

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai 7th Postdoctoral Symposium



INDUSTRY BEYOND THE BENCH

September 23rd 2016

Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine
Davis Auditorium, 2nd Floor
1470 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10029



Please see the final pages of the Program for:

- ❖ A commentary, “The State of the Postdoc”, by your PEC co-chairs.
- ❖ A list of ways to stay updated (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter).
- ❖ Raffle prizes – tickets given out at Keynote talk, with winners drawn immediately after the talk.
- ❖ A list of our guests at the networking reception – a wide range of interesting companies will be represented!
- ❖ A couple of pages to keep notes and information for the new contacts you make during the day!

ORGANIZED BY
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Postdoc Executive Committee

Alison Sanders, Co-chair

Delaine Ceholski, Co-chair

Geneviève Galarneau, Co-chair elect

Giovanna Collu

Victor Leyva-Grado

Dominique Leitner

Rebecca Feldman

Albino Troilo

Catarina Saiote

Nicholas Barbieri

Salvador Sierra

Rita Tavares

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Julia TCW

Sylvie Janssens

Nina Linde

Pierre Enel

Charles DeRossi

Alison Montagrín

Dana Hashim

Lorna Farrelly

Dayanira Alsina-Beauchamp

Nicolas Daviaud

Leonardo Munari

Jamel Meslamani

Francesco Padormo



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

*VENUE: Davis Auditorium,
Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine,
1470 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10029*

Morning program

- 8:30 – 09:25am **Registration and breakfast**
Hess 2nd floor lobby area
- 9:25 – 09:30am **Welcome & Introduction**
- 9:30 – 10:35am **Plenary Lecture:** Dr. Joanne Kamens
Executive Director, Addgene
Title: “Grab the Bull by the Horns –
First steps to a fulfilling career in
science”
- 10:30 – 11:00am **Robin Chemers Neustein Fellowship
Award Presentations**
Dr. Lara Manganaro and Dr. Hélène
Salmon
- 11:00 – 11:25am **Coffee break**
Hess 2nd floor lobby area
- 11:25 – 12:00pm **Data Blitz presentations**

12:00 – 1:00pm **Keynote Lecture:** Dr. Lana Skirboll
Vice President of Academic and Scientific Affairs at Sanofi, Former Director of Science Policy at National Institutes of Health
Title: “The Road Not Taken”

Afternoon program

4:00 – 5:00pm **Industry Panel Discussion**

Dr. Nina Tandon, *CEO and Co-founder of EpiBone*

Dr. Robert DeVita, *Professor and Director of Medicinal Chemistry (ISMMS), Former Director of Medicinal Chemistry at Merck*

Dr. Vesna Todorovic, *Associate Editor at Nature Communications*

Dr. Erin Girard, *Director of Engineering for Robotic Imaging and Therapy at Siemens Healthcare*

5:00 – 7:00pm **Networking Reception**
Hess 2nd floor lobby area

Industry: Beyond The Bench

Postdoctoral fellows are highly skilled scientists, honed since graduate school. Although the position of postdoc might not seem overly glamorous or all that lucrative, we have been trained (and paid) to advance science on a daily basis. Furthermore, not only do we nourish ourselves with this knowledge but also the peers and colleagues we work with at the bench, in the classroom, or during a seminar. Whether you believe it or not, the making of a career in academia, industry, biotechnology, and beyond is in all of us, developed in our day-to-day activities within the laboratory. That said, many of us don't take full advantage of the resources at our fingertips. We can all strive to develop our talents beyond the laboratory – networking, communication, organization, leadership, and management, to name a few. This year's aptly named Postdoc Symposium aims to demonstrate what postdocs can do “beyond the bench” – showcasing PhDs in lucrative careers such as science policy, publishing, and biotech and pharmaceutical companies – and the skills needed to get there.

The postdoc position has traditionally trained PhDs for careers in academia, but what it's primarily done is trained us to think. Our Plenary and Keynote speakers this year represent PhDs who have travelled non-traditional career paths – often extremely rewarding tracks that are becoming increasingly the norm. For the 7th Annual Postdoc Symposium, we curated an exceptional line-up of speakers and panelists to demonstrate the breadth of careers and opportunities that are available to postdocs. Our Keynote speaker, Dr. Lana Skirboll, shared a poem by Robert Frost with us, where she likens her foray into science policy from traditional academic training to “two roads diverging in a yellow wood” – the world of science policy was placed in front of her, she found she had an aptitude for it, and she never looked back. With fewer tenure-track academic positions available and the lines between academia and industry blurring, this is an ideal time to explore alternate career paths, evaluate your skillset, and perhaps follow a different road that takes you to your ideal career!

Welcome to Postdoc Day 2016!
The Postdoc Executive Committee

DETAILED PROGRAM

8:30 – 9:25am **Registration and breakfast**
Hess 2nd floor lobby area

9:25 – 9:30am **Introduction & Welcome to morning session**
Davis Auditorium

Alison Sanders, PhD and Delaine Ceholski, PhD
Co-Chairs of the Postdoc Executive Committee

Geneviève Galarneau, PhD
Co-Chair elect of the Postdoc Executive Committee

Dean and Professor Basil Hanss, PhD
Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs & Career Development

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

9:30 – 10:30am Plenary Lecture:
“Grab the Bull by the Horns – First
steps to a fulfilling career in science”
Davis Auditorium

SUMMARY: I have a PhD now what? How can I find out what I like? How can I get ready? It's your future – you need to take control of your own job search and planning. We'll talk about some specific tactics for seeking information and connections that will help chart a course for a happy and long-term career in science.



