


# 9th ISMMS Postdoctoral Symposium

## How To Make the Most of Your Postdoc

21st September 2018

Davis Auditorium  
Leon and Norma Hess Center  
for Science and Medicine,  
1470 Madison Avenue,  
New York, NY 10029





# 9<sup>th</sup> ISMMS Postdoctoral Symposium

## *How to get the most of your postdoc*

September 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

### PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

**VENUE:** *Davis Auditorium,  
Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine, 1470 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10029*

#### *Morning program*

- 9:30 – 09:55 am** Registration and breakfast  
*Hess 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby area*
- 9:55 – 10:00 am** Welcome & Introduction
- 10:00 – 11:00 am** Keynote Lecture: Jennifer Egert, PhD, *Licensed Clinical Psychologist*  
Title: *“A Mindful Way Through Post-Doc: Working, Living and Finding Balance”*
- 11:00 – 11:30 am** oSTEM, THAW, WiSM, Ombuds office - Introduction and overview
- 11:30 – 12:00 pm** Coffee break  
*Hess 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby area*
- 12:00 – 12:30 pm** Robin-Chemers-Neustein Fellowship Awardee Presentations
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm** Plenary Lecture: Kyle Marian, *Science communicator*  
Title: *“Take Your Science Outside Your Silos: Lessons from Guerilla Science and Comedy”*

#### *Afternoon program*

- 3:00 – 3:05 pm** Welcome to afternoon session
- 3:05 – 4:00 pm** Panel Discussions
- a) Davis Auditorium\*: *“How to stand out in the academic recruitment process”*  
*Panelists:* Dr. Martin Walsh, PhD, Dr. Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Dr. Florence Marlow, PhD, Dr. Nicole Dubois, PhD
- b) Seminar room A\*: *“Compelling Careers in Healthcare Technology”*  
*(hosted by MSIP)*  
*Panelists:* Alison Fenney, PhD, MBA, Simon Gruber, PhD, Brian Iacoviello, PhD, Nishta Rao, MBA, Carlo Yuvienco, PhD
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm** Postdoc Awards Ceremony
- 4:30 – 5:00 pm** Informational session from Mount Sinai working groups
- 5:00 – 7:00 pm** Networking Reception  
*Hess 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby area*

\*= *Locations might be switched*

# How to Make the Most of Your Postdoc

As early career scientists, postdoctoral fellows are neuralgic nodes connecting the knowledge-driven reality of graduate school and the complex and multi-tasking academic world. We have been trained all our lives to become highly-specialized scientists, but to be able to walk independently into the next steps of our careers, whether academic or not, requires us to expand our competences. We hold an exciting but also vulnerable position, exacerbated by the fact that the academic world does not always seem able to acknowledge the challenges faced by our new generation of scientists and to keep up with a fast mutating society. The challenges we have to overcome today are very different from the ones our PIs or long-term faculty may have faced in the past. Postdocs are, more often than ever, foreign nationals; tenure-track positions are lacking; and the overall retribution is not always optimal. The complex times we are living in certainly add uncertainty to the scientific world that has always been deeply interconnected with society.

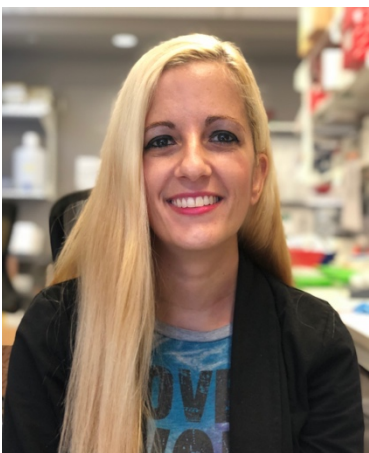
Nevertheless, despite the intrinsic sensitivity of postdoctoral fellow positions, we have all been acquiring, often unknowingly, valuable and transferable skills, such as networking, communication, organization, leadership, and management. These skills will not only be pivotal to excel in the next steps of our careers but also to promote much-needed changes in the scientific world to make it more responsive to the different realities of our society. The postdoctoral awards that will be presented today clearly illustrate our duality of excellent researchers and allegiants to the wellness of people. We indeed are the future professionals that can *learn how to make the most of our postdoc experience* and use it in the next steps of our career.

