Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

JeffPOST

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association
2012-2013, Volume 7, Issue 1

Special Points of Interest:

- 7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium
- Career Interviews with Former Jefferson Postdocs
- 2012 JPA Survey
- National Postdoc Appreciation Week
- Postdoctoral Publications
- Social Events

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Comments/Suggestions

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7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium

By Asha Srinivasan and Matthew Wampole

(PRS Co-Chairs, 2012)

The 7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium (PRS) was hosted by the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences' Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) and the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA) on June 11, 2012. The 2012 PRS provided a great opportunity for Jefferson's postdoctoral fellows to present their latest scientific discoveries. The poster session had postdocs presenting the multi-disciplinary biomedical research taking place at Jefferson. For the third consecutive year, we held the "Early Discoveries" poster session for postdocs either new to Jefferson or starting new projects so they could participate and discuss their new ideas. This past year we also brought back the oral presentations to once more give the postdocs practice in public speaking. Both oral and poster presentations were judged by Jefferson faculty and the best from each session was given a monetary award.

The 2012 keynote address was given by Scott Kern, MD, Professor of Pathology and Oncology in the Department of Human Genetics at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. His keynote address, "Pancreatic Cancer Genetics: From Lab to Clinic," gave those who attended new insight into the advances that his lab has made on the causes and genetic changes in pancreatic cancer.

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Editorial

By Asha Srinivasan

(Vice-President of Communications, 2011-2013)

Dear Postdocs,

Welcome to the 2012-2013 edition of **Jeff***POST*, the annual newsletter of the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA). This newsletter is a joint effort between postdoctoral volunteers, JPA board members and the Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment, Dr. Lisa Kozlowski. This newsletter has an important purpose, to communicate several messages to you as we believe that sharing your views adds to new perspectives and development.

In this issue, we present the prestigious achievements and awards of Thomas Jefferson postdocs, including their first-author publications. Further, we have interviewed former Jefferson postdocs who have successfully established themselves in various parts of the world. We wish you, our fellow postdocs, an even more exceptional year ahead!

Dr. Scott Kern gives his keynote address.

Drs. Brody and Yeo with Scott Kern (left to right).

Dr. Mehboob Ali gives his oral presentation at the 7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium.

Dr. Gaelle Doucet gives her oral presentation at the 7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium.

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President's Corner: Jefferson Postdoctoral Association

By Matthew Wampole (President, 2011-2013)

It has been an honor and a privilege to be your President of the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA) for another year. The goal of the JPA is to ensure that postdocs are well represented in the university community and are provided every opportunity to succeed in their research and advancement of their careers. This year we continue our many successful programs and begin some new programs, of which I am excited to be a part of.

Our seminar series continued this year with the Technical Skills Seminar Series (TSSS) and our monthly Open Meetings. TSSS keeps postdocs and other members of the Jefferson community up-to-date on the newest techniques available. The open meetings keep our members informed on events and programs both inside and outside of Jefferson, including social events, immigration and career services.

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Program (PFAP), in collaboration with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA), is a series of grant writing workshops where postdocs learn key grant writing skills to help them succeed in obtaining a fellowship.

In 2012, we held the 7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium (PRS), once again giving Jefferson postdocs the opportunity to present their research to the community at large. At PRS, the best oral and poster presenters as well as the distinguished mentors are recognized during the awards ceremony for their outstanding work. Congratulations to all the winners!

We also continued a number of community building social events. In partnership with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) we held the JPA/GSA Career Night and Winter Bash.

At our celebration for National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW), we held a very successful Speed Networking Event and reception that brought our members in contact with a number of scientists both in and out of academia.

As President of the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association, I have enjoyed another successful year.

Sincerely yours,
Matthew Wampole, PhD
President, JPA (2011-2013)

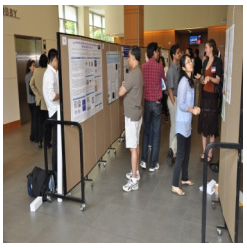
Friend of the JPA Award 2012

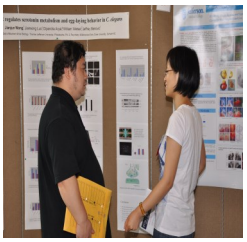
The Friend of the JPA Award was given to the Office of International Affairs (OIA) in 2012. OIA provides information and advice to all international students, postdocs and researchers as well as information for US citizens travelling abroad.

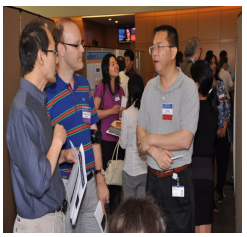
Standing in the picture: (left to right) Eugenia Kim, Lesley Tyson, Janice Bogen (Assistant Vice President, OIA), Matthew Wampole (JPA President) and Mariangel Martinez.

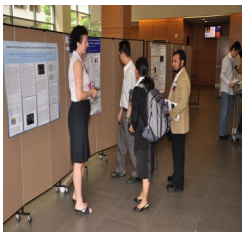
JPA Executive Board, 2011/12

JPA Executive Board, 2012/13









Great participation and attendance at the PRS 2012 poster session.

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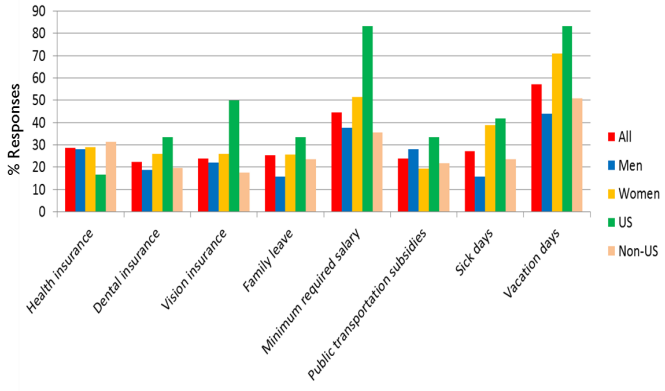
Postdoctoral Survey 2012

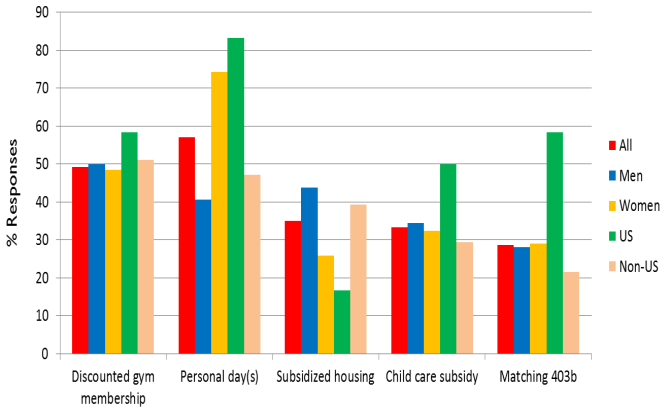
By Matthew Wampole (President, 2011-2013) and Lisa Kozlowski (Associate Dean, Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment)

Each year the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA) surveys the postdoctoral fellows at Jefferson. This survey data is crucial for the JPA in developing new programs as well as to obtain improved or additional benefits. A total of 72 postdocs responded in 2012, which was roughly 45% of the postdoc population at Jefferson. Of the respondents, 51% were female and 49% were male. The majority of respondents were international (82%) with a minority of US citizens (18%). The respondent distribution of male to female and international to US citizens is quite close to the total postdoc population, making this survey a fair representation of the views of Jefferson postdocs.

