

Meetings

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Scientific Investigators Retreat 2018

Center for Cancer Research Fellows and Young Investigators Association Provides Critical Supplemental Training Opportunities to CCR Fellows



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¹HIV-DRP, CCR, ²LCBG, CCR, and ³CCT, NCI



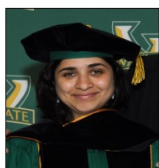
Abstract

The Center for Cancer Research Fellows and Young Investigators (CCRFYI) Steering Committee was created to foster an environment of collaboration, professional advancement, and training for the diverse backgrounds of CCR scientists and clinicians. The CCRFYI is supported by the NCI's Center for Cancer Research, the Center for Cancer Training (CCT) and Office of Training and Education (OTE) leadership. The CCRFYI is primarily comprised of postdoctoral and post baccalaureate fellows. To better serve the NCI community, the CCRFYI Steering Committee continuously organizes scientific seminars, the Annual CCRFYI Colloquium, community outreach events, career and social networking opportunities, and many external activities geared to generate postdoctoral communication and collaborations. A long-term goal among the NCI leadership is the retention of scientists from diverse backgrounds. The expanding job market has required supplementing research training with evidence of transferable skills in action. To meet this need, the CCRFYI has expanded its usual activities to provide fellows with opportunities to build and implement programs and initiatives that benefit either the CCR or the public. Among those are the bi-annual CCRFYI newsletter, the growing National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week, professional development and social networking events, the postbaccalaureate advocacy group, and our newest outreach program – NCI Scientists in the Community (NCI-SC). Through participating in these programs, CCR fellows expand their network, explore career options, build confidence, and gain experience applying transferable skills.

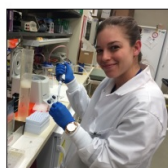
CCRFYI Mission

- ✦ To support and advocate for all young investigators including: postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, graduate students, post-baccalaureate fellows and all other young investigators at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) - Center for Cancer Research (CCR) in all aspects of their professional training and career development.
- ✦ To strive to promote interaction among CCR trainees on an academic, social and cultural basis, while also assisting the CCR Office of the Director in this endeavor.
- ✦ To act as a liaison between the CCR Office of the Director, the CCT Office of Training and Education, and the postdoctoral population at large and represent the interests of postdoctoral trainees to the NCI and the CCR.

2017-2018 Steering Committee Chairs



Manasi S. Apte
Bethesda Chair



Melissa V. Fernandez
Frederick Chair

Outreach Activities: Children's Inn Drive

Training experience: Organizing the yearly Children's Inn Donation Drive provides experience in program management. Recruiting volunteers to host a donation box and coordinating with building managers and volunteers to deliver donations, builds communication and leadership skills.

Job market: Coordinating about 20 volunteers teaches strong leadership skills.

CCR and extramural community: The yearly donation drive provides opportunities for the fellows and faculty alike to participate in honoring the patients of the Children's Inn while simultaneously providing the patients and their families with much needed charity.



Left to Right:
Melissa V. Fernandez & Brandi Carofino
Delivering 2017 donations to the
NIH Children's Inn

Post-baccalaureate Advocacy

Training experience: Serving as the Post-Baccalaureate (postbac) Chair exposes the postbac to the myriad of research opportunities and career options available. The chair advocates for postbac training needs to the CCT and represents postbacs at the monthly steering committee meetings. Advocacy requires periodically reaching out to the community and learning of their needs and organizing social gatherings, thus introducing postbacs to one another and promoting collaboration.

Job market: Serving as Postbac Chair develops planning and organizational skills, opportunities to work in a dynamic team environments, and provides tangible leadership and management experience.

CCR and extramural community: The Postbac Chair participates in developing a professional network of scientists, bringing together trainees who will populate the CCR and improving access to professional and career development opportunities.



Nkolika Egbukichi
Post-bac Chair

Representation: FelCom and NPA

Training experience: While serving as a representative demands time and energy, it trains in effective resource and time management.

Job market: Representing the CCR community enables the development of a significant peer network, an essential component of near-future fellowship/job applications. Additionally, the development of soft skills experience in project management, organizational skills, written and oral communication skills creates a well-rounded resume of experience, a critical component for an effective job search in any science industry.

CCR and extramural community: Working as a representative provides networking opportunities with other fellows on a monthly basis. This platform is also a place to voice opinions and raise issues on behalf of NCI fellow community.

- As a part of Felcom, the representative serves on the career development subcommittee and is personally involved in organizing career development discussion panels.
- To celebrate and recognize our hard-working postdocs, the NPA Liaison organized and hosted three events during National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week on both Bethesda and Frederick campuses this past Sep 18th to Sep 22nd, 2017.

Supportive Roles: Bylaws, E-communications

Training experience: Consolidating and compiling information from different sources provides experience in reviewing materials precisely and presenting updates and reports to committee. Networking with peers has helped exchange knowledge and several resources for professional development.

Job market: Presenting reports and networking with colleagues develops communication skills. Handling

Annual Fellows' Colloquium

Training experience:

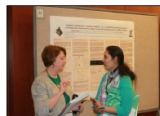
Colloquium planning offers endless networking opportunities with NCI trainees, NCI leadership, cancer survivors, NCI PIs, PIs from universities and industry and many others. Colloquium planning offers multiple opportunities to learn about research outside of a fellow's field through abstract and presentation judging, as well as keynote speaker selection. Preparation, recruitment, judging and winner selection of the Colloquium Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Award, Outstanding Postgraduate Fellow Award, and Travel awards provide opportunities to network, learn about research outside of one's field and understand which types of activities make a fellow stand out among his/her peers. Promotion of the Colloquium offers a multitude of opportunities to network and enhance one's written, verbal and visual communication skills through conversations with fellows and PIs, preparation of advertisement slides, fliers and email notifications.

