

5TH ANNUAL

# nih career symposium

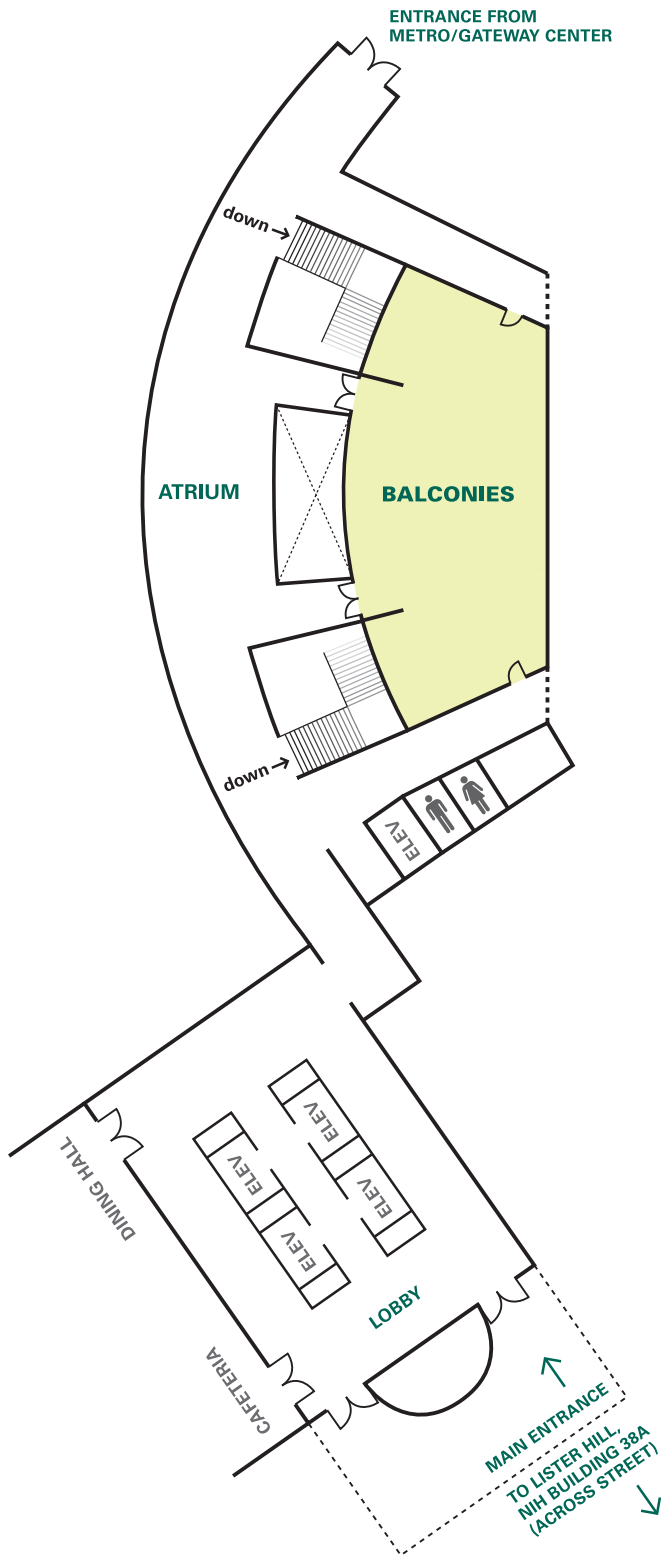
MAY 18, 2012

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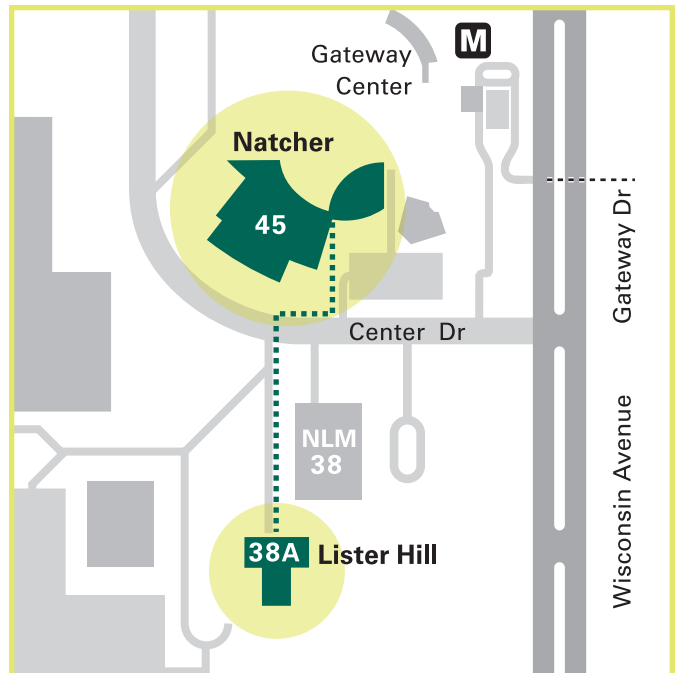
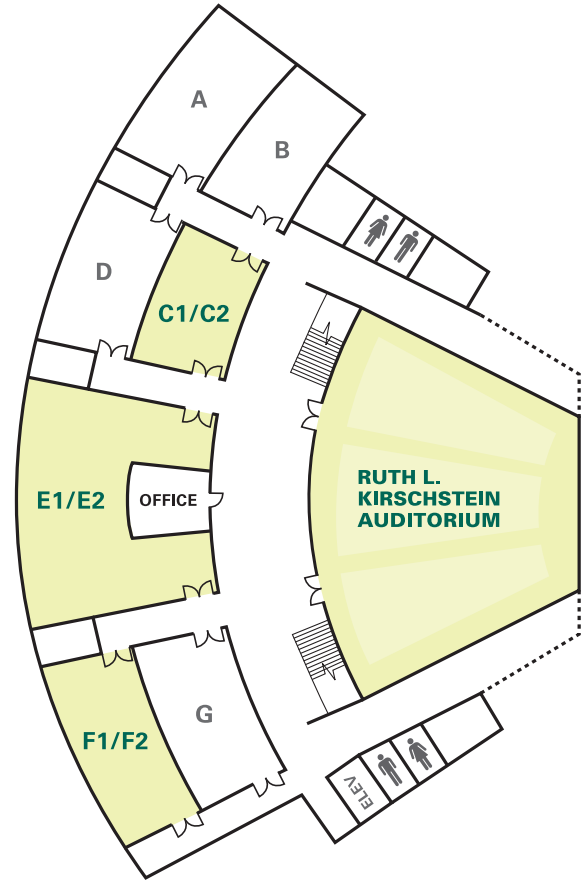
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build your career, shape the future

**NATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER  
LEVEL 1 (ENTRY LEVEL)**



**NATCHER CONFERENCE CENTER  
LOWER LEVEL**



**LISTER HILL AUDITORIUM (NIH BUILDING 38A)**

Lister Hill Auditorium is located on the first level of the Lister Hill Center / NIH Building 38A. From Natcher, cross Center Drive and take the entrance road to Lister Hill Center, located diagonally behind the National Library of Medicine.

## agenda-at-a-glance

SESSION	TIME	LOCATION: BALCONIES	RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN AUDITORIUM	ROOM E1/E2	LISTER HILL* <i>* See map on opposite page</i>	OTHER
Registration	7:30 AM–8:30 AM					
Welcome	8:30 AM	Lori Conlan, PhD, Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services, OITE RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN AUDITORIUM				
Keynote	8:40 AM– 9:40 AM	Following the Leaders: Career Advice from Experienced Scientists RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN AUDITORIUM				
Session 1	9:45 AM– 10:45 AM	Careers in Government	Industry: Discovering a New Drug	Academia: Are You Ready?		Career Options for Clinicians *Natcher Room F1/F2
Break	10:45 AM–11:00 AM					
Session 2	11:00 AM– 12:00 PM	Innovation: Careers Behind the Scenes	Industry: Developing a New Drug	Academia: Job Packets and Interviews	Careers in Scientific Communications	
Lunch	12:00 PM–1:00 PM (on your own)					
Session 3	1:00 PM– 2:00 PM	Careers in Science Education	Industry: Launching a New Drug	Academia: Negotiating and Transitioning	Research in Unexpected Places	
Break	2:00 PM–2:15 PM					
Session 4	2:15 PM– 3:15 PM	Careers Protecting Public Health	Industry: Careers Developing Biomedical Tools and Devices	Careers in Science Administration	Still Uncertain? Come Explore!	
Break	3:15 PM–3:30 PM					
Session 5: Skills Blitz  <i>(All Skills Blitz sessions are in Natcher Conference Center)</i>	3:30 PM– 3:50 PM	Resumes and Cover Letters	Top 10 Tips for Grant Writing	Finding Ways to Enhance Your Resume While at NIH	Managing Job Search Stress *Natcher Room F1/F2	
	3:55 PM– 4:15 PM	Finding Ways to Enhance Your Teaching and Mentoring Experience	Making a Job Search Plan	Navigating the Job Search for Non-Citizens	Taking Your Network to the Next Level *Natcher Room F1/F2	The Stadtman Search *Natcher Room C1/C2
	4:20 PM– 4:40 PM	Interviewing	Find the Career for You	Social Media & Job Hunts	Transferable Skills *Natcher Room F1/F2	

## welcome

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Dear NIH Trainee,

Welcome to the 5th Annual NIH Career Symposium for Graduate Students and Postdocs!

Throughout today you will have the opportunity to learn from people successfully pursuing different careers, enhance your professional skills through workshops, and network with scientists from across the country. We have worked hard to ensure that a wide variety of fields and educational backgrounds are represented and anticipate that, during the day's activities, you will find new colleagues who share your interests and ambitions. We encourage you to connect with the speakers, and with others you meet, today or in the future.

The 5th anniversary of the NIH Career Symposium encourages us to reflect on the Symposium over the years. We have hosted more than 350 speakers and over 4000 attendees. We know that this event has played an important role in the career decisions of many NIH fellows and students. You have told us how you use the Symposium: in the first few years as a postdoc you explore career options and then, as your postdoc experience draws to a close, you hone in on the specific career choice that you have made.

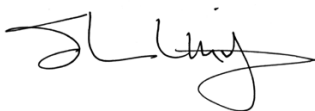
We make every effort to invite NIH alumni to participate on Symposium panels; this year you will find that over half of our speakers did their training at the NIH. We are especially proud to see fellows who helped plan past Career Symposia return as panelists.

Each year the number of you coming from outside the NIH has grown. We welcome you and invite you to join our intramural fellows in the career decision process.

At last year's symposium, we talked about how the economy was influencing job searches. The economy remains an important factor in 2012. We are, however, seeing more successes every year, with fellows receiving job offers from every sector, seemingly daily. We encourage you to continue to use the resources of the OITE, your Institute/Center, or your home institution to advance your job search. Building your career and shaping your future relies on your embracing the job search process, finding the information you need, and working persistently towards your goals.