One main set of questions dealt with the benefits that postdocs receive and how they can be improved and any new benefits that postdocs would be interested in having. These results are an important part of communicating the voice of postdocs to the administration. The most requested benefit to be improved was vacation days with postdocs wanting more of them. The #2 most requested was an increase in the minimum required salary. Both were highly desired by US citizens with over 80% wanting both benefits improved. International postdocs had a wider distribution of benefits they wanted improved, but 50% of them still wanted more vacation days.

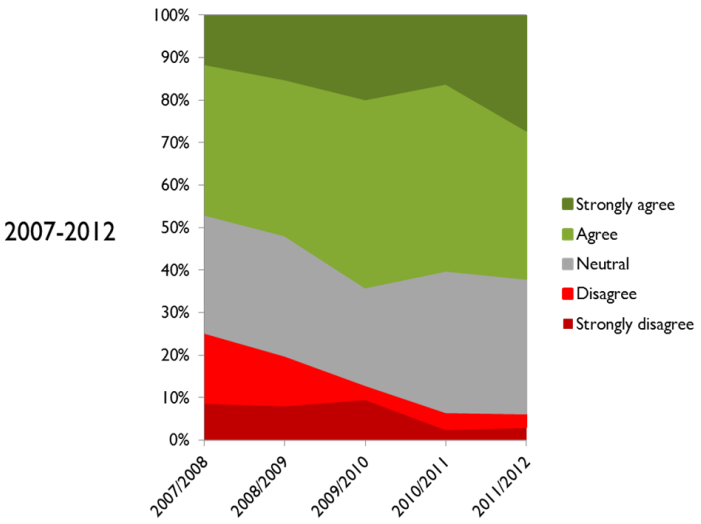


Current benefits which postdocs would like to see improved.



Benefits which postdocs do not currently have, but would like to have.

An important piece of our training as a postdoc is the mentorship that we receive. In 2007-2008, 75% of postdocs agreed that they were receiving adequate mentoring. Since then, the number of postdocs who have felt they receive adequate mentoring has steadily increased.



Analysis of satisfaction with postdoc mentorship from 2007-2012, showing a steady increase.

With a limited undergraduate student body at Jefferson, postdocs have had very little opportunity to develop their teaching skills. With the start of the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Science's (JGSBS) Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Professional Program in Fall 2012 (see articles on page 4) and the possibility of other teaching opportunities, we wanted to find out just how many postdocs were interested in teaching opportunities. The response was very positive with 78% of the responding postdocs interested in teaching opportunities. With such a positive response, continuing, and possibly expanding, the teaching opportunities at Jefferson is definitely something the JPA will work on with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and JGSBS.

We would like to thank the postdocs who took the time to fill out the survey. Your opinions are important for shaping the direction of the JPA and to help improve your training here at Jefferson.

**Please make sure to take the next JPA survey and encourage your postdoctoral colleagues to take it as well. **

"Finally, some teaching experience"

By Heather Montie (President, 2008-2009)

Throughout my time as a postdoc, I have been focused on enhancing my training in preparation for a faculty position in academia. I have published, received my own research grants and have been engaged in a multitude of service activities within the research community. But, that hasn't seemed to be enough, as I am not succeeding in making that next step into an independent academic research position. Could it be my lack of teaching experience? A large majority of the faculty applications I have come across include a teaching statement and sometimes a "teaching philosophy." Until this past fall, I didn't have much teaching experience to discuss and I had no idea what a teaching philosophy even meant. What was I going to philosophize about without ever having taught in a formal environment?!

I have been searching for opportunities to "teach" and not just the "teaching" that we do on a daily basis in the lab (i.e. "teaching" graduate students how to set up PCR), but to actually lecture in a classroom. I feel that learning how to teach and gaining experience in teaching is as important to my scientific career development and advancement as the countless hours I spend at the bench. Scientists in academia are "professors," and according to Merriam-Webster, professor is defined as "a *teacher* at a university." But teaching is not a traditional component of our postdoctoral training in the sciences, including here at Jefferson. We are expected to be good "teachers" once we become faculty, but along our training path no one teaches us how to teach! However, we are lucky, in that we have a dedicated Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs, Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, who appreciates this shortcoming and is doing her best with the support of Dr. Gerald Grunwald, Dean, Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (JGSBS), to fill this gap in our training here at Jefferson.

Last year, Dr. Lisa Kozlowski and a Jefferson alumna, Dr. Kristy Shuda McGuire, Assistant Professor of Biology at Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), received a grant titled "Mentored Teaching Experience in Health Professional Courses," from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund (see article on page 11). Additionally, last spring a call was put out to postdocs and students that were interested in a mentored teaching experience within the newly created Postbaccalaureate Pre-Professional Program (P4) here at Jefferson. I jumped for joy! FINALLY, opportunities to lecture, and not only lecture, but to be guided and taught "how to teach"! I submitted applications to both programs and received notice that I had been chosen for a position in the P4 program. I was ready and excited for this next step in my training.

Under the mentorship of Dr. Gerald Grunwald, JGSBS Dean and Director of the P4 program, I lectured in BIO 101 for P4 students this past fall. This is the inaugural year of the program, which focuses on preparing students for medical and pharmacy school by providing them with their basic science requirements and additional training necessary to enter such programs. Dr. Grunwald, Dr. Dennis Gross, Dr. Dolores Byrne and I are the team that lectured throughout the course. Although it was a lot to juggle, as I am still a full-time research postdoc, this mentored teaching experience was one of the best things I have done since I've been at Jefferson! I attended the majority of the lectures throughout the semester to learn lecturing techniques from my three mentors. I learned how to organize and present lectures, but most importantly, I learned that I like to teach! Throughout the semester, Dr. Grunwald kept his door open to me whenever I wanted to discuss the preparation of my lectures. After each lecture I presented, he offered me kind words of encouragement and gave me suggestions to help improve my lecturing skills. Drs. Gross and Byrne were also a great support network. Along with my mentored lectures, I was also involved in a pedagogical journal club hosted by Dr. Shuda McGuire. The group was composed of the teaching trainees supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund grant (see article on page 11) along with those of us involved in the P4 training program. After reading and discussing "How Learning Works: 7 Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching," by Ambrose et al., with our group, I was finally able to create my own "teaching philosophy," which I have already used in multiple faculty applications.

