8th ISMMS Postdoctoral Symposium

MOVING ACADEMIA FORWARD

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

VENUE: All events will take place in the Davis Auditorium,
Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine, 1470 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10029
unless otherwise stated

Morning Program

8:30 – 09:25am  Registration and Breakfast
Hess 2nd floor lobby area

9:25 – 09:30am  Welcome and Introduction

9:30 – 10:30am  Plenary Lecture: “Your PhD: The Golden Ticket to Career Success”
Patricia Phelps, PhD - Director of Professional Development and Career Office,
Johns Hopkins University

10:30 – 11:00am  Robin-Chemers-Neustein Fellowship Awardee Presentations

11:00 – 11:25am  Coffee Break
Hess 2nd floor lobby area

11:25 – 12:00pm  Data Blitz Presentations and Raffle

12:00 – 1:00pm  Keynote Lecture: “Moving Academia Forward: Careers for the Next Generation of PhDs”
Melanie Sinche, NCC - Author of “Next Gen PhD” & Director of Education,
The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine

1:00 – 2:00pm  Special Seminar: “Recipes for Success for Mid-Career Investigators”
Rosemarie Hunziker, PhD - Program Director Division of Discovery Science &
Technology (DDST), NIH
Seminar Room A, Hess Building

Afternoon Program

3:30 – 3:35pm  Welcome to Afternoon Session

3:35 – 4:30pm  Panel: The State of Academic Publishing
Richard Sever, PhD - Assistant Director and Executive Editor for CSH Perspectives and CSH Protocols and co-founder of bioRxiv
Cesar Berrios-Otero, PhD - Outreach Director at Faculty of 1000
Josh Spieler - Publishing Director, Global STM Journals, Elsevier

4:30 – 5:00pm  Postdoc Awards Ceremony

5:00 – 7:00pm  Networking Reception
Hess 2nd floor lobby area
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 move academia forward. To help us identifying our hidden talents and make conscious decisions for our future paths, our keynote and plenary speakers, Melanie Sinche, NCC and Pat Phelps, PhD will share their views on how to fruitfully invest the skills we acquire behind benches and screens to transition to a variety of careers. In the special seminar by Rosemary Hunziker, PhD, we will also learn what’s new in the grant world for senior postdocs. Our panel discussion will shed light into how the new publishing realities, like preprints, have impacted knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer evaluation. Finally, during our networking reception, representatives of various 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 the rest of your career!

Welcome to Postdoc Day 2017!

The Postdoc Executive Committee
ISMMS Postdoc Executive Committee

Nicholas Barbieri and Agata Kurowski (Co-Chairs)
Catarina Saiote (Outgoing Co-Chair), Alison Sanders, Giovanna Collu, Delaine Ceholski, Dominique Leitner, Rebecca Feldman, Julia TCW, Shuang (Sammi) Wang, Charles DeRossi, Alisson Montagrin, Lorna Farrelly, Dayanira Alsina-Beauchamp, Nicholas Daviaud, Leonardo Munari, Kaustav Mukherjee, Brad Reinholt, Rosalind Ang, Haekyung Lee, Rut Tejero-Villalba, Abhishek Vishnu, Selma Bekri, Chrysooula Deligianni, Marie Verbanck, Monika Heinig, Nabila Founounou, Sabrina Tamburini, Sam DeWitt, Mariana Botton, Mallory Bowers, Akram Yazdani, Ashley Humphries, Toni Schwarz, Letizia Amadori, Mark Luna-Vargas, Andrew Trotta
8th ISMMS Postdoctoral Symposium

MOVING ACADEMIA FORWARD

DETAILED PROGRAM

8:30 – 09:25am
Registration and Breakfast
Hess 2nd floor lobby area

9:25 – 09:30am
Welcome and Introduction
Davis Auditorium, Hess Building
Nicholas Barbieri, PhD and Agata Kurowski, PhD
Co-Chairs of the Postdoctoral Executive Committee
Guy Montgomery, PhD
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

9:30 – 10:30am
Plenary Lecture:
Davis Auditorium, Hess Building
“Your PhD: The Golden Ticket to Career Success”

Patricia Phelps, PhD
Director of Professional Development and Career Office,
Johns Hopkins University

Patricia (Pat) Phelps, PhD is currently the Director of the Professional Development and Career Office at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute where she develops career programming for over 2,500 PhD students and Postdoctoral Fellows.

Prior to this position, Pat was the lead educator for the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History exhibit “Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code. A highlight of the exhibit’s educational programming was “The Genome Geek is in” a weekly event featuring PhD students sharing their research with the public.

