



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY POSTDOC NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2015

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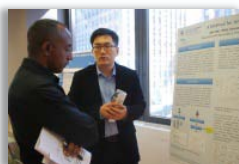
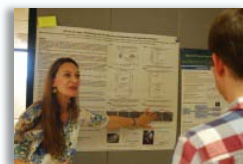
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EDITORS' NOTES

Welcome to the first edition of Columbia University's very own Postdoc Newsletter! For us, by us (well, you know, with substantial support from Rory Flinn and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs). We are hoping to inform and entertain you with various topics related to postdocism, namely career issues, meeting reports, things to do in the city, fun stuff, and the mandatory institution-centered self-adulation that any self-disrespecting newsletter needs.

If you would like to get on board, shoot us an e-mail at cupostdocnewsletter@gmail.com! We welcome any level of involvement, from sending us your favorite quote, to writing a novella about the hardships in the life of a postdoc, to joining the editorial board.

Speaking of which, this edition is proudly brought to you by:

Mulugeta Semework Abebe, PhD, a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Department of Neuroscience with a research focus on single cell neurophysiology of environmental memory, cortical and subcortical mechanisms for eye movements, attention, and spatial processing. Newsletter sections managed include: Research Center Highlights, In the City of New York, Upcoming meetings and design layout.

Alyssa Chamberlain, PhD, a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the College of Dental Medicine with a research focus on the role of oral microbes in extra-oral diseases, particularly colorectal cancer. Newsletter sections managed include: Recently Published and Not To Be Missed In the City of New York.

Rory Flinn, PhD, the Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. Newsletter sections managed include: New Postdocs, Postdocs on the Move, Funding Opportunities, and Events from OPA.

Yalda Moayedi, PhD, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Dermatology with a research focus on usage of naturally derived compounds in treating skin cancer and neural circuits that possess light touch. Newsletter sections managed include: In Your Own Words, Housing Want Ads and New Postdocs.



Back row (L to R): Thomas, Rory and Sitharam
Front row (L to R): Mulugeta, Alyssa and Yalda

Thomas Postler, PhD, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology with a research focus on host-pathogen interactions and immune signaling. Newsletter sections managed include: Research Centers, Random Wisdom and Fun and Collaboration Corner

Sitharam Ramaswami (Ram), PhD, a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Department of Dermatology with a research focus on understanding mechanism of synergy of IL17 and TNF α induced expression of inflammatory genes in Psoriasis. Newsletter sections managed include: Career Focus, design layout and copy editing.

RECENT AWARDS AND HONORS

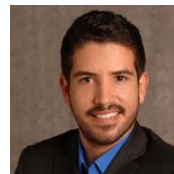


Dr. Aisling O'Hara Hall, PhD a postdoc in the department of Microbiology and Immunology was recently awarded an NIH NRSA F32 Fellowship, through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for a project on mechanisms of immune regulation by long noncoding RNA during Crohn's and celiac diseases.

Dr. Kunal Chaudhary, PhD a postdoc in the department of Radiation Oncology, has been selected for a highly competitive NASA Space Radiation Research Summer School (NSRSS). Co-sponsored by NASA's Space Radiation Research Program, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Universities Space Research Association, the NSRSS is designed to provide a "pipeline" of researchers to tackle the challenges of harmful radiation exposure to humans who will travel on space exploration missions.

POSTDOCS ON THE MOVE

Omar Martinez, JD, MPH, MS, currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the HIV Center at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University recently accepted a Tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Temple University School of Social Work, Philadelphia, PA. His research areas include: LGBT health, HIV prevention, Health Law, Immigration Law, and Health Policy.



Liesbeth Janssen, PhD, currently a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Department of Chemistry will be leaving Columbia soon to return to Germany as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, Heinrich-Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, Germany. Liesbeth was a postdoc council member at Columbia University and contributed to the postdoc council newsletter coming to fruition.

Adrien Baranes, PhD, currently a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Department of Neuroscience, will be leaving Columbia soon to start working at Google. He was a Fulbright and HFSP Scholar while conducting his postdoctoral research in neuroscience and psychology. Adrien will be applying concepts learned from his research by joining a new innovative team in New York.