An important comment that many of my mentors have made to me is that experience is what best shapes your teaching skills. So, I did it again. Dr. Grunwald asked that I join the P4 teaching team again in the spring to lecture in BIO 102. I happily agreed and I gave 4 lectures during this past semester. I knew it would be a lot of work on top of my research efforts, but I was happy to do it. I not only enjoyed being involved with this program, but learning how to teach has made me more optimistic that one day I will finally obtain a faculty position. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Drs. Kozlowski, Shuda McGuire, Grunwald, Gross and Byrne for all of their mentorship and support throughout my teaching experiences this past year. I also have to thank the inaugural P4 class for making my first lecturing experience such a joy. If you are interested in a mentored teaching experience, I suggest you speak to Dr. Kozlowski about the present and future opportunities here at Jefferson and beyond. (Editor's note: Heather will start a faculty position at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in July.)

My Experience as a P4 Chemistry Discussion Leader

By Amanda Siglin (Former Jefferson Postdoc and Current P4 Program Coordinator)

Throughout this past year, I was given the opportunity to participate in the Postbaccalaureate Pre-Professional Program (P4) as the Chemistry Discussion Section Leader. This session was designed as a supplement to Chemistry 101 and 102. My responsibilities included identifying key concepts, designing review sessions and aiding students with practice problems. The experience has been invaluable for both the students and me. The students receive two hours a week of dedicated review and discussion to aid in assimilation of difficult chemistry concepts. I have been able to gain experience in lecture construction, design of course materials and teaching. Participation in the P4 program has been a welcome addition to my postdoctoral training and I have learned that I truly enjoy engaging the students and helping them reach their future professional goals.

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Jefferson Postdoctoral Publications 2012

Victor Hugo said "An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come" and this is indeed true. Postdocs at Jefferson work long hours and deserve the credit when their paper gets accepted to a peer reviewed journal. We present here first authored publications (in bold) by Jefferson postdocs. Certainly there is no shortage of technological innovations in the life sciences by the Jefferson postdoc community.

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Jefferson Postdoctoral Publications 2012 (Continued)

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JeffPOST

Postdoctoral Travel Awards 2012

Postdoctoral Travel Fellowships are awarded by the Dean's Office and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs of the Jefferson Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. They provide great support for fellows to reduce the cost of attending scientific meetings/ symposia and encourage them to have an active role in presenting their research and networking with other scientists. The deadlines for the fellowships occur 3 times a year; February 1, June 1 and October 1. Eligible postdocs are encouraged to apply. The following postdocs were awarded travel grants in 2012.

Dr. Jeffery Adijanto. Laboratory of Dr. Nancy Philp. *Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology,* Fort Lauderdale, FL, May 6-10, 2012.
Dr. Mehboob Ali. Laboratory of Dr. Giovanni Pitari. *American Association for Cancer Research*, Chicago, IL, March 31-April 4, 2012.
Dr. Abhilasha Gupta. Laboratory of Dr. My Mahoney. *Society of Investigative Dermatology,* Raleigh-Durham, NC, May 9-12, 2012.
Dr. Lakshmi Kuttippurathu. Laboratory of Dr. Raj Vadigepalli. *Research Society of Alcoholism,* San Francisco, CA, June 23-27, 2012.
Dr. Yi Luo. Laboratory of Dr. James Keen. *American Society for Cell Biology,* San Francisco, CA, December 15-19, 2012.
Dr. Qing Qin. Laboratory of Dr. Jianxin Sun. *American Heart Association,* Los Angeles, CA, November 3-7, 2012.
Dr. Asha Srinivasan. Laboratory of Dr. Sunday Shoyele. *4th Congress of the European Association of Chemical and Molecular Sciences*, Prague, Czech Republic, August 26-30, 2012.
Dr. Xia Wang. Laboratory of Dr. Sophie Astrof. *2012 Weinstein Cardiovascular Conference,* Chicago, IL, May 3-5, 2012.
Dr. Yuhua Xue. Laboratory of Dr. Linda Greenbaum. *FASEB Liver Biology: Fundamental Mechanics and Translational Applications Summer Research Conference,* Snowmass, CO, July 29 -August 3, 2012.
Dr. Hua Xu. Laboratory of Dr. Phil Wedegaertner. *2012 The Annual Meeting of American Society of Cell Biology,* San Francisco, CA, December 15-19, 2012.

Postdoctoral Achievements

In addition to Jefferson Postdoctoral Travel Fellowships, some of our postdocs have successfully achieved other esteemed awards and have given invited talks. We proudly present these below:

Dr. Edita Aksamitiene. Laboratory of Dr. Jan Hoek. Received ASBMB Graduate and Postdoctoral Travel Award to attend the Experimental Biology 2012 meeting in San Diego, CA, April 21-25, 2012.

Dr. Belaid Bouazza. Laboratory of Dr. Omar Tliba. Received a special Poster Award at the Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) Assembly, American Thoracic Society in San Francisco, CA, May 18-23, 2012.

Dr. Abhilasha Gupta. Laboratory of Dr. My Mahoney. Was invited to give a talk titled; "Mechanism of Dsg2-inducted hyperproliferation: Identification of cell cycle-and cancer-associated gene networks activated by Dsg2 using cDNA microarray and potential role of cystatin A," hosted by the Johnson-Beerman Lecture at The Royal College of Physicians, Philadelphia, PA, April 2012, and won first prize for the talk.

Dr. Abhilasha Gupta was also a recipient of the 2012 European Society of Dermatological Research/Society of Investigative Dermatology (ESDR/SID) Young Fellow Collegiality Travel Award. She was awarded $1500 to attend the 42nd Annual ESDR Meeting, Venice, Italy and received the 2012 ESDR Annual Meeting Poster Prize Award of €500. She also received the 2012 SID Eugene M. Farber Travel Fellowship of $1000 to attend the Montagna Symposium on the Biology of Skin, Gleneden Beach, Oregon, October 11-15, 2012.

Dr. Jieru Egeria Lin. Laboratory of Dr. Scott Waldman. Received the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Young Investigator Award, the 2012 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Highly-Rated Poster Award and the 2012 Scholar in Training Award.

Congratulations Fellow Postdocs - Well Done!

JeffPOST

Interview with former Jefferson Postdoc Dr. Adam Hardy, Manager, Business Development, Inventiv Health Clinic, UK

By Asha Srinivasan

What made you choose Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) for your postdoctoral training?

I chose my PI at TJU first rather than the university. No doubt like many postdocs, I chose my PI as he is very well-known within his field of research and publishes well, but in addition, his particular field of research was an area that I had touched upon during my PhD work and it intrigued me. The biggest endorsement for my chosen PI came from someone I worked with during my PhD. They had previously worked as a postdoc with the same PI and he had a very positive experience (both professionally and personally), which to my mind, was the best reassurance I could hope to get.

With whom were you working at Jefferson and what was your area of research?