We are delighted that you have taken another step in your career by attending this event and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Milgram, PhD  
Director, Office of Intramural Training & Education  
Senior Investigator, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute  
Adjunct Investigator, National Human Genome Research Institute

# detailed agenda

**7:30 am Registration**

**8:30 am Welcome**

AUDITORIUM Lori Conlan, PhD . . . . . Director, Office of Postdoctoral Services, Office of intramural Training & Education (OITE/OD), NIH

**8:40 am Following the Leaders: Career Advice from Experienced Scientists**

AUDITORIUM Bahija Jallal, PhD . . . . . Executive Vice President, Research & Development, Medimmune  
 Sharon L. Milgram, PhD . . . . . Director, Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE/OD), NIH  
 Kim J. Nickerson, PhD . . . . . Assistant Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park  
 Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD . . . . . Senior Investigator, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR); and Principal Deputy Director, NIH

**9:45 am Session 1**

**BALCONIES Careers in Government**

Maureen R. Gwinn, PhD, DABT . . . . . Biologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 Karl Salzwedel, PhD . . . . . Program Officer, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH  
 Sunita J. Shukla, MPH, PhD . . . . . Scientific Reviewer, Food and Drug Administration  
 Sury Vepa, PhD, JD . . . . . Senior Licensing and Patenting Manager, Office of Technology Transfer (OTT), NIH  
 Elizabeth Webber, PhD . . . . . Program Analyst, National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke (NINDS), NIH

**AUDITORIUM Industry: Discovering a New Drug**

Anna Hansen, PhD . . . . . Scientist II, MedImmune  
 Matthew Meyer, PhD . . . . . Investigator III, Lab Head Oncology Pharmacology, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research  
 Thomas Paul, PhD . . . . . Scientist II, Celgene Corporation  
 Tasha N. Sims, PhD . . . . . Program Manager, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
 Chris Towler, PhD . . . . . Principal Scientist, Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research

**E1/E2 Academia: Are You Ready?**

Sydella Blatch, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor of Biology, Stevenson University  
 Hyrum D. Carroll, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State University  
 Eric C. Greene, PhD . . . . . Associate Professor, Columbia University, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics  
 JoAnn Trejo, PhD . . . . . Professor, University of California, San Diego

**F1/F2 Career Options for Clinicians**

Niranjan Bhat, MD, MHS . . . . . Medical Officer, Division of Vaccines and Related Product Applications, Food and Drug Administration  
 Craig Hendrix, MD . . . . . Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University  
 Crystal L. Mackall, MD . . . . . Chief, Pediatric Oncology Branch, National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH  
 Jason Sager, MD . . . . . Oncology Medical Innovation Director, Sanofi  
 Nicholas J. Sarlis, MD, PhD, FACP . . . . . Vice President and Head of Medical Affairs, Incyte Corporation

## detailed agenda

**10:45 am**      **Break**

**11:00 am**      **Session 2**

**BALCONIES**      **Innovation: Careers Behind the Scenes**

- Manna Beyene, PhD . . . . . Technology Transfer Specialist, Technology Transfer Center, National Cancer Center (NCI), NIH
- Fraser Brown, PhD, JD . . . . . Associate, Patent Counseling and Prosecution, Cooley, LLP
- Peter S. Choi, PhD . . . . . Public Health Analyst, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH
- Leah Sartorius, PhD . . . . . Principal, The Boston Consulting Group

**AUDITORIUM**      **Industry: Developing a New Drug**

- Qusai Al-Share, R.Ph, PhD . . . . . Clinical Trial Leader, Translational Medicine, Clinical Sciences and Innovation, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
- Mahesh Kumar, PhD . . . . . Clinical Project Manager (Consultant), NPS Pharmaceuticals
- Manuelle Rongy, PhD . . . . . Regulatory Affairs Associate/Medical Writer, Allphase Clinical Research
- Jennifer Shen, PhD, RAC . . . . . Scientific Reviewer, Office of In Vitro Diagnostic Device Evaluation and Safety, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, FDA

**E1/E2**      **Academia: Job Packets & Interviews**

- James A. Coker, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Vasiliki N. Ikonomidou, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, The Volgenau School of Engineering, George Mason University
- Nicholas Mitchell, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor of Biology, St. Bonaventure University
- Nicola C. Partridge, PhD . . . . . Professor and Chair, Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology, NYU College of Dentistry; Founding Director, Center for Skeletal and Craniofacial Biology, NYU; Professor, Departments of Medicine and Pharmacology, NYU School of Medicine

**LISTER HILL**      **Careers in Scientific Communications**

- Dario Dieguez, Jr., PhD . . . . . Senior Research Program Manager, Lupus Foundation of America
- Jason F. Kreisberg, PhD . . . . . Research Editor, *Nature Biotechnology*
- Amy Maxmen, PhD . . . . . Science Journalist, Freelance
- Jennifer H. Meyers, PhD . . . . . Science Coordinator, The American Association of Immunologists, Inc.

**12:00 pm**      **Lunch (on your own)**

**1:00 pm      Session 3**

**BALCONIES**

**Careers in Science Education**

- Emily Dilger, PhD . . . . . Public Education Coordinator, Society for Neuroscience  
 Chad D. Knights, PhD . . . . . Associate Professor of Biology and Natural Science, Alexandria Campus,  
 Northern Virginia Community College  
 John McGready, PhD . . . . . Faculty, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of  
 Public Health  
 Idalis Villanueva, PhD . . . . . Lecturer, Fischell Department of Bioengineering, University of Maryland,  
 College Park

**AUDITORIUM**

**Industry: Launching a New Drug**

- Mrudula Donepudi, PhD . . . . . Associate Director, Medical Affairs, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
 Melissa Drysdale, PhD . . . . . Senior Medical Science Liaison, Millennium Pharmaceuticals,  
 The Takeda Oncology Company  
 Carrie-Lynn Langlais, PhD, RAC . . . . . Program Manager, Rho, Inc.; and Director of Clinical Operations, Pulmotect  
 Andrea (Crabtree) McConnell, MS . . . . . Co-Founder, Two Quills, LLC

**E1/E2**

**Academia: Negotiating and Transitioning**

- Jorge Cruz-Reyes, PhD . . . . . Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics,  
 Texas A&M University  
 Gregory Dressler, PhD . . . . . Collegiate Professor of Pathology Research, University of Michigan  
 Medical School  
 Nickolas Fitzkee, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Mississippi State University  
 Betsy Kleba, PhD . . . . . Assistant Professor, Westminster College, Meldrum Science Center

**LISTER HILL**

**Research in Unexpected Places**

- Athena Keene, PhD . . . . . Toxicologist, Afton Chemical Corporation  
 Jennifer Kimmel, PhD . . . . . Senior Associate Principal Scientist, Kraft Foods  
 Eric M. Nicholson, PhD . . . . . Research Chemist, National Animal Disease Center, USDA,  
 Agriculture Research Service  
 Amanda R. Weyerbacher, PhD . . . . . Senior Scientist, Research and Innovation, L'Oreal, USA

**2:00 pm      Break**

**2:15 pm      Session 4**

**BALCONIES**

**Careers Protecting Public Health**

- Tiana Garrett, PhD, MPH . . . . . Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, Centers for Disease Control  
 and Prevention; Lieutenant, U.S. Public Health Service  
 Andrew M. Hebbeler, PhD . . . . . Acting Deputy Director, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction,  
 U.S. Department of State  
 David A. Kosub, PhD . . . . . Public Health Analyst, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious  
 Diseases (NIAID), NIH  
 Khisimuzi (Khisi) Mdluli, PhD . . . . . Director, Biology, Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development

# detailed agenda

AUDITORIUM

## Industry: Careers Developing Biomedical Tools and Devices

- Kai Cheng, PhD ..... Supervisor, Transgenic Genotyping Services Assay Development, The Jackson Laboratory
- Colin Coros, MBA, PhD ..... Vice President of Operations, Delta Genomics Centre
- Bowen Cui, PhD ..... Senior Scientist, Qiagen, Inc.
- Kelly Mercier, PhD ..... NMR Applications Scientist, LipoScience
- Arne Thompson, MS ..... Manager, Application Support, Cellular Dynamics International, Inc.

E1/E2

## Careers in Science Administration

- Rashada Alexander, PhD ..... Health Science Policy Analyst, Division of Planning and Education, Office of Extramural Research (OER), NIH
- Ian M. Brooks, PhD ..... Director, Office of Biomedical Informatics, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
- Dean Frohlich, PhD ..... Program Administrator, Stand Up to Cancer, American Association for Cancer Research
- Jana E. Stone, PhD ..... Scientific Coordinator, Duke Center for Systems Biology, Duke University
- Wendy Reed Williams, PhD ..... Director, Offices of Responsible Research Training and Postdoctoral Affairs, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

LISTER HILL

## Still Uncertain? Come Explore!

OITE Career Services Team

3:15 pm

Break

## Session 5 – Skills Blitz

3:30 – 3:50 pm

BALCONIES

Resumes and Cover Letters

AUDITORIUM

Top 10 Tips for Grant Writing

E1/E2

Finding Ways to Enhance Your Resume while at NIH

F1/F2

Managing Job Search Stress

3:55 – 4:15 pm

BALCONIES

Finding Ways to Enhance Your Teaching and Mentoring Experience

AUDITORIUM

Making a Job Search Plan

E1/E2

Navigating the Job Search for Non-citizens

F1/F2

Taking Your Network to the Next Level

C1/C2

The Stadtman Search

4:20 – 4:40 pm

BALCONIES

Interviewing

AUDITORIUM

Find the Career For You

E1/E2

Social Media and Job Hunts

F1/F2

Transferable Skills



## panel descriptions

### KEYNOTE PANEL

#### Following the Leaders: Career Advice from Experienced Scientists

We will open the day this year with a panel of leaders from government, industry and academia to discuss their career highlights and mistakes. The conversation will focus on steps you can take to make sure you have a successful career as you become leaders in the next generation of the biomedical workforce.

### ACADEMIC SESSIONS

#### Academia: Are You Ready?

Knowing the right time to transition from postdoc to independent investigator or professor can be challenging. This panel will highlight faculty jobs across the spectrum of academic institutions and review key points you need to be aware of before taking the next step in your career. The speakers will discuss how to determine your strengths and weaknesses, and tips on understanding the job qualifications for each academic sector.

#### Academia: Job Packets and Interviews

Are you working on obtaining the next job that will catapult your career forward? This session will provide tips on the job application and interview process. Professors from both sides of the interview process will talk about their experience and share their insight. In addition, the panelists will also discuss how to formulate a research plan, and how to integrate this plan effectively with the institution to which you apply.

#### Academia: Negotiating and Transitioning

You aced the first interview, the university wants you, but can it give you all that you need and want? This session will cover techniques that will help in negotiating the specifics of your new position including salary, start-up funds, space, and personnel. The panelists will also discuss the new responsibilities that follow, whether they are setting up a new lab, designing new collaborations, managing budgets, or balancing administrative duties.

#### Careers in Science Education

Science educators foster scientific literacy in students from elementary to college levels, along with teachers and the public, by making science fun and engaging. As science education constantly improves, careers in this versatile field require innovative and enthusiastic scientists to lead the next generation of young scientists and communicate science to the public and other professionals. This panel includes science educators and scientists who will discuss exciting career avenues that ultimately help shape our advancement in science.

### NON-BENCH SESSIONS

#### Careers in Government

The federal government offers careers for scientists from various backgrounds and disciplines. This panel features scientists employed in a variety of non-bench jobs, including project managers for complex research programs, grants administrators, and scientific reviewers. In this panel, scientists from the NIH, the United States Patent Office (USPTO), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will discuss their individual career paths, the various opportunities available for PhD scientists in the government. The panelists will also provide insights into the scientific skills they employ everyday at their respective jobs.

#### Careers in Scientific Communications

Are you interested in applying your scientific skills to writing, communicating, and disseminating scientific information? Science communications and medical writing careers are broadly available to PhD scientists. The panelists will describe the different types of science and medical writing, including communications, editing, and technical writing. Topics to be discussed will include: how do I become an editor for a journal, what is science writing, where are the opportunities for science writers, what skills should one cultivate in order to be a desirable candidate, and what should postdocs be doing now to prepare for a career in science writing.

#### Careers Protecting Public Health

This panel features scientists directly impact public health, locally and internationally, by protecting the public from epidemic diseases and global health crises. The panelists are from various aspects of public health, including research, biosecurity, policy, and health analysis. Topics to be discussed will include: how to transition careers from bench training to public health, safety and security, what skills are required to make this transition, and what categories of jobs are available for doctoral level scientists to apply their training to protecting the public.