Brent Osborne, PhD, currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics will be leaving the University soon to join Defined Health in Florham Park, NJ. as a Consultant. Brent was a member of the CUMC postdoc council and served as one of the first co-presidents of the council.

Have you been awarded a fellowship, prize or a special honor? Have you accepted a job offer? Congratulations! Tell us about it by sending us info at cupostdocnewsletter@gmail.com and we can post this info in this section.

RESEARCH CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

The JP Sulzberger Columbia Genome Center (CGC) aims to offer high-quality and cost-effective next-generation genome, exome, and RNA sequencing services. It is designed to serve and collaborate with researchers at Columbia and other academic centers, as well as the general biotechnology and pharmaceutical community. We wanted to learn first-hand about the CGC's foundations and operations, so we sat down with Executive Director Dr. Olivier Couronne, who was kind enough to meet us for an interview. Dr. Couronne joined the CGC in 2011, when Dr. Andrea Califano took over directorship of the CGC and gave the facility a serious make-over. The CGC now boasts top-of-the-line sequencing equipment, around 100 active users, and a multi-million-dollar annual budget. It features two Illumina HiSeq and two Illumina NextSeq sequencers, available to investigators at Columbia and beyond. The CGC is integrated into the Department of Systems Biology, which together with the Irvine Cancer Research Center funds the sequencing equipment. Expenses for salaries and consumables are covered by user fees. For the average client, standardized packages are offered that cover the most common needs. The CGC staff typically has a conversation with the investigator prior to the experimental stage, to ensure potential complications are avoided *a priori*. Users can submit RNA samples directly to the core facility and receive a basic analysis of the raw data, including normalized expression levels of known genes and mapping of reads to reference genomes. The turn-around time for these standard packages is set to three weeks, something Dr. Couronne stresses as a major improvement at CGC compared to longer and less predictable time frames common with sequencing providers. For investigators who require more specialized services, the CGC recently introduced a self-service option: users can be trained on one of the Illumina NextSeq sequencers and operate it independently. For this option, the investigator has to procure all consumables and do everything him-/herself from library preparation to bioinformatics analysis, but has complete control of the time line and the CGC charges only minimal fees to cover the maintenance cost of the sequencer. About 50 users have already signed up for training and there are now 15 trained users.

When asked about his predictions for long-term trends in the field of genome sequencing, Dr. Couronne does not have to think about his answer. "Personalized medicine", he says. "That is the future."

We sincerely thank Drs. Couronne and Califano for taking the time to talk to us.

Thomas & Mulugeta

Useful links to the Columbia Genome Center:

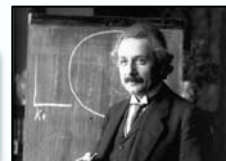
Homepage: <http://systemsbiology.columbia.edu/genome-center>

Pricing for sequencing: <http://systemsbiology.columbia.edu/genome-center/sequencing-pricing>



RANDOM WISDOM AND FUN

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."
- Albert Einstein



Did you know...

...that an octopus weighing 270 kg can squeeze through a tube with the diameter of a Quarter coin?

...that the lizard-like reptile Tuatara (*Sphenodon*) has a third eye in the back of its head, the parietal eye, which detects ultraviolet light? Other animals have similar structures.

... that the biggest seed in the world is the Coco de Mer (*Lodoicea maldivica*), which weighs up to 18 kg?

... that the freshwater animal *Hydra* does not age and is considered to be biologically immortal?

... that the Hairy Horror Frog (*Trichobatrachus robustus*) breaks its own bones to make claw during fighting?

Cartoon Search

Good with a pencil or Photoshop? Bored?
Got the craving to be a contributor to the
legendary Postdoc Newsletter?!

You have come to the right place.
We are looking for cartoons drawn by
post-docs for our next issue! Anything
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Well, within reason.

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for more information.



CAREER FOCUS: A SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

In the first of our Career Focus series, we turn our spotlight on Scientific Publishing. It is, as Dr. Paul-André Genest says "...a profession that allows keeping strong ties with the scientific community, while staying at the forefront of the latest scientific discoveries." If this is something that resonates with your interest for exploring career options outside academia, continue to read along.