Dr. Joanne Kamens, PhD, is the Executive Director of Addgene, a mission-driven nonprofit dedicated to helping scientists around the world share useful research reagents and data. Dr. Kamens received her PhD in Genetics from Harvard Medical School then spent 15 years as a researcher and manager in Pharma at BASF/Abbott working on both small molecule and antibody therapies for immune disease. In 2007, she joined RXi Pharmaceuticals as Senior Director of Research Collaborations. Dr. Kamens founded

the current Boston chapter of the Association for Women in Science. In 2010, Dr. Kamens received the Catalyst Award from the Science Club for Girls for longstanding dedication to empowering women in STEM. In 2013, she was named one of PharmaVoice's 100 Most Inspiring Commanders & Chiefs. Dr. Kamens serves on a number of other nonprofit boards and speaks widely on open science, diversity, and science career development topics.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

10:30 – 11:00am Robin Chemers Neustein Fellowship
Award Presentations
Davis Auditorium

Robin Chemers Neustein Awardees: **Dr. Lara Manganaro, PhD**, with introduction by *Dr. Viviana Simon, Professor, Department of Microbiology*; **Dr. H  l  ne Salmon, PhD**, with introduction by *Dr. Miriam Merad, Professor, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology*.

Dr. Lara Manganaro, PhD, *Department of Microbiology*
“Eliminating HIV from CD4+ T memory stem cells.”

Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) inhibits HIV replication but fails to cure the disease. The main cause of this failure is that HIV-1 integrates into the host genome. Human CD4+ T cells are the main targets of HIV but there remains a fundamental gap in our knowledge of the mechanisms 1) controlling susceptibility of memory CD4+ T cell populations to HIV infection and 2) supporting HIV persistence over decades despite seemingly effective HAART. Closing this knowledge gap is the prerequisite for understanding how the HIV reservoir is established and how we can best eliminate it.

We generated multi-dimensional quantitative immune profiles of HIV-infected primary human CD4+ T cells using Mass Cytometry by Time of Flight (CyTOF). We observed that CD4+ T stem memory cells (TSCMs) are preferentially infected compared to the “classical” T memory subpopulations. TSCMs are the least differentiated of the human memory T cells subsets and retain stem-cell like properties. We found that TSCMs actively proliferate, a property, which is further enhanced in the presence of the gamma cytokine IL15. Moreover, we found that IL15 leads to the

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

inactivation of SAMHD1, a host restriction factor which blocks HIV reverse transcription. These findings are of great importance since IL15 is up-regulated during primary HIV infection. We propose that HIV exploits the stemness of TSCMs during acute infection to create a self-renewing persistent HIV reservoir, which bypasses the need for de novo infections.



Dr. Manganaro was born and raised in Italy where she completed her undergraduate education. She has a Master's degree in Medical Biotechnology from the University of Trieste (Italy) followed by a PhD from the International Centre of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (ICGEB), where she worked in the laboratory of Dr. Mauro Giacca.

Her graduate work focused on understanding how cellular host factors modify HIV proteins, and she identified novel post-translational modifications of HIV integrase (acetylation and phosphorylation). These post-translational modifications increase the activity and stability of HIV integrase allowing for better integration into the host genome. These results explain why resting human CD4+ T cells are resistant to HIV infection. For her postdoctoral studies, she came to New York City to work as a postdoctoral fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Since 2011, she has been working in the lab of Dr. Viviana Simon in the Department of Microbiology studying how cellular and viral factors influence transcription of both viral and host genes. These studies were the starting point for her current project that aims to understand the molecular mechanism controlling productive infection and latency establishment in the different CD4+ T cells populations. Specifically, her project seeks to understand how CD4+ T memory stem cells, the least differentiated of all CD4+ T cell memory populations, contribute to HIV persistence.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

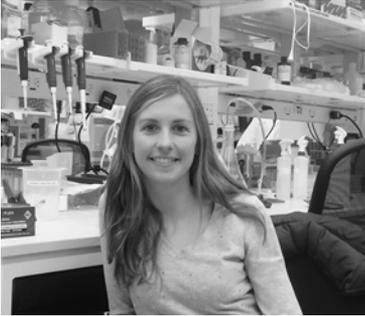
Dr. Hélène Salmon, PhD, *Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology*

“Expansion and activation of CD103+ dendritic cell progenitors at the tumor site transform tumor response to PD-L1 and BRAF inhibition”

High numbers of melanoma lesions develop resistance to BRAF blockade or fail to respond to checkpoint inhibition therapy. Here we explored whether modulation of intratumoral antigen presenting cells (APCs) can help increase response to BRAF and checkpoint blockade in tamoxifen-induced Braf-mutant and B16 melanoma lesions. In both models, we found that CD103+ dendritic cells (DCs) were the only APCs that transported intact antigens to the lymph nodes and primed tumor-specific CD8+ T cells.