To help us managing our time, identifying our hidden talents and communicate our science to any kind of audiences, our keynote and plenary speakers, Jennifer Egert, PhD and Kyle Marian will share their views on how to fruitfully invest the skills we acquire behind benches and screens to transition to a variety of careers; all of this trying to not to stress too much and enjoy doing it. Our two panels discussion will shed light into how the recruitment for faculty positions have changed over the years and what the path for a business-oriented career looks like. Finally, during our networking reception, representatives of various academic and non-academic career paths will be ready to stand answers about exciting career opportunities available for postdocs.

We truly hope that this year's symposium will provide you useful insights for cultivating your skills during your fellowship and for planning your future!

Welcome to Postdoc Day 2018!

Letizia Amadori, PhD and Agata Kurowski, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellows  
Co-chairs, Postdoc Executive Committee  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Letizia Amadori



Agata Kurowski

## ***ISSMS Postdoc Executive Committee Members***

**Agata Kurowski  
Letizia Amadori  
Charles DeRossi  
Nicholas Daviaud  
Kaustav Mukherjee  
Yifei Sun  
Nabila Founounou  
Sabrina Tamburini  
Julia TCW  
Ashley Humphries  
Rewatee Gokhale  
Lauren Wills  
Pablo Ranea Robles**

**Farhana Sakloth  
Andrew Trotta  
Enrica Piras  
Brandon Stauffer  
Camila Rubio Patino  
Divya Jha  
Justyna Mleczko  
Cigdem Sevim Bayrak  
Rini (Mondal) Chandrani  
Keerat Kaur  
John Sekar  
Gleicy Hair  
Georgios Soultanidis**





# 9<sup>th</sup> ISMMS Postdoctoral Symposium

## *Getting the most out of your postdoc*

### Detailed Program

- 9:30 – 09:55 am**      **Registration and breakfast**  
*Hess 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby area*
- 9:55 – 10:00 am**      **Welcome & Introduction**
- 10:00 – 11:00 am**      **Keynote Lecture: Jennifer Egert, Ph.D.**  
*Licensed Clinical Psychologist – Stress management/work-life balance*

### **Title: A Mindful Way Through Post-Doc: Working, Living and Finding Balance**



**Jennifer Egert, Ph.D.**, is a clinical psychologist in private practice in New York City. She trained at Duke University in mind-body approaches to health and mental health and completed her Post-Doctoral training at Mount Sinai Medical Center, in Cancer Prevention and Control Research. Dr. Egert worked at the Manhattan VA Medical Center for 9 years as a health psychologist, caring for veterans with illness, disability and at end of life and teaching mindfulness to veterans with illness, trauma and substance abuse and trained family medicine residents at Montefiore in holistic approaches to medical care. Dr. Egert has presented on mindfulness and healing at medical education and other professional conferences and provides mindfulness workshops to staff at a variety of medical and mental health care organizations.

Dr. Egert began her own personal study and mindfulness practice in 2002. She has trained in both the Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction programs as well with other mindfulness-based psychotherapies and interventions. Through her own practice and work with others in groups and in psychotherapy, she has come to understand the power of mindfulness practice in helping people find a sense of acceptance, compassion, and balance in the face of the challenges we all face as human beings.

For further information, see [www.jenniferegert.com](http://www.jenniferegert.com)

- 11:00 – 11:30am**      **Office Introduction and overview (5 min each)**  
*Ostem, THAW, WiSM, Ombudsman, PPM*

#### oSTEM

Out in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics at Mount Sinai (oSTEM at Mount Sinai) is a chapter of an international student society dedicated to fostering leadership and community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, asexual, queer, (LGBTQA+) and ally communities in disciplines related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Since its inception in January 2018, oSTEM at Mount Sinai has hosted a variety of events, including the Out in Biomedical Sciences Panel, Dinner & Discussion series with local queer leaders, monthly social Q-Teas, queer documentary screenings, joint socials with other NYC-based oSTEM chapters, and more."Would it be helpful to include contact info as well? If needed: "Find us online at <https://webcommons.mssm.edu/ostematmountsinai/>, email us at [ostematmountsinai@gmail.com](mailto:ostematmountsinai@gmail.com), and join our Slack channel

## THAW

THAW (Trainee Health and Wellness) is a group of energetic academic trainees who are keen to improve the wellbeing of postdocs and graduate students at Mount Sinai. We seek to identify gaps in and barriers to wellbeing, in order to advocate and organize for change to benefit the wellness of graduate students and postdocs. We are always keen to have new ideas and new people involved, so please get in touch at [thaw@icahn.mssm.edu](mailto:thaw@icahn.mssm.edu)!