Dr. Genest is currently an Associate Publisher who is responsible for the management of eight journals within the life sciences portfolio at Elsevier; the leading scientific information provider, which publishes over 2,500 journals and more than 33,000 books. Prior to this position, he worked as a Scientific Editor at Elsevier for the *International Journal of Parasitology: Drug and Drug Resistance* (IJP:DDR), and *International Journal of Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife* (IJP:PAW) for two years. He was also instrumental in the content development and redesign of the Malaria Nexus web portal (www.malarianexus.com), Elsevier's global malaria resource that provides free access to some of the latest research on malaria. Dr. Genest obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Amsterdam/The Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI), where he worked on the role of the modified DNA base J in the parasite *Leishmania*, and was a postdoctoral fellow working on the same project, under the supervision of Dr. Piet Borst. He also did a four year postdoc studying oncology and aging in the laboratory of Dr. Jacqueline Jacobs at the NKI.

I sat down with Paul-André over a cup of coffee and asked him a few questions. He was more than enthusiastic to share his experience in working for Elsevier.

Question: Why did this area of work interest you and how did you get started?

Paul-André: As a researcher I was curious about knowing the most prominent scientists and the major scientific breakthroughs across various disciplines of life sciences. I also had a keen interest in writing articles and reviewing scientific manuscripts. I was looking for a profession that would allow keeping strong ties with the scientific community, while staying at the forefront of the latest scientific discoveries. These skills are highly valued in the scientific publishing industry, and so, it seemed like a great option. Leaving the ivory tower of academia was difficult. Applying to "real jobs" is definitely a different ballgame. It is much more competitive and I really had to learn to sell myself. It required a lot of job applications and interviews.

Applying to "real jobs" is definitely a different ballgame.

I was turned down several times, something I was not accustomed to, as I got my Ph.D. and postdoctoral positions by having rather informal interviews and recommendations from former mentors. Overtime, after reading a lot of job adverts, and reaching out and discussing with my extended network at some of the major scientific publishing companies (Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Nature, Taylor Francis and PLOS, to name a few), I started getting a better insight into the positions the industry offered. I then tried to identify activities and tasks that I was doing on a daily basis I could translate to the roles of Editor or Publisher, such as reviewing and writing manuscripts, organizing a symposium, participating in a journal club, etc. I then placed them more prominently in my cover letter and resume, and mentioned them during my interviews.

Continued on Page no. 12

WELCOME TO COLUMBIA

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) welcomes new postdocs at the University every other month by holding a new postdoc orientation with a happy hour immediately following. The next orientation and happy hour will take place on Friday, May 22nd from 4:30-5:30 PM and 5:30-8:00 PM, respectively, at CUMC in Hammer 312. RSVP for the orientation by sending OPA an email at cupostdocs@gmail.com with the subject line 'Orientation'. **We welcome to the University, the following new postdocs who have joined us over the last two months:**

Cheryl Wang, Anesthesiology
Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Mirhoseini, Appl
Physics & Appl Math
Luisina De Tullio, Biochem & MolecBiophysics
Chris Froehlich, Biochem & MolecBiophysics
Eduardo Leyva Diaz, Biochem & MolecBiophysics
Li Wang, Biochem & MolecBiophysics
Mingqiang Li, Biomedical Engineering
Clement Jean Papadacci Stephanopoli, Biomedical
Engineering
Hongxia Wang, Biomedical Engineering
Benjamin Cassidy, Biostatistics
Kusum Solanki, Chemical Engineering
Liang An Chen, Chemistry
Jianqiang Ma, Chemistry
Pratyush Tiwary, Chemistry
Jovanka Zivkovic, Dentistry
Eddy Wang, Dermatology
Tiago Lopes Marta da Costa, Electrical Engineering
Katrín Burkart, Environment Health Science
Nicholas DeFelice, Environment Health Science
Zheng Zhou, Environment Health Science
Anna Serlachius, General Medicine
Denny Kollareth Manual, Inst for Human Nutrition
Alessandra Fucci, Institute for Cancer Genetics
Masatoshi Shiono, Institute for Cancer Genetics
Iva Simeonova, Institute for Cancer Genetics
Sarah Nataraj, Institute for Cancer Genetics
Gokhan Ordek, Integrative Neurosciences
Jung Park, Integrative Neurosciences
Hans Maurer, Irving Cancer Center
Paul Betka, Marine Geology & Geophysics
Jean-Arthur Olive, Marine Geology & Geophysics
Maria Avila, Medicine Cardiology
Paola Casanova, Medicine Cardiology
Omid Javdan, Medicine Cardiology