CD103+ DCs expressed high PD-L1 levels in the tumor and were required to promote anti-tumoral effects upon blockade of the checkpoint ligand PD-L1; however, PD-L1 inhibition only led to partial responses and minimal accumulation of intratumoral CD8+ T cells. Strikingly, systemic administration of fms-like tyrosine kinase 3 ligand (Flt3L) followed by intratumoral poly I:C injections expanded and activated CD103+ DC progenitors in the tumor, enhancing responses to BRAF and PD-L1 blockade and protecting mice from tumor rechallenge in a T cell dependent manner. Thus, the paucity of activated CD103+ DCs in tumors limits checkpoint blockade efficacy and Flt3L-poly I:C therapy can transform clinical responses to checkpoint and BRAF blockade.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.



Dr. Hélène Salmon completed her PhD in Alain Trautmann's lab in Paris where she studied T cell migration in human lung tumors through live imaging. She then decided to join the Merad lab at the Icahn School of Medicine, where she studies myeloid cell biology to develop immunotherapeutic strategies modulating this cell compartment in solid tumors to enhance clinical

response to existing therapies. She showed that the paucity of activated CD103+ dendritic cells (DCs) in tumors limits checkpoint blockade efficacy. Expansion and activation of CD103+ DC progenitors at the tumor site promote T cell activation and entry into the tumor mass, improving tumor response to PD-L1 inhibition (Immunity, 2016). Taking advantage of her expertise in cell dynamics and the tumor microenvironment, Dr. Salmon is now starting a research program focused on the understanding of stroma contribution to tumor immunity. She is currently funded by the Cancer Research Institute.

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

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

11:25 – 12:00pm Scientific presentations by Postdocs:
Data Blitz
Davis Auditorium
Moderated by Dr. Albino Troilo

Join us as Mount Sinai postdocs give short 5-minute presentations to showcase the breadth of research across the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Vote for the best talk - the winner gets a \$100 VISA card!

1. **Dr. Luis Santos, PhD**, *Department of Pharmacological Sciences*
"Mitochondria and cell death variability"
2. **Dr. Kiran Girdhar, PhD**, *Department of Psychiatry*
"Epigenetics of 'A Beautiful Mind' Gene"
3. **Dr. Mirela Berisa, PhD**, *Department of Oncological Sciences*
"Lymphatic microenvironment promotes breast cancer cell survival"
4. **Dr. Elisabeth K. Lucas, PhD**, *Department of Neuroscience*
"Losing Your Inhibition: GABAergic Plasticity in Emotional Learning"
5. **Dr. Nicolas Fernandez, PhD**, *Department of Pharmacological Sciences*
"Clustergrammer: Web-based Heatmap Visualization and Analysis Tool for High-dimensional Biological Data"

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

12:00 – 1:00pm Keynote Address:
Dr. Lana Skirboll
Title: “The Road Not Taken”
Davis Auditorium

SUMMARY: Dr. Skirboll will describe the road she took – from traditional scientific training through two terrific postdocs when “two roads diverged in a yellow wood*” and the opportunity to explore the world of science policy was put in front of her. Tentative at first, she soon realized that the intellectual challenges were great and she had the skillset to succeed. From there, she never looked back. (*Robert Frost)

The Road Not Taken

By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



Dr. Lana Skirboll, PhD, is Vice President of Academic and Scientific Affairs at Sanofi, where she works on building academic relationships and science and regulatory policy issues of importance to innovation, including biosimilars, data sharing/transparency, big data/ real world evidence, informed consent, human samples, expanded access, biomarkers, public-private partnerships. Dr. Skirboll is also exploring relationships between academic institutions and industry, including areas of policy convergence and training. She formerly served as Director of Science Policy at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she and her team were responsible for identifying policy issues relevant to the support and conduct of research, and analyzing, recommending, and creating new policies that advanced the interest of the NIH. These included human subject protections, the privacy and confidentiality of research records; conflicts of interest; human embryo research; cloning and fetal tissue research; genetics, health, and society; dual use research; gene therapy and nanotechnology; comparative effectiveness research; and personalized medicine. Dr. Skirboll was trained in Pharmacology and Neuroscience. She completed her PhD at Georgetown University Medical School (Washington, DC), followed by postdoctoral work and research positions at Yale University (New Haven, CT), the Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden), and the National Institute of Mental Health (Bethesda, MD). She is the author of more than 70 peer reviewed scientific publications. Lana is married to Leonard Taylor and has two children. She was born in Baltimore and just returned to the city after 40 years wandering in distant lands – from DC to Stockholm.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

4:00 – 4:00pm Welcome to afternoon session
Davis Auditorium

Professor Charles Mobbs
Director of Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

4:05 – 5:00pm Industry Panel Discussion
Davis Auditorium
Moderated by Dr. Rebecca Feldman and Dr. Delaine Ceholski



Dr. Nina Tandon, PhD, is CEO and co-founder of EpiBone, the world's first company growing living human bones for skeletal reconstruction. She is the co-author of *Super Cells: Building with Biology*, a book that explores the new frontier of biotech. She is a TED Senior Fellow, Adjunct Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Cooper Union, and a former Staff Associate Postdoctoral Researcher in the Laboratory for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering at Columbia University. She has a Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from the Cooper Union, a Master's in Bioelectrical Engineering from MIT, a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, and an MBA from Columbia University. Her PhD research focused on studying electrical signaling in the context of tissue engineering, and she has worked with cardiac, skin, bone, and neural tissue.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.