Dr. Phelps began her career as the 9th employee in a biotech start-up where she worked for 20 years, ending her industry career as the Senior Director for Product Development and Marketing before transitioning into academia at UNC-CH. Pat was the founder for the Training Initiative in the Biomedical and Biological Sciences (TIBBS), and NC DNA Day and was awarded over $3.5M in NIH training grants. Pat also worked at the National Institutes of Health Office of Intramural Training and Education where she founded the Translational Science Training Program and restructured the NIH Academy Health Disparities Program.
10:30 – 11:00am

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

*Davis Auditorium, Hess Building*

**“RAF inhibitors in BRAF-dependent tumors: Basic mechanisms and clinical implications”**

**Zoi Karoulia, PhD**

**“Early life stress confers lifelong stress susceptibility in mice via transcriptional and epigenetic mechanisms in brain reward circuitry”**

**Catherine Peña, PhD**

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**Zoi Karoulia, PhD** is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Poulikos Poulakakos, PhD in the Department of Oncological Sciences at Icahn School of Medicine in Mount Sinai in New York, USA. She received her PhD in Biochemistry and Biotechnology from the University of Thessaly, Greece. In her postdoctoral studies, she investigates the mechanisms that regulate oncogenic signaling in BRAF-dependent tumors. The focus of her research is the design of therapeutic strategies to overcome resistance to inhibitors of oncogenic BRAF signaling.

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**Catherine Peña, PhD** is currently a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Eric Nestler’s laboratory in the Fishberg Department of Neuroscience at Mount Sinai. She earned her PhD from Columbia University studying the epigenetic links between postnatal maternal care and behavior in female rats. Her postdoctoral work investigates the effects of early life stress on genome-wide transcriptional and epigenetic changes within regions of the brain implicated in depression-like behavior. Dr. Peña established a translationally relevant “two-hit” stress paradigm in mice. In work recently published in Science, Dr. Peña provided new evidence of sensitive windows for development of emotion regulation, and identified a novel molecular mechanism underlying the heightened risk for depression resulting from early life stress.

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11:00 – 11:25am

**Coffee Break**

*Hess 2nd floor lobby area*
11:25 – 12:00pm  
**Data Blitz Presentations and Raffle**  
*Davis Auditorium, Hess Building*

Moderated by **Shuang (Sammi) Wang, PhD**

Join us for short presentations given by selected postdocs that will showcase the breadth of research across Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

**Ling-shiang (Felix) Chuang, PhD**  
"Zebrafish modeling defines complex innate immune mechanisms in sepsis and repetitive intestinal injury"

**Sangeetha Vadakke Madathil, PhD**  
"Placental Cdx2 cells in Cardiac Regeneration"

**Amaresh K. Ranjan, PhD:**  
"Cyclin A2 mediated reprogramming of adult mammalian cardiomyocytes to the progenitor state"

**John A. P. Sekar, PhD:**  
"Whole-Cell Models"

**Nicolas Daviaud, PhD:**  
"Development of an innovative model of preterm hypoxic injury using cerebral organoids"

12:00 – 1:00pm  
**Keynote Lecture:**  
*Davis Auditorium, Hess Building*

"Moving Academia Forward: Careers for the Next Generation of PhDs"

**Melanie Sinche, NCC**  
Author of “Next Gen PhD” & Director of Education, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine
Melanie Sinche, NCC is the Director of Education at The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine in Farmington, CT. She is also the author of Next Gen PhD: A Guide to Career Paths in Science, published by Harvard University Press in 2016. She has served as a Research Associate in the Harvard Labor and Worklife Program, conducting survey research on careers for science PhDs. She served as the Founding Director of the FAS Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at Harvard University, held the same position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and worked with the National Institutes of Health to build the first career center for NIH intramural trainees. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Colgate University and graduate degrees from the University of Michigan and North Carolina State University. She is a National Certified Counselor and is available to speak on careers for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars nationwide.

1:00 - 2:00pm

Special Seminar:
Seminar Room A, Hess Building

“Recipes for Success for Mid-Career Investigators”

Rosemarie Hunziker, PhD
Program Director Division of Discovery Science & Technology (DDST), NIH

Rosemarie Hunziker, PhD is the Director of the Tissue Engineering/Regenerative Medicine Program at the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In that capacity she has programmatic oversight of discovery and applied research grants.

Dr. Hunziker brings a diverse background to this broad sphere of research, including experience in microbiology, immunogenetics and immunochemistry, developmental biology, animal husbandry, molecular biology, stem cell technologies, tissue engineering (most recently in the “tissue chips” programs) and regenerative medicine, biomaterials, and technology transfer. Rosemarie is committed to nurturing discovery science and realizing the practical benefits of the exciting developments at the forefront of cell-based tools and therapies.