## PPM

PPM (Postdoc Peer Mentoring) is one of THAW's first initiatives - an inclusive community of postdocs founded to create community and address feelings of isolation among postdocs. We host social activities (#Sundaybrunch, anyone?), connect postdocs who have questions to other postdocs who have answers, and provide one-on-one peer mentoring for interested postdocs. PPM has also teamed up with the graduate student Peer Mentoring program to share some of our hard-earned postdoc wisdom with the students! If you want to be a mentor, or a mentee, or both - or if you just want to hang out with some cool people, check out our calendar (<https://tinyurl.com/PPM-Events>) for our next event, or send us an email at [postdocpeers@mssm.edu](mailto:postdocpeers@mssm.edu)!

## WiSM

The Women in Science (WiS) group has been established to advocate for the professional and personal goals of the women graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and laboratory technicians associated with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). We meet about once a month and organize several career development and social events throughout the year. For more information about WIS please visit our website at: [webcommons.mssm.edu/wis](http://webcommons.mssm.edu/wis)

We also have a facebook page: [www.facebook.com/WomenInScienceISMMS/](https://www.facebook.com/WomenInScienceISMMS/)

## The Ombuds Office

The Ombuds Office for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Mount Sinai Health System is a resource for medical students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, residents and fellows in the Graduate Medical Education programs, and faculty. This confidential office provides an impartial and informal venue for promoting fair and equitable conflict resolutions for individuals and groups who have identified problems in their workplace or studies. The office functions independently of any organizational structure.

12:00 – 12:30 am

### **Robin-Chemers-Neustein Fellowship Awardee Presentations**



**Dr. Sabrina Tamburini** works in the laboratory of Dr. Jose Clemente, in the Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences. Dr. Tamburini's research is focused on understanding what constitutes a viable "healthy" microbiome and how the shape of viable microbiomes relates to overall health and disease. She developed a bacterial viability assay to study what bacteria can be viably transferred from a donor to a recipient in order to build a new healthy viable microbiome. This assay can be applied to fecal microbial transplantation in recurrent *Clostridium difficile* patients and from mothers to newborn infants. She is also the Co-director of the advocacy working group at the Postdoc Executive Committee (PEC). Her roles include liaison coordinator for CoRE and Shared Resources and liaison representative for Woman in Science and Medicine.



**Dr. Lorna Farrelly** works in the laboratory of Dr. Ian Maze, in the Department of Neuroscience. Dr. Farrelly's research investigates the complex interplay between novel chromatin regulatory mechanisms in the brain and neuronal plasticity. Her studies have more specifically identified and delineated a previously undefined histone modification mediated by the monoamine serotonin. In her work, Dr. Farrelly combines a wide variety of biochemical, biophysical and molecular approaches to address the regulation of this epigenetic phenomenon within normal neurodevelopment, and in terms of its contribution to psychiatric disease.

12:30 – 1:30pm

**Plenary Lecture: Kyle Marian,**

*A former physical anthropologist, university-level instructor, former forensic anthropologist, and currently, a science communicator.*



**Title: *Take Your Science Outside Your Silos: Lessons from Guerilla Science and Comedy***

Kyle Marian is a science communicator, former physical anthropologist, and comedian. She currently works with Guerilla Science on top of producing the monthly live show ‘The Symposium: Academic Stand-Up’ and workshops to help researchers translate their work into comedy. She has a Masters in Science Communication and has extensive experience in international science outreach, multimedia, and live performance. An Alda Center and UK Bright Club Comedy alum, she is now on a mission to train up academics (particularly minorities in STEM) in stand-up & spread the sharp, smart funnies across the US.