Job market:

The Colloquium develops and improves many transferable skills: written, and verbal communication, organization and time management, records management, as well as, the development of concise and informative presentations, rubrics, advertisement fliers. Organizing the Colloquium helps fellows to learn how to work successfully with a diverse group of people with varying skill sets and goals. Fellows learn about the criteria that make them stand out to future employers through the preparation, judging and selection of award recipients.

CCR and extramural community:

The colloquium provides NCI trainees a safe but critical space to present their work. Many trainees initiate collaborations based on interactions that occur at the colloquium. Keynote speakers each inspire NCI trainee research! The Colloquium allows NCI fellows to learn about research outside of their field/branch. Workshops allow fellows learn about the criteria that make them stand out to future employers. Panels allow fellows to learn about different career opportunities in academia, industry, and scientific management.



Seminar Series Organization: Bethesda PASS & Frederick Seminar Series

Training experience:

Organizing the Seminar series provides regular opportunities to network with postdocs and PIs from various lab/branches within CCR including Frederick, ATRF, and Bethesda campuses. Organizers attend all the seminars, and therefore learn about the diverse research topics from fellows across the NCI-CCR. Seminar chairs learn how to organize and moderate scientific seminars (tasks included: speaker recruitment, event advertising, task delegation to team members, introducing speakers and moderating the question-answer sessions). Chairs organizing scientific and career development seminars at CCRFYI work as liaisons between NCI trainees and professional career and mentoring consultants.

Job market:

This opportunity has helped establish close networks, opened the door to potential long-term benefits including further mentoring and letters of recommendation.

CCR and extramural community:

Organizers encourage young scientists to share their research with the CCR community and improve their delivery and communication skills. Participants learn skills to effectively communicate their science to a diverse audience. The seminar series is a safe place to practice public speaking before attending a conference and present to the global scientific community.



Namratha Sheshadri
Frederick Seminar Series chair

To present at the Frederick Seminar Series, contact
Namratha.Sheshadri@nih.gov



Sarwat Naz
Bethesda PASS Chair

To present at the Bethesda PASS series, contact
Sarwat.Naz@nih.gov

Social Networking: Intra- and Inter- Campus Community Building

Training experience: Serving as social chair builds on time-management and leadership skills. Planning events provides ample opportunities to network and meet fellows outside in all the branches on all NCI campuses, and the NIH staff and key personnel.

Job market:

Coordinating events for large groups of people from different locations and backgrounds improves communication, time-management, and people management skills.

CCR and extramural community:

Regular social meet-ups provide opportunities for fellows to share information about training opportunities, job postings, and experimental workflows. Seasonal outings provide inter-campus activities for fellows to engage with the local community. Social events increase networking opportunities among CCR fellows, allowing fellows to try new activities that they otherwise may not have attempted by themselves.



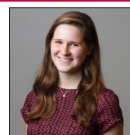
Outreach Activities: NCI-Scientists in the Community



Chanelle Case
Program Manager



Patty Wiley
Assistant Program Manager



Cora Hersh
Volunteer Coordinator

Training experience: Leading NCI-SC teaches an immense amount about program management. Through developing and leading workshops to several high school classrooms, the importance of being adaptable to the needs of others, while remaining focused on the overall goal, is learned. Being involved in NCI-SC is a part-time job in itself, and requires skills in time management and organizational skills.

Job market:

Managing/coordinating over 50 volunteers teaches strong leadership skills. Coordinating events with several partnering schools and maintaining detailed records which provide great strategic planning experiences for any job.

CCR and extramural community:

NCI-SC has created a bridge between local schools and the NCI trainees which provides a higher value and enriched STEM education to our local schools. NCI-SC creates opportunities for NCI trainees to build leadership, mentoring, and communication skills to enhance their professional acumen. Lastly, NCI-SC aims to increase diversity in STEM fields by exposing younger students to science and the breadth of opportunities available to the students.

CCRFYI Seasonal Newsletter

Training experience:

Contributing writers and editors gain experience in clear communication of ideas – both scientific and social – to a wide audience of varied backgrounds. The Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor manage the seasonal newsletter team produce a product by a scheduled timeline.

Job market:

Coordinating a large team towards one clear goal builds communication, time-management, and people management skills. Writing and editing provides



CCRFYI
Fellows &
Young Investigators
Newsletter



To join as newsletter writer or editor, contact:
Melissa.Fernandez2@nih.gov

Special Thanks

CCR Office of the Director

CCT Office of Training and Education

research and committee responsibilities requires managing multiple projects simultaneously. Working with committee members to develop a vision for the committee and working towards it together builds experience in collaborative work.

CCR and extramural community:
Streamlining CCR news helps the CCR communities to have easy access to resources and information. The sub-committees create a platform for collaboration and networking for fellows within the CCR and outside entities. Networking with CCR-FYI alumni through E-communications helps foster professional relationships.

fellows with an interest in science communication to build their resume.

CCR and extramural community:
The seasonal newsletter keeps the community abreast of upcoming CCR training opportunities, documents community activities, and explores important issues to the fellows community NIH-wide.



The journey continues...

Have everyone is enjoying the trip, busy but and getting so far a beautiful picture. We are happy to present our quarterly CCR FYI newsletter with news that will be useful for fellows at all levels (postdocs, postdocs, fellows).

From the Editor:
Chair's Outlook
Manuel S. Apple

In this issue, we present various activities for fellows, opportunities, and resources, and the future of the CCR. We hope this newsletter provides the right context for fellows to stay in and

Mary Velthuis – New fellows support

Keyonna Earle - Administration support

Linda Brubaker – Frederick Seminar Series Support

Angela Jones and Nicole Garner – Annual Fellows' Colloquium support