I worked with Dr. Jeff Benovic on the signalling roles of arrestins downstream of GPCR activation. I learned a lot about basic molecular biological techniques as well as cell culture, antibody characterisation and immunofluorescence. The experience for me was far more than just learning lab techniques and reading papers though, as I learned a lot about the US culture and research in science and about myself in the process. Jeff was an excellent mentor and I feel privileged to have worked for him.

Were you part of the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA)?

Yes, I became a board member of the JPA shortly after starting at TJU. At that time, the JPA had not long been formed, and the National Postdoc Association was still in its infancy. There were many issues that faced postdocs and although we could not begin to tackle them all, I believe we made a good start. I hear that since then the JPA has gone from strength-to-strength, which is great to hear!

While you were at Jefferson, did you decide what career you would choose? Did you apply for grants while at Jefferson?

Yes, to both questions. Shortly after arriving, I applied for a research grant from the American Heart Association using some initial results and set out a clear research plan. Fortunately, I was successful with the grant, although of course, my research did not end up going in the exact direction I had originally planned. However, it was while I was at TJU that I decided that a career in academia was not for me, as I wanted a commercial challenge albeit still within the pharmaceutical sector. I also decided that although I was quite capable of generating data, I was not suited to bench research. That started a lot of soul-searching and personal assessment that has not really stopped since. My alternative career path did not really start in earnest until after I returned to the UK and it took a long time to point my career in a different direction.

Did you get any career advice from your PI or career services at TJU?

While I was at Jefferson, I spoke to Dr. Lisa Kozlowski about alternative careers and she put me in contact with the Jefferson Career Development Centre. I met with someone there and was given quite a lot of information and general career advice. The information that I remember the most was about different personality types. I took a short personality questionnaire and that confirmed what I was starting to realise - that my personality type probably was not very suited to a career at the bench. Since then, I put a lot of time into deciding what I wanted to do and getting myself into an alternative career. The first step was to return to the UK, which I was able to do by returning to my PhD lab as a postdoc on the remainder of a grant. That gave me the much-needed time to confirm to myself that despite all of my years in academia, I definitely wanted to move into a different career path, and then to prepare for it and make it happen.

What was your first job after you left Jefferson? What was your role there?

As soon as I left TJU, I moved into another short postdoc (approx. 9 months) in the UK. However, the first role I moved into after that was with Physiomics plc, a tiny biotech company, where I was a Senior Scientist. This involved building mathematical models of biological systems to allow computer simulation of drug behaviour. The job entailed working with other companies (biotech and pharmaceutical companies) as well as academic partners on specific modelling projects to address key research questions, such as predicting the optimal dosing of different drugs. It also involved doing some business development such as networking at partnering events, presenting to potential clients, and attending conferences.

You started your career with bench work, did some research in industry then moved into business and administration. What made you decide to make this transition? Did you have any experience in business before?

I view my role with Physiomics as helping to "bridge the gap" between my scientific research and a more business-oriented role. It certainly helped that I had set up my own small company based on an idea I had while working at SmithKline Beecham during my undergraduate degree and on my scientific research that I did during my PhD. That helped to illustrate my commercial focus and business acumen, even though the company I formed never actually traded. However, working for Physiomics was perfect as they needed my scientific background, but being a small company, I got exposure to many things, including business development. The disadvantage with being in a small company was that the career opportunities and opportunities to progress were very limited, but the experience was invaluable.

In your current position as Manager of Business Development, how does your experience as a research fellow help you?

I still think that the skills I developed during my PhD and postdoctoral research help me on a day-to-day basis. These include the ability to concentrate for long periods of time, solve complex problems, manage a heavy workload, manage multiple projects in parallel, and even my Microsoft Office skills. Since my academic career, these skills have been focussed in the commercial environment, but the basic skills remain. The biggest challenge facing those with postdoctoral experience only is convincing employers of the value of those transferrable skills, especially when going for that first job.

Interview with Dr. Adam Hardy (continued)

Does your current position involve a lot of travelling?
Although I have done a reasonable amount of travelling for work in the past, in recent years I have deliberately tried to avoid it. I have found travelling mainly to involve staying in a hotel or a meeting room with little time to "see the sights." Personally I prefer to be at home with my family. That said, I think it's inevitable that as I progress in my career I'll have to do more travelling again – this seems to be necessary when you get to a high level in any big company.

Every job has pro and cons. What are the best and the worst parts of your current position?
Regarding the job in general, I would say that the pressure can sometimes be a little stressful, but I have developed resilience to it over the last few years and I now think that this is an excellent life skill that will be invaluable throughout my career. I suppose every negative can be turned into a positive!

Clinical trials seem to be one of your areas of expertise. What do you exactly do?
I work in the business development operations department for a top 5 Clinical Research Organisation. My company runs clinical trials for pharmaceutical and biotech companies, taking a drug from pre-clinical development right through to post-approval development. My specific job involves line management of a small team of people, building budgets for clinical studies and preparing proposals for potential clients in the attempt to win their business. I have developed a particular expertise for Phase IV studies, which are becoming more and more important in drug lifecycle management.

What are important skills required for your current position as a Manager of Business Development?
There are so many, but probably the most important are interpersonal skills; we are always "managing up" and trying to get quality and timely input into proposals from senior management. That said, it is also imperative to have good time management skills, ability to meet deadlines and ability to manage stress while managing a heavy workload and still meet those deadlines. Although meeting hard deadlines are rarely an integral component of the postdoctoral experience, managing a heavy workload and stress, including good time management, are key components and should be highlighted on the CV with clear examples. Indeed, I generally feel that although job-specific skills and experience are important, transferable skills are just as important.

What is your advice for TJU postdocs?
Looking back, and bearing in mind that I'm only 6 years out of postdoc life, it's clear to me that when I was a postdoc I was so focused on getting data and trying to publish that I lost perspective. I have since found that outside of a career as a bench scientist, publications do not matter at all. In the academic environment, it is sometimes difficult to see that. However, once I realized that a career at the lab bench wasn't for me after all, I began to re-focus and spend time preparing for a different career instead of spending quite so much of my spare time putting in extra hours at the lab. The other observation I have made is that having a PhD and postdoctoral years in the lab are certainly not a ticket to a highly paid job outside of the ivory tower of academia. Even with a PhD and postdoctoral experience, you still need to be prepared to start your chosen alternative career at the bottom. Unfortunately, direct experience counts for everything these days except for the entry-level positions. Of course, having a PhD and postdoctoral experience is still a great asset and although the benefits are intangible at times, there are many transferrable skills gained from the PhD and postdoctoral experience that can support a rapid career progression. In summary, I would say you need to have your objectives clear, have realistic expectations and apply the same dogged determination to establishing yourself in a non-academic career as you have had in pursuing a stellar publishing record. If you can do these things, I have no doubt you will be successful.

Opinion Corner
Laboratory Non-Toxic Plastic Recycling
by Veronica Eisner (Jefferson Postdoc)

Our research relies on the use of plastic materials that are affordable, clean, and disposable. This replaces the cost of glass, the need for washing and autoclaving, plus the associated personnel. However, by disposing of the plastic materials, we are transferring the cost we save to the environment, sending non-degradable plastics to landfills. But we can do better!