Dr. Robert J. DeVita, PhD, is a Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in the Departments of Pharmacology and Systems Therapeutics and Structural and Chemical Biology. He is also the Director of Medicinal Chemistry for the Experimental Therapeutics Institute (ETI). Prior to joining Mount Sinai in 2014, Dr. DeVita gained expertise managing multi-disciplinary teams that delivered on key program objectives for complex molecular targets. He has over 25 years' experience

working in biotech (VP of Chemistry at Agios) and the pharmaceutical industry at Merck Research Laboratories, where he was a Director of Medicinal Chemistry from 2004-2012. He was trained as an organic synthetic chemist, earning his PhD at the University of Rochester followed by a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Geneva. He started his professional career at Merck in 1990. Dr. DeVita has been an active member of the Medicinal Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society, serving on the Long Range Planning Committee and on the organizing committees for National and International Medicinal Chemistry Meetings. He has served as an Ad Hoc Reviewer for the National Institutes of Health Study Section for Synthetic and Biological Chemistry (Section B) and National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases. He also consults for academic, biotech, legal, and venture capital clients.

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.



Dr. Vesna Todorovic, PhD, has been an Associate Editor at Nature Communications since April 2014. She handles research manuscripts on cardiovascular development, regeneration, and disease. Dr. Todorovic earned her PhD in molecular biology from the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Trieste, Italy for work on human origins of DNA replication. In 2001, Dr.

Todorovic moved to New York University School of Medicine where she worked first as a postdoctoral fellow and subsequently as a faculty member of the Department of Cell Biology. While at NYU, Dr. Todorovic's research interests included studies of TGF β bioavailability and activity during mouse development and in disease. In 2012, Dr. Todorovic moved to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai where she studied novel molecular pathways involved in the development and progression of aortic aneurysm in mouse models of Marfan syndrome.



Dr. Erin Girard, PhD, is newly positioned as the Director of Engineering for Robotic Imaging and Therapy at Siemens Healthcare in Princeton, NJ. She is charged with building the exciting Robotic Imaging and Therapy team in collaboration with the expert teams in computer vision and artificial intelligence at Siemens. Erin has been with Siemens for 5 years as a research collaboration manager in the

Angiography and Therapy division. She has brought many prototypes to clinical use, such as Coronary Total Occlusion, Aortic Valve Guidance, EP (electrophysiology) Suite, and most recently, Echo X-ray Fusion, and in

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

doing so has built many key relationships with clinicians across the country. Before Siemens, Erin completed her PhD at Stanford with Dr. Rebecca Fahrig, where she worked on image quality and cardiac applications for C-arm CT. At the University of Virginia, she completed her BS and MS with a thesis on automated image segmentation and detection of sleep apnea using ultrasound. During her graduate work, Erin dabbled in a startup developing a therapeutic ultrasound system to zap cellulite. She has also worked at the Riverside Research Institute in NYC, Vital Images Inc., and had an NSF research fellowship to work with Dr. Joachim Hornegger at the University of Erlangen in Germany. Most off path, she taught 1st grade at the Munich International School for a year after completing her MS, because engineers are qualified to teach first graders (maybe).

DETAILED PROGRAM cont'd.

5:00 – 7:00pm

Networking Reception

Hess 2nd floor lobby area

- ❖ Dr. Christopher J. Winrow, PhD
Director of Neurology and Insomnia

Christopher Winrow, PhD, is Director of Neurology and Insomnia in the Neuroscience Department at Merck Research Laboratories in West Point, PA. He is responsible for preclinical discovery through clinical development of novel therapies targeting Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's Disease, cognitive disorders and insomnia. Dr. Winrow is the author of more than 70 articles and book chapters on treatment approaches for neurologic disorders, and holds multiple patents. Dr. Winrow received a doctorate from the University of Alberta and an undergraduate degree from McMaster University in Canada, joining Merck after a postdoctoral fellowship at The Salk Institute for Biological Studies.



The vision of Merck & Co., Inc. is to make a difference in the lives of people globally through our innovative medicines, vaccines, and animal health products. We are committed to being the premier, research-intensive biopharmaceutical company and are dedicated to providing leading innovations and solutions for today and the future. Our mission is to discover, develop and provide innovative products and services that save and improve lives around the world.



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- ❖ Dr. Sarah Henderson, PhD
Associate Medical Director
- ❖ Dr. Kathryn Harper, PhD
Medical Associate



Healthcare Consultancy Group (part of Omnicom Group and the DAS Group of Companies) is united by a shared philosophy that puts the best interests of the drug at the center of all we do, each company contributes its own capabilities and culture. Staffed by over 350 employees, more than 90 with advanced degrees (MD, PhD, or PharmD), HCG is full-service with a focus. Our focus is on scientific positioning and branding, both visual and written, and on developing succinct impactful messages, content, and programming supported by data that can be used in communications with the FDA and EMA, healthcare professionals, patients, and other stakeholders.

We have a regulatory practice, taking over 110 drugs to committee with an 80% positive response, and a publications group that boasts over 1500 publications with an overall acceptance rate of 90%.

