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INVESTIGATORS
NEWSLETTER



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From the Editor's Desk:

Summer is finally here and so is the hottest issue of the CCR-FYI Newsletter. This issue includes very important information for all international fellows on J-1 or F-1 visas. Read on to learn about nominating your PI for the 2003 Outstanding Mentor Award, services and opportunities of the NCI Fellow's Editorial Board, what went on at the Frederick-Ft. Detrick Spring Research Festival and a selection of listservs every CCR postdoc should join. Lastly, in the "Did You Know?" section, learn why the IRS thinks NIH postdocs should stay at home with the kids! We are always welcoming articles, announcements or ideas for future issues. Simply email me at ncicrfyi@mail.nih.gov to let me know your news!

Kathleen M. Dohoney, Ph.D.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention All Postdocs on F-1 or J-1 Visas

Current F-1 and J-1 visa documents will expire July 31, 2003. Therefore, to remain in legal status, all postdocs on F-1 or J-1 visas, as well as their dependents, must be issued new "Student Exchange

Vistor Information System" (SEVIS) visa eligibility documents (I-20 and DS-2019) before August 1, 2003. Visit the National Postdoctoral Association website at www.nationalpostdoc.org for more detailed information and links.

2003 Outstanding Mentor Award Competition Now Open

Have you experienced outstanding mentoring by an NCI investigator? Would you like to see him or her rewarded? Since 2001, The Fellowship Office has worked to promote and recognize high quality mentorship through the annual Outstanding Mentor Award program.

How to nominate: NCI investigators beyond the level of fellow are eligible. Each nominee must have one primary and one secondary nomination. The primary nominator must be a current or recent (less than one year) fellow; the secondary may be another fellow, a student, colleague, employee, or anyone with appropriate knowledge of the nominee.

Review: Nominations will be reviewed by a committee of fellows reflecting the broad spectrum of NCI research. The criteria are: 1) Record of mentoring over a sustained period of time and/or to a significant number of people 2) Accessibility and availability to trainees 3) Communication of training expectations and constructive feedback 4) Providing training environment conducive to good science 5) Giving visibility to trainees' work and 6) Assisting with career development: actively helping trainees to prepare for and meet their career objectives

Outstanding Mentors receive a cash award and an engraved crystal gift item. Each year, NCI has also named a group of "Mentors of Merit" who are highly worthy of recognition; they receive a certificate. Past Outstanding Mentor award winners are:

2001:

Frank Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Elaine Jaffe, M.D.

Lalage Wakefield, Ph.D.

2002:

Nancy H. Colburn, Ph.D.

Steven A. Rosenberg, Ph.D., M.D.

Stuart H. Yuspa, M.D.

You can see them all on the Fellowship Office Web site (below) on the "What's Happening" page. August 1, 2003 is this year's deadline for nominations. For more information or to download the one-page nomination form, go to <http://www.nci.nih.gov/fellowships>.

*Donna L. Vogel, MD, PhD
Director, The Fellowship Office, NCI*

Career Advice for Life Scientists

The American Society for Cell Biology Committee has published a compilation of selected

"Women In Cell Biology" columns from their newsletter, called "Career Advice for Life Scientists". It is nicely written and addresses many important issues. It is available free upon request from ASCB (301)-347-9300 or accessible from society's web page

<http://www.ascb.org/committees/wicb/careeradvice.html>

*Cem Elbi, M.D., Ph.D.
Research Fellow, NCI
Chair, CCR-FYI*

ARTICLES

The Fellows Editorial Board Provides Valuable Services to CCR/NCI Fellows

Help With Writing Abstracts, Manuscripts, Grant Proposals and Clinical Protocols

Would you like to have several fellow scientists carefully read and comment on the grammar, structure and style of your scientific document before it's submitted for publication or funding? The Fellows Editorial Board's (FEB's) mission is to assist CCR/NCI fellows in writing scientific documents such as manuscripts, grants, clinical protocols and abstracts clearly and correctly. FEB is composed of CCR/NCI fellows and other investigators trained in science writing and editing. Documents submitted to FEB are edited and returned to the author with editorial comments within ten business days.

THE SERVICE IS FREE AND ABSOLUTELY
CONFIDENTIAL.

For more information about writing clear scientific documents, visit the following links: <http://nextwave.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2003/04/03/3>
www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v423/n6938/full
[↓](#)

Workshops Focused on the Needs of the CCR/NCI Community

Are you interested in a workshop focused on aspect(s) of the editorial process? To further support fellows with written communication, FEB is currently planning a series of workshops based on a survey recently sent to fellows. Please look for future e-mail messages from FEB with the schedule.

Become a Member of FEB and Gain Editorial Experience

Do you have a desire to learn about scientific editing and writing while helping your fellow fellows? FEB is recruiting new scientific editors. The training you will receive as a FEB member will be advantageous in many ways. For instance, FEB members have been hired as professional science writers, and prospective employers have indicated that the experience these fellows gained during their work with FEB has given them an edge over competing applicants. In addition, FEB will help you:

- ✓ Receive training in copy editing and scientific writing
- ✓ Gain proficiency in your own writing
- ✓ Jump-start career in science writing/editing
- ✓ Gain written communication skills necessary for any career path.

Contact Dr. Jeannine Botos, Senior Editor, at nceditors@mail.nih.gov for information about joining FEB.

NCI, CCR Fellows Editorial Board

Share Your Knowledge...Join a ListServ

Are you desperately in need of an enzyme that is on back order? Do you want to know what other postdocs across the nation are discussing? Maybe you are curious about the going rate for babysitters. No matter your interests, one great way to answer your questions, share ideas and learn of upcoming talks and events is to join a listserv.