At Thomas Jefferson University, we have a very well organized system to dispose of the bio-hazardous residues, glass, paper, and packaging materials. However, there are disposable plastics we put in the garbage that could be recycled if we just had a more systematic collection system. Some examples include pipette tips boxes, packaging bags and plastic bottles containing non-toxic solutions. The recycling bins located in the main hallways are not really suitable for this purpose; we need them placed outside the laboratories and collected regularly. This would help the laboratory users to recycle non-toxic plastics.

Please recycle appropriately and save **Planet Earth**!

JeffPOST

Interview with former Jefferson Postdoc Dr. Vera Hintze, Senior Scientist, Max Bergmann Center of Biomaterials, Dresden, Germany *by Asha Srinivasan*

Could you tell us a little about yourself?
Presently, I am a senior scientist at the Max Bergmann Center of Biomaterials of the Technical University of Dresden, Germany. Being a biologist myself, I am working in a multidisciplinary research team of chemists, engineers, biologists, biochemists and clinicians. My work is embedded in a supra-regional research consortium, Transregio TRR67 "Functional Biomaterials for Controlling Healing Processes in Bone and Skin - From Material Science to Clinical Application" (http://www.trr67.de). We develop and investigate artificial extracellular matrices (aECM) based on collagen and glycosaminoglycan derivatives for wound healing in skin and bone injuries. We focus on acquiring knowledge about the significance of the aECM for the differentiation of relevant cells and for tissue regeneration in animal models, and aim to develop biomaterials based on these findings. Our TRR67 has been funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) from 2009 until June 2013. At the end of January 2013 we defended this project for another four years of funding. If we succeed (officially announced in May 2013), I will advance to a PI position.

As a postdoc at Jefferson, with whom did you work and what was your area of research? I was a postdoc at Jefferson from June 2005 to June 2007. I worked with Dr. Andrzej Fertala in the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology (now Department of Orthopaedic Surgery) in BLSB. During my two years at Jefferson I investigated the effects of the presence of different type II collagen mutants on the biological processes occurring in chondrocytic cells harboring those mutants with microscopic and biochemical assays. I chose Thomas Jefferson University because of the good experience during my one year research stay there in 2001/2002 as a Ph.D. student. At that time I was working on the procollagen C-proteinase, a protein involved in collagen processing, and I hoped to gain knowledge and international experience by working with experts in this field. After finishing my Ph.D. in Germany in 2005, Dr. Fertala offered me a postdoc position giving me a chance to broaden my knowledge in extracellular matrix research.

Did you take part in the Postdoctoral Research Symposium (PRS) while you were here?
I helped plan the 2nd PRS in 2007, but my role was rather a minor one, since I left the US a few days before the symposium took place. Still, I appreciated the insights it gave me in all the things you have to consider when planning such an event. I can only encourage every postdoc to be part of it and increase their visibility due to this symposium. The PRS committee should post this opportunity as a valuable experience to all postdocs.

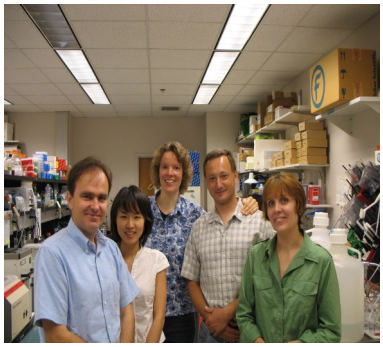
Did you write any grants as a postdoctoral fellow? As a foreigner with J1 visa status I could not apply for NIH grants myself at that time. After some years as a postdoc and then senior scientist I am now close to being a PI myself, if my project will get funded.

Did you have a clear vision of what you wanted to be professionally?
While at Jefferson, I did not have a clear idea of what kind of career I wanted, since I am rather an intuitive person. I used my postdoc time to develop a clearer picture. I spoke with people in the department about their experiences and asked for recommendations on my career path. I also spoke with Dr. Lisa Kozlowski about possibilities for an alternative career path. One professor told me that in academics I should be aware that there will be the constant stress of getting grants. On the other hand, there is a lot of freedom.

Did you get advice for career options?
In my career I try to follow my former PI´s advice: do what you are good at and what you like and you will succeed. Thereby I always stay open to new directions in my life. Another advice of my former PI turned out to be of great importance: look for a good mentor because without him or her it will be hard. I am in the fortunate position to have found one. I applied for my current job while I was still working at Jefferson. Besides my wish to return to my home country I was inspired by the possibility to work in a multidisciplinary setting with a great topic matching my expertise in extracellular matrix research. After I left Jefferson, I had the job interview and was lucky that it was the perfect match. At Jefferson I was fortunate to work in an international, multidisciplinary setting, which extended my horizons a lot. In Andrzej Fertala`s group I felt very much at home and this wonderful experience fueled my enthusiasm for science. In addition, an international experience (especially in the US) is ranked very high for a scientific career in Germany because it demonstrates independence, courage, determination, free spirit and experience of life. The positive aspects of a career in academics are the freedom to decide what I want to work on and to freely schedule my work to a certain extent. I also appreciate the possibilities to get into contact with many interesting researchers and to travel around the world. It is the opportunity to be part of a great team and the certainty to work on something that makes a difference to other people's health and quality of life. It is a diversified job with many different aspects. For these reasons, it never gets boring. However, it also means frequent overtime, stress and uncertainty because of the grant situation. There are often many things to do at once (administration, teaching, research, grant writing, manuscript writing) and this requires good planning of time and energy resources. If one is able to cope with this it is a great job.

What are the most important skills for your current job?
The most important skills for my current job are team spirit, organization, inventive talent, networking and perseverance.

Any advice for our postdocs?
My advice for TJU postdocs: Do what you are good in and what you like and you will succeed! Follow your inner voice! Be open for something new!



Vera Hintze (center of the photo).

Interview with former Jefferson Postdoc Dr. Jamie Lindsay McMaster, Senior Research Scientist, Randox Laboratories Limited, Ireland *by Asha Srinivasan*

I always wanted to go to the USA to work and I had been looking for a postdoctoral position online and saw that one was being advertised in a laboratory at the Kimmel Cancer Centre. I applied and within a week I was offered the job. I couldn't believe it! I started my postdoctoral position in March 2006 within Dr. Richard Pestell's lab and my project involved working on the Notch pathway in breast cancer. Compared to the UK labs that I worked in, my lab at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) was intense, but it was a very productive lab.

During my time at TJU I joined the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association (JPA), as I thought this would be a great way of meeting new people who I could socialise with and get help from on a professional level. I became a member of the JPA Executive Board, taking up the post of Secretary for a year and then Vice President of Social Affairs. These roles allowed me to acquire transferable skills, such as good organisational/presentation skills. They also allowed me to meet senior staff within TJU, who were able to give advice on career development, as well as advice on writing papers and obtaining grants. While at TJU I did apply for my first grant, but unfortunately it was not funded. However, I did publish a first author paper and a co-authored paper.