We develop medical strategy and scientific communications, including disease education, MOA and MOD animations, creative booth content for congresses, and unbranded and branded live or Web-based peer-to-peer communications for specialists. We are not a digital agency but a scientific agency that is digitally infused. We are a scientifically rigorous, strategically focused, creatively balanced agency built for the future.



- ❖ Dr. Nicole McKnight, PhD
Director of New York Operations
nicole@cambridgebiolabs.com



Nicole McKnight, PhD, is Director of Operations for Cambridge BioLabs's latest expansion project, BioLabs New York. She is dedicated to promoting the success of biotech start-ups in New York and was an original member of NYC Tech Connect's Advisory Panel. Nicole is co-founder of Keystone for Incubating Innovation in Life Sciences Network (KiILN), a non-profit organization that provides acceleration programming for very early-stage biotech startups and entrepreneurial scientists. Dr. McKnight is a molecular and cell biologist whose 12 years of scientific research has made her well-versed in disease areas such as cancer and neurodegeneration. She has trained at the University of Chicago (AB, honors), Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess, University College London and most recently at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she was co-chair of the Postdoc Executive Committee. Nicole obtained her PhD from UCL/Cancer Research UK and prior to that, worked at Millennium Pharmaceuticals and Ore Pharmaceuticals (fka Gene Logic) in Cambridge, MA. She also holds a certificate in business fundamentals from Harvard Business School/HBX. She is excited to be contributing to the exciting growth of the New York biotech scene.



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- ❖ Burke Liburt
Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)

Burke Liburt is CMO of SynchroPET and a co-founder with Marc Alessi, CEO, a leading serial entrepreneur and currently Chairman of the Business Incubator Association of New York State, and Board Member of Peconic Bay Medical Center (PBMC Health). Burke is a senior manager with a successful career that embraced both ABC



Television and Dun & Bradstreet. He serves as Director of Business Strategies and Innovation Development at the College of Business at Stony Brook, and is also a principal of TextYmail, a global e-commerce platform.

SynchroPET is a biotech manufacturer located in the Long Island High Tech Incubator, Stony Brook. Its ground breaking technology was developed at Brookhaven National Laboratory and enables the production of the smallest PET (Positron Emission Tomography) imaging device in the world. The core technology's common platform has produced SynchroPET's first family of adaptable PET devices. SynchroPET's platform technology will form the basis for clinical PET indeed the Wrist PET Detector, currently undergoing refinement, is expected to be introduced within the next 18 months.

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- ❖ Dr. Lauren Friedman, PhD
Assistant Director of Scientific Affairs
lfriedman@alzdiscovery.org
 - ❖ Dr. Andrew Koemeter-Cox, PhD
Scientific Program Manager



Alzheimer's
Drug Discovery
Foundation

The mission of the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) is to rapidly accelerate the discovery of drugs to prevent, treat and cure Alzheimer's disease. ADDF follows a venture philanthropy model, funding breakthrough research in academia and the biotech industry. The ADDF is the only such charity solely dedicated to funding the development of drugs for Alzheimer's. Through the tremendous support of our donors, the ADDF has awarded more than \$90 million to fund over 500 Alzheimer's drug discovery programs and clinical trials in 18 countries.

Lauren Friedman, PhD, supports the management of our drug discovery portfolio by providing scientific and strategic review of preclinical drug discovery proposals and tracking program progress. Dr. Friedman also manages the ADDF ACCESS program, which provides a virtual network of contract



research organizations (CRO) and consultants and offers educational resources on drug discovery and CRO selection and management. Dr. Friedman completed her postdoctoral training at Columbia University, where she studied modulators of autophagy in Alzheimer's disease. She earned a doctorate in neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she focused on molecular mechanisms underlying the development and degeneration of brain circuits involved in autism and Parkinson's disease. She received a bachelor's degree in biopsychology from Tufts University. Dr. Friedman has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, New York Academy of Sciences and the Association for Women in Science.

Andrew Koemeter-Cox, PhD, works on the ADDF's scientific initiatives, including the ACCESS program. In this capacity, he assists with reviews of funding proposals and manages the ACCESS website, which connects researchers with CROs and other drug discovery expertise. Dr. Koemeter-Cox was most recently a postdoctoral fellow at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai,



where he studied the epigenetics of axon regeneration in the context of spinal cord injury. From 2007 until 2009, he was a research technician with the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense (USAMRICD), assisting with studies on neuroprotection strategies. Dr. Koemeter-Cox earned a doctorate in biomedical science from The Ohio State University College of Medicine and a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Delaware. He is a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, where he serves as a mentor for several programs.

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❖ Dr. Ashleigh Pulkoski-Gross, PhD
*Scientific Affairs Associate and
Medical Writer*



❖ Dr. Leighland Feinman, PhD
Scientific Affairs Associate and Medical Writer

At AXON, we simplify complex information to improve outcomes in healthcare, bringing together the right people with the right expertise to provide our clients with integrated, multichannel communications solutions. As an agency, we are passionate about healthcare communications and combine a personal touch with professionalism. Our expertise includes medical communications, public relations, clinical trial services and market access communications/consultancy for pharmaceutical, biotech, medical device, animal health and functional food companies. AXON has an international reach, with offices in London, New York, Toronto, Montreal and Copenhagen, and a worldwide affiliate network. Established in 2002, AXON is wholly owned by NATIONAL Public Relations, part of RES PUBLICA Consulting Group.

