed to give postdocs the opportunity to practice their presentation and science communication skills.



Presenter	Department & Faculty Advisor	Title of Presentation
Dr. Bharti Bhuvnesh	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Dr. Orlin Velev's group	"Sandcastles like future nanomaterials"
Dr. Kevin Flores	Mathematics Dr. H.T. Banks' group	"How mathematics can be used to discover new strategies to treat HIV"
Dr. Hyung-Ju Kim	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Dr. Orlin Velev's group	"Aquatic Elevator Particle"
Dr. Liliana Mellor	Biomedical Engineering Dr. Elizabeth Lobo's group	"To infinity and beyond: Physiological limits of space exploration"
Dr. Mahsa Mohiti-Asli	Biomedical Engineering Dr. Elizabeth Lobo's group	"Smart Bandages"
Dr. Amy Savage	Biological Sciences Dr. Rob Dunn's group	"City Ants & Junk Food"

- The six postdocs attended a mandatory science communication workshop, in which Dr. Menninger and Mr. Malow provided tips on how to effectively communicate complex research projects to the lay public, and then brainstormed ideas with the presenters how to present their research.

iii. Postdoc Appreciation Celebration

National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week culminated in a celebration event in the Hunt Library Multipurpose Room. Postdoctoral scholars and their faculty advisors (*group photo below*) gathered to enjoy some of NC State University's Howling Cow ice cream. A brief award ceremony recognized the six postdocs who presented at the Nature Research Center and the six recipients of the Professional Development Awards for Postdocs. The new Dean of the Graduate School, Maureen Grasso (*photo on right*) thanked the postdocs, on behalf of the university, for their research and teaching contributions and commitment to NC State University's goals.



(Group photo for 2015 Postdoctoral Appreciation Celebration)

B. 3rd Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium

The 1st Postdoctoral Research Symposium, co-sponsored by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and the NC State University Postdoctoral Association, took place on June 7th, 2012 to showcase the research accomplishments of 25 postdocs at NC State University. Since its inception, the event has grown considerably and it is now the biggest event that OPA sponsors each year. The 4th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium took place on May 20th, 2015, from 10 am to 3 pm in the Talley Student Union Ballroom. It consisted of two poster presentations, a keynote presentation, and a poster competition.

- **> 143 postdocs, faculty, graduate students, and staff attended**
- **64 research posters presented by postdocs** (*see photo below*)
- **> 30 different departments represented**
- **> 4 different research institutions represented** (NC State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, and NC Central University)
- Keynote speaker was Rob Nelson (*see photo to the right*), CEO of Untamed Science, was nominated and selected by the NC State University postdocs; he spoke about his own career path from science to creating educational videos for K-12 science teachers and used this platform to demonstrate how to effectively communicate your science through story-telling and knowing your audience (presentation title: *Story, Journey, Passion: Finding Balance Communicating Science*)



Photo of all 64 poster presenters (Courtesy of B. Overman)

This year we had a record number of poster presenters – 67 posters representing ?? departments and four different research institutions! Once again, postdocs had the opportunity to participate in a poster presentation competition. Volunteer judges included NC State University research staff and graduate students as well as NC State University postdoc alumni. A judging criteria rubric was provided to evaluate poster presenters based on their ability to communicate their research to a broader audience and explain the significance of their work. This year’s poster presenter winners and their poster titles are listed below.

	Poster Presenter Winners	Department & Faculty Advisor	Name of Institution	Title of Poster Presentation
1 st	Dr. Brian Cummins	Joint Dept. of Biomedical Engineering Dr. Frances Ligler’s group	NC State University & UNC-Chapel Hill	“A portable diagnostic test for parathyroid hormone for use at the point-of-care”
2 nd	Dr. Megan Fritz	Entomology Dr. Fred Gould’s group	NC State University	“Improving Bt Resistance Risk Assessment and Management by Genomic Monitoring”
3 rd	Dr. Diana Oviedo Vargas	Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences Dr. David Genereux’ group	NC State University	“Effects of high-carbon regional groundwater on carbon transfers in a lowland rainforest: groundwater to surface water to air”

For more information about the Symposium and to check out the poster abstracts, see <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/postdoctoral-affairs/PostdoctoralResearchSymposium2015.html>.