#### Innovation: Careers Behind the Scenes

Behind every ground-breaking discovery is an extensive team working to bring scientific innovations to the public. Accordingly, there are a myriad of career opportunities for scientists to utilize their skills and training away from the bench to support scientific research. This panel is comprised of scientists who apply their scientific expertise in strategic planning, technology transfer, patent law, and health care consulting. The panelists will discuss how they use their training in very different yet complementary ways, all for the common goal of supporting scientific discovery.

## panel descriptions

### Careers in Science Administration

Keeping science running requires more than just people doing experiments. We need to make sure that we fund science, follow all the rules and regulations, set up laboratory and office space for investigators, have the appropriate faculty assigned to teaching responsibilities, manage projects and more. This group of panelists works in all sectors to do the tasks that keep science moving ahead.

### INDUSTRIAL SESSIONS

#### Industry: Discovering a New Drug

Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies provide scientists with opportunities to continue their careers in experimental research with a primary focus on understanding mechanisms of diseases and identifying novel therapeutic targets. This panel includes PhD scientists involved in the initial stages of drug discovery, including basic research and development (R&D), in vitro assay development, preclinical research, and project management. The panelists will discuss career opportunities in these fields, and the skill sets needed to successfully transition into industry.

#### Industry: Developing a New Drug

Between identifying possible therapeutics in the lab and launching the final product, a potential new drug must undergo the development phase. The newly discovered drug has to pass through critical steps, including Investigational New Drug (IND) application, clinical trials, and New Drug Approval (NDA) application, before receiving the final FDA approval for market launch. The panelists of this session play some of the important roles involved at different stages of this process, such as product management, clinical trials, medical document writing, and regulatory affairs. They will discuss the various opportunities available to assist along the drug development pipeline.

#### Industry: Launching a New Drug

As the cost associated with bringing a new drug to market increases, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies are increasingly seeking effective and successful strategies for launching a new drug to market and maintaining a competitive edge. This panel features some of the key players in this process, including sales specialists, medical communications personnel such as medical liaisons and medical affairs, and marketing strategists. The panelists will discuss their roles promoting the commercial success of new drugs.

### Industry: Careers Developing Biomedical Tools and Devices

Scientists in the research and medical devices industry play a major role in facilitating scientific discovery and medical advancement by developing tools and services for researchers and physicians. Biotechnology companies focusing on biomedical devices, tools, and services employ scientists in both bench and non-bench positions. The panelists in this session include a product development scientist, field application scientist, product manager, and operation specialist. They will discuss their roles and responsibilities in their company, how they landed their current position, and the skills required to move up the career ladder in this particular niche of the bioscience industry.

### Research in Unexpected Places

Biomedical research is needed in areas beyond those of pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. This panel features panelists who are doing research in places you may not have thought about such as the government (non-NIH), personal care companies, food companies, and gas and chemical companies. This session seeks to open your mind to places you probably have never thought of as having career options for biomedical scientists.

### Career Options for Clinicians

Physician-scientists play important roles in all areas of scientific advancement, including industry, academia, and the private sector. Such professionals truly can shape the field of translational medicine, even away from the bedside or bench. Hear from individuals who have combined their expertise in medicine with other skills to impact research, global health and drug discovery. Panelists will also discuss how physician-scientists can best transition into these fields and what awaits those who choose to do so.

### Still Uncertain? Come explore!

The Career Symposium offers a plenty of information on careers, but at this point all that information may have made you more confused than ever. Join members of the OITE Career Services team in this interactive and informal session. Bring your questions about identifying the right career for you and acquiring the skills you need for the job you want, as well as any other questions about career options and opportunities.

## SKILL BLITZES

These short sessions are designed to give you an overview of the skills required to mount a successful job search. These will be a fast-paced, fun-filled way to end the day. Each session will be strictly limited to twenty minutes with a five minute break between sessions. Speakers, who are our very own OITE staff, will give you the highlights of the topics, with ideas on how to follow up with additional resources. **You will be able to choose three sessions from the following offerings:**

### Resumes and Cover Letters

The top ten highlights on your job search documents.

### Find the Career for You

Your dream job does exist. If you are still pondering what is next, come to this session to map out a plan to determine your path.

### Interviewing

This session will help you to navigate the interview process.

### Making a Job Search Plan

The job search has common threads. Find out where and how to search for your job.

### Finding Ways to Enhance Your Resume at NIH

You have likely heard many speakers talk about the importance of acquiring leadership skills or other non-lab skills today. Gather information of how you can get these skills right here on campus.

### Networking and Informational Interviews

You have met some terrific people today (or missed their session as you went to another). Find out how to expand and maintain with your network.

### Social Media and Job Hunts

LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and others: how can these tools advance your job search?

### Navigating the Job Search for Non-Citizens

Searching for a job poses unique challenges for non-citizens. This quick overview will raise awareness of common concerns for visiting fellows.

### Managing Job Search Stress

Job searching can be stressful: deciding what you want to do, where you want to live, and how to manage it all. Come hear tips to navigate your career search while decreasing your stress level.

### Finding Ways to Enhance your Teaching and Mentoring Experience

You can get teaching and mentoring experience to add to your CV or resume; this session tells you where to look and how to best fill out this section of your job history.

### Transferable Skills

How do you talk about the skills you already have, or gain additional skills, so employers see you as a competitive candidate?

### Taking your Network to the Next Level

You have found connections and added them to LinkedIn and even have had an informational interview, but what next? This session explores keeping up with your network without being a pest.

### Top Ten Tips for Grant Writing

The top tips you need to be a successful grant writer.

### The Stadtman Search

Come learn about the NIH Intramural Research's program: Earl Stadtman Tenure-Track Investigator Recruitment.

## symposium organizers

### Symposium Planning Committee

The OITE thanks the dedication and hard work of the following members of the planning committee. We also appreciate the support of the IC Training Offices across the NIH.

Gopal Abbineni, NCI

Rong An, NCI

Jue Chen, NHLBI

Caroline Esnault, NICHHD

Alicia Evangelista, NHLBI

Lauren Houghton, NCI

Joshua Hunsberger, NIMH

Brian Janelins, NIAID

Ahmed Kablan, NIDDK

Lillian Kuo, NCI

Minnkyong Lee, NHGRI

Gaelle Lefevre, NIDDK

Frances Namuswe, NIDDK

Rachel Novak, NCI

Oliver Ou, NCI

Tiffany Ricks, NIAMS

Tina Tang, NIMH

Gaia Vasiliver-Shamis, NIAMS

### Graduate Student Council

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) was created in 2001 with the goal of supporting the intellectual, social, and living needs of the graduate student community at the NIH. The GSC works to foster the development of an interactive and stimulating student environment at NIH by creating a forum for needs to be discussed with the student body. The GSC also serves as a communication pathway by which students, as a group, may interact with the NIH community and leadership. Today, the GSC coordinates and sponsors a variety of events to enhance the training experience of the NIH graduate students. In cooperation with the Graduate Partnerships Program, the GSC participates in the planning of major NIH graduate student events including the annual retreat and research symposium. The GSC has also established scientific interests groups, a student seminar series, a community service group, organized and taught a laboratory techniques class through FAES, launched a student list-serve, created the *GSCChronicles* student newsletter, organizes regular social events, and more. The GSC aspires to continue improving and serving the student community by developing new initiatives through cooperation with the OITE, GPP, FelCom and FAES. To learn more about the GSC, please visit the website at <https://www.training.nih.gov/gsc>.

### NIH Fellows Committee

FelCom works to enhance the training experience of all postdoctoral fellows at NIH. It consists of basic and clinical representatives from each NIH Institute and seeks to foster communication among fellows and the NIH community by offering career development and networking opportunities, teaching

opportunities, and sponsoring various workshops and events. Subcommittees within FelCom include Career Development, Mentoring, and the Fellows Award for Research Excellence (FARE). Members also act as liaisons to NIH and national organizations. FelCom runs many social functions as well. To learn more about FelCom and to find out about upcoming events, please visit the website at <http://felcom.od.nih.gov/>.

### Office of Intramural Training & Education

The Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE), in the Office of the Director, is home to more than 6000 trainees at NIH, including clinical fellows, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, postbaccalaureate fellows, summer interns and many others. Along with the NIH Institutes and Centers, the OITE works to recruit a diverse group of trainees to NIH campuses and strives to create a training environment that fosters innovative and productive research and enables trainees to develop advanced communication and collaboration skills early in their scientific career.

The OITE sponsors numerous workshops and career development activities through the year. These programs are open to all trainees and are advertised on the OITE web page and trainee e-mail lists.

The OITE houses a career services center and library to help you plan for a satisfying career. Our goal is to insure that all NIH trainees are aware of the many jobs available to PhDs – both at and away from the bench. Our career counselors run workshops and small group discussions open to all NIH trainees. They are also available for individual appointments to assist you in career exploration, self-assessment, and career planning. Services include assessments to help you analyze your working style and areas of career interest, help with interviewing and developing networking skills, CV and cover letter review, and mock interviews.

Visit the OITE web page at <http://www.training.nih.gov> to schedule a career services appointment or drop by our office in Building 2 to check out resources from the career library. Our counselors travel to other NIH campuses. Phone conferencing is available and career resources can be sent to remote campuses upon request.

OITE maintains an open-door policy. Staff members are available to answer questions, advise you of training opportunities, discuss mentoring, and help you to resolve any difficulties.

## speakers

### Rashada Alexander, PhD

Health Science Policy Analyst  
Division of Planning and Evaluation,  
Office of Extramural Research, NIH  
[alexanderrc@mail.nih.gov](mailto:alexanderrc@mail.nih.gov)

Dr. Alexander is a Health Science Policy Analyst in the Division of Planning and Evaluation in the Office of Extramural Research (OER). From 2009-2011, she was a American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Science and Technology Fellow at NIH in the OER. Rashada received her BS in chemistry from Youngstown State University in 1999 and a PhD from the University of Kentucky in 2005. As an undergraduate, she conducted research in organometallic chemistry and as a graduate student, she investigated nucleic acids. Throughout her academic career, she participated in university and community organizations and gained experience in administration and policy. As a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Alabama at Birmingham from 2006-2009, she worked in mucosal immunology, investigating the antibody profile of the immune response to HIV. She also became involved in postdoctoral education and training as a member of the UAB Postdoctoral Association, as well as the National Postdoctoral Association.

### Qusai Al-Share, R.Ph, PhD

Clinical Trial Leader  
Translational Medicine, Clinical Sciences and Innovation  
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation  
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Dr. Al-Share is a Clinical Trial Leader in Clinical Sciences & Innovation (CS&I) at Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, New Jersey. He joined Novartis in 2009 as a Postdoctoral fellow, and then assumed a full time position in 2010. Before that he spent one year as a postdoc at the University at Buffalo as part of the UB/Novartis joint drug development fellowship program (2008-2010). During his fellowship he conducted research in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics at UB and then in clinical research/drug development at Novartis. Dr. Al-Share is a registered pharmacist; he practiced pharmacy between 2007 and 2008. He earned his BS degree in Pharmacy from Jordan University of Science & Technology and his PhD in Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis on Molecular Mechanisms of Insulin Resistance and Molecular Basis of Type 2 Diabetes from the University of Toledo, Ohio.

### Manna Beyene, PhD

Technology Transfer Specialist  
Technology Transfer Center, National Cancer Institute (NCI)  
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Dr. Manna Beyene is a Technology Transfer Specialist at the NCI's Technology Transfer Center. She joined the Technology Transfer Center in 2009 after earning her PhD in Neurobiology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While earning her doctorate, Dr. Beyene gained an interest in translating novel discoveries from bench to bedside. This interest led her to obtain an internship at UNC Chapel Hill's Office of Technology Development where she actively participated in transferring innovative technologies from the lab to the marketplace. Upon earning her doctorate, Dr. Beyene joined the NCI as a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow at the Technology Transfer Center. She subsequently secured a position as a full-time employee where she currently serves the technology transfer needs of the Radiation Oncology Branch, the Laboratory of Cell Biology, the Angiogenesis Core Facility and the NCI Experimental Therapeutics Program. In this capacity, Dr. Beyene helps manage inventions and establish collaborative agreements such as Cooperative Research and Development Agreements and Clinical Trial Agreements. She also advises NCI scientists on matters involving both domestic and foreign patent rights, policies and procedures.