Ashleigh Pulkoski-Gross, PhD, received her bachelor's degree in biology from Saint Joseph's College in Patchogue, NY. She went on to earn a master's degree in biological sciences from St. John's University in Queens, NY, and her doctorate in molecular and cellular pharmacology from Stony Brook University in NY. Ashleigh's doctoral dissertation encompassed both understanding the role of matrix metalloproteinases in cancer migration and developing novel therapeutics targeting the early stages of cancer metastasis, namely cancer cell migration and invasion. During her tenure as a graduate student at Stony Brook University, Ashleigh built her leadership and communication skills, undertaking several writing projects outside of her dissertation work, serving as her department's graduate student representative, teaching and tutoring both undergraduate and graduate students, and participating in conferences, both internal and external. As she progressed through her program, Ashleigh realized that



she was interested in modifying her current career trajectory. As such, she transitioned to actively pursuing a career in medical writing. In 2015, she joined AXON Communications, a specialist healthcare consulting firm, as a scientific affairs associate and medical writer. This position allows her to continue learning about scientific breakthroughs in various therapeutic areas and contribute to dissemination of medically relevant information. The best part of working at AXON Communications for Ashleigh is that each day is different and offers the possibility of learning something new and sharing that knowledge with others.

Leighland Feinman, PhD, joined AXON as a Scientific Affairs Associate and Medical Writer in Fall 2015. Prior to this, he established himself as a keen scientific writer with talent suitable for large-scale editorial venues like The Huffington Post and Mashable. Leighland has written numerous fiction and nonfiction works that have been read by millions of people around the world. Using his rapid



popularity and exposure across multiple publications, Leighland has helped establish several new publishing companies. He has made public appearances at a variety of writing and genre conventions, including the Philadelphia Science Fiction Convention and the Baltimore Science Fiction Society's annual "Balticon." He has also appeared on the popular science podcast This Week in Virology. Leighland's scientific career began as a volunteer at Cornell-Weill Medicine, where his projects involved development of forensic DNA and cancer profiling technologies. From there, he attended the California Institute of Technology where he obtained a bachelor's of science in both biology and history. Leighland went on to obtain his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. His thesis research, which began with investigations of the deadly emerging Nipah virus, showed a new role for the V proteins of paramyxoviruses in deactivating the host innate immune response. Leighland is a science communicator who loves making difficult concepts more accessible—and at AXON, he gets to do that every day.

❖ Dr. Prashanthi Menon, PhD

Chapter Treasurer

❖ Dr. Kirsten Lee, PhD

Regional Clinical Research Associate



Our chapter of the Association of Women in Science (AWIS) serves scientists in the NYC and Metropolitan NY area. Our mission is to empower women to enter, remain, and advance in science careers both inside and outside academia. We provide professional development training and a supportive community with opportunities for networking and mentoring.



❖ Dr. Linda Foit, PhD

Intellectual Property Manager, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research

Linda Foit, PhD, is an Intellectual Property Manager with the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research Ltd, an international not-for-profit organization that has pioneered breakthroughs in cancer research for more than 40 years. In her current role, she identifies areas of Ludwig research suitable for patent protection and technology licensing. Working closely



with scientists world-wide and outside patent counsel, she takes part in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications. Additionally, she works together with the Intellectual Property and Clinical Trials Management teams in the negotiations and drafting of various

agreements, such as license agreements, collaborative research agreements, material transfer agreements (MTAs), service agreements and clinical trial agreements. Previous to that, Dr. Foit trained as a postdoctoral fellow at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. During her postdoctoral training, she aimed to solve scientific problems in a variety of different fields, ranging from biophysics to cancer research to nanotechnology. At Northwestern University (NU), she also gained technology transfer experience by working part-time at the Innovation and New Ventures Office, NU's technology transfer entity. Dr. Foit holds a PhD in Physical Chemistry and a MSc in Biotechnology, both from University of Münster, Germany.

❖ Dr. Christine Marizzi, PhD

Urban Barcode Project Manager, DNA Learning Center

❖ Andrea Alfano

Content Developer & Communicator

Christine Marizzi, PhD, is an award-winning scientist and educator and currently Urban Barcode Project Manager at the DNA Learning Center (DNALC) in New York. The DNALC is the world's first science center devoted entirely to genetics education and is an operating unit of Cold Spring Harbor



Laboratory, an important center for molecular genetics research. The mission of the DNALC is to prepare students and families to thrive in the gene age. Through hands-on and virtual educational experiences for students, teachers, and the public the facilitates learning many standard molecular biology techniques and encourage scientific thinking. With more than a decade in national and international science education, Christine dedicates her time, energy and intellect to help students realize their greatest potential in STEM fields and provides traditionally under-represented students with multiple entry points to academic and professional careers in STEM disciplines. Christine graduated from the University of Vienna with a Master of Sciences degree in microbiology and genetics for investigating the role of a particular protein involved in

RNA splicing during replication in yeast. For her PhD thesis in genetics at the Max. F. Perutz Laboratories, University of Vienna, she worked with a unique stem-cell mutant of the plant model *Arabidopsis thaliana*. You can find Christine on Twitter @cmarizzi.