**Afternoon program**

3:00 – 3:05pm

**Welcome to afternoon session: Dr. Letizia Amadori and Dr. Agata Kurowski**  
*Davis Auditorium*

3:05 – 4:00pm

**Panel Discussions**

***“How to stand out in the recruitment process in academia”***

Moderators: Rewatee Gokhale and Julia TCW

Seminar room A



**Dr. Martin Walsh, PhD** - Professor - Pediatrics, Pharmacological Sciences, Genetics and Genomics Sciences

Lab webpage: <https://icahn.mssm.edu/profiles/martin-j-walsh>

B.S. State University of New York at Buffalo

Ph. D. Columbia University



**Dr. Miriam Merad, MD, PhD** - Mount Sinai Chair professor in Cancer Immunology and the Director of the Precision Immunology Institute at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Dr. Merad also co-Directs, the Cancer Immunology program at The Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Institute and is the Director of the Mount Sinai Human Immune Monitoring Center (HIMC).

Dr. Merad’s laboratory made seminal discoveries to foster our understanding of the mechanisms that shape dendritic cells and macrophage functional identity in tissues. She discovered that tissue resident macrophages developed from embryonic precursors, independently of adult hematopoiesis questioning the established mononuclear phagocyte dogma that suggests that macrophages arise from circulating monocytes. She showed that tissue-resident macrophages have unique functional attributes in the tumor microenvironment that contribute to tumor outcome and response to treatment. Dr. Merad pioneering work mapping the regulatory network of dendritic cells (DCs) resulted in the identification of a novel lineage of DC, the CD103+ DC, that is now considered a key target to improve antiviral and

antitumor immunity. These insights are now being used to develop novel macrophage and dendritic cell-specific targets for the treatment of Cancer and Inflammatory diseases.

Dr. Merad founded the Mount Sinai Human immune monitoring center (HIMC) to develop novel mapping strategies of human disease lesions. Through the HIMC, she implemented cutting-edge single cell analysis platforms to maximize information obtained from limited biological samples, mostly focusing on cancer and inflammatory disease lesions. The HIMC now runs one of the most clinically active single cell analysis platforms in the country.

Dr. Merad has authored more than 160 primary papers and reviews in high profile journals. She receives generous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for her research on innate immunity and their contribution to human disease, and belongs to several NIH consortia. She is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and lectures around the world on her work.



**Dr. Florence Marlow, PhD** - Senior Faculty - Cell, Developmental & Regenerative Biology Dr. Marlow is an Associate Professor of Cell, Developmental, and Regenerative Biology (CDRB) and co-director of the Development, Regeneration, and Stem Cells (DRS) graduate training area. She received her Bachelors in Science from RPI in 1995 and her PhD from Vanderbilt University in 2003. Dr. Marlow completed her postdoctoral training at the University of Pennsylvania before joining the faculty at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2008, and ISMMS in 2016. She studies oogenesis, reproduction, maternal regulation of early development, and neurodegeneration.



**Dr. Nicole Dubois, PhD** - Junior Faculty - Cell, Developmental & Regenerative Biology, is an Assistant Professor of Cell, Development and Regenerative Biology, a member of the Mindich Child Health and Development Institute (MCHDI) and the Black Family Stem Cell Institute. She obtained her PhD at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the McEwen Center for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Toronto. She joined Mount Sinai in 2013.

Dr. Dubois was awarded an ISREC pre-doctoral fellowship to study the oncogene c-Myc in the hematopoietic system and a Swiss National Research Foundation fellowship to investigate cardiac specification from human pluripotent stem cells. At Mount Sinai, her lab was awarded a 2014 MCHDI Pilot Award and a 2013 NYSTEM idea grant to study the cardiac defects in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and a 2017 MCHDI Pilot Award to generate cardiac Purkinje fibers from pluripotent stem cells. She received the Dr. Harold and Golden Lamport Basic Research Award in 2018.

Collectively, research in the Dubois lab is aimed at enhancing our understanding of heart development and function with the aim to inform new approaches for the identification and treatment of heart disease. The specific research efforts include 1) Studies of the molecular mechanisms driving atrial-ventricular specification during mouse and human development; 2) The characterization of cardiac defects in human muscular dystrophies; 3) The identification of metabolic pathways underlying cardiac maturation; 4) Network analyses for patient-specific drug responses of the heart (in collaboration with the Mount Sinai LINCS group) and 5) Investigation of lncRNAs during cardiac development and disease.

