

# JeffPost

*(Empowering Postdoctoral Careers)*

ISSUE 2 | June 2019 |

## Jefferson Postdoctoral Association Executive Board (JPA EB) (2019-2020)



*JPA Executive Board (2019-2020)*

### Introducing the New JPA EB members

From left to right:

Dr. Ankit Rochani, Vice-President (VP) Communication

Dr. Larissa Ishikawa, Senior VP

Dr. Brigid Jensen, VP Nomination and Elections

Dr. Giacomo Casella, President

Dr. Daniel Rubinstein, VP Social Affairs

Dr. Liliana Camarillo Rodriguez, Treasurer

**Unavailable for the photo:**

Dr. Xi Chen, VP Career Development

Dr. Angelica Zamudio-Ochoa, Secretary

Postdocs are invited to join the JPA on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/jeffpostdoc/>

## Technical Skill Seminar Series (TSSS): Opportunity for Jefferson Postdocs

### *Introduction*

The world of science is an interdisciplinary research environment, where fundamental concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) come together to create translational science. Various institutions in the US have developed postdoc seminar series, as shown in **Table 1** for their postdocs to improve and keep updated on new technical and research developments (1-5). These technical seminars are organized by the postdoctoral association of these institutes. In 2006, the JPA was one of the first postdoc associations to develop a Technical Skills Seminar Series (TSSS), where scientists and technical support staff of various companies present on their new technologies.

**Table 1:** List of postdoctoral associations that developed technical and research skills seminar series

S. No.	University	Seminar Series	Role or Hosting
1	Princeton University	Postdoctoral Seminar Series	NA
2	University of Pittsburgh	Postdoc to Postdoc Seminar series	Conducted monthly
3	University of Florida	UF Postdoc Seminar Series	Presenting recent findings
4	University of Colorado, Denver	Postdoctoral Seminar Series	NA
5	Zuckerman Institute, Columbia University	Zuckerman Institute Postdoctoral Series (ZIPS)	Casual forum to discuss projects at various stages of development

### ***Jefferson’s Technical Skills Seminar Series (TSSS)***

The JPA’s VP of Career Development has organized TSSS consistently for over 10 years with an average of 8±3 TSSS events / year. In past issues of Jeff Post (6), the officers have discussed the upcoming events and their impact on the career development of Jefferson postdocs. Topics for TSSS are chosen based on the interests of Jefferson postdocs and faculty members.

### ***Model of TSSS***

Since the beginning of TSSS, the JPA has invited many experienced scientists from companies and Jefferson faculty to share their innovative technologies so that Jefferson postdocs could adopt these techniques and use them to find solutions in their field of expertise. However, the JPA realized that many laboratories at Jefferson also invest in training postdocs in certain technical skills, and the information about these skills could be made available to fellow postdocs. Hence, the JPA sent out a call for postdocs who wanted to deliver a TSSS seminar and share their knowledge with fellow researchers. This could significantly impact the technical skill transfer among postdocs and their laboratories at large.

***To help encourage postdocs to take advantage of this opportunity, Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Associate Dean for Student & Postdoctoral Affairs, sanctioned \$100 Honorarium for the postdocs selected to give TSSS seminars.***

To launch this new model of including postdocs in the delivery of TSSS seminars, Dr. Manoela Tiago (postdoctoral fellow in the Aplin laboratory) gave the first technical seminar on the “Generation of 3D-skin Reconstructs.” The seminar was extremely well received and was attended by more than 20 postdocs and students.

### ***Some interesting comments from the postdoc presenter....***

*“TSSS event was a great opportunity to share techniques that I daily use for my research and get feedback as well. People showed a lot of interest and we discussed together how a single technique could vary a myriad of applications. It was also very important to practice my teaching skills and be in contact with potential research collaborators. I’m very thankful for Postdoctoral Scientific Editing and Reviewing Team (PSERT), especially Ms. Pam Walter, which support was fundamental for the success of my presentation. She thoroughly checked my presentation with me several times, making sure I was going to do my best for the event, and it worked! I strongly recommend this experience for all my post-doc colleagues!”*

***-Dr. Manoela Tiago***

## Conclusion

Having postdocs share the technical skills from their Jefferson laboratories may help shrink the scientific gaps and develop a more collaborative environment. The present model of TSSS where Jefferson postdocs are given the opportunity to present along with Jefferson faculty and industrial scientists can prove to be an exciting opportunity for both presenters and attendees. TSSS works closely with PSERT and Ms. Pam Walter, OPWPC, to create messages for fellow researchers. Hence, postdocs are trained to have a stress-free preparation for the 30-minute presentation of their technical skills.

*Jefferson postdocs interested in presenting a TSSS seminar* should contact [jpa@jefferson.edu](mailto:jpa@jefferson.edu).