3:30 – 3:35pm

Welcome to Afternoon Session
Davis Auditorium, Hess Building

Nicholas Barbieri, PhD and Agata Kurowski, PhD
Co-Chairs of the Postdoctoral Executive Committee

Ellie Schmelzer, PhD
Director of Career Services
3:35 – 4:30pm

Panel: The State of Academic Publishing
Davis Auditorium, Hess Building

Moderated by Rebecca Feldman, PhD and Sabrina Tamburini, PhD

Richard Sever, PhD
Assistant Director and Executive Editor for CSH Perspectives and CSH Protocols, and co-founder bioRxiv

Cesar Berrios-Otero, PhD
Outreach Director at Faculty of 1000

Josh Spieler
Publishing Director, Global STM Journals, Elsevier

Richard Sever, PhD
Assistant Director and Executive Editor for CSH Perspectives and CSH Protocols, and co-founder bioRxiv


After receiving a degree in Biochemistry from Oxford University, Richard obtained his PhD at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, UK. He then moved into editorial work, serving as an editor at Current Opinion in Cell Biology and later Trends in Biochemical Sciences. He subsequently served as Executive Editor of Journal of Cell Science, before moving to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in 2008.
Cesar Berrios-Otero, PhD
Outreach Director at Faculty of 1000

Guided by the passion of Jacques Cousteau, from a very early age Cesar knew he wanted to be involved in science, or at least make movies about the denizens underneath the waters of the Caribbean Sea. After graduating from high school in his native Puerto Rico, he enrolled in the UPR Rio Piedras’ program in Biology where as an undergraduate researcher he worked on studying the regenerative capabilities of the sea cucumber Holothuria glaberrima. We’re pretty sure, however, that he was really into it for the frequent trips to the beach to collect the little critters. After a couple of summer vacations spent in labs on the US mainland (University of Wisconsin – Madison and UCSF) he decided to enroll in NYU’s Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, where he received a PhD in Developmental Genetics for messing around with expensive MRI and ultrasound equipment in order to analyze vascular development in mice. During this time he dabbled in outreach work, traveling back to Puerto Rico to recruit fellow students into NYU’s graduate program. In 2011 he started a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Matilde Inglese at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai using his MRI skillset to characterize animal models of demyelinating diseases. However, his passion for outreach, never waned and in between scanning sessions he kept himself busy organizing social events and conferences for the Mt. Sinai Postdoc Executive Committee. After two and a half years as a postdoc he made the decision to hang up his pipette and joined the outreach team at Faculty of 1000, where he has worked since December 2013. He hopes to further stretch F1000Research’s reach in North, Central, and South America.

Josh Spieler
Publishing Director, Global STM Journals, Elsevier

With over 25 years of scholarly journal experience, Josh Spieler is a Publishing Director in Elsevier’s Health and Medical Sciences group. His portfolio includes prominent society-owned titles such as Biological Psychiatry, Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, and Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. Josh’s first job after receiving his undergraduate degree was working as a content editor for the American Society of Civil Engineers on their primary list of journals, including Journal of Structural Engineering, Journal of Hydraulic Engineering, and Journal of Engineering Mechanics. After attending law school, Josh returned to scholarly publishing working with medical journals at Raven Press (now part of Lippincott Williams & Wilkins) and with professional textbooks at Wiley.
4:30 – 5:00pm

Postdoc Awards Ceremony
Davis Auditorium, Hess Building

Awarded by Marta Filizola, PhD
Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Excellence in Mentoring Award
This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to building quality mentoring relationships with their students and/or fellow postdocs. The mentoring should result in mentees’ increased skill development, career advancement, or research capabilities.

Recipient: Andres Maldonado, PhD

Excellence in Teaching Award
Given to a postdoctoral fellow who has made significant contributions to teaching during their time at ISMMS.

Recipient: Mansi Saxena, PhD

Excellence in Service to the Mount Sinai Community Award
This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow who has provided extraordinary service to the Mount Sinai community through advocacy, volunteering, or other activities.

Recipient: Nicolas Daviaud, PhD

Excellence in Service to the Local Community Award
This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow that has brought their extraordinary service and dedication to the local community.

Recipient: Nicholas Barbieri, PhD

Leadership in Interdisciplinary Collaboration Award
This award recognizes a postdoctoral fellow that successfully developed and established strategic collaborations that contributed significantly to the advance of their work and progress in the field.