### Niranjan Bhat, MD, MHS

Medical Officer  
Division of Vaccines and Related Product Applications  
Food and Drug Administration  
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Dr. Bhat earned a BA in Biochemical Sciences from Harvard University, and his medical degree from Vanderbilt University. As a medical student, he was a member of the 1998-99 class of the Clinical Research Training Program (CRTP) at the NIH, working in the area of clinical HIV research. After training in Pediatrics at the University of Washington in Seattle, he joined the Influenza Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an officer in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (2003-05). There, he worked on a variety of influenza-related projects in epidemiologic research and applied public health. He then moved to Johns Hopkins University, where he completed a clinical fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases (2006-09), conducting research in respiratory viral immunopathogenesis, and obtained a Masters degree in Clinical Investigation. After fellowship, he remained as an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics and International Health, continuing his work conducting clinical and epidemiologic research in the field of respiratory infectious diseases in children. In 2011, Dr. Bhat moved to the Division of Vaccines and Related Product Applications at the Food and Drug

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Administration (FDA) to become a clinical reviewer with the group that licenses all vaccines in the US.

### Sydella Blatch, PhD

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Dr. Blatch was born and raised in Washington DC. After attending DC Public Schools, she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Biology with a concentration in zoology from the University of Maryland, College Park. After college, Dr. Blatch taught public high school briefly, before working as a lab technician for two years. During this time, she decided to become a college professor and later began a PhD in biology at Arizona State University. Her research was on functions of the B-vitamin folic acid in relation to unknown microorganisms in the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*. During graduate school, Dr. Blatch was the co-president of the Black Graduate Student Association of ASU, worked with the Minority Access to Research Careers Program, and created The Shades Mentoring Program, a campus-wide multicultural mentoring program for undergrad and graduate students in the sciences. In graduate school, she was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, and five different campus awards for her efforts in diversity and in the community. Her postdoctoral fellowship was at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. In this training, Dr. Blatch studied the molecular biology of mouse epigenetics at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. During this time she also worked as an adjunct faculty member at Howard University in DC and Prince George's County Community College in Maryland. After her postdoctoral training, Dr. Blatch accepted her current position as an Assistant Professor of Biology at Stevenson University, where she enjoys teaching, research, and working with students.

### Ian M. Brooks, PhD

Director, Office of Biomedical Informatics  
University of Tennessee Health Science Center  
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Dr. Brooks is Director of the Office of Biomedical Informatics at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN. From 2008 to 2010 he was Project/Program Manager of the Biomedical Information Sciences Unit of the UTHSC CTSI. His duties ranged from grant writing, to coordination of the pilot project funding program, to web design. During this period Dr. Brooks also served in an adjunct position in the Office of Academic, Faculty & Student Affairs where he supervised the daily operations of the educational technology team. He coordinated

faculty outreach projects and helped stage career fairs, grant writing workshops etc. Before joining UT administration Dr. Brooks was a postdoctoral fellow in neuropharmacology at UTHSC (2005–08) and Georgetown University (2003–04). His research focused on electrophysiological characterization the molecular mechanisms underlying pharmacological manipulation of ligand gated receptors. Dr. Brooks was inaugural chair of the UTHSC Postdoc Association (2007–08) and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Postdoc Association (2008–10). Dr. Brooks received his BSc in Animal Physiology from The University of Leicester in the UK, and his PhD in Biology from The Pennsylvania State University in 2003.

### Fraser Brown, PhD, JD

Associate, Patent Counseling and Prosecution  
Cooley, LLP  
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Dr. Brown's practice focuses on biotechnology issues, with particular emphasis on drafting and prosecuting patent applications, and preparing invalidity, freedom to operate and patentability opinions. Dr. Brown has also negotiated agreements to further clients' collaborative research and development strategies. He has counseled clients on a range of technical areas including vaccines, fluorescent proteins, drug design and screening, and cancer therapies. Prior to joining Cooley, Dr. Brown was at Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. in their Washington, D.C. office. He holds a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Birmingham, England where he researched cell signaling pathways associated with immune cells, particularly phospholipases and lipid kinases. Dr. Brown also spent seven years performing molecular cell biology research in the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, where he investigated the regulation and role of GTPases in controlling cell membrane structure using antibody- and live cell imaging-based approaches. His research is published in the *Journal of Cell Biology* and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, amongst others. He has also published several articles relating to intellectual property issues facing the biotechnology industry. Dr. Brown obtained his J.D. in 2008 from the Georgetown University Law Center and is admitted to practice in the jurisdictions of California and the District of Columbia.

### Hyrum D. Carroll, PhD

Assistant Professor  
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Dr. Carroll is a new faculty member in the Center for Computational Science and the Department of Computer Science at

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). His research is centered on leveraging computational approaches to solve biological problems. He has made contributions in the areas of database retrieval metrics, both pairwise and multiple sequence alignment, phylogeny search, and biological networks. Previous to going to MTSU, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Computational Biology Branch of the National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Institutes of Health where he was working on algorithms and evaluation criteria for sequence alignment. Dr. Carroll holds a BS degree in Computer Engineering and MS and PhD degrees in Computer Science from Brigham Young University.

### **Kai Cheng, PhD**

Supervisor,  
Transgenic Genotyping Services Assay Development  
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Dr. Cheng is the Supervisor of the Assay Development Group with Transgenic Genotyping Services at The Jackson Laboratory. From 2004 to 2011, before joining The Jackson Laboratory, Dr. Cheng conducted postdoctoral research on the study of olfactory sensory neuron axon guidance at The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Dr. Cheng earned his BS degree in Biochemistry from Fudan University, China, and his PhD in Biochemistry from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong.

### **Peter S. Choi, PhD**

Public Health Analyst  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
(NIAID), NIH  
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Dr. Choi is a public health analyst in the Office of Strategic Planning, Initiative Development and Analysis (OSPIDA) within the NIAID Office of the Director. In his current position he assists the NIAID science divisions in the development of strategic plans, prepares briefing materials/reports for the Institute leadership and conducts analyses on NIAID research efforts to determine their impact on public health. Prior to his employment at NIAID, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the protein biogenesis section at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases studying secretion mechanisms of large proteins in *Escherichia coli* O157:H7. Dr. Choi earned his BS in biology at the University of California at San Diego and conducted his graduate studies in microbiology at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY).

### **James A. Coker, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
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Dr. Coker is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology and the Graduate Biomedical Sciences Community at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The research in his lab focuses on gene regulation networks and the adaptations of life in extreme environments. He currently serves as the President of the UAB chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society. Dr. Coker is a member of the Faculty of 1000 and an editorial board member for two journals: *Aquatic Biosystems* and *Frontiers in Microbiology*. He also serves as a mentor, organizer, and judge for the Central Alabama Regional Intel Science Fair. From 2005 to 2010, Dr. Coker conducted postdoctoral research at the Center for Marine Biotechnology, a division of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, in Baltimore, MD. While there, his research focused on understanding the regulation of the information transfer apparatus (replication and transcription) of the extreme archaeal halophile *Halobacterium* sp. NRC-1. In 2004, Dr. Coker earned his PhD from The Pennsylvania State University in Microbial Biochemistry. In 1998, he received two BS degrees from Oklahoma State University in Microbiology and Zoology with a minor in Philosophy.

### **Colin Coros, MBA, PhD**

Vice President of Operations  
Delta Genomics Centre  
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Dr. Coros has a background in life sciences and business development. His educational background includes a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Western Ontario and an MBA degree specializing in Biotechnology from the University of Saskatchewan. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Calgary and the Wadsworth Centre (NY State), Dr. Coros developed and implemented a variety of different biochemical and genetic-based discovery tools using numerous genomic-based technologies. As a business developer, he has played a key role in business planning and company development for early-stage, technology-based ventures. Currently, he is in the process of setting up and managing a genomics-based service company, called Delta Genomics, which provides genomic services for the livestock industry. In his role at Delta Genomics, Dr. Coros is responsible for setting up all of the operational aspects of the organization, including financial systems, business development, human resource management, and other day-to-day operations of organization.

## speakers

### Jorge Cruz-Reyes, PhD

Associate Professor,  
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
Texas A&M University  
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Dr. Cruz-Reyes is a Molecular Biologist working on RNA metabolism in trypanosome parasites. He joined the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at Texas A&M University as Assistant Professor in 2001 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2006. He was a member of the graduate recruiting committee in the department (2001-2009), and currently is a member of the graduate program committee. He has served in numerous study sections as Ad hoc member to review research proposals to the NIH and NSF, and was a regular member of the NIH Fogarty International and Cooperative Projects (2007-2011). After earning a BS and MS degrees from the National University of Mexico, Dr. Cruz-Reyes, received a PhD in Molecular Parasitology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. He conducted postdoctoral research at the Institute for Medical Research (MRC) on Molecular Genetics of *Entamoeba histolytica*, and at Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine, on RNA editing in trypanosomes. He received student fellowship awards from UNAM, University of London and the PEW foundation.

### Bowen Cui, PhD

Senior Scientist  
Qiagen Inc.  
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Dr. Cui is a Senior Scientist at Qiagen Inc, R&D North America branch. She joined Qiagen at 2010, and became the lead scientist of a new Molecular Diagnosis Assay Instrumentation project in 2011. She conducted postdoctoral research as visiting fellow and research fellow at NIH from 2006 to 2010. She obtained her PhD in Biology in 2006 from University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.

### Dario Dieguez, Jr., PhD

Senior Research Program Manager  
Lupus Foundation of America  
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Dr. Dario Dieguez is the Senior Research Program Manager at the Lupus Foundation of America in Washington, D.C., where he runs a national research program and a student fellowship program. Prior to that, he worked as a Science Writer in the Office of the NIH Director, where he wrote Congressional reports about research funded by the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research,

and also published articles about NIH-funded research in NIH Research Matters. Prior to working at NIH, Dr. Dieguez conducted behavioral neuroscience research as a Research Associate in the Department of Psychology at Boston University and the Department of Pharmacology at Boston University School of Medicine. During that time, Dr. Dieguez also worked as an Instructor of Psychology at Boston University. He earned a PhD in Neurobiology and an MS in Biology from the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he also taught a cellular biology laboratory. Prior to entering graduate school, Dr. Dieguez conducted sleep research in the Department of Psychiatry at Brown University School of Medicine in Providence, Rhode Island. As an undergraduate, Dr. Dieguez conducted neuroanatomical research in the Department of Psychology and Yerkes Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

### Emily Dilger, PhD

Public Education Coordinator  
Society for Neuroscience  
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Dr. Dilger is the Public Education Coordinator at the Society for Neuroscience. One of the missions of this non-profit is to provide credible, lay-friendly, neuroscience teaching tools. She coordinates with scientists, educators, and students to disseminate educational resources and to organize and support public education initiatives such as Brain Awareness Week and Brain Bees. She is also involved with developing content about the importance and impact of animals in research for the public education Website BrainFacts.org. Dr. Dilger earned her BS degree in Biology with a Chemistry concentration from Mary Washington College, and her PhD in Neuroscience from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she used a mouse model to study visual pathway development.