Andrea Alfano uses digital media such as blog posts, podcasts, and social media to communicate about scientific research and education at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where she works as a Content Developer & Communicator. She has a B.S. in biological sciences from Cornell University and her writing has appeared in publications including Scientific American and Audubon.



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- ❖ Dr. Jeff Skaar, PhD
Engagement Manager
Boston Strategic Partners, Inc.

Founded in 2003, Boston Strategic Partners, Inc. is a global life-science consulting firm with comprehensive clinical, scientific, and business skills providing a multitude of high-value services to clients in industry-leading turnaround times. Our professionals have decades of collective expertise in relevant areas and hold degrees such as MD, MBAs with health industry focus, PhD, and MS in life science specialties, all from top tier schools. Cardiology, oncology, endocrinology, infectious diseases, pain management, neuroscience, immunology – these are just some of the areas where we have performed extensive work. We offer five different types of services exclusively to the life sciences industry: Business & Clinical Strategy, Health Economics & Outcomes Research (HEOR), Medical Communications, Regulatory Strategy, and Financial Advisory. As a core part of our HEOR practice and a supplement to all service areas, we utilize an extensive database of EHR data spanning 15-years and encompassing over 60 million lives and 350 million encounters.

Jeff Skaar, PhD, is an Engagement Manager with Boston Strategic Partners, a boutique consulting firm serving the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry. At BSP, he has led projects in each of the firms practice areas (Business & Clinical Strategy, Health Economics & Outcomes Research, and Medical Communications) for a variety of clients, ranging from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies. Previously, Jeff was a postdoctoral fellow at the NYU School of Medicine. He received his A.B. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University and his PhD in Virology from Harvard University. As a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow, Jeff authored 19 publications.



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- ❖ Dr. Sam Globus, PhD
Director of Scientific Operations
 - ❖ Dr. Emlyn Parfitt, PhD
Director of Biointerpretation

CELMATIX

Named one of Crain's "Biotechs to Watch," Celmatrix is changing the face of women's health through the development of digital tools and diagnostics focused on fertility potential. Founded in 2009, Celmatrix uses big-data and genomics to optimize the treatment of infertility and pave the way for proactive fertility management. Our leadership team includes a diverse group of world-class scientists and professionals, including our CEO/Founder, Dr. Piraye Beim, who was most recently recognized by Inc Magazine as one of the 10 Women to Watch in Tech, Crain's 40 Under 40, and named both a New York City Venture Fellow by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and a Life Sciences Fellow by the New York Biotechnology Association.

Sam Globus, PhD, is currently the Director of Scientific Operations at Celmatrix. He completed a PhD in molecular biology and biochemistry from Weill Cornell University Medical College in New York City. His doctoral research, performed at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, focused on the basic molecular processes that



can lead to various forms of cancer. Prior to his graduate studies, he worked at a biotechnology company developing personalized therapies for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In addition to his PhD, Sam also holds an M.Sc. from University of Oxford in History of Science & Technology, an M.A. from Columbia University in Biotechnology, and a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

Emlyn Parfitt, PhD, is the Director of Biointerpretation at Celmatix. Prior to this, he was a postdoctoral research scientist at Columbia University, where his research focused on defining the gene networks underlying embryonic development and stem cell biology. He received his undergraduate degree in Veterinary Science from the University of Liverpool and a PhD in Embryology from the University of Cambridge.



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- ❖ Dr. Ping Zhang, PhD
Research Staff Member
 - ❖ Dr. Pei-Yun (Sabrina) Hsueh
Research Staff Member



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Ping Zhang, PhD, is a Research Staff Member at Center for Computational Health, IBM T. J. Watson Research Center. He is leading translational informatics research in IBM. His research focuses on Machine Learning, Data



Mining, and their applications to Drug Discovery and Health Informatics. He has published more than 25 articles in refereed journals and conferences, including AMIA, BIBM, ECML/PKDD, KDD, WWW conferences, and BMC Bioinformatics, JAMIA, Nucleic Acids Research, Proteome Science, Scientific Reports journals. Dr. Zhang served on the program committees of leading international conferences including KDD, IJCAI, UAI, SDM, BIBM, and ICHI. He also serves on editorial board of CPT: Pharmacometrics & Systems Pharmacology, an official journal of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology.

Pei-Yun (Sabrina) Hsueh, PhD, is currently working in the Group of Computational Behavioral and Decision Science at IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, leading the technical and thought leadership building initiatives of behavioral analytics-driven instrumented health framework to put patient-generated data in action. She is currently the co-chair of IBM Health Informatics Professional Interest Community (PIC) and the Secretary of Consumer and Pervasive Health Informatics Working Group at American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA CPHI-WG). She was the co-lead of IBM healthcare Global Technology Topic, a serial recipient of manager choice and intervention awards, Google Anita Borg Scholar. She regularly organizes workshops with external partners on the use of patient-controlled devices and patient-generated data in light of consumer health informatics.