Recipient: Aleksandra Wroblewska, PhD
Networking Reception
Hess 2nd floor lobby area

Mike Lieberman, PhD is EVP and Director of Scientific & Medical Affairs. After a BA in molecular biology at UC Berkeley, Mike worked as a technician at the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease in San Francisco, where he first became interested in neurological disorders. He then moved to New York to study in Columbia’s neurobiology and behavior program, earning his PhD with a project that focused on understanding the functioning of neuregulin, elucidating its role in schizophrenia. As a postdoc at Cambridge university he continued his neurological studies, focusing on excitability disorders such as chronic pain and epilepsy. He followed with a stint as lab head at UCB Pharma in Belgium, working on the preclinical development of drugs for excitability disorders.

Upon returning to the US, Mike made the switch to healthcare advertising. After several years learning the basics of the business at AgencyRx, he moved to Area23 to start his own medical team at the agency. Over the past five years Mike has grown his team to nine people, with a combination of backgrounds including PharmDs, MDs, and PhDs in the biological sciences. Mike’s team assists efforts at the agency in formulating marketing strategies for drugs that are already on the market, as well as those still in clinical development. They attend conferences to gather competitive intelligence, moderate client workshops to develop and refine brand strategy, review and help develop promotional materials used by sales reps and in advertisements, and help steward new marketing content through legal and regulatory hurdles. Mike’s team is also integral in participating in new business pitches to potential clients to bring in new accounts to the agency.

Pam Savage, PhD is VP and Creative Director. She has a PhD in Biomedical Sciences with over 10 years of healthcare communications experience.

A love of science and medicine runs deep in Pam’s family. The daughter of a pathologist and health literacy advocate, Pam knew early on she was destined to make an impact on healthcare. While earning her PhD in Biomedical Sciences, Pam realized she loved storytelling more than Western blotting, left the lab, and entered the world of pharmaceutical marketing. After learning the copywriting ropes on oncology blockbusters like Gleevec and Herceptin, Pam took a break from cancer to work on the launch of Xeljanz for rheumatoid arthritis. In 2013, Pam joined Area 23, where she has specialized in high-science disease states, including rheumatology (Actemra, Genentech), virology (ViekiraPak, AbbVie; fostemsavir, Viiv), and oncology (Alecensa, Roche/Genentech; gilteritinib, Astellas). She has handled numerous global launches into crowded markets, most recently for Alecensa in ALK+ NSCLC and Viekira Pak for Hepatitis C.

Pam received a BS in Biology with concentrations in Immunology, Microbiology, and Biotechnology from Virginia Tech and went on to earn her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Medical School.
Alaa Abdine, PhD. After more than 10 years working in an academic research, Alaa joined Crossover Search to use his scientific background to connect like-minded passionate scientists with great opportunities to advance scientific research and translational medicine. As the lead recruiter in discovery, Alaa employs his scientific background to perfectly understand the R&D roles Crossover Search is working on, but also broad-based management skills and personal qualities that will enable candidates to mesh within the company’s mindset, motivation, and cultural fit.

Crossover Search is a boutique search firm dedicated to the life sciences industry. Since 2008, we have partnered with a broad range of innovative pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and diagnostics companies, primarily in the US and Europe. Our expertise spans the entire industry, and our track record includes successful placements in various business units, functions and therapeutic areas.

Our thriving network, advanced search methodologies, and rigorous qualification protocols enable us to identify candidates with the ability and sense of purpose to make a difference. Going beyond what’s on paper to find the right mindset, motivation, and cultural fit is central to our approach. Our team shares a passion for the life sciences industry. Curiosity, creativity, and persistence are in our DNA. Our firm mirrors the structure of a biotech firm, with leaders dedicated to recruiting in the discovery, clinical and commercial functions. Industry immersion gives us meaningful insight into the talent our clients need to achieve their next breakthrough – whether developing a lifesaving medicine or entering a challenging new market.

Andrew Kang is an Engagement Manager at ClearView Healthcare Partners, a premier life sciences consulting firm serving clients in the biopharmaceutical, medical device, and diagnostics spaces. At ClearView, Andrew leads collaborative engagements with top pharmaceutical, biotech, and healthcare companies by providing strategic decision-making support. As part of ClearView’s advisory services, teams engage executives on a broad array of commercial strategy issues, including asset and therapeutic area strategy, marketing strategy, franchise and portfolio-level strategy, and business unit / corporate growth strategy. Andrew holds a MS and PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Columbia University, where his graduate research focused on the treatment and prevention of traumatic brain injury. He has a BS in Biochemistry from the University of Iowa.