C. Career Symposium for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars

The Career Symposium for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars is the result of collaboration between the three major universities in the Research Triangle: **UNC-Chapel Hill**, **NC State University**, and **Duke University**. The Career Symposium is a full day event intended to provide Master’s and PhD students as well as postdocs the tools necessary to advance their careers. The contributing organizations are:

- **UNC-Chapel Hill’s University Career Center, the Graduate School, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and the Training Initiative for Biomedical & Biological Sciences program**
- **NC State University’s Graduate School’s Preparing Future Leaders program and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs**
- **Duke University’s Graduate School**
- **In 2014-2015, funding was limited and NC State University could not participate in this collaboration.**

V. THE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

The NC State University Postdoctoral Association (PDA) was formally established in 2008 to promote the building of community among postdoctoral scholars and enhance the postdoctoral experience through collaborative efforts with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. The leadership team serves a term of one year and has substantially grown from four officers in 2012-2013, to seven officers in 2013-2014, to seven officers and three committees this year! The OPA Director serves in an advisory role to the Postdoctoral Association. Meetings are held on a monthly basis to discuss relevant postdoc issues and plan for big events. All postdocs are encouraged to attend the meetings to meet their fellow postdocs and also provide input into the discussions. For more information about the Postdoctoral Association and to view meeting minutes, see <http://www.ncsu.edu/grad/postdoctoral-affairs/association.html>.

A. Leadership Team

Position Title	Name of postdoc	Department
President	Dr. Amy Savage	Biological Sciences
President-Elect	Dr. Megan Andrews	Soil Science
Secretary	Dr. Alexis Barbarin	Entomology
Director of Communications	Dr. Emily Griffiths	Entomology
Diversity Officer	Dr. Warren Sconiers	Entomology
International Officer	Dr. Alexander Franke	Materials Science & Engineering
International Officer	Dr. Liliana Mellor	Biomedical Engineering

**All Officers participate in coordinating and hosting annual events (i.e., Postdoctoral Appreciation Week and Postdoctoral Research Symposium)*

B. Committees

College Representatives	Name of postdoc	Department
Agricultural & Life Sciences	Dr. Avat Shekoofa	Crop Science
Engineering	Dr. Ying Liu	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
Humanities & Social Sciences	Dr. Brett Lehman	Sociology
Natural Resources	Dr. Holly Goyert	Forest & Environmental Resources
Sciences	Dr. DeAnna Beasley	Biological Sciences
Veterinary Medicine	Dr. Ashley Johnson	Population Health & Pathobiology

Diversity Committee	Name of postdoc	Department
	Dr. Warren Sconiers	Entomology
	Dr. Margarita Lopez-Urbe	Entomology
	Dr. Jennifer Shields	Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutrition Sciences
	Dr. Michael Simone Finstrom	Entomology
	Dr. Hongmei Li-Byarlay	Entomology

International Committee	Name of postdoc	Department
	Dr. Alexander Franke	Materials Science & Engineering
	Dr. Liliana Mellor	Biomedical Engineering
	Dr. Lorenzo Concia	Biochemistry
	Dr. Ying Liu	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
	Dr. Jinseok Hwang	Nuclear Engineering
	Dr. Olu Omotowa	Nuclear Engineering

Social Committee	Name of postdoc	Department
	Dr. Barry Pemberton	Chemistry
	Dr. Emily Griffiths	Entomology
	Dr. Jeremy Heath	Entomology
	Dr. Ashley Johnson	Population, Health & Pathobiology
	Dr. Francesco Tiezzi	Animal Science
	Dr. Jyoti Kajla	Crop Science

B. Major Accomplishments

- The Postdoctoral Association Leadership Team had its greatest number of active postdoc participation this year!
- Two new positions and three new committees were created on the PDA Leadership Team:
 - The Diversity Officer led the Diversity Committee in connecting with resources on campus and surveying how diverse the postdoc population is.
 - The International Officers led the International Committee in discussing the challenges that international postdocs face, establishing communication with the Office of International Services, and creating a list of available resources in Raleigh (restaurants, grocery stores, etc.) for new international postdocs.
 - The Diversity and International Officers align with the structure of National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)'s leadership.
 - In addition to the Diversity and International Committees, the Social Committee was formed and replaced the previous Social Director's position. Each member of the committee hosted a happy hour per month and the social committee organized family-friendly events, such as the National Postdoctoral Association picnic and attendance at a Durham Bulls baseball game.
- Organized and co-sponsored with OPA six invited talks for postdocs to present their research at the Nature Research Center (Sept. 15-17, 2014)
- Organized and co-sponsored with OPA the 4th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium (May 20, 2015)
- Continued to build strong relationships with the Postdoctoral Associations at UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, NC Central University, NIEHS, and EPA