### Mrudula Donepudi, PhD

Associate Director, Medical Affairs  
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated  
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Dr. Donepudi joined Vertex in November 2009 as a Publications Manager and is now an Associate Director within the Medical Strategy – Publications and Education group within Vertex Medical Affairs. She focuses on data dissemination planning and publications in the therapeutic area of Hepatitis C. From 2007–2009, she was a Medical Communications Scientist at Acusphere Inc., working on a diagnostic imaging agent in the area of Cardiology. Before switching over to Medical and Scientific Communications, Dr. Donepudi was a research fellow in the Resh Laboratory at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in



New York, NY (2003–2007), where she studied the intracellular trafficking and signaling of c-Src tyrosine kinase and epidermal growth factor receptor. During this time, she served on the Sloan-Kettering Research Fellows Advisory Group, helped organize the 2007 Tri-Institutional Career Symposium, and volunteered at the New York Academy of Sciences (2006–2007). Dr. Donepudi was the recipient of a 3-year Susan G. Komen Research Fellowship. She received her BSc Honours degree (Magna cum Laude) in Biochemistry from the University of Ottawa, Canada, and earned her PhD (1998-2003) in Biochemistry at the University of Zurich, Switzerland in the Gruetter Laboratory in the structure-function relationship and activation of caspases.

### **Gregory Dressler, PhD**

Collegiate Professor of Pathology Research  
Department of Pathology  
University of Michigan Medical School  
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Dr. Dressler began working in 1981 as a research technician in a lab at the Wistar Institute after receiving an engineering degree from the University of Pennsylvania. That experience led him to pursue a PhD in Genetics, also at Penn. From 1987-1990, he was a post-doctoral fellow with Peter Gruss at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Goettingen, Germany where he helped discover and characterize the mammalian Pax genes. From 1990-1994, he was a Senior Staff Fellow at the NICHD in Bethesda, where he established his own program on kidney development. In 1995, he moved to Michigan as an Assistant Professor and HHMI investigator. He has studied the embryonic development of the urogenital system for more than 20 years. During that time, his lab has discovered multiple genes and pathways that are essential for kidney development and that function in chronic and acute renal diseases. Most recently, his lab has focused on how DNA binding proteins that specify cell lineages interact with epigenetic complexes and methylate histones to imprint specific patterns of gene expression. He has been funded by multiple NIH R01 grants continuously since 1996 and has served as a permanent and ad-hoc study section member.

### **Melissa Drysdale, PhD**

Senior Medical Science Liaison  
Millennium, The Takeda Oncology Company  
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Dr. Drysdale is a Senior Medical Science Liaison with Millennium Pharmaceuticals, The Takeda Oncology Company (2009-present). Prior to Millennium, she worked for Targanta Therapeutics (2008-2009), a start-up company focused on antibiotic development. Her first career in Industry was with Takeda Pharmaceuticals

(2007-2008) where she worked in the therapeutic areas of Gastroenterology, Rheumatology and Oncology. In her five years working as a Medical Science Liaison, Dr. Drysdale's main responsibilities include facilitating Investigator Initiated Studies, supporting Company Sponsored Research, Sales Training, Advisory Board support/facilitation as well as Preclinical Study facilitation. She completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship and then worked as a Research Professor at the University of New Mexico (2004-2006) focusing on vaccine development for Anthrax. Her graduate research was done at the University Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (1998-2004) where her research focused on Virulence Gene Regulation of Bacillus anthracis. Her BS in Microbiology was earned at the University of Manitoba.

### **Nicholas Fitzkee, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Mississippi State University  
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Dr. Fitzkee is an Assistant Professor in the Mississippi State University Department of Chemistry. He was a postdoctoral researcher at NIH from 2007 to 2010, studying the HIV integrase protein and developing new NMR techniques for large molecules. Prior to that, he earned his PhD in Molecular Biophysics from the Johns Hopkins University, and he holds a BS degree in Computational Physics from Carnegie Mellon University. Currently Dr. Fitzkee is currently studying disordered proteins and how the dynamic character of proteins can influence human disease states.

### **Dean Frohlich, PhD**

Program Administrator, Stand Up to Cancer  
American Association for Cancer Research  
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Dr. Frohlich is the Program Administrator for Stand Up to Cancer at the American Association for Cancer Research. From 2004 to 2010, he conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Michigan and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) at the National Institutes of Health on the role of the transcription factor NRF2 in oxidative stress and hormone metabolism in prostate cancer. From 1996 to 2004, Dr. Frohlich earned his BS degree in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University of North Dakota and his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on Chemistry also from the University of North Dakota.

## speakers

### **Tiana Garrett, PhD, MPH**

Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
Lieutenant, United States Public Health Service  
District of Columbia (DC) Department of Health  
[tiana.garrett@dc.gov](mailto:tiana.garrett@dc.gov)

Dr. Garrett is a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer assigned to the DC Department of Health. As an EIS Officer, she addresses immediate public health issues that affect DC such as outbreaks and emergency response. She also is a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service and holds the rank of Lieutenant. From 2009-2011, Dr. Garrett served as an associate research scientist at the University of North Carolina (UNC)-Chapel Hill investigating the genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and associated risk factors. She conducted her postdoctoral research at UNC-Chapel Hill and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, where she studied the association between blood pressure and uterine fibroid development (2007-2009). Dr. Garrett received her BS in Chemistry at Virginia State University, and her PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology with an emphasis on vascular biology, and MPH in Epidemiology from UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Garrett has received numerous honors throughout her academic career including a Postdoctoral Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology Training Grant from the NIH's National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute and a predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association. She is a member of the American Public Health Association and serves on several health-focused committees in DC.

### **Eric C. Greene, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Columbia University,  
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
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Dr. Greene began as an Assistant Professor at Columbia University in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics in 2004. In 2009 Dr. Greene was appointed as an Early Career Scientist with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and he was promoted to Associate Professor at Columbia the following year. Dr. Greene conducted postdoctoral research at the NIH in the laboratory of Dr. Kiyoshi Mizuuchi from 1999-2003, and he received his PhD in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University while working for Dr. Dorothy Shippen. Dr. Greene's laboratory has pioneered novel technologies for studying protein DNA interactions at the single molecule level. This work relies on total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy to visualize proteins as they interact with their corresponding DNA substrates. These DNA substrates

are anchored and aligned on a lipid bilayer-coated surface along the leading edges of nanofabricated metallic barriers within a microfluidic sample chamber. This substrate configuration allows us to directly visualize one the order of 100 to 1000 individual DNA molecules within a single field of view, along with any fluorescently tagged proteins bound to the DNA. This technology was developed specifically as a flexible experimental platform adaptable to the study of a wide range of protein nucleic-acid interactions.

### **Maureen R. Gwinn, PhD, DABT**

Biologist  
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Dr. Gwinn is a Biologist at the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In this position, she works on human health hazard assessments for the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program. For the past year, she has been on detail to the NCEA Director as the Acting Assistant Center Director for Risk Analysis. In this position, she works on overarching issues related to the IRIS program, and assists in reviewing assessments. From 2001 – 2006, Dr. Gwinn conducted postdoctoral research on genetic polymorphisms related to cancer in both an in vitro primary cell strain model as well as in a transgenic mouse model at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Morgantown, WV. She earned her BS degree in Biology at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine in 1994 and her MS and PhD in Oral Biology at the State University of New York in Buffalo, New York in 1997 and 2001, respectively. Dr. Gwinn became a diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology in 2007.

### **Anna Hansen, PhD**

Scientist II  
MedImmune  
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Dr. Hansen has recently joined MedImmune (Gaithersburg) as a Scientist II, after five years of postdoctoral training at the National Eye Institute in the laboratory of Rachel Caspi, looking at the role of early innate immune response in the development of uveitis. While at the NIH, she was actively involved in the scientific community, serving on the Immunology Interest Group committee in 2007/8, was a member of FELCOM and served as their liaison to the Animal Research Advisory Committee from 2009-2011. She regularly helped on the organizing committee for NEI's annual 'Focus on Fellows' scientific retreat. Dr Hansen's

scientific career started at the University of Sydney's Department of Pathology, where in 2002 she completed her PhD studying the role of the immune system in the pathology of cerebral malaria. After a short postdoc at the Medical College of Georgia, looking at dendritic cell biology, she returned to Australia to take up a position at Westmead Hospital (Sydney, NSW) as a Senior Scientist in Research and Development within the Sydney Cellular Therapies Laboratory. Here she gained valuable exposure to the workings of clinical translational medicine in her role of implementing a newly approved Phase I clinical trial involving the ex vivo expansion of virus specific T cells for their infusion into allogeneic transplant patients. In 2006 she returned to the United States to complete her postdoctoral training in immunology at the NIH.

**Andrew M. Hebbeler, PhD**

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction  
U.S. Department of State  
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Andrew M. Hebbeler is a former biological research scientist with foreign affairs, national security, and nonproliferation program and policy experience. Currently, he is the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) Team Chief within the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation at the U.S. Department of State. Prior to his position as BEP Team Chief, he was an AAAS S&T Policy Fellow at the State Department and managed cooperative bioengagement activities in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eurasia, and Southeast Asia. Before accepting an AAAS Fellowship, Dr. Hebbeler was a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Warner C. Greene at The J. David Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco, California. Dr. Hebbeler received his Bachelor's degree in biology and philosophy from Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Kentucky. He completed his doctoral work in the laboratory of C. David Pauza at the University of Maryland, Baltimore where he focused on understanding an unconventional lymphocyte population that is important during immune responses to infectious disease and cancer.

**Craig Hendrix, MD**

Professor of Medicine  
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Dr. Hendrix is Director of the Drug Development Unit (DDU) at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. From 1989–1996, he served on active duty in the US Air Force, first as Director of the HIV Research and Education Program in San Antonio, TX (1989–1994) and as Senior Scientist in the Division of Retrovirology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Rockville, MD (1994–1996). He was appointed to the full-time faculty at Johns

Hopkins in Clinical Pharmacology (Primary) and Infectious Diseases (Secondary) in 1997. Since 1998, he has served as Director of the DDU which focuses on early phases of clinical antiviral drug development. Since 2006, he has been the Director of the Pharmacology Network Lab for both the HIV Prevention Trials Network and the Microbicide Trials Network. His primary research efforts since postdoctoral fellowship training have been studying the pharmacology of HIV treatment with a change in focus to HIV chemoprevention – pre-exposure prophylaxis and topical microbicides – since 2001. He received his undergraduate degree in Applied Biology at MIT and his medical degree from Georgetown University. He completed an Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, and Fellowships in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Pharmacology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

**Vasiliki N. Ikonomidou, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
The Volgenau School of Engineering  
George Mason University  
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Dr. Ikonomidou obtained the Diploma in Electrical Engineering and the PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, in 1997 and 2002, respectively. In 2003 she joined the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the NIH in Bethesda, MD, where she conducted postdoctoral research on the development of novel MRI techniques for optimizing contrast in high field strength MRI. In 2006 she joined the Neuroimmunology Branch of NINDS, where she had the opportunity to apply her research to diagnosis and disease monitoring problems in neurological patients, with emphasis in Multiple Sclerosis. Since August 2009 she has been an Assistant Professor with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the Volgenau School of Engineering at George Mason University, where she continues to pursue her research interests to develop optimized MRI techniques and post-processing protocols for detection of early neurodegeneration in the human brain.

**Bahija Jallal, PhD**

Executive Vice President, Research & Development  
MedImmune

Dr. Bahija Jallal is Executive Vice President of Research and Development with oversight for research, development, regulatory and clinical activities based at MedImmune's Gaithersburg, California and Cambridge, UK sites. She joined MedImmune as vice president, translational sciences, in March 2006 and has been in positions of increasing responsibility. Prior to joining

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MedImmune, Dr. Jallel worked with Chiron Corporation where she served as vice president, drug assessment and development, and successfully established the company's translational medicine group. Prior to Chiron, she worked at Sugen, Inc. where she held positions of increasing responsibility leading to senior director, research. Dr. Jallel received a master's degree in biology from the Universite de Paris VII in France, and her doctorate in physiology from the University of Pierre & Marie Curie in Paris. She conducted her postdoctoral research at the Max-Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany.