Assaf Vestin, PhD, Senior Medical Writer. Assaf is a Senior Medical Writer at BGB and a member of the multiple sclerosis team. He has provided support for the Biogen MS Franchise and Tecfidera®. Assaf has worked on multiple projects, including content development for disease state education modules, leadership councils, and advisory boards. In addition, he has contributed to the development of competitive intelligence pieces addressing competing MS therapies and has performed strategic research of key developments in the MS space.

Assaf earned his bachelor of science in biotechnology, with a minor in food engineering, from Technion, the Israeli Institute of Technology, in Haifa, Israel. While there, he conducted research to develop functional genome-based assays to identify food poisoning sources. Assaf continued his education at Tel Aviv University Graduate School of Medical Sciences in Tel Aviv, Israel, where he earned his MSc in Human Genetics. Assaf went on to earn his PhD in molecular and cellular biology at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY, conducting multi-disciplinary research demonstrating how epigenetic regulation can impact neuronal development and in turn animal behavior.
Following his academic experience, Assaf transitioned into biotechnology equity research. Assaf worked as an associate at Roth Capital, a boutique investment bank in NYC covering micro-, small-, and mid-size biotechnology companies. Following that, Assaf worked as an associate at Leerink Partners, a healthcare-focused investment bank in NYC, covering large-cap biotechnology companies, including Biogen. In his capacity as associate in both banks, Assaf conducted analyses of the covered companies’ finances, commercial business, R&D pipelines, competitive landscapes, as well as regulatory and legal matters pertaining to their businesses.

Brandon Kent, PhD earned his dual Bachelor of Science degrees in structural and molecular biochemistry and biology from North Carolina State University in 2010. Upon graduation, Brandon entered the PhD program in biomedical science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the department of Regenerative and Developmental Biology, where he studied the epigenetic regulation of embryonic and liver development in addition to the impact of DNA methylation on the development of hepatocellular carcinoma. Brandon earned his doctoral degree in May 2015 and subsequently started as an associate medical writer with Chameleon Communications in September of 2015. Brandon advanced to the role of an Assistant Scientific Director in August of 2016 and is currently an Associate Scientific Director. At Chameleon, Brandon’s therapy area experience is focused on oncology (bone metastases, haematological malignancies, prostate cancer), oncology supportive care (cytopenias, e.g. neutropenia, thrombocytopenia), oncology pipeline development, and kidney disease (diabetes, diabetic kidney disease).

Dr. Cherise Bernard joined Elsevier in November 2015 and is the Senior Manager of Strategy within the Global Strategic Networks group. In this role, she leads the management of complex strategy programs and provides analysis to inform business decisions. In her previous role at Elsevier as the Senior Manager of Global Academic Relations, Dr. Bernard was responsible for creating and driving key initiatives between Elsevier and U.S. universities/organizations. Working with university leadership, her priorities primarily focused on science and health topics, precision medicine, workforce development of early career researchers and research data management. Prior to joining Elsevier, Dr. Bernard has held positions at Mount Sinai Health System, within the Innovation Partners office and at The Rockefeller University. She holds a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology and a Mini-MBA certification focused on BioPharma Innovation, both from Rutgers University. She also holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemistry from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Elsevier is a global information analytics company that helps institutions and professionals progress science, advance healthcare and improve performance.

Ellie Schmelzer, PhD is the Director of the Office of Career Services & Strategy. Prior to Mount Sinai, Dr. Schmelzer worked at Yale’s Office of Career Strategy and was also a postdoc at Yale’s Physics Department for four years. After her postdoctoral appointment, she explored various career paths including academia, management consulting, patent law and financial services. Her passion for helping others who are faced with the difficult decision of changing careers, brought her to career services. Ellie holds a B.S. in physics, PhD in physics/astrophysics and additionally has a vast research, teaching, mentoring, and industry experience.
**Dr. Bisakha Ray** is an Assistant Vice President at the MassMutual Financial Group. She has a PhD in Systems and Computational Biomedicine from the New York University School of Medicine, a Masters in Computer Science from the Johns Hopkins University, and a Masters and Bachelors in Computer Science from the University of Calcutta, India. In her doctoral work, she focused on building computational methods for predictive modeling from multimodal, biomedical data. In the past, she worked as a software developer at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and also spent a summer at the Digital Intelligence team at J P Morgan Chase.