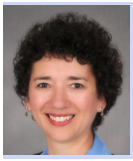
After 18 months at TJU I left, as I wanted to be closer to home (UK) and family. I applied for another postdoctoral position within cancer research back in the UK. I was still undecided about my career pathway and whether I would want to be a principal investigator (junior professor/tenure track). The postdoctoral position was for just under 3 years and during this time I became quite disillusioned with the world of academia. I hated the short term contracts and with the recession it became increasingly harder to obtain funding. Ultimately there was no job security working as a postdoctoral researcher. I therefore left academia and I am now working within industry as a senior research scientist. I have found that working within industry has allowed for job security, as I am now a permanent member of staff at the Randox Laboratories Ltd. I am still working within cancer research so the technical skills and knowledge that I acquired within TJU have been transferable to this position.

My advice to young postdocs at TJU would be to think about your career path sooner rather than later. Think about a 5 year plan and where and what you would want to be achieving. Think about whether you can handle the stress of applying for funding, the grant application process, the criticism and the rejection more so than the acceptance. Think about what steps you could take to help you progress to posts of instructor and junior/senior professor and whether the JPA can put you in contact with key people who can help you achieve this. Remember working as a postdoctoral researcher allows you to obtain a wealth of skills that are transferable to a range of vocations that may or may not be in academia.

Jeff-IBC Wellness Center

- Offers $25 off membership for all postdocs. Offer expires Aug. 30, 2013
- Payroll Deduction Available
- Daily Group Exercises
- Reiki Sessions and Massage Therapy
- Fitness Incentive Programs
- Intramural Sports
- Yoga
- Personal Training
- Ballroom, Salsa & Hip Hop Dance Lessons
- Adult & Child (6-12 yrs) Swimming Lessons
- Weight Training

Contact Activities Office in JAH Room B67 or call 3-5513



Mentored Teaching Experience at the Community College of Philadelphia

by Lisa Kozlowski
Associate Dean, Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment

I am often asked by postdoctoral fellows if there are teaching opportunities available at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU). As an academic health center, the training at TJU is focused on medical, healthcare, and graduate biomedical education. Thus there are very few opportunities to teach undergraduate students. However, as noted in the JPA survey article on page 3, 78% of postdocs wanted teaching opportunities.

In the fall of 2011, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund announced a call for proposals for a new grant opportunity called Career Guidance for Trainees. Jefferson alumna, Dr. Kristy Shuda McGuire, an Assistant Professor of Biology at the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), and I submitted an application in March 2012 for a "Mentored Teaching Experience in Health Professional Courses." We were successful and were awarded this 1-year pilot grant in summer 2012.

Over the past year, 4 postdocs and 5 PhD students spent 20% effort (~8 hrs./week) during a 3-month semester at CCP. The trainees were paired with a CCP faculty member who had a PhD or MS and who was teaching a health professional course that included the trainee's broad area of research. The trainees observed all classes and labs and met with their CCP mentor weekly to discuss instructional and assessment methodologies. They also prepared and taught one class and laboratory exercise. Additionally, they participated in a two-hour, bi-weekly pedagogical journal club. Although the time obligation was significant, limiting the program to one semester made it more feasible. In addition, trainees have now created components of a teaching portfolio, which should add to their success in obtaining future teaching positions. We will have one more position available in the fall and will be accepting applications later this summer.

Technical Skills Seminar Series (TSSS)

by Christopher Willis (Vice-President of Career Development, 2011-2012)

In 2012, the FDA approved the most drugs in 16 years. This milestone along with other scientific advances, such as personalized medicine, has brought biomedical research into the national spotlight. Of course, all these achievements need to be traced back somewhere and those doing the initial discovery at the bench can be called the unsung heroes. These days, big pharma is not in the discovery phase alone as difficult economic times have meant that companies are becoming more creative at collaborating across sectors and disciplines. At the heart of novel scientific discoveries are the tools researchers use in the lab (and these days on computers too!).

In order to raise awareness of the most cutting edge tools available across research disciplines, the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association puts on a monthly Technical Skills Seminar Series (TSSS). We invite scientists from a variety of backgrounds and current fields to bring attendees up to speed on the latest innovations and technologies in science. These seminars serve as a teaching tool that can improve one's research, but also inform about ways to potentially save invaluable time when conducting one's experiments. A wide range of topics are addressed with an emphasis on techniques that postdocs were interested in as noted in our last career and technical skills topics survey. In addition, we try to bring speakers who present material that the average laboratory on campus could easily incorporate.

The talks are informal and questions are welcomed during the seminars where lunch is also provided to the attendees. A recent seminar given by Horizon Discoveries, that was related to personalized medicine, discussed knock-in and knock-out isogenic cell lines for precision functional genomics. These talks are also a great chance to meet local biotech companies, such as LifeSensors, who presented tools used for "Untangling the Complexity of the Ubiquitin Pathway." We also invite speakers from Jefferson's core facilities to share the services offered and give examples of past experiments they have helped perform. For example, Dr. Mathew Thakur, the director of the Molecular Imaging Facility on campus, gave a presentation to almost 40 attendees including graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and research assistants. With the increasing popularity of this forum, we look forward to another year of informative seminars, and always welcome ideas for topics from postdocs.

For any questions or if you would like to request a technical skills topic, please contact us at jpa@jefferson.edu.

Planning Ahead: Building Your Career Network

by Jeffery Adijanto (Vice-President of Career Development, 2012-2013)

It is never easy being a postdoc. We complain about the pay, struggle with experiments and agonize over the failure of our favorite hypothesis. Given the current job market, we wonder whether all those weekends spent making plasmids and running PCRs are ever going to help us find our dream job with a respectable salary! You thought that at the very least, you could continue "postdoc-ing" for the next decade, but the very thought of being a lab rat for the rest of your life throws you into depression. Worried for your uncertain future, you anxiously search for a way to climb out of this hole to breathe the fresh air above. If I've just described your life, you're not alone. Talk to Joe, the postdoc next door, and he'll tell you exactly the same thing. Maybe he'll even recommend you his personal remedy – join a yoga class. But I can't afford yoga. Almost half my salary goes to rent, a quarter goes to paying bills, Netflix, and my overpriced minimum-coverage car insurance. I got my Ph.D. Now I just need a real job. An old friend once told me about how it took him six months and over one hundred job applications before he even received a single offer. If that doesn't sound too bad, I would add that that was 8 years ago, when the job market was good. My other friend, Dave, however, has had more success – it didn't take him too long to find his current job as an Engineer at Intel last year. His story? He looked in his high school yearbook and contacted his old classmates through their LinkedIn and Facebook accounts. As it turns out, one of his classmates worked at Intel and was willing to put in a special recommendation for him. Dave's advice to me for getting a job was to make lots of friends, and to start doing informational interviews. His advice was particularly hard for me to swallow. Throughout my college and graduate training, I have been guilty of avoiding networking and social events. For me, meeting new people and making small talk was as awkward as being on a failed "Gangnam Style" parody. Hence, I wasn't particularly thrilled about doing informational interviews; in fact, I was scared half to death. My first informational interview was a phone call with a lead scientist from Life Technologies. Despite some hiccups, it went surprisingly well. Bolstered by my successful phone interviews, I then went on face-to-face informational interviews and collected a number of contacts in the industry. Over time, I learned that Dave's advice was spot on – I need to network and meet new people, because when I need a job someday, I will have someone to talk to.