### Athena Keene, PhD

Toxicologist  
Afton Chemical Corporation  
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Dr. Keene is a Toxicologist within the Health, Safety, Environmental and Security Department of Afton Chemical Corporation, a chemical company that supplies fuel and lubricant additives. She evaluates the toxicological effects of new raw materials so that they may be safely used during synthetic reactions to formulate products. She also constructs health risk assessments of new products for worldwide registration based on in vivo, in vitro, and in silico toxicological results. Finally, she provides expertise on new regulations regarding nanotechnology, particularly as they relate to the Afton Chemical's products. From 2009–2011 Dr. Keene served as a postdoctoral fellow at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), researching the toxicological effects of metal nanoparticles that may be used in new pharmaceutical products. In 2009, she completed her graduate research focusing on the synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of dendrimer-ligand products that target G protein-coupled receptors. Dr. Keene earned her PhD in Biology in a joint program between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Johns Hopkins University and her BS degrees in Biochemistry and Chemistry from Clemson University.

### Jennifer Kimmel, PhD

Senior Associate Principal Scientist  
Kraft Foods  
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Dr. Kimmel is a protein chemist within the Ingredient & Process Research group for Kraft Foods RD&Q. Since joining Kraft Foods in 2005, Dr. Kimmel has been responsible for developing protein technologies to innovate many food categories from Cheese & Dairy, to Oscar Mayer meat, to chocolate. From 2001-2005, Dr. Kimmel conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Missouri-Columbia investigating the enzyme kinetics of alginate biosynthesis of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a life threatening

bacteria affecting cystic fibrosis patients. Dr. Kimmel earned her BS degree in Chemistry from Elizabethtown College, PA and her PhD in Biochemistry with an emphasis on enzyme regulation from Texas A&M University.

### Betsy Kleba, PhD

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Dr. Betsy Kleba is an assistant professor in the biology department at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, UT. After earning a PhD from University of California, Berkeley in Infectious Diseases and Immunity she moved to Hamilton, MT to continue her postdoctoral research in microbial pathogenesis at Rocky Mountain Laboratories (NIAID). It was during this period that Betsy discovered her passion for mentoring and education and began teaching at the University of Montana. In addition, she worked with a number of high school and graduate students in the laboratory and got involved in outreach activities to engage local middle school students in science. In her current position as a professor, she advises students pursuing biology majors and minors as well as pre-professional and nursing students. She teaches a variety of classes including microbiology courses, cell and molecular biology, and immunology. Dr. Kleba also continues to be actively engaged in research and works with undergraduate students on projects with two different focuses: identifying and characterizing novel halophilic archaea isolated from Great Salt Lake and using transposon mutagenesis to elucidate molecular mediators of *Bdellovibrio* pathogenesis.

### Chad D. Knights, PhD

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Dr. Knights is an Associate Professor of Biology and Natural Science at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Knights serves as the Assistant Division Dean of BIO/NAS at Alexandria. Some of his responsibilities include course design and scheduling, addressing student concerns and serving as first-line supervisor to approximately 40 adjunct faculty. Dr. Knights is also currently the NVCC Biology Cluster Chair and is responsible for coordination of college-wide initiative across all 5 NVCC campuses.

Dr. Knights grew up on a dairy farm in Western NY and is a product of the SUNY college system. He first received an AS

in Plant Biotechnology from Alfred State College in Alfred, NY and then his BS in Biology/Recombinant Gene Technology from SUNY Fredonia in Fredonia, NY. For his graduate work Dr. Knights attended the University at Buffalo and received his PhD in Biochemistry working primarily at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY. Following his doctoral work he worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Dermatology at Oregon Health Science University and then most recently in the Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University. He is still active in cancer research with his primary focus on the p53 tumor suppressor protein and its subsequent post-translational modifications.

#### **David A. Kosub, PhD**

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Dr. Kosub is an inquisitive, exploratory scientist that translates thought-provoking research ideas into tangible public health benefit. In general, he critically analyzes, plans, and reports on the diverse biomedical research portfolio at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). On any given day, he could be discussing infectious diseases (such as HIV, influenza, tuberculosis, and malaria), immune-mediated diseases (such as asthma, allergies, transplantation rejection, and type 1 diabetes), or other related research areas (such as medical countermeasures to nuclear or radiological threats). Prior to becoming a federal employee, Dr. Kosub served as a government contractor with Kelly Services in support of NIAID. This position, amongst other activities, allowed him to evaluate scientific research programs to determine if they meet program goals and identify potential research gaps to ensure they serve the mission of the Institute. Before transitioning away from the bench, he received a doctoral degree in immunology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. His research into understanding how HIV causes disease led to an interest in improving biomedical science policy and public health at the governmental level.

#### **Jason F. Kreisberg, PhD**

Research Editor  
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Dr. Kreisberg started working as a Research Editor at Nature Biotechnology at the beginning of 2012. Previously, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Genome Institute of Singapore working in Dr. Patrick Tan's laboratory studying a novel class

of antibacterial compounds that target microbe specific biochemical pathways. Dr. Kreisberg's work demonstrated that these antibacterial compounds have activity in vitro and in vivo against a variety of clinically challenging Gram-negative human pathogens including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, an emerging tropical pathogen whose fatality rate can reach 50%. Prior to his postdoctoral studies in Singapore, Dr. Kreisberg was a graduate student with Dr. Warner Greene at the University of California, San Francisco, where he received his PhD studying the role of host and viral factors in the life-cycle of HIV.

#### **Mahesh Kumar, PhD**

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Dr. Kumar is a Clinical Project Manager at NPS Pharmaceuticals, an emerging biopharmaceutical with focus on innovative therapies for patients with unmet medical needs. Dr. Kumar has more than 10 years of drug development experience from early discovery to all phases of clinical development specifically in oncology. Prior to coming to NPS in August 2011, Dr. Kumar held different Clinical Development jobs at several big pharmaceuticals including Novartis, Schering-Plough/Merck and recently with BMS. Before joining industry, Dr. Kumar was postdoctoral fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC for 3 years. His research was focused on development of in vivo diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers using MR imaging and spectroscopy in prostate cancer patients. While at MSKCC, he initiated the NMR based metabolomics research on prostate cancer tissues for in vitro biomarker development. Prior to coming to NYC, he spent a year in Center of Molecular imaging at University of Michigan, performing pre-clinical research on brain tumor models. Dr. Kumar got his basic education from India earning Bachelors in Microbiology from University of Delhi and Masters in Biotechnology from Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. He completed his PhD in 2004 from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India.

#### **Carrie-Lynn Langlais, PhD, RAC**

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Dr. Langlais is a Program Manager at Rho, Inc in Chapel Hill, NC and Director of Clinical Operations for Pulmotect, Inc. in Houston, TX. From 2007 to 2011, Dr. Langlais wore multiple hats at PPD, one of the world's largest global Clinical Research Organizations. While at PPD, she was in the Integrated Product Development

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Program, during which time she concurrently worked as a medical writer. Upon successful completion of the program in 2008, she worked in the regulatory affairs department where she added liaising with FDA and managing multi-disciplinary, international teams to her authoring skill set. Dr. Langlais became a Senior Regulatory Affairs Specialist at PPD in Morrisville, NC in 2009 and also earned Regulatory Affairs Certification from the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society. In 2007, before transitioning to commercial drug development, she earned her PhD in biochemistry from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. From 2000 to 2007, she conducted bench top research to elucidate the mechanism of inhibition of A2, a multifunctional protein of ssRNA bacteriophage Qbeta, on MurA, an essential bacterial enzyme that catalyzes the first committed step of the cell wall synthesis pathway. In 2000, she earned her BS degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Great Falls in Great Falls, MT.

### Crystal L. Mackall, MD

Chief, Pediatric Oncology Branch  
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Dr. Mackall is Chief of the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute. She completed an accelerated six-year BS/MD program at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in 1984 followed by a combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency in 1988. She came to the NCI in 1989 as a Clinical Associate in the Pediatric Oncology Branch where she completed her clinical subspecialty training in 1992. She is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Dr. Mackall undertook post-doctoral scientific training in the Experimental Immunology Branch from 1990-1996. Since that time she has directed an independent research effort in the Pediatric Oncology Branch. Dr. Mackall has received international recognition for her work on T cell homeostasis and tumor immunology and she leads an active translational research program which incorporates basic studies of immunology with clinical trials of immunotherapy for pediatric cancer. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the NIH Distinguished Clinical Teacher Award in 2000, an NCI Mentor of Merit Award in 2003, and the NCI Director's Award in 2003. She has authored over 100 scientific publications and is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation. She was appointed Acting Chief of the Pediatric Oncology Branch in 2005 and Chief of the POB in 2008.

### Amy Maxmen, PhD

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Dr. Maxmen is a science journalist currently writing for Nature, The Scientist and New Scientist among other media outlets. Between 2008 and 2010 she composed news articles, features and podcasts for The Journal of Experimental Medicine. For two years prior, she gained experience as a journalist by working as a fact-checker and an editorial assistant at Science News, a writing intern at Psychology Today, and as a AAAS Mass Media Fellow at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. She received her doctorate in evolutionary biology from Harvard University in 2006 for her studies on sea spider development and arthropod evolution. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of California in Berkeley, where she majored in biology, minored in literature, and never imagined that those two subjects could be combined in a single, wonderful career.

### Andrea (Crabtree) McConnell, MS

Co-Founder  
Two Quills, LLC  
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Andrea is a nationally recognized sales and marketing professional. She graduated from Texas A&M University with a BS in genetics. She did her thesis work at the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences where she received an MS with an area of concentration in cancer biology. After moving to Philadelphia, she briefly worked as a marketing coordinator at Harcourt Health Sciences Publishing (now Elsevier). She became a sales representative for Promega Corporation and worked in the greater Philadelphia area calling on academic, pharmaceutical and biotechnology accounts. After moving back to Houston, she joined AstraZeneca as an oncology sales specialist. She stayed with AstraZeneca after moving to Columbus, Ohio but, eventually, co-founded a marketing company (Two Quills LLC) with her husband. In addition to her work at Two Quills, she recently began creating and hosting workshops for entrepreneurs. These workshops focus on the essential sales and marketing skills entrepreneurs need to be effective and confident in their business communications.

### John McGready, PhD

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Dr. McGready has been on the Johns Hopkins Biostatistics' faculty since 1999. While at Hopkins, he developed and has been

the sole instructor of a two term online biostatistics course, which has seen enrollments grow from 40 to 230 in its twelve year run. He also teaches an on-campus version of the same course, and is heavily involved in other endeavors related to the statistical education of public health and medical professionals, and graduate students. Dr. McGready is also actively involved in collaborative research with researchers from the Hopkins Bloomberg School, the Hopkins School of Medicine, the Kennedy Krieger Institutes, and Johns Hopkins Healthcare Systems. Prior to joining the Hopkins faculty, he worked as a quantitative policy analyst, and taught high school mathematics. Dr. McGready earned his ScM degree in Biostatistics from the Harvard School of Public Health (1996), and his PhD in Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins (2007).

### **Khisimuza (Khis) Mdluli, PhD**

Director, Biology  
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Dr. Mdluli is a Microbiologist with pharmaceutical industry experience in antibiotic development, and anti-TB drug development in particular. He has extensive experience in early drug discovery and development with skills ranging from as early in the development pipeline as target discovery, target validation and assay development, all the way through lead optimization to pre-clinical drug development. Dr. Mdluli has been instrumental in defining the mechanism of action for both clinically important anti-TB drugs and novel antibiotics. He has a keen interest in defining the contribution of individual drugs in clinical TB regimens. As the Director of Biology at the TB Alliance, he manages various drug development projects, including collaborations with academic scientists, pharmaceutical partners and contract research organizations. Dr. Mdluli successfully managed the TB Alliance-JHU Pre-Clinical Drug Combination Testing project that forms the basis for all Combination Clinical Trial regimens. Through this project the TB Alliance has identified various novel drug combinations some of which have achieved lasting cure in mice in less than 2 months of therapy compared to the 6 months required for the standard of care, RHZE. Some of the combinations are completely devoid of any first line agents, making them applicable to both drug sensitive and drug resistant disease.