Wenju Chang, Medicine Digestive & Liver Diseases
Zhengyu Jiang, Medicine Digestive & Liver Diseases
Marina Macchini, Medicine Digestive & Liver
Diseases
Chun-Hui Jin, Medicine Immunology
Liangsong Song, Medicine Immunology
Tatiana Toro Ramos, Medicine Obesity
Pankaj Giri, Microbiology
Manu Vanaerschot, Microbiology
Tai-Yuan Yu, Microbiology
Kristin McCabe, Molecular Medicine
Yang Tang, Molecular Medicine
Marti Juanola Falgarona, Neurology
Giulio Kleiner, Neurology
Ciara Torres, Neurology
Sami Hassan, Neuroscience
Yagna Pathak, NeuroSurgery
Kalliopi Iordanidou, Nevis Laboratories
Samip Bhattarai, Pathology
Andrea Dal Mas, Pathology
Nicolas Delestree, Pathology
Ladan Fazlollahi, Pathology
Francesca Rapido, Pathology
Eileen Workman, Pathology
Divya Kesters, Pharmacology
Allison Anacker, Psychiatry
Anastasia Stoops, Psychiatry Experimental
Therapeutics
Leticia Martinez-Morentin, Rehab and Regenerative
Medicine
Christopher Havlin, Seismology, Geo & Tectonphys
Fernando Seffner, Sociomedical Science
Johannes Friedrich, Statistics
Ahmed Al-Mazour, Surgery Colorectal
Alban-Elouen Baruteau, Surgery CT
Xiangyou Liu, Surgery GI/Endo
Domenica Federica Briganti, Surgery Thoracic

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Article: “Calcium release channel RyR2 regulates insulin release and glucose homeostasis.”

Authors: Gaetano Santulli, MD, PhD, Gennaro Pagano, Celestino Sardu, Wenjun Xie, Steven Reiken, Salvatore Luca D’Ascia, Michele Cannone, Nicola Marziliano, Bruno Trimarco, Theresa A. Guise, Alain Lacampagne, and Andrew R. Marks

Affiliation: Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, CUMC

published on April 6 2015 in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation (JCI)*. Read the article here <http://www.jci.org/articles/view/79273>

Santulli and colleagues shed light on the regulation of insulin secretion and glucose homeostasis through the investigation of patients who experience cardiac arrhythmias caused by mutations in type 2 ryanodine receptor (RyR2) channels. These calcium channels are localized to the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), and are found in cardiomyocytes and pancreatic β cells among other cell types. Previously, the critical role of RyR2-dependent calcium release in excitation-contraction coupling has been known. However, until the work of Santulli et al. presented in this article, a functional role for RyR2 in β cells, specifically in insulin secretion and glucose homeostasis, has been unknown. What the authors found was that patients with a mutation in RyR2 that results in a “leaky” channel present with glucose intolerance (type 2 diabetes). The role of RyR2 in glucose homeostasis was confirmed in studies involving transgenic mice in which RyR2 is mutated as in humans. Researchers observed impaired glucose homeostasis including decreased insulin secretion along with an intracellular calcium leak via these RyR2 channels. As stated in a commentary about this work Dr. Santulli, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics said:

“From a clinical point of view, the current results raise the intriguing possibility that the relationship between diabetes and cardiovascular disorders may be more complex than previously appreciated, wherein diabetes could be both a risk factor for, and a sequela of heart disease.”

Furthermore, researchers tested pharmacologic intervention, using a drug that has previously been established to prevent ER calcium leaks, on insulin secretion and glucose homeostasis. These studies, performed in a mouse model, showed that pharmacologic intervention leads to stabilization of RyR2 resulting in improved insulin secretion and glucose tolerance. These findings provide a promising new strategy for treating diabetes.