When the JPA called for a new Vice-President of Career Development last September, I jumped at the opportunity. More so than for the awesome title, I thought of it as a great opportunity to network with industry scientists. Thus this year, in addition to a Technical Skills Seminar Series (TSSS), we will arrange casual networking sessions with TSSS speakers. The goal is two-fold: to provide a friendly environment to sharpen your networking skills and to get some business cards while you're at it.

With that said, I want to remind you that your career network is not limited to people in industry, and that it includes technicians, graduate students, and fellow postdocs. These people will come to your rescue when you desperately need an aliquot of pGEM vector or when you need to use a developer when yours decides to quit. So, if you haven't done so, I urge you to visit your neighboring lab, introduce yourself, and make a new friend.

JeffPOST

Transition to Dreamland *by Mehboob Ali (Senior Vice-President, 2011-2013)*

February 6, 2006, was a big day in my life when I defended my doctoral thesis and heard, "Congratulations, Dr. Mehboob Ali." Simultaneously it left a big question for me, "What is next?" One of my friends suggested "dreamland" as my future place. I am confident to say that if a survey was done around the world asking which land is "dreamland", then >90% of the vote would be in favor of the United States of America. However, for me, although I knew about the US before, this was the first time that I heard it called "dreamland." I decided to try to find a position in the US. After a six month job search, I got an offer from Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, PA. I accepted it and started my preparations to move to the US. However, making a successful transition from a developing country to the most developed country in the world was a real challenge. The first challenge was to get my visa stamped. This can take up to 8 months and sometimes it is rejected. So I went for a visa interview at the US embassy in New Delhi, India. When I reached the embassy I saw a huge line of people waiting for their number to get into the embassy. I asked a person, "Bhaiyya kab se line mein ho," which means "When did you get in line?". He replied "I came around 7:00 am and there were people already waiting before me." I was worried whether I will get into the embassy by my interview time, but fortunately I made it. When I finished all interview formalities, they kept my passport. By that evening I received a call from the US embassy that I could collect my passport at my convenience. I was very scared, but immediately went to collect my passport, which had been stamped. Hurray!!!! I booked my flight to leave two weeks later because I wanted to spend some time with my family.

On May 28, 2007, I landed in "dreamland." I was excited and somewhat nervous. I was worried about work, the new culture, being able to communicate, and more. My PI sent a postdoc to meet me, who brought me to the lab and helped me settle into my apartment as well as other formalities like meeting with HR, obtaining an ID card and getting a social security number and driver's license. Within a short span I felt adapted to my new environment. However, I observed differences between the lifestyles in the US and my home country. One major difference was the complete justification for the value of time and its best utilization which we are lacking in developing countries like mine. The second difference was that here every life has a value, whether it is human or animal. Third, everyday essentials are easily accessible. While at Penn State, I was introduced to their postdoc association and thought that I might join it sometime, but I never got the chance at Penn State.

While I was working at Penn State, I got a chance to visit Philly. I liked this city in many aspects, including the fact that it has many universities which means more career opportunities. It is not too crowded and I felt comfortable there. When I was visiting the Liberty Bell, I saw a Jefferson banner on a high rise building. I decided to visit its campus since it was within walking distance of the Liberty Bell. When I came to campus I was joyful. This university has a beautiful location in the heart of the city with easy access to transportation, restaurants, and theaters. But it wasn't until I saw the Kimmel Cancer Center that I decided to try to move to Jefferson because I knew it would be a great place to do my dream research in cancer biology. I started contacting leading cancer biologists at Jefferson. I heard from Dr. Giovanni Pitari, an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and started in his research group in 2009, focusing on colon cancer. Shortly thereafter, I got an opportunity to present my work at the 2010 Postdoctoral Research Symposium (PRS) in the "Early Discoveries" section where I won a Best Presenter award. At PRS, I met Chris So, then JPA President, who offered me to join the JPA. I thought it might help me to develop professional skills which a postdoc needs for a successful transition from postdoc to faculty. I was attracted by the JPA officers' activities like arranging meetings, career-oriented talks, and postdoc benefits speeches. I joined in 2010 and have been an officer ever since.

Overall my transition was not easy from life in an Indian village to a fast running world which is known as "dreamland." But it became easier with the help of many friends from my home country and the US. Now I am capable of helping others in such a transition and I have done it over the last couple of years. Now I am heading to make another transition from postdoc to faculty member.

Thomas Jefferson University Activities Office

The Thomas Jefferson University Activities Office coordinates social, culture and recreational programming for the entire Jefferson community. All are encouraged to participate in many events occurring regularly throughout the year, including movie nights, entertainment programs and co-curricular programs and workshops. The Activities Office also offers a variety of ticket sales to professional sporting events, amusement parks, museums, performing arts and cultural attractions which are available for purchase at the Jefferson Bookstore, 1009 Chestnut Street.

The Activities Office also provides support for campus organizations such as the Jefferson Postdoctoral Association, Jefferson Soccer Club and the Jefferson Knitting Club. For a complete listing of more than 100 campus organizations, please see the Annual Student Organization Directory on Pulse or in the Activities Office, located in Room B-67 Jefferson Alumni Hall. For more information, visit the Activities Office or call 215-503-7743.

JeffPOST

2012 Distinguished Mentor Award Nominees

Distinguished Mentor Award Nominees Dr. Flemming Forsberg (left) and Dr. Philip Wedegaertner (right) with Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment.

Distinguished Mentor Award Nominees (not pictured):

Dr. Giovanni Pitari
Dr. Michael Root
Dr. Rajanikanth Vadigepalli

And the Distinguished Mentor Award goes to

Dr. Renato Iozzo, Professor, Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment.

Dr. Karen Knudsen, Professor, Cancer Biology, and Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment.

Dr. Renato Iozzo with his lab members.
Left to right - Simone Buraschi, Adam Shellard, Maria Gubbiotti, Annabel Torres, Chiara Poluzzi, Holly Jones, Dr. Renato Iozzo, James Smythies, Chris Willis and Atul Goyal.

Dr. Karen Knudsen with some of her lab members. Left to right - Randy Schrecengost, Michael Augello, Bill Ostrander, Dr. Karen Knudsen, Jeffry Dean, Jon Goodwin and Matt Schiewer.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all of the faculty for their continuing commitment to training future scientists. We also encourage those postdocs with great mentors to nominate them for next year's Distinguished Mentor Award!