### **Kelly Mercier, PhD**

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Dr. Mercier is an applications scientist at LipoScience in Raleigh, NC, where she is developing new commercially viable assays for diagnosing and monitoring diseases and disease states in

biofluids using NMR spectroscopy. She is a graduate of Lake Forest College, IL, and University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Her dissertation research was focused on structural biology and functional annotation by NMR. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, continuing her work in structural biology with an emphasis of functional assignments of unknown proteins or protein domains. Dr. Mercier was a founding member of the Rho Tau chapter of the Graduate Women in Science, and while an IRTA fellow, served as a primary editor for the NCI Fellows Editorial Board.

### **Matthew Meyer, PhD**

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Dr. Meyer joined Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in 2010 where he leads a laboratory in the Oncology Pharmacology Unit. In this role, he leads the in vivo pharmacology efforts for novel biologics and small molecule modulators of oncology targets. His responsibilities include supporting multiple programs in all stages from target identification and validation through Phase I. Dr. Meyer was the recipient of a Cancer Research Training Award from the National Cancer Institute and conducted postdoctoral research in the Dr. Barbara Vonderhaar laboratory from 2005 to 2010. He developed patient derived breast cancer xenograft models and utilized these to identify novel cell surface markers for enriching tumor initiating cells. Dr. Meyer received his PhD in Animal Science from Cornell University in 2005. His doctoral research focused on local and systemic regulators of pre-pubertal mammary development using the bovine as a model. He completed his BS and MS degrees in Animal Science from Kansas State University.

### **Jennifer H. Meyers, PhD**

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Dr. Meyers is the Science Coordinator with The American Association of Immunologists (AAI), dividing her time between coordinating the peer review process of The Journal of Immunology and managing the scientific program of the AAI annual meeting. Before joining AAI in 2007, Dr. Meyers was a post-doctoral fellow in the Laboratory of Immunoregulation at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, studying plasmacytoid dendritic cells in HIV infection (2005-2007). She earned her PhD in Immunology from Harvard University, studying T cells in autoimmune disease, and her BS in Cell and

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Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

### Sharon L. Milgram, PhD

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Dr. Milgram received a BS degree in physical therapy from Temple University in 1984 and a PhD in cell biology from Emory University in 1991. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University before joining the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994. At UNC Dr. Milgram rose to the rank of Full Professor with Tenure in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. Her research focuses on cell signaling and protein trafficking in polarized cells; it has been published in journals including *Journal of Cell Biology*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Her research was supported by grants from the NIH, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the American Heart Association. Dr. Milgram held a number of administrative positions at UNC including Associate Director of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), Director of the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, and Director of the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience. She founded and advised the UNC Office of Postdoctoral Services and served on the advisory committee of the Signal Xi National Postdoctoral Survey. Dr. Milgram served as principle investigator on a number of nationally-funded training grants including an NSF-funded program for undergraduate students, and NIH grants to support predoctoral students in Cell and Molecular Biology as well as an Initiative to Maximize Student Diversity grant spanning the Schools of Medicine and Public Health at UNC. In 2007 Dr. Milgram joined the NIH Office of the Director as the Director of the Office of Intramural Training & Education. She is also Senior Scientist in the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

### Nicholas Mitchell, PhD

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Dr. Mitchell is an Assistant Professor of Biology with St. Bonaventure University; a small Liberal Arts college nestled in the Allegheny foothills of Western New York. His areas of teaching expertise are Anatomy & Physiology, Biochemistry, Neuroscience and Scientific Communication. He maintains an active undergraduate research lab, aimed at identifying regulators of neuronal survival and maturation. Before arriving at St. Bonaventure

University in 2010, Dr. Mitchell completed a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship with the National Institute on Aging (NIA/NIH) in Baltimore, MD. His fellowship supported the examination of environmental contributors and inhibitors of adult hippocampal neurogenesis. Such factors included Sonic Hedgehog, a developmental morphogen, and Amyloid Beta, which—in excess—is believed to sponsor Alzheimer's disease. In 2007 Dr. Mitchell took his first full-time professorship with Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA. This visiting professorship began several months after earning his doctoral degree from Albany Medical College, Albany, NY. His doctoral research characterized the molecular mechanics of AMPA-type glutamate receptor function. AMPA receptors are the prevailing mediators of fast, excitatory, synaptic transmission in the brain. Dr. Mitchell's career as a Biologist began at the State University of New York College at Potsdam, where he earned his BS degree in Biology in 2001.

### Eric M. Nicholson, PhD

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Dr. Nicholson is a Research Chemist (2004- present) and the Lead Scientist (2008-present) of the Prion Diseases Research Project at the USDA, Agriculture Research Service, National Animal Disease Center. From 1999 to 2004, he studied the folding and misfolding pathway of the prion protein as a Damon Runyon postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Susan Marqusee at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Nicholson earned his PhD from the Biochemistry and Biophysics Department at Texas A&M University in 1999 where he conducted research on the thermodynamics of protein conformational stability in the lab of Dr. J. Martin Scholtz. He earned a BS degree in Biochemistry from Kansas State University in 1993.

### Kim J. Nickerson, PhD

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Dr. Kim J. Nickerson holds joint appointments as an Assistant Dean in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences as well as an Assistant Dean in the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland, College Park. His responsibilities include building bridges between the School of Public Health and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences as well as leading diversity efforts in both units. As director and PI of University of Maryland's NSF-funded SBE AGEP, he develops programming aimed at steering



underrepresented students into the professoriate. Dr. Nickerson has over 15 years of science education experience. He has served on the NHGRI National Advisory Council (1999-2004) and currently serves on the Advising Group for the NHGRI Minority Action Plan and as a member of the NIGMS Minority Programs Review Subcommittee. Dr. Nickerson received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of North Texas. He completed his clinical internship at the Medical College of Virginia and his post-doctoral training at the University of Maryland, College Park. His research has focused on race, ethnic, and cultural factors related to health and mental health and the use and effectiveness health and mental health services for ethnic minorities.

#### **Nicola C. Partridge, PhD**

Professor and Chair,  
Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology,  
NYU College of Dentistry  
Founding Director,  
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Dr. Partridge has been Professor and Chair of Basic Science and Craniofacial Biology at New York University College of Dentistry since September, 2009. From 2000-2009, she served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. A native of Australia, she graduated with honors in Biochemistry from the University of Western Australia, where she went on to earn a PhD. Subsequently, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Melbourne and Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to her tenure at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, she was Professor of Pharmacological and Physiological Science and Orthopedic Surgery and Director of the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Training Program at Saint Louis University. She has been continuously independently funded by NASA or NIH since 1987. She has 131 publications. Her research focuses on PTH regulation of osteoblastic gene transcription. She has served on the editorial boards of the *J. Biol. Chem.*, *J. Bone Min. Res.*, *Calcif. Tiss. Int.* and *Physiol. Rev.* She has served on a number of NIH study sections, in particular, as a member from 1995 to 1999 of the NIH Oral Biology and Medicine-2 Study Section.

#### **Thomas Paul, PhD**

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Dr. Paul is a scientist (Scientist II) at Celgene Corporation working on drug development for epigenetic targets in the Discovery Oncology department. Prior to this position, he was a CRTA Post-doctoral Fellow at the NCI-CCR (2005-2010) studying epigenetic regulation of tumor suppressor genes in acute myeloid leukemia. As a postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Paul served as a member of FELCOM and chaired the job networking subcommittee. Dr. Paul earned his BS degree in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1994-1998) and his PhD in microbiology with an emphasis on retroviral pathogenesis from Cornell University (1998-2005).

#### **Manuelle Rongy, PhD**

Regulatory Affairs Associate / Medical Writer  
Allphase Clinical Research  
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Dr. Rongy works as a Regulatory Affairs Associate / Medical Writer for a clinical development organization, Allphase Clinical Research in Ottawa, Canada. This position is in line with her goal to establish a career in the pharmaceutical industry rather than academia. She is responsible for researching, creating, and editing documents associated with regulatory submissions (New Drug Application, New Drug Submission) as well as producing comprehensive literature reviews. She is also involved in clinical operations and management of internal standard operating procedures and training of personnel. Dr. Rongy earned a PhD degree in Physiology from McGill University in July 2010 with an emphasis on Neuroimmunology. She previously received a Master's degree in Microbiology and Immunology from McGill University following which she worked as a senior research technician at the Ottawa Health Research Institute and a research assistant in a nerve regeneration laboratory at McGill University. Dr. Rongy was granted a Master in Biology of Populations and Ecosystems in 1998 from the University of Tours, France.

#### **Jason Sager, MD**

Oncology Medical Innovation Director  
Sanofi  
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Jason Sager rides his bike to work every day along a 10-mile bike path from his home in Newton, Massachusetts, to the Sanofi Oncology global headquarters in Cambridge. "It takes me 45 minutes. That's faster than driving my car and much more

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relaxing,” Jason enthuses. He translates his passion for improving the lives of cancer patients with an equally open-minded and analytical approach by “Creating insights that benefit humanity”. He accomplished his clinical fellowship and scientific training in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the National Cancer Institute and Johns Hopkins with reknown oncologists Bert Vogelstein, Lee Helman, and many others. There, he gained a foundation for understanding cancer and translating that understanding into patient care. Having been inspired to put more targeted drugs into the toolbox, he began his career in oncology early drug development at Genentech, then Novartis (while seeing patients at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute), and Sanofi, which collectively provided him with the leadership, expertise, judgment, and vision to prepare him for the monumental tasks that lie ahead. He seeks to now revolutionize the way we approach cancer and to inspire similarly energetic and motivated people to join together and do the same.

### **Karl Salzwedel, PhD**

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Dr. Salzwedel has been a Program Officer in the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) in the extramural program of NIAID for three years. He manages a portfolio of approximately 100 research grants, as well as a contract for the NIH AIDS Reagent Program. He is currently Program Officer for the Martin Delaney Collaboratories for an HIV Cure. Prior to joining NIAID, Dr. Salzwedel spent eight-years in industry, serving as Sr. Director of Virology and Drug Discovery at Panacos Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Gaithersburg, MD. Dr. Salzwedel received his postdoctoral training in the intramural program at NIAID in the laboratory of Ed Berger studying the mechanisms of HIV entry into cells. He earned his PhD in Microbiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and his BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **Nicholas J. Sarlis, MD, PhD, FACP**

Vice President and Head of Medical Affairs

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Dr. Nicholas J. Sarlis is Vice President and Head of Medical Affairs with Incyte Corporation, a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on oncology and inflammation, located in Wilmington, Delaware. Prior to this position, he was a Senior Medical Director with Sanofi-Aventis U.S. – Oncology, and before that was Associate Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center. He was a Senior Clinical Investigator at NIDDK and Faculty at the

Endocrinology Fellowship training program at NIH, after completing this program. Dr. Sarlis trained in Internal Medicine at the University of Utah where he received his MD and Dr. Med. degrees from the University of Athens, Greece, and his PhD from the Charing Cross & Westminster School of Medicine in the Department of Molecular Biology and Neuroendocrinology Unit (London, UK). Over the years, his research focused on endocrine correlates of systemic inflammation, nuclear receptor signaling, thyroid disorders, and endocrine neoplasias, including thyroid and adrenal cancer. Since his foray in the Pharma & Biotech world, Dr. Sarlis has focused on projects in head and neck, lung, and breast cancer, tumor lysis syndrome, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, lymphoma, and, more recently, myeloproliferative neoplasms and the role of the JAK/STAT pathway in these and other disorders.