**Cynthia Cleto** is a commercialization catalyst, and leads the education, outreach and new venture efforts at Mount Sinai Innovation Partners. She is accountable for the creation, management and continuous improvement of comprehensive programs that facilitate experience and skill development for early-career professionals who have a passion for healthcare research, innovation and translation. Recently, Cynthia was the Regional Systems Manager for North America within Elsevier’s Research Management and Analytics unit. She launched new and innovative software solutions that surface competencies and collaborative opportunities for research intensive institutions. Cynthia also introduced ground-breaking products to the market- these consist of eBook Collections for Springer Science+Business Media, A&I and Chemistry Databases for Elsevier as well as Thieme Medical Publishers. Before entering the STM Publishing field, Cynthia trained and worked as a lab supervisor and graduate student in Genomics laboratories at McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

**About Mount Sinai Innovation Partners (MSIP)**

MSIP is responsible for driving the real-world application and commercialization of Mount Sinai discoveries and the development of research partnerships with industry. Our aim is to translate innovations into healthcare products and services that benefit patients and society. MSIP is accountable for the full spectrum of commercialization activities required to bring the Icahn School of Medicine and the Mount Sinai Health System’s inventions to life. These activities include evaluating, patenting, marketing and licensing new technologies, engaging commercial and non-profit relationships for sponsored research, material transfer and confidentiality, and coaching innovators to advance commercially-relevant translational discoveries. Finally, MSIP actively fosters an ecosystem of entrepreneurship within the Mount Sinai research and health system communities.

**James Moe, PhD, MBA**, is a cofounder and the President and CEO of Oligomerix, Inc., New York. Dr. Moe received his PhD degree in Molecular Biology/Molecular Biophysics from Wesleyan University studying protein-nucleic acid interactions, did his postdoctoral studies at Vanderbilt University in the Center for Molecular Toxicology evaluating the structural consequences of DNA-carcinogenic adducts, and has an MBA degree with a concentration in entrepreneurial studies from Boston University.

Oligomerix, is focused on its small molecule tau oligomer inhibitor program and in developing biomarkers for this program. It has developed in vitro non-cellular and cellular assays that it is using for screening and optimization of leads, and for determining mechanism of action. It has ongoing in vivo studies that are looking at both safety and in vivo efficacy.
The Company is presently recruiting for a postdoctoral position that has the potential to turn into a permanent position in the future. Candidates must have a PhD in neuroscience, cell biology or a relevant field, and have a strong background in in vitro and in vivo models of AD or tauopathy.

Jason Mastaitis, PhD was a graduate student at Mount Sinai from 2000-2008 in the lab of Dr. Charles Mobbs, studying hypothalamic glucose sensing. He went on to Dr. Robert Sherwin’s lab at Yale for his postdoctoral fellowship to investigate hypothalamic mechanisms controlling counter-regulatory responses to hypoglycemia. In 2011, he joined Regeneron Pharmaceuticals as a Scientist in their Muscle and Metabolic Disease group. He is currently a Staff Scientist and scientific lead on one clinical program for muscle disease and three pre-clinical programs for metabolic disease.

Jon Cook, Project Leader in New York, joined The Boston Consulting Group as a Consultant in 2015. His cases have focused primarily in commercial biopharma where he worked on new operating models and process optimization, and educational technology where he combined Agile and Smart Simplicity. Prior to joining BCG, Jon taught high school science in Salem, MA with Teach For America. Jon holds a BS in Movement Science from the University of Michigan, an MA in Kinesiology from the University of Texas, a PhD in Physiology from Penn State University, and an MBA from NYU Stern where he concentrated in strategy and business analytics. In his free time, Jon enjoys reading, trying new restaurants, and surfing.

The Boston Consulting Group’s (BCG) global reputation as a top management consulting firm derives from more than fifty years of experience helping senior managers discover and achieve their companies’ full potential. Our mission is to help our clients achieve sustainable competitive advantage through the delivery of customized solutions. We strongly believe in working with our clients, not on them. We partner with each client to help set direction, and face organizational and operational challenges head on.Founded in 1963, BCG now has more than 6,200 consultants based in more than 80 offices in 46 countries. BCG’s clients are the world’s top business leaders. From computers to retailing, our professional expertise spans over 50 industries. The vast majority of our clients rank among the 500 largest companies in each of our three major regions—Americas (North and South), Europe Middle East and Africa, and Asia Pacific. Additionally, we work with a number of small- to medium-sized companies, both public and private.

Kathryn Harper earned her B.S in Biochemistry from the University of Rochester in 2010. Following graduation Kathryn entered the PhD program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the department of Oncological Sciences. For her thesis Kathryn focused on uncovering the signaling mechanisms governing cancer cell metastasis during early stages of HER2+ breast cancer in the lab of Dr. Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, earning her doctoral degree in January 2016. Following graduation Kathryn started as a medical associate soon after in March 2016 with Health Science Communications working within both oncology and immunology therapeutic areas. In January 2017 Kathryn advanced to the position of Assistant Medical Director and is currently working on several oncology compounds as well as oncology and immunology biosimilar franchises with both mid-size and large pharmaceutical/biotech companies.
Karina Yazdanbakhsh, PhD, Executive Director, Research, Head of Laboratory of Complement Biology, New York Blood Center.