### ***“MSIP – Compelling Careers in Healthcare Technology”***

Davis Auditorium

**Alison Fenney, PhD, MBA** – Manager, Business Development and Licensing, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alisonfenney/>

**Simon Gruber, PhD** – Equity Research Associate, JMP Securities LLC.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/simongruber/>

**Brian Iacoviello, PhD** – Director, Scientific Affairs, Click Therapeutics, Inc.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-iacoviello-4082a024/>

**Nishta Rao, MBA** – Director, Princeton Innovation Center BioLabs. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nishtaraao/>

**Carlo Yuvienco, PhD** – Assistant Vice President, Center for Urban Innovation, NYCEDC

<https://www.lifesci.nyc/staff/carlo-yuvienco-phd>

#### **4:00 – 4:30pm Postdoc Awards Ceremony**

**4:30 – 5:00pm Information session from Mount Sinai working groups:** We will have representatives from different working groups here at Mount Sinai available to discuss their initiatives, including what is available to you and how you can get involved.

The groups that will be represented are as follows:

- Postdoctoral Executive Committee (PEC)
- Postdoc Parents
- Trainee Health and Wellness (THAW) and Peer Mentoring
- Mount Sinai Health Hackathon
- Sinai Biotech
- Women in Science (WIS)
- Out in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Math (oSTEM)

**5:00 – 7:00pm**

#### **Networking Reception**

*Hess 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby area*



**Jamie McBean** graduated from Princeton University with a degree in chemistry, and then received his PhD in Pharmacology from Weill Cornell Graduate School. His early experience included projects involving multi-step organic synthesis, structure-activity relationship analysis, enzymology, and development of biochemical assays. His work also included collaborative initiatives in both the pharma industry and academia. He then combined his scientific expertise with creative insight and transitioned to working as a medical writer and strategist, developing medical education for multiple oncology brands. Jamie is currently a Strategic Planning Director at Area 23, where he ensures that the creative work developed connects to the scientific story being told and the overarching brand strategy. Jamie is the

day-to-day strategic lead on a number of oncology accounts, across a mixture of US-based and Global teams. When he's not at work, Jamie and his wife and dog can usually be found running through Prospect Park in Brooklyn (although his dog is much less willing these days).



**Tessa Hirschfeld - Stoler, M.A., M.Phil., Community Scientist at BioBus**, graduated from Wesleyan University in 2007 with a B.A. in Neurobiology & Behavior and subsequently entered the Cellular, Molecular, Biomedical Sciences doctoral program at Columbia University. Tessa earned an M.A. and M.Phil. researching neurodegenerative disorders and subsequently joined the lab of Dr. Ansorge where she investigated the neurodevelopment of the serotonin circuit and its role in depression and anxiety behaviors in mouse models. Throughout graduate school she rediscovered her deep passion for teaching through her work with Citizen Schools, Columbia Neuroscience Outreach and

Science Discovery Program at Columbia University. In 2016 she joined BioBus to inspire the next generation of students to become curious, young scientists. Aboard the BioBus, Tessa brings research-grade microscopes to students all across the 5 boroughs and teaches intensive weekend, afterschool and summer programs to elementary through college-age students out of the community laboratory in Harlem, the BioBase. Tessa strongly believes that science exploration should be exciting, inspiring, and accessible to ALL people.



**Sara Donnelly, PhD** is currently a Program Manager at the New York Academy of Sciences. She is involved in the development and organization of a diverse program of scientific symposia spanning the spectrum of the life sciences. Sara earned her PhD in cell biology and biochemistry from University College London in 2013. Her thesis work involved studying the signaling pathways regulating actin polymerization using vaccinia virus actin tails as a model system. Subsequently, Sara spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow researching breast cancer invasion and migration at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx.



**Michael Harris** received his PhD from UCL, London, investigating the role of transcription in regulating cell cycle entry. During two postdoc positions at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Memorial Sloan Kettering, he volunteered in the numerous scientific outreach initiatives available in NYC such as the BioBus and Rockefeller RockEDU LAB experiences. In June 2017, deciding to prioritize science communication over further benchwork, he transitioned into a creative position within healthcare advertising. As a Senior Copywriter at Area23, he oversees the execution of materials aimed at healthcare professionals to engage, inform, and educate on the clients' brand. A Cannes Lion 2018 winner, Michael uses his scientific training and expertise to accurately communicate data and research to both internal and external audiences.