Depending on the moderator, some listservs function to simply post information to subscribers, while others allow for the open discussion of topics. If you received this newsletter via email, you already subscribe to the CCR-postdocs or CCR-PI listserv. The NIH LISTSERV site <http://list.nih.gov> provides a listing of many other listservs available at NIH.

Here is a brief listing of a few NIH and non-NIH listservs that may be of interest:

NIH

FELLOW-L: a great forum to ask your peers anything from scientific advice to borrowing an antibody.

CCR-postdocs: receive information regarding job postings, seminars and workshops.

Visitingfellows: specifically geared toward the needs and questions of visiting fellows at NIH.

NIHisbNEWS: a new list used to announce important immigration updates. To sign up, visit <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/dirs/isb/joinisbnews.htm>

Parenting_list: a perfect place for parents to ask questions and exchange advice on any topic related to raising children.

You can subscribe to an NIH listserv by either sending an email to listserv@list.nih.gov with 'Subscribe listserv name' (without quotes) in the body of the message or by browsing the NIH LISTSERV site and subscribing on the web.

Non-NIH

PostdocNet: A service of the Postdoc Network at Science's Nextwave where postdocs, administrators and organizations concerned with postdoc issues world-wide can post information and announcements

To subscribe, go to:

<http://mailman.aaas.org/mailman/listinfo/postdocnet>

PostdocThought: A new list intended for the discussion of postdoc issues (often brought up on PostdocNet)

To subscribe, go to:

<http://mailman.aaas.org/mailman/listinfo/postdocthought>

ScienceJobs.com: a leading web-based career service produced and owned, in partnership, by the publishers of Cell, BioMedNet and New Scientist. To subscribe, go to:

<http://www.sciencejobs.com/bio/reghome.jsp>

DNAjobs.com: Another e-mail alert, job seeking list. To subscribe, go to:

<http://www.DNAjobs.com>

*Kathleen M. Dohoney, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, NCI*

NCI-Frederick/Ft. Detrick Spring Research Festival Recap

The National Cancer Institute at Frederick held their seventh annual NCI-Frederick/Ft. Detrick Spring Research Festival on May 14-15, 2003. The event was in cooperation with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, and was open to all members of the Ft. Detrick and NIH communities.

The goal of the festival is to acquaint both scientists and non-scientists with the nature of the

investigations done at Ft. Detrick, and is often one of the few opportunities for NCI and U.S. Army scientists to informally explore each others research. The event includes two days of scientific poster sessions, a health and safety exposition, educational information, and safety, scientific, and vendor exhibits of the latest equipment and technologies. It has been an extremely popular event on base, known as much for the vendors' generous giveaways as for the science. You can find out the latest research and technologies, get a history lesson on Ft. Detrick and Frederick, MD, and relieve some stress by getting a massage or your favorite ice cream treat, all under a large tent just inside the entrance to Ft. Detrick.

With all the festivities, the Spring Research Festival may appear on the outside like a carnival, but the focus is always present. There is no greater example of this than the selection of this year's festival flower, the rosy periwinkle. This flower was highlighted not because of its delicate beauty, but because of its usefulness as a source of anticancer drugs, including its role in therapy for childhood leukemia and Hodgkins' disease. With the help of drugs derived from the rosy periwinkle, survival rates have improved from 10 percent to 95 percent for a child with leukemia over the last 40 years.

Approximately 128 posters were presented during the two days, and these were judged at the postdoctoral, technician, and student levels. This year's postdoctoral gold award winners were: Kyeong Lee, Mathias Viard, Ye Zhou, Kelly A. Harrison, and Jeremy Perkins. The postdoctoral silver award winners were: Li Wu, Thomas Sebastian, Susan Lindtner, Karen R. Rulli, Zhen-Dan Shi, Fang Yuan, and Christopher Cote. Congratulations to these selected postdocs and to the winners at all the levels.

*Lynnette Shorts, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, NCI-Frederick*

DID YOU KNOW?

Tax Rules Do Not Benefit NIH Postdocs

Postdoctoral fellows at NIH, especially at NCI, enjoy many advantages that other institutes or universities can't offer. However, as a new parent paying for daycare, I learned something this past tax season. According to the IRS, I don't work. You see, as a postdoctoral fellow at NIH, my income, an award, is not considered "earned income" and therefore is reported on a 1099-G and not a W-2 form. This never bothered me until I checked the eligibility requirements for the "Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses" on my Federal and DC tax returns. To be eligible for this credit, the income of BOTH parents must be reported on W-2 forms. Apparently the thinking is that without "earned income", the parent must not work and therefore doesn't *need* daycare or the credit. Hmmmph!

Loopholes, such as this, are what the National Postdoctoral Association is trying to compile to see if common problems exist for all postdocs across the nation. If you are aware of other circumstances that put postdocs at a disadvantage either here at NIH or at another institution let the National Postdoctoral Association know at www.nationalpostdoc.org.

*Kathleen M. Dohoney, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, NCI*

OF INTEREST

New CCR-FYI Officers

Please welcome Cem Elbi, M.D., Ph.D., Melissa Wilson, Ph.D and Nadia Khan, Ph.D. as the new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the CCR-FYI Association. With the help of the CCR-FYI Steering Committee, our new leaders are already running the CCR-FYI Fellows' Seminar series (every Thursday at 1pm in building 37 room 4041) and making the initial arrangements for next year's retreat! Give them your support! As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or would like to become a member of the CCR-FYI Steering Committee, write to ncicrfyi@mail.nih.gov.

****This document was reviewed by the NCI, Fellows Editorial Board****