Dr. Yazdanbakhsh received her PhD degree in molecular biology from the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, England in 1990 and postdoctoral training at Columbia and Rockefeller Universities in Molecular Immunology. Since joining New York Blood Center, Dr. Yazdanbakhsh has been investigating cellular immune responses to blood components in the context of autoimmunity and alloimmunity. She has served on several national scientific committees including AABB and ASH and is currently on the Board of the National Blood Foundation Research and Education Trust, and on the Editorial Board of Transfusion. In 2016, Dr. Yazdanbakhsh became the Executive Director of the Research Institute at the New York Blood Center, placing much emphasis to expand the research program in transfusion medicine and benign hematology.

Paul E. Leon, PhD is a Senior Consultant in the Life Sciences Division at Navigant Consulting, Inc (NYC Midtown Office). Paul plays a vital role in consulting projects ranging from pre-clinical development to product launch. Prior to completing his doctoral studies, Paul worked for two years at a start-up biotechnology company, ContraFect Corporation. In 3.5 years, Paul completed his doctoral studies in the laboratory of Peter Palese, Chair of the Microbiology Department at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. During his doctoral studies, he published seven papers and presented at over ten national/international conferences.

Sal Mattina is a District Sales Manager working for Illumina. He's an experienced sales professional with 18+ years of experience covering Academic, Hospital, and Pharmaceutical accounts in the Tri-State area. Sal's previous experience includes various sales roles with Millipore, GE Healthcare, Agencourt Biosciences, and Affymetrix. Sal received a B.S. in Biology from Seton Hall University.

Peter Kraus, PhD, Manager, Field Applications for the Northeast Mid District, Illumina, Inc.

Peter received his PhD in 2001 from the University of Connecticut Health Center and completed postdoctoral studies at Duke University and Yale University. From there, he left academia for Field Application Scientist positions at a proteomics software company based in England called Nonlinear Dynamics followed by Invitrogen, Inc. Peter left Invitrogen for Illumina in 2009 and has been with the company since then, first as a Field Applications Scientist and now as a manager of a team of FAS supporting NY, NJ, PA, and DE.
About Illumina, Inc.

Illumina is a leading developer, manufacturer, and marketer of life science tools and integrated systems for large-scale analysis of genetic variation and function. These systems are enabling studies that were not even imaginable just a few years ago, and moving us closer to the realization of personalized medicine. With rapid advances in technology taking place, it is mission-critical to offer solutions that are not only innovative, but flexible, and scalable, with industry-leading support and service. As a global company that places high value on collaborative interactions, rapid delivery of solutions, and providing the highest level of quality, we strive to meet this challenge. Illumina innovative sequencing and array technologies are fueling groundbreaking advancements in life science research, translational and consumer genomics, and molecular diagnostics.

Dr. Prashanthi Menon is currently an Assistant Medical Director at the Healthcare Consultancy Group (an Omnicom company). She obtained her PhD from University of Rochester School of Medicine and pursued her postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School and New York University School of Medicine. Her research focused on immunology, vascular pathology and cardiovascular diseases. She has over 10 years of experience in basic life science and health care industry. Dr. Menon has participated in the development and execution of strategic communication plans in support of several brands at different stages of their life cycles.

Additionally, Dr. Menon is passionate about science education and women in science. She is the President of the Association for Women in Science, Metro NY chapter.

Association of Women in Science (AWIS)-Metro NY provides a unique platform to help women in STEM achieve their full potential through leadership and professional talent development at all career stages and in all workplace settings. Our mission is to empower women to enter, remain, and advance in science careers both inside and outside academia. We provide professional development training and a supportive community with opportunities for networking and mentoring.

Sarah Henderson, PhD is a Medical Director of the Healthcare Consultancy Group.