## References

1. <http://postdoc.aa.ufl.edu/programs/uf-postdoc-seminar-series/>
2. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/postdoctoral/ucdpostdoctoralassociation/events/Pages/SeminarSeries.aspx>
3. <http://www.uppda.pitt.edu/news-story/postdoc-postdoc-p2p-monthly-seminar-series>
4. <http://www.princeton.edu/~postdocscouncil/events/seminars/>
5. <https://zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu/ZIPs>
6. <https://www.jefferson.edu/university/life-sciences/postdoctoral-affairs/postdoctoral-association.html>
7. <https://www.jefferson.edu/university/life-sciences/postdoctoral-affairs/postdoctoral-association/technical-skills-seminar-series.html>

## Highlights of the 13<sup>th</sup> Postdoctoral Research Symposium (PRS) 2019

PRS was organized by the PRS Planning Committee and hosted on June 12, 2019. The keynote address was given by Dr. Sarah Millar, who spoke about the significance of WNT signaling pathway in epithelial regenerative medicine in mice as well as human subjects. PRS was sponsored by Sino Biologicals, BioLegend, Biotechnology Calendar, Slidemakers, JCLS and the Office of International Affairs. Highlights of the event were a) Poster presentations; b) Oral presentations; and c) Career Lunch Roundtable event. Six postdocs were awarded best poster in various categories as well as two postdocs that gave oral presentations. To help postdocs and students prepare for the Career Lunch Roundtable event, the PRS Planning Committee organized 4 pre-conference workshops: CV/ Resume building, Networking skills, LinkedIn, and Interviewing skills. These pre-event workshops had nearly 20 postdoc and graduate student participants per event. They were given by Jefferson's Career Development Center staff and Jenny Schneider. The planning of PRS was led by Drs. Daniel Rubinstein and Jenny Schneider as Co-Chairs of the PRS Planning Committee under the guidance of Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Associate Dean for Student and Postdoctoral Affairs in Jefferson College of Life Sciences.



### 2019 PRS Award Winners

#### Outstanding Oral Presenters

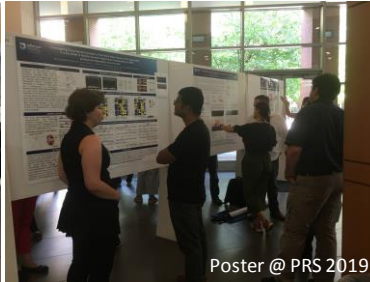
Dr. Patrizia Porazzi, from the laboratory of Dr. Bruno Calabretta  
Dr. Xi Chen, from the laboratory of Dr. Peisong Ma

#### Outstanding Poster Presenters

Dr. Zuzana Nichtova, from the laboratory of Dr. Gyorgy Csordas  
Dr. Flora Szeri, from the laboratory of Dr. Koen van de Wetering  
Dr. Malela Werner, from the laboratory of Dr. Daniel Silver  
Dr. Eric Wong, from the laboratory of Dr. Luis Sigal

#### Outstanding Poster Presenters, Early Discoveries

Dr. Lazaro Aira, from the laboratory of Dr. Gudrun Debes  
Dr. Jennifer Romer-Seibert, from the laboratory of Dr. Sara Meyer



**Registration Desk**  
 Dr. Ishikawa  
 Dr. Chen  
 Dr. Schneider  
 Ms. Judith Lewis



**Dr. Xi Chen, Career Lunch Table**  
 (addressing to invited mentors from various companies)



Thirty-four postdocs submitted abstracts for oral and poster presentations. There were 11 oral presentations delivered by Jefferson postdocs. The Career Lunch Roundtable event was organized by Drs. Xi Chen and Nestoras Karathanasis. Eighteen scientific mentors attended and discussed their career paths with more than 70 Jefferson postdocs and graduate students. Postdocs also nominated Jefferson faculty for their tireless efforts to support the professional development of postdocs. Based on the nominations, Dr. Christine Eischen was given the Distinguished Mentor Award. Also, many of the JPA activities like PRS, PSERT, TSSS, and others have been supported by Ms. Pam Walter, Office for Professional Writing, Publishing, & Communication. For her work with JPA, Ms. Walter was felicitated with Friend of JPA award.



It was very well organized and well planned event. Post docs were well prepared with their questions for invitees. I met people who were new post docs and experienced post docs. They brought lot of information on technology that is being used now and asked us questions regarding how that will be useful in their future in biotech and pharmaceutical industry. I would recommend anyone from industry to participate in this event.  
 -Dr. Hemang Barbhuiya (Ph.D.)  
 Senior Life Science Specialist  
 Fischer Scientific



“The postdocs make it happen at Jefferson, and working with them means I get to peer behind the curtain and see the magic. Being awarded Friend of the JPA means so much to me, and I'll continue to do everything I can to help them thrive”.

**-Ms. Pam Walter**



*PRS team with Dr. Millar*



*Dr. Kozlowski presenting Distinguish Mentor Award to Dr. Christine Eischen*

**Acknowledgments:** JPA Board members for sharing data and executing all the events. Dr. Lisa Kozlowski, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and Pam Walter, OPWPC, for editing this issue. Special thanks to Judith Lewis for organizing delicious food and helping in hosting JPA events.



*Scan and follow instructions to become PSERT editor*

**Contact:** Ankit Rochani, Ph.D.,  
 VP Communication, JPA  
 Email: [jpa@jefferson.edu](mailto:jpa@jefferson.edu)