### **Leah Sartorius, PhD**

Principal

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Dr. Sartorius is a Principal in the Washington, D.C. office of the Boston Consulting Group. She consults primarily to clients in the pharmaceutical industry, helping them to develop strategies within Medical Affairs, R&D, and sales & marketing. Prior to working at BCG, Leah received a PhD for her work at the University of Oxford and the National Institute of Mental Health researching schizophrenia genetics. Dr. Sartorius was also a Fulbright Scholar at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France, where she studied multiple sclerosis. Leah graduated from Yale University with a BS degree in Molecular Biology.

### **Jennifer Shen, PhD, RAC**

Scientific Reviewer

Office of In Vitro Diagnostic Device Evaluation and Safety (OIVD)

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Dr. Shen is a scientific reviewer with the Office of In Vitro Diagnostic Device Evaluation and Safety (OIVD) at CDRH/FDA. Prior joining CDRH, she was a NCI-FDA fellow at the Interagency Oncology Task Force (IOTF) program from 2009-2011. During the IOTF fellowship, Dr. Shen conducted research and worked as a product quality reviewer at the Office of Biotechnology Products at Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). She also rotated at different review disciplines (i.e., clinical pharmacology and pre-clinical) to gain further understanding on oncology drug development at the Office of Hematology and Oncology Products in CDER. From 2004-2009, Dr. Shen was a postdoctoral fellow at NCI, where she worked on mouse models of human cancer. She

earned her BS degree in Bioengineering from the University of California, San Diego and her PhD in Molecular Endocrinology from the University of California, San Francisco.

**Sunita J. Shukla, MPH, PhD**

Scientific Reviewer

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Dr. Shukla is a Scientific Reviewer at the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health, where she is primarily involved in the review of pre-market applications for medical devices and in vitro diagnostics. Dr. Shukla received her BA in 1999 from Saint Louis University with a major in English and minor in Biology. Upon graduation, she completed a Master of Public Health degree at Saint Louis University in 2001 with a focus on Epidemiology and Environmental/Occupational Health. During her MPH, Sunita held a fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine looking at worker compliance with isoniazid therapy. From 2002-2007, Dr. Shukla earned a PhD in Human Genetics from the University of Chicago, with a focus on the pharmacogenetics of anticancer agents. During her PhD, Dr. Shukla contributed to several peer-reviewed publications that reported on the use of lymphoblastoid cell lines in order to identify genetic determinants of resistance or toxicity to various chemotherapeutic agents. In 2007, Dr. Shukla began a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) and worked on quantitative high throughput assays pertaining to the pregnane X receptor, ARE and mTOR signaling pathways, and high content imaging. In addition, she worked on efforts pertaining to the Tox21 initiative.

**Tasha N. Sims, PhD**

Program Manager

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Dr. Sims is the Program Manager for several Oncology Research and Development Programs as well as Technology Programs at Regeneron, a Biopharmaceuticals company. Prior to joining Regeneron, Dr. Sims worked in the non-profit sector as Scientific Program Manager for the JDRF's immunology portfolio, and served as the founding Chair of the Future Science Educators, in New York City. She conducted postdoctoral research at Washington University School of Medicine and NYU School of Medicine where she studied T cell motility and immunological synapse formation. Prior to obtaining her doctorate, Dr. Sims worked in the forestry industry as a Forewoman, in northern Canada. She earned her BS degree from the University of Calgary, Canada, majoring in both Psychology and Cellular and Molecular Biology. Dr. Sims earned her PhD

(with teaching designation) in Immunology from the University of Alberta, Canada.

**Jana E. Stone, PhD**

Scientific Coordinator

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Dr. Stone is the Scientific Coordinator for the Duke Center for Systems Biology at Duke University. She is responsible for developing education and outreach programs, planning Center events, program evaluation, communications, and facilitating collaborations with national and international partners. Before accepting her current position in 2011, Dr. Stone was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), where her research focused on DNA replication and mutagenesis. While at NIEHS, she was a member of the NIEHS Trainees Assembly Steering Committee, the NIEHS Biomedical Career Fair Planning Committee and a number of outreach programs. Dr. Stone earned a BS in Microbiology from Indiana University and a PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD**

Senior Investigator, NIDCR

Principal Deputy Director, NIH

Dr. Tabak was appointed as the principal deputy director of the NIH on August 23, 2010. Previously he served as acting principal deputy director of the NIH from November 12, 2008 through August 14, 2009. Named as the director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) in September 2000, he held that post through August 2010. Prior to joining the NIH, Dr. Tabak served as the senior associate dean for research and professor of dentistry and biochemistry and biophysics in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester in New York. A former NIH MERIT recipient, Dr. Tabak has received several honors and awards for his work including being elected as a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. He has also received teaching awards for his work with both graduate and medical students.

**Arne Thompson, MS**

Manager, Application Support

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Mr. Thompson is the manager of a technical applications team at Cellular Dynamics International (CDI) that is responsible for

## speakers

traditional technical and application support, field application support, and in-house application development and training. From 2007 to 2011, Arne worked at Invitrogen in several roles. He started at Invitrogen as an R&D intern focusing on developing fluorescent biochemical assays for drug development screening, and following the internship, joined Operations, where he worked for 3-½ years. In his time in Operations, Arne first worked on Manufacturing / QC testing of biochemical and cell based assays, and then joined a new team to Invitrogen called Manufacturing Sciences, which lead product improvement and technical transfer projects from R&D to Operations. Prior to joining Invitrogen, Arne worked as a Research Specialist at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in a plant virology lab from 2002 to 2005, where he conducted independent research and managed the laboratory. Arne received his BS degree in Biochemistry and MS degree in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his focus was on developing a plasmid-based reverse genetics system for a negative-sense RNA virus.

### Chris Towler, PhD

Principal Scientist

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Dr. Towler is currently a Principal Scientist in the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Profiling group at Novartis in Cambridge MA after previously working in the same group in Horsham, United Kingdom. This group is a global function designed to participate with drug discovery and development functions in the selection of new chemical entities with improved probability of success and to achieve fast to proof of concept milestones. His time at Novartis has allowed him to develop his background in solid-state chemistry to an interest in biopharmaceutics and how control of solid form will affect in vivo performance. Dr. Towler carried out postdoctoral research in the School of Pharmacy at Purdue University, investigating the nucleation of molecular solids and the solid-state properties of amorphous salts. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering at the University of Manchester after research into the effect of solution behaviour on crystallization of molecular solids. Dr. Towler earned his MS degree in Materials Science and his BS degree in Chemistry from the University of Manchester.

### JoAnn Trejo, PhD

Professor

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Dr. Trejo is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Dr. Trejo earned her BS degree from UC Davis and her PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology from UCSD. She conducted postdoctoral research at the University of California, San Francisco in the Cardiovascular Research Institute on signaling and membrane trafficking of a class of receptors that elicit cellular responses to the coagulant protease thrombin and other proteases. Dr. Trejo moved to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology in 2000 and received tenure in 2005, she relocated to UC San Diego in 2008. In addition to research, Dr. Trejo actively participates in efforts aimed at increasing the diversity of student scholars pursuing careers in the biomedical sciences. Dr. Trejo is a life member of the Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos & Native Americans in Science, Co-Director of the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) Program at UCSD, a member of the American Society for Cell Biology Leadership Council and Women in Cell Biology Committee. She is also involved in several educational programs for undergraduates and graduate students at UCSD.

### Sury Vepa, PhD, JD

Senior Licensing and Patenting Manager

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Dr. Vepa is currently working as a Senior Licensing and Patenting Manager in the Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) at NIH and currently co-teaches a FAES class on "Basic Business Law for Entrepreneurs." Sury joined OTT as a Technology Licensing Specialist in 2008. Dr. Vepa is a registered patent attorney with significant experience in patent prosecution and licensing, including serving as a Clinical Law Instructor at the University of Maryland School of Law and co-supervising and training the student attorneys. Prior to that, he was a Technology Transfer Specialist with NIMH. He has also worked in licensing and legal capacities at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (Office of Industrial Liaison) and the law firm of Amin & Turocy, LLP. Sury received his JD with honors from the University of Maryland and a PhD in Biochemistry from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. Dr. Vepa obtained his postdoctoral research training Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis and worked as an Instructor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. His research involved areas of

infectious diseases, lung biology, and signal transduction. Early on, he worked at Astra Research Center (India), a fully owned research division of AstraZeneca.

### **Idalis Villanueva, PhD**

Lecturer

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Dr. Villanueva has been a lecturer in the Fischell Department of Bioengineering in the University of Maryland, College Park since fall 2011. Prior to that time, Dr. Villanueva was a postdoctoral research in the National Institute in Neurological Disorders and Stroke within the NIH Bethesda campus for two years. Her work focused on isolating the calcium load versus route hypothesis in hippocampal neurons subject to ischemic stroke. Prior to her postdoctoral appointment, she worked in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering as a graduate researcher within the field of cartilage tissue engineering. Dr. Villanueva has been an active participant of outreach activities for minority students interested in science and engineering through the Colorado Diversity Initiative and PROMISE AGEP program in the University of Maryland-College Park. In seeking her career interests, Dr. Villanueva worked as an intern for the Office of Intramural Training and Education in NIH. She earned her BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez.

### **Elizabeth Webber, PhD**

Program Analyst

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Dr. Webber is a program analyst with the Channels, Synapses and Neural Circuits cluster in the Division of Extramural Research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Her responsibilities include researching and preparing analytic reports on scientific and programmatic issues relating to the management of the cluster's portfolio that includes both basic neuroscience and studies of the epilepsies. She earned her BS in Biology from the College of William and Mary and her PhD in neuroscience from Emory University. Her doctoral research focused on molecular mechanisms of endosome to lysosome trafficking. As a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (2008 - 2011), she investigated the role of phosphorylation in the regulation of NMDA-type glutamate receptor trafficking in the brain.

### **Amanda R. Weyerbacher, PhD**

Senior Scientist, Research and Innovation

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Dr. Weyerbacher has worked at L'Oreal USA's Research and Innovation (formerly known as Research and Development) division since December 2009. As a Senior Scientist in the Product Safety Department, she manages the clinical safety testing program of multiple consumer products across a wide array of global brands for market launch, ensuring compliance with international regulatory requirements and claim substantiation. Prior to this position, Dr. Weyerbacher earned her PhD in Pharmacology at Cornell University's - Weill Cornell Graduate School of Biological Sciences in New York City in May 2009. In her dissertation research, she identified critical pain signaling proteins, cytokines and immune/central nervous system interactions as relevant drug targets for clinical pain control in an animal model of persistent pain. From 2001-2003, Dr. Weyerbacher was a Clinical Research Associate at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In this role, she managed up to ten active Phase I and II clinical trials, defining and monitoring project scope, timelines and deliverables from project initiation to close-out. Dr. Weyerbacher has presented her research in pharmacology, neuroscience and oncology at several scientific conferences. She earned her BA in Biology-Chemistry from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY in May 2001.

### **Wendy Reed Williams, PhD**

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Dr. Williams is the Director of the Offices of Responsible Research Training and Postdoctoral Affairs at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Before assuming this role in 2005, she completed a research administration fellowship (2002-2003), and served as CHOP's Research Education and Training Specialist (2003-2005). From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Williams completed postdoctoral fellowships at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and in the Division of Oncology at CHOP. Her research at the USDA focused on the control of gene expression in higher mammals, and her work at CHOP centered on understanding the involvement of genes in the development of leukemia. Dr. Williams received her BS degree in Zoology from Howard University in 1993 and her PhD in Biology from The Johns Hopkins University in 1999. At Hopkins, her dissertation research focused on protein-protein interactions and protein-DNA interactions important to the regulation of gene activity by the AraC protein in *Escherichia coli*.

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