Healthcare Consultancy Group (part of Omnicom Group and the DAS Group of Companies) is united by a shared philosophy that puts the best interests of the drug at the center of all we do, each company contributes its own capabilities and culture. Staffed by over 350 employees, more than 90 with advanced degrees (MD, PhD, or PharmD), HCG is full-service with a focus. Our focus is on scientific positioning and branding, both visual and written, and on developing succinct impactful messages, content, and programming supported by data that can be used in communications with the FDA and EMA, healthcare professionals, patients, and other stakeholders. We have a regulatory practice, taking over 110 drugs to committee with an 80% positive response, and a publications group that boasts over 1500 publications with an overall acceptance rate of 90%. We develop medical strategy and scientific communications, including disease education, MOA and MOD animations, creative booth content for congresses, and unbranded and branded live or Web-based peer-to-peer communications for specialists. We are not a digital agency but a scientific agency that is digitally infused. We are a scientifically rigorous, strategically focused, creatively balanced agency built for the future.
Nikos Tzavaras, PhD is a Senior Associate Researcher in the Mount Sinai Microscopy Core.

Mount Sinai’s Microscopy Core offers access to high-end instrumentation for optical microscopy, full service transmission electron microscopy services and to computer workstations for image processing, image deconvolution, and image analysis. On site experts are engaged in experimentation, consultation, research collaboration and training.

Marco Pavlin currently serves as StemCultures’ Strategic Relationship Manager. Born and raised in Germany and fluent in several languages, Marco came to the US in 2012 in pursuit of higher education. He graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY. Marco was hired following a successful internship at StemCultures that focused on operational readiness and global strategic placement. Currently, Marco is actively tasked and engaged in expanding and managing StemCultures’ international distribution networks and strategic partnerships. A fun fact, Marco is an avid soccer player and his team won the 2012 NAIA Men’s Soccer National Championship.

John Facciponte, PhD, Medical Writer and Scientific Affairs Associate at AXON New York.

- 15 years academia experience in immunology and oncology
- Focused on heat shock protein-based cancer vaccines in graduate school, followed by DNA-based vaccine work as a postdoctoral fellow with extensive preclinical mouse tumor model development
- Extensive academic writing experience
- Experience with KOL oncology interviews, patient case studies and scientific literature review for scientific communication plans

Education

- PhD in Immunology from SUNY-Buffalo and Roswell Park Cancer Institute
- MS in Microbiology, Virology and Immunology from the University of Rochester
- Post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania
INet NYC (International Scientist Association based in NYC)

INet NYC (International Networking in NYC) was founded in 2014 and is run by young volunteer scientists. It is an organization that provides support and professional development opportunities for international STEM scientists in the NYC area. We facilitate the connection of scientists, allowing for the sharing of experiences and the formation of a strong international peer network. INet NYC organizes professional, networking and social events that are focused on the challenges encountered by international students and opportunities available to them. We believe that, by creating a local community, we can assist in finding solutions to career and social concerns that international scientists face. You can become members and find more information about INet NYC at http://inetnyc.com and you can contact us at info@inetnyc.com.

Become Member: http://goo.gl/forms/zgexrMgd0N
You can also find us on social media:
https://twitter.com/INetNYC
https://www.facebook.com/inetnyc/
https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8217871

Yukie Takabatake, PhD
Institutional Representative, Hunter College at the City University of New York (CUNY)

Yukie joined the INet board in August 2017 as Institutional Representative. She is a Japanese citizen who has lived in the states for over 23 years and has experience with several visa applications (F1, F1-OPT, H1B, EB2-NIW green card). Yukie obtained her B.S. in Biology at New York University and completed her PhD in biomedical science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She was recently hired as the first R&D scientist for MouSensor, LLC, a phase I biotech startup founded by researchers at Hunter College.
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Linda Molla
Co-President of INetNYC

Linda initially joined the INet board in March 2015 as institutional representative and outreach coordinator. She is an Albanian citizen and has lived in New York for the last 11 years on an F1/F1-OPT visa. Linda obtained her B.A in Biology at Hunter College at the City University of New York (CUNY) and is nearing completion of her PhD in biomedical science at the Rockefeller University. On her free time Linda enjoys biking and travelling.
Contact: mollalinda@gmail.com
https://www.linkedin.com/in/linda-molla/
2017 State of the Postdoc

The Postdoc Executive Committee (PEC) comprises about 30 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 eight years the PEC has been the primary force advocating for improvement of postdoc policies and benefits, creating and maintaining forward-thinking professional development programing, 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 to establish 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. 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, 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. 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. How can you be a part of it? Simple: step away from the bench or computer to take part in any of the PEC leadership opportunities and programs offered within the ISMMS community and the City of New York. 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,
Nick Barbieri and Agata Kurowski
POSTDOC RESOURCES

Check out our website at:
https://webcommons.mssm.edu/pec/

Visit our Facebook page
“Postdoc Executive Committee”

Follow us on Twitter
@MtSinaiPostdocs

Join our LinkedIn Group
“Mount Sinai Postdocs and Postdoc Alumni”