**Laurence de Torrente** is a Senior Bioinformatics Analyst at the New York Genome Center. She is responsible for the analysis and interpretation of next-generation sequencing (NGS) data. She has an M.S. in applied mathematics and a Ph.D. in statistics from the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Before her current position, she did a 2-year postdoc in the Systems and Computational Biology department of the Albert Einstein college of Medicine in the Bronx.



**Andrew Koemeter-Cox** received his B.S. in Biochemistry from the university of Delaware and then worked as a research technician at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense before beginning his graduate work at The Ohio State University. After receiving his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences, Andrew moved on to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where he performed research on the role of epigenetics in axonal regeneration in spinal cord injury. Upon completion of his postdoc, Andrew moved to the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, where he helped oversee a diverse portfolio of programs in neurodegenerative disease drug discovery and development. In May of 2016, Andrew joined the Michael J Fox Foundation as an Associate Director on the Research Programs team. At MJFF, he manages the Target Validation portfolio, a set of programs designed to help feed new, innovative targets into the therapeutic development pipeline for PD.



**Laura Zheng, PhD** is a Medical Writer with BGB Group, working on projects supporting oncology and specifically with lung cancer. In her line of work, she creates and edits scientific content for symposia and provides scientific support on promotional materials. Before she joined BGB, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine of Mount Sinai where she conducted research into the effects of lead exposure on child neurodevelopment. She got her PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she conducted research into the effects of heavy metal exposures and kidney disease in adults and children. In her spare time, Laura enjoys taking naps.



**Katie Stiles, PhD** is Assistant Professor of Research in Genetic Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Stiles directs the molecular design and development of novel adeno-associated vector (AAV) based gene therapies as part of the team in the Department of Genetic Medicine and Belfer Gene Therapy Core Facility that is focused on taking gene therapy from early pre-clinical development to clinical trials. Dr. Stiles obtained her PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Pennsylvania and her postdoctoral training in Virology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



**John Facciponte, PhD**, is a Medical Writer and Scientific Affairs Associate at AXON Communications, New York.

With a BS (biotechnology) and an MS (Microbiology) from Rochester, John studied heat shock proteins as cancer vaccines and earned his PhD in Immunology from Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He did his post-doctoral fellowship at the Penn Ovarian Cancer Research Center at UPenn, testing a DNA-based vaccine targeting ovarian tumor vasculature antigens and also participated in the Penn Biotech Group as a consultant on several internships with fledgling start-ups in the Philadelphia area.

Following his academic experience, John worked as an immunology consultant for a litigation patent lawyer, providing support for a bio-oncology patent case; this experience provided a stepping stone into the medical communication field.

On the agency side, John has worked on medical education deliverables (KOL oncology interviews, patient case studies and scientific literature review for scientific communication plans) with various client-facing roles in immuno-oncology for chimeric antigen receptor therapy, checkpoint inhibitors for solid tumors and brentuximab for lymphoma. At AXON Communications, John is focused on Delphi questionnaires as well as abstracts, posters, oral presentations and publications in various disease states such as diabetes and its complications, pulmonary, rheumatological and ophthalmic diseases. In his free time, John enjoys cycling, astronomy and is an avid Rutgers Football fan.

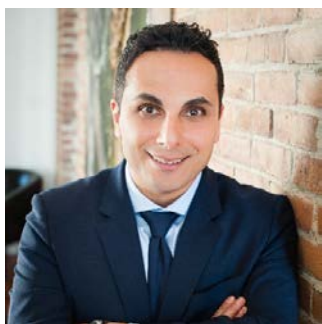


**Monika M. Heinig, PhD**, is a Fellow at Insight Data Science, an intense post-doctoral training fellowship bridging the gap between academia to a career in data science. Dr. Heinig has a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and secondary education from Seton Hall University, a Master's in Applied Mathematics from Stevens Institute of technology. After her Master's, she worked as an actuary at an actuarial consulting firm until she went back to Stevens to earn a PhD in Mathematics, specializing in graph theory. During her PhD, she did two separate internships with the U.S. Department of Defense, and after her PhD she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the Neurology Department doing network analysis on MRI images for MS patients.