❖ **Dr. Erik Lium, PhD**
Senior VP of Mount Sinai Innovation Partners

Erik Lium, PhD, is the Senior Vice President of Mount Sinai Innovation Partners and is responsible for advancing the Mount Sinai Health Systems' research, instruction, and public service missions through



strategic partnerships with industry, the management, transfer and commercialization of Mount Sinai technologies, and fostering the development of new companies to advance promising early-stage technologies. Prior to this role, Erik served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Innovation, Technology & Alliances at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and the UCSF Principal Investigator for the Bay Area National Science Foundation I-Corps node. He held previous positions at UCSF of Assistant Vice Chancellor of Research, Director of Industry Contracts, and Director of Business Development for the Diabetes Center & Immune Tolerance Network. Erik served as President of LabVelocity Inc., an Information Services Company focused on accelerating R&D in the life sciences prior to its acquisition in 2004. He served as a post-doctoral research scientist at UCSF in the laboratory of J. Michael Bishop, MD, and earned a PhD with honors from Columbia University through the Integrated Program for Cellular, Molecular and Biophysical Studies where he studied with Dr. Saul J. Silverstein. Erik holds a BS in Biology from Gonzaga University.

❖ Dr. Bridget Osetinsky, PhD
CEO and Founder

HYPERFINE

Bridget Osetinsky, PhD, is the founder and CEO of Hyperfine. She has a BS in Physics from the University of Notre Dame and a JD from Temple Beasley School of Law. She is the inventor of the technologies. Hyperfine is a software startup with advanced analytics for personalized medicine. It is developing analytics which will advance our understanding of diseases and accelerate drug discovery by providing medical researchers with entirely new methods for arriving at new hypotheses and understanding complex causal relationships.



❖ Dr. Sonia Gulati, PhD
Program Director
KiiLN



Keystone for Incubating Innovation in Life Sciences Network (KiiLN) is a virtual accelerator dedicated to helping early-stage biotechnology companies develop and grow. KiiLN expedites the translation of early innovation into clinically and commercially viable solutions by providing financing strategy, business development support, programming and access to experienced bioentrepreneurs.

Sonia Gulati, PhD, has a broad background in biotechnology strategy consulting, basic science research and business development. Upon completing her doctoral and post-doctoral research at Columbia University, Sonia joined a boutique healthcare consultancy where she helped biotechnology companies meet their commercial development goals by informing their product launch and life cycle management strategies. As a consultant she has worked with an array of clients ranging from small biotechnology companies introducing their first products to established global pharmaceutical companies. Sonia is excited to apply both her strategy consulting and scientific skills to helping early stage companies meet their clinical and commercial goals.

❖ Samantha Batista
Associate
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Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai 7th Annual Postdoctoral Symposium

- ❖ Holly Voorhees
Account Manager
Taconic Biosciences



- ❖ Dr. Yana Zorina, PhD
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Acorda Therapeutics



- ❖ Dr. Sarah Funderburk, PhD
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- ❖ Dr. Adam Vigil, PhD
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- ❖ Chineta Pullin, MBA
Core Administrative Director of the Deans CoREs
- ❖ Hamel Vyas
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2016 State of the Postdoc

The Postdoc Executive Committee (PEC) comprises 26 active leaders from the ISMMS postdoctoral community and serves approximately 600 postdoc constituents - the largest training body at ISMMS. Our mission is to advocate, promote professional development, and foster a sense of community and collaboration. Over the last seven years the PEC has been the primary force advocating for improvement of postdoc policies and benefits, creating and maintaining forward-thinking professional development programming, and cultivating programs and events to build and maintain a strong postdoc community at ISMMS, in NYC, and at a national level. We interface directly with Graduate School Deans and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and write policy for postdoctoral issues. We thank and congratulate all of our former and current members for their outstanding and tireless efforts, including another successful Postdoc Symposium!

In the past year, we've seen tremendous progress for the ISMMS community. Following recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, we established a 5-year term, created a mistreatment resource panel, successfully advocated to increase salaries, and revamped our Secondary Mentoring Portal (registration is always open). In terms of professional development programs, we initiated the first ever formal teaching program called the "Future Leaders in Science Communication and Education" (returning spring 2017), will roll out our new Project Management short course (applications now open!), and maintained our existing Leadership and Conflict Resolution course (coming this Winter). Extracurricular experience and leadership opportunities abound with our Science Communication Writing Group, Mount Sinai Science Policy Group, PlayDocs (a science-based live TV series for children at the Kravis Children's Hospital), Postdoc Periodical, Social Media Team, and Alumni Newsletter. To boot, we gathered record-breaking Annual Survey results (67%

response rate), went on a food tour of the world through our social events, and established a NYC-wide coalition that comprises postdoctoral leaders from 7 major NYC research institutions to collectively develop unified postdoctoral policies for the unique institutional environment in NYC. Keep an eye out for continued progress in the upcoming year including a postdoc alumni career survey, more NYC-wide social events, and an updated postdoc handbook with clarified policies and resources, among many others.

How can you be a part of it? Simple: step away from the bench or computer to take part in any of the PEC leadership opportunities and programs offered within the ISMMS community and the City of New York. Not only will it expand your skillset and interests, but it will also provide valuable professional development and most importantly serve as an enormously rewarding experience advocating for your peers and fellow scientists.

Your PEC co-chairs,
Alison Sanders and Delaine Ceholski

RAFFLE PRIZES

Grab your raffle ticket at the entrance of Davis auditorium before the Keynote talk - winners will be drawn immediately after the Keynote.

Best of luck!

- Your Postdoc Executive Committee

POSTDOC RESOURCES

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