Upcoming Events 2013

July/August
Lucky Strikes Bowling Event

Technical Skills Seminar Series
August 13
Cytoscape - An Open Source Pathway Analysis Software

September 17
Charles River Transgenic Colonies

Update From International Office

As of May 2013, I-94 cards will no longer be issued at the CBP (US Customs and Border Protection). Instead, I-94 cards can be printed out after submitting information electronically at www.cpb.gov/I94.

I-94 cards are needed to apply for identification documents such as social security cards and driver's licenses.

JeffPOST

Social Corner

By Dominique Comer (Vice-President of Social Affairs, 2012-2013)

2012 was an exciting year for the Jefferson Postdoc Association (JPA)! We started the year right with the 2012 Winter Bash-New Orleans style! About 60 postdocs, graduate students, faculty and guests attended the event. We participated in a mask contest, New Orleans trivia game, raffles and more.

For our summer social event, the JPA went to Dave and Buster's for an afternoon of fun! We played pool, arcade games and won some very cool prizes!

JPA members attended a number of fun events throughout the city, exploring what Philadelphia has to offer. Over the summer, we grabbed some brunch at a favorite local restaurant and explored art galleries in Old City for First Friday. In August, we put on dancing shoes as we went to Brasil's for a salsa lesson and practiced our moves, dancing the night away! In October, we attended the Midtown Festival and the ever-popular Bloktoberfest, both of which were full of food, music and plenty of fun! At Thanksgiving time, we brought back the popular Potluck Lunch, where postdocs brought in dishes representing their own cultures for all to share. I must say, we have some talented cooks in the JPA! In December, postdocs went to the Franklin Institute, where we walked inside a giant heart, learned about the planets and experienced the Giant Putty Drop!

Throughout the year, postdocs were also able to stop by the JGSBS student and postdoc lounge (469 JAH) for our coffee hours or ice cream socials to take a break from work. We also joined up with Penn postdocs for social hours after work on the first Friday of the month. 2013 continues to be jam-packed full of events and I look forward to another year of fun!

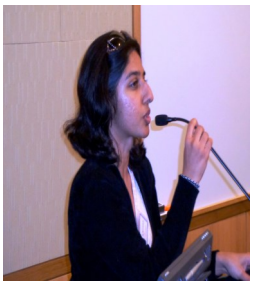
National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) 2012-Speed Networking

By Mansi Khanna (Treasurer, 2012-2013)

The National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) is an annual event held in late September and is promoted by the National Postdoc Association. For the past 2 years, Jefferson has taken part in this national appreciation of postdocs by organizing a social event during this week. In 2012, our aim was to host an event that would professionally benefit our postdocs and give them an opportunity to learn first-hand about career options as well as network with science professionals.

NPAW 2012 was celebrated at Jefferson in the form of a "Speed Networking Event," which took place between postdocs and scientists representing academia, industry and other non-academic careers such as pharmaceuticals, government, and medical writing. The postdocs signed up for 10 minute time slots with the science professionals after reviewing their bios. The formal speed networking part was scheduled for one hour. At the event, the postdocs rotated at the end of each time interval, so they could interact with several professionals over the hour. These scheduled networking opportunities were followed by an informal networking reception.

Of the 11 scientific professionals who participated, most were Jefferson alumni and all were very eager to participate and share their experiences. The enthusiasm of the participants, postdocs and professionals alike, was evident and the feedback we received was quite positive, with demands for such events in the future. The event was a unique platform for our postdocs and invited science professionals to build connections for their professional development.



JeffPOST

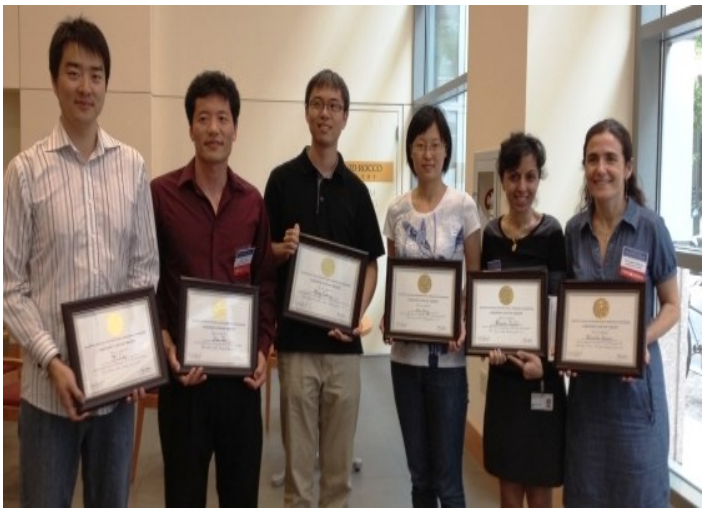
7th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium

By Asha Srinivasan and Matthew Wampole (PRS Co-Chairs, 2012)

Cont'd from page 1

Following the keynote speaker, the 2012 Distinguished Mentor Award (DMA) was presented to Drs. Renato Iozzo and Karen Kundsen for their excellent mentorship of postdoctoral fellows. The DMA was established by the JPA and the OPA in 2007 as a way to recognize and commend Thomas Jefferson University faculty that have gone above and beyond to provide outstanding postdoctoral mentorship. Five other faculty members were nominated for the 2012 DMA (see page 14). We greatly appreciate the effort that these faculty members put towards postdoctoral mentoring, and we urge those of you with great mentors to nominate them for next year's DMA.

Immediately following the DMA presentation, the PRS awards for best poster and oral presentations were presented by Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and Recruitment, and the PRS 2012 Co-Chairs, Drs. Asha Srinivasan and Matthew Wampole. The exciting event concluded with a reception where postdocs, faculty, and students could mingle, discuss science, or just relax.



From left to right: Drs. Yi Luo, Hua Xu, Dong Liang, Xia Wang, Shamim Naghdi, and Veronica Eisner.
(Not pictured: Drs. Anindita Dutta, John Eisenbrey, Randy Schrecengost, and Jamin Steffen).

And the AWARD Winners are:

Oral Presentation:
Dr. Veronica Eisner, from the laboratory of Dr. Gyorgy Hajnoczky
Dr. Randy Schrecengost, from the laboratory of Dr. Karen Knudsen

Early Discoveries Poster Presentation:
Dr. Dong Liang, from the laboratory of Dr. Sophie Astrof
Dr. Jamin Steffen, from the laboratory of Dr. John Pascal

Poster Presentation:
Dr. Anindita Dutta, from the laboratory of Dr. Lucia Languino
Dr. John Eisenbrey, from the laboratory of Dr. Flemming Forsberg
Dr. Yi Luo, from the laboratory of Dr. James Keen
Dr. Shamim Naghdi, from the laboratory of Dr. Gyorgy Hajnoczky
Dr. Xia Wang, from the laboratory of Dr. Sophie Astrof
Dr. Hau Xu, from the laboratory of Dr. Philip Wedegaertner