**Nick McKeehan** is a member of the ADDF's Aging and Alzheimer's Prevention program. He evaluates the scientific evidence for and against therapies to promote brain health and/or prevent Alzheimer's disease at our website [CognitiveVitality.org](https://www.CognitiveVitality.org) and contributes regularly to the site's blog. Nick previously was a research technician at Albert Einstein College of Medicine investigating repair capabilities of the brain. He also worked with a life science angel investor group, Mid Atlantic Bio Angels. He received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Purdue University, where he was awarded a Howard Hughes Scholarship.





**William Soliman** is an experienced senior executive with several years of experience in the Pharmaceutical & Biotechnology industry, Dr. Soliman has held key positions where he was instrumental in launching a variety of innovative platforms in medical affairs. He is currently the Executive Chair of the Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs (ACMA) whose primary mission is to create industry standards for medical affairs professionals.

He has held several management roles across the industry within medical affairs such as at Retrophin, Eisai, Gilead, Abbott, Boehringer-Ingelheim, and Merck. Dr. Soliman previously served as Vice President of Medical & Scientific Affairs at CME LLC, a leading provider of CME to health care providers nationwide. He also has worked in strategic management consulting with companies such as Veeva systems, and is often brought in as a subject matter expert on medical affairs for healthcare investment and advisory firms. Dr. Soliman is featured in the media often for his perspective on the evolving role of medical affairs/MSLs in the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Soliman earned his PhD, MPhil from Columbia University, his Bachelor's degree from New York University and a Master's Degree from St. Peter's University. He completed post-doctoral training at Harvard University's T.H Chan School of Public Health.



**Lina Kaminski** graduated with a PhD in Life Sciences from Ben Gurion University in Israel, in 2014, where she studied glycosylation pathways in Archaea. Following her Ph.D. training, she moved to NY to do a postdoc research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Here, her research focused on persistence in tuberculosis. During this NY experience, she became more interest in careers outside of the lab bench. She then put a lot of focus on expanding her network and learning about the various opportunities for a “non-bench” career as a Ph.D. During her last year in the lab, she developed her leadership experience by helping to re-start a consulting club and did an internship with the tech transfer office at Einstein. In addition, she participated in a volunteering project as an analyst with The Solution Lab, where she worked

with an equity research firm on a white-paper project in one of the emerging therapeutic areas. Earlier this year, she completed her transition by joining Canaccord Genuity at NY offices, as a biotech equity research associate covering rare disease and gene therapy companies.



**Nidhi Bansal, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Cancer Reports, Developmental Editor, Current Protocols in Cell Biology, Stem Cell Biology, Wiley.** A cancer biologist by training, Dr. Bansal received her PhD from University of Delhi and completed her postdoctoral training at Wake Forest School of Medicine and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Her focus at Wiley is health sciences particularly oncology, stem cell biology, and cell biology where she is responsible for peer-review management, content acquisition and journal development. She works closely with scientists and clinicians for developing Wiley's new broad-scope journal, Cancer Reports. Through Current Protocols, she constantly reinstates the importance of publishing detailed experimental methods that will enable researchers

around the world to reproduce and advance groundbreaking scientific discoveries.



**Ashley Pirovano, M.P.S.,** Community Scientist at BioBus, graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2013 with a B.S. in Biology. Ashley earned a Master's degree in Plant Biotechnology at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry while studying communication between endophytic bacteria and biofuel feedstocks. After earning her graduate degree, she worked as the Laboratory Supervisor and Adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Marymount for two years. Ashley is passionate about science outreach and loves showing students of all ages how fun and exciting science can be!



**James Moe, PhD, MBA**, President and CEO, Oligomerix. Dr. Moe has 20+ years industrial experience having held senior management positions in product development working on international teams in both early and late stage diagnostic, biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies including Gene-Trak/Amoco Technology Ventures/Vysis, bioMerieux, and Mosaic Technologies. Prior to founding Oligomerix, he was Director of Product Development at Pyrosequencing, Senior Molecular Biologist at Spire Biomedical, and Director of Product Development at Q-RNA, Inc. Dr. Moe received his Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology/Molecular Biophysics from Wesleyan University, did his postdoctoral studies at Vanderbilt University in the Center for Molecular Toxicology where he was jointly appointed in the Biochemistry Department in the Medical School, and the Chemistry Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, and has an MBA degree with a concentration in entrepreneurial studies from Boston University.