B. Major Accomplishments cont.

- Monthly meetings included guest speakers from around campus to talk about resources available to postdocs (*see schedule below*)

Date of Postdoctoral Association Meeting	Guest Speaker	Presentation Topic
Wed. Aug. 13	Dr. Nisha Cavanaugh	Office of Postdoctoral Affairs & Preparing Future Leaders programs and professional development workshops
Wed. Sept. 10	Dr. Mohan Ramaswamy	Library services and workshops
Fri. Oct. 24	Dr. Ashley Simons-Rudolph	Women's Center services and programs
Tues. Nov. 18	Dr. Erin Robinson	Office of Faculty Development's programs and workshops
Thurs. Jan. 22	Matt Shipman	Media relations and science communication
Thurs. Feb. 19	Ashley Grantham	DELTA's programs and workshops
Tues. April 21	Dr. Beverly Savinsky	Counseling Center's programs and services

VI. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & COLLABORATIONS

Internal Partners (alphabetical by last name):

- Michelle Anderson (Foreign National Tax Program Manager, Human Resources)
- Meagan Kittle Autry, Ph.D. (Director of Thesis and Dissertation Support Services, The Graduate School)
- Andrew Binder, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication)
- Jill Blitstein (Manager, International Employment Office, Human Resources)
- Woody Catoe, Ed.D. (Career Counselor, Career Development Center)
- Rusty Earl (Business and Technology Applications Analyst)
- Ashley Grantham (Associate Director for Instructional Technology Support and Development, DELTA)
- Jessica Hall (Senior Advisor, Office of International Services)
- Jenna Hartwell (Career Counselor, Career Development Center)
- Whitney Hilliard (Fiscal Manager, Office of Contracts & Grants)
- Barbi Honeycutt, Ph.D. (Director, Graduate Professional Development and Teaching Programs, The Graduate School)
- Danny Humphrey (Assistant Director of Systems and Compliance, Office of Contracts & Grants)
- John Hutchings (Associate Director, Working Professional MBA Career Development, Jenkins MBA Program)
- Audrey Jaeger, Ph.D. (Professor, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis, College of Education)
- James Kneller, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics)
- Terri Long, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant & Microbial Biology)
- Kaprina Mitchell (Benefits Consultant, Human Resources)
- Aixa Morales-Diaz (Administrative Assistant, Preparing Future Leaders, The Graduate School)
- Beth Overman, Ph.D. (Assistant Director, Graduate Academic and Professional Development Programs, The Graduate School)
- Mohan Ramaswamy, Ph.D. (Associate Head, Research and Graduate Services, NCSU Libraries)
- Erin Robinson, Ph.D. (Assistant Director, Office for Faculty Development)
- Lina Quesada, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology)
- Beverly Savinsky, Ph.D. (Licensed Psychologist, Student Health Center)
- Gregory Sawicki, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Joint Dept. of Biomedical Engineering)
- Matt Shipman (Research Communications Lead, University Communications)
- Debbie Shoe (University Program Specialist, COI Protocol Manager, and RCR Administrator, SPARCS)
- Ashley Simons-Rudolph, Ph.D. (Director, Women's Center)
- Deborah Thompson, Ph.D. (Director of Partnership Development, CALS)
- Kenneth Zagacki, Ph.D. (Professor & Head of Dept. of Communication)
- NCSU Postdoctoral Association
- Onboarding Center
- Preparing Future Leaders

External Partners (alphabetical by last name):

- Brian Malow (Science Comedian and Curator of the SECU Daily Planet, NC Museum of Natural Sciences)
- Dara Wilson-Grant (Associate Director, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs)
- Erin Hopper, Ph.D. (Director of Training Initiatives in Biomedical and Biological Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- Paul Klenk, Ph.D. (American Journal Experts, Research Square)

Professional Activities of the OPA Director:

- Invited to present 2-part workshop series “Career Planning 101: How to leverage IDPs and informational interviewing to find the best career fit” to graduate students and postdocs at UNC-Chapel Hill (Oct. 2014)
- Invited to attend UNC’s Office of Postdoctoral Office’s event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Carolina Postdoctoral Program for Faculty Diversity (Nov. 2014)
- Participated in symposium on “The Postdoctoral Landscape: Collaborating Through Research and Practice to Address Policy”; co-presented with Dr. Audrey Jaeger (Professor in the College of Education, NCSU), Dr. Belinda Hwang (Executive Director of the National Postdoctoral Association), and Dr. Kimberly Griffin (Associate Professor in the College of Education, U. Maryland)
- Served as one of the head judges for the NC School of Science and Math’s Regional Science Fair (Feb. 2015)
- Invited to present to graduate students on “Leveraging Your Postdoc: A Gateway to Your Career” as part of the Graduate School’s Professional Development Series (Feb. 2015)
- Invited to present to graduate students on “Leveraging Your Postdoc: A Gateway to Your Career” as part of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD) Workshop Series (Feb. 2015)
- Co-presented “Beyond Networking: Building Professional Relationships and Leveraging LinkedIn” workshop at the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (Feb. 2015)
- Invited to present to graduate students in the College of Veterinary Medicine on “Leveraging Your Postdoc: A Gateway to Your Career” (Feb. 2015)
- Invited to serve as a panelist for the session on “Careers in Administration” at the National Postdoctoral Association Annual Meeting (Mar. 2015)
- Served as a judge for the NCSU Graduate Student Research Symposium (Mar. 2015)
- Invited to serve on the Ethics Education and Training in Science and Engineering panel as part of the Rolf Buchdahl Symposium (Apr. 2015)

VII. OPA-SPONSORED WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Title	Facilitator or Panelists	Method	Date	Total Participants*	Total Postdocs
OPA: Career Planning 101: How to leverage IDPs and informational interviewing to find the best career fit (Part I)	Dr. Erin Hopper & Dr. Nisha Cavanaugh	In-person	September 4, 2014	7	7
OPA: Career Planning 101: How to leverage IDPs and informational interviewing to find the best career fit (Part II)	Dr. Erin Hopper & Dr. Nisha Cavanaugh	In-person	September 11, 2014	7	7
OPA/PDS: Networking: A Tool for exploring careers & building professional relationships	Dara Wilson-Grant	In-person	September 30, 2014	13	4
OPA/PDS: Communicating your value – Crafting your CV and cover letter	Dr. Woody Catoe	In-person	October 15, 2014	48	10
OPA: Information session on J Visas and transitioning to H Visas	Jill Blitstein & Jessica Hall	In-person	October 22, 2014	17	7
OPA: Information session on F Visas and transitioning to H Visas	Jill Blitstein & Jessica Hall	In-person	October 22, 2014	10	5
OPA: Information session on H Visas	Jill Blitstein & Jessica Hall	In-person	October 22, 2014	18	9
OPA: Research administration: Pre-award	Debbie Shoe & Rusty Earl	In-person	October 24, 2014	10	10
OPA: Research administration: Post-award	Whitney Hilliard & Danny Humphrey	In-person	November 4, 2014	10	10
OPA/PDS: Beyond networking: Navigating LinkedIn	Jenna Hartwell	In-person	November 4, 2014	43	10
OPA: Professional Path Lunch Series: Careers in Clinical Pharmacology*	Dr. Mark Sale & Dr. Jesica Robertson	In-person	November 19, 2014	7	7
OPA: Alternate careers in science	Dr. Deborah Thompson	In-person	January 22, 2015	12	12

Title	Facilitator or Panelists	Method	Date	Total Participants*	Total Postdocs
OPA: How to communicate research effectively	Dr. Chris Anson	In-person	February 11, 2015	10	10
OPA/PDS: Personal branding	John Hutchings	In-person	March 4, 2015	32	11
OPA/PDS: Publication: Making your research shine	Dr. Paul Klenk	In-person	March 5, 2015	20	16
OPA: Information session: Filing taxes for foreign nationals	Michelle Anderson	In-person	March 12, 2015	29	26
OPA: The Challenges that assistant professors face: A Panel discussion	Dr. Linda Quesada, Dr. James Kneller, Dr. Gregory Sawicki, & Dr. Terri Long	In-person	March 31, 2015	21	21

Number of total participants who attended an OPA event = 314 (*excluding the Postdoctoral Research Symposium*)

Number of postdocs who attended an OPA event = 182 (*excluding the Postdoctoral Research Symposium*)

*The Professional Path Lunch Series was created in 2013-2014. Due to limited funding to provide lunches for speakers, this lunch series only occurred once in 2014-2015.