**Eliot J. Davidowitz, PhD**, Chief Scientist, Oligomerix. Dr. Davidowitz has 20+ years of experience in academic and industrial research and development. Prior to founding Oligomerix, he was a Senior Scientist and Laboratory Manager at Q-RNA, Inc. Dr. Davidowitz received his B.S. from Cornell University, Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University and completed an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. His academic work was in molecular and cellular biology and his industrial experience has focused on assay development for drug discovery targeting tau protein for Alzheimer's disease.

**Nancy Guillen, PhD**, Process Development Engineer III, Regeneron. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/guillennancy/>

**Talya Mutzari**, BT Client Partner, Senior Manager, Pfizer. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/talya-mutzari-90885b17/>

## 2018 State of the Postdoc

The Postdoc Executive Committee (PEC) comprises about 25 active leaders from the ISMMS postdoctoral community and serves approximately 600 postdoc constituents - the largest training body at ISMMS. Our mission is to advocate, promote professional development, and foster a sense of community and collaboration. Over the last nine years the PEC has been the primary force advocating for improvement of postdoc policies and benefits, creating and maintaining forward-thinking professional development programming, and cultivating programs and events to build and maintain a strong postdoc community at ISMMS, in NYC, and at a national level. We interface directly with Graduate School Deans and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and write policy for postdoctoral issues. We thank and congratulate all of our former and current members for their outstanding and tireless efforts, including the organization of the Postdoc Symposium!

We are glad to be able to witness and contribute to progresses for the ISMMS community. We advocated the establishment of a 5-year term, created a mistreatment resource panel, successfully advocated to increase salaries and we updated the postdoc handbook with clarified policies and resources. We are also in the process of building a “parents support group” and we are trying to make mental health services more accessible for postdocs. In terms of professional development programs, we initiated the first ever formal teaching program called the “Future Leaders in Science Communication and Education” and we will be offering again our Project Management short course. Extracurricular experience and leadership opportunities abound with our Science Communication Writing Group, Mount Sinai Science Policy Group, PI discussion series, PlayDocs (a science-based live TV series for children at the Kravis Children’s Hospital), Postdoc Periodical, and Social Media Team. We received once again a stellar response to our annual survey, went on a food tour of the world through our social events, and established a NYC-wide coalition that comprises postdoctoral leaders from 7 major NYC research institutions to collectively develop unified postdoctoral policies for the unique institutional environment in NYC. We have tightened our bounds with other Mount Sinai support groups and offices to be able to offer a broad variety of resources for postdocs. Keep an eye out for continued progress in the upcoming year including mentorship and well-being initiatives and more NYC-wide social events, among many others. If you want to take part in any of the PEC leadership opportunities and programs offered within the ISMMS community and the City of New York, then join us. Not only will it expand your skillset and interests, but it will also provide valuable professional development and most importantly serve as an enormously rewarding experience advocating for your peers and fellow scientists.

Your PEC co-chairs,

Letizia Amadori and Agata Kurowski

## PEC members as of September 2018.



## Recruitment

### The Postdoc Executive Committee (PEC) is Looking for New Members!

PEC is composed of postdoctoral fellows from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS), who focus on improving professional development, community initiatives, and advocacy for all postdocs at ISMMS

If you are interested in:

- Expanding your network inside and outside of Mount Sinai
- Building your leadership and communication skills
- Sharing experiences and having fun by organizing meetups and social events
- Advocating for rights and benefits to improve the postdoctoral experience or
- Discovering alternative careers and joining or initiating new interest groups

...then PEC is the right place for you!

Website: <https://webcommons.mssm.edu/pec>  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2037533/profile>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ISMMSPostdocExecutiveCommittee>  
Twitter: [@MtSinaiPostdocs](https://twitter.com/MtSinaiPostdocs)



Contact PEC co-chairs, **Letizia Amadori** & **Agata Kurowski** for more information

Meetings take place every second Tuesday of the month at 12 pm