Alyssa

Call For Submissions



Are you a Postdoc or a Fellow who has recently published? Would you like to share your work with the Columbia University community? If so contact us at cupostdocnewsletter@gmail.com. Please submit the article information along with quarter page summary of significance and impact of this publication in your field.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral fellowships are available from a variety of sources and across nearly every discipline. Please visit <http://www.postdocs.columbia.edu/funding.html> to view resources available to you that will aide in your search for funding opportunities as well as to see an expansive list of specific postdoctoral fellowship opportunities. Below is a list of several postdoctoral fellowships and career development awards with deadlines in the coming months:

NIH K-awards (career development/pathway to Independence awards): new application deadlines June 12th and October 12th ; Next resubmissions deadline: July 12th and November 12th
<http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards.htm>

NSF Earth Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowships (EAR-PF): deadline July 20th
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/fastlane.pdoc.DisplayProgramType>
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503144

NSF Science, Technology, and Society Postdoctoral Fellowships (STS): deadline August 3rd
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/fastlane.pdoc.DisplayProgramType>
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5324&org=SES&from=home

NIH F32 (postdoctoral fellowships): deadlines August 8th and December 8th
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-149.html>

Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Awards for Medical Scientists (CAMS): deadline October 1st
<http://www.bwfund.org/grant-programs/biomedical-sciences/career-awards-medical-scientists>

NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowships (AAPF): deadline October 14th
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/fastlane.pdoc.DisplayProgramType>
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5291&org=MPS&from=home

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF): deadline October 21st
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/fastlane.pdoc.DisplayProgramType>
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5301&org=MPS&from=home

NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowships (SPRF): deadline October 26th
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/fastlane.pdoc.DisplayProgramType>
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504810&org=SMA&from=home

NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB): deadline November 3rd
<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/fastlane.pdoc.DisplayProgramType>
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503622&org=DBI&from=home

EVENTS FROM THE OFFICE OF POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS (OPA)

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) in collaboration with ASCENT Fellows Program, a professional development program for computer science postdocs (<http://www.nycascent.org/>), would like to share with the Columbia University postdoc community a very special event that we have been planning for you:

The 2nd Annual Columbia University Postdoc Research and Career Symposium

What: 2015 Columbia University Postdoc Research and Career Symposium, featuring:

- a postdoc research poster session with up to 100 posters presented
- four short research talks by postdocs
- an industry career fair
- a keynote speaker
- catered lunch and evening networking reception



Why: The symposium is for Columbia University Postdocs to:

- present their research to the Columbia University research community
- learn about industry career opportunities
- network and form new interdisciplinary collaborations

Who: The event is for:

- all postdocs at Columbia University and all ASCENT fellows (entire event)
- all members of the Columbia University research community (postdoc research poster session and postdoc research talks).

When: An all-day event on Thursday, September 17th 2015

- early abstract submission period June 15 – July 13 for consideration for short talk or poster presentation
- late abstract submission period July 14 – August 10 for consideration for poster presentation only

Where: Morningside Campus, Lerner Hall: Roone Auditorium, Cinema, and Party Space

Website: Visit [:http://www.cuascentpostdocsymposium.com/](http://www.cuascentpostdocsymposium.com/) for Abstract Submission info

How you can help make the event a success:

- Submit an abstract – if selected you will present a poster or talk and be given the opportunity to attend one of two amazing workshops here this summer led by SciPhD and the Alda Center for Science communication
- Spread the word about the event, and attend the event in September

EVENTS FROM THE OFFICE OF POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS (OPA)

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) has been very busy organizing new programming and events for you, the postdoc community, that will take place in the weeks and months ahead. Here are some of the more noteworthy upcoming events:

KiiLN: A Panel Session on How a Group of Postdoc Entrepreneurs Launched a Biotech Incubator: Tuesday, May 12th 6-7:30 PM, Medical Campus, Russ Berrie Room 2. <https://calendar.columbia.edu/sundial/webapi/get.php?vt=detail&br=default&id=78226>

How to conduct research that gets published and noticed: Monthly series for postdocs occurring on the third Thursday of each month 12-1 PM on Medical Campus from April-November. <http://postdocseries.wikischolars.columbia.edu/home>. Next session on 5/21

Career Talk on Becoming a Medical Science Liaison: In the evening of June 10th, a recent Columbia Postdoc Alum will share her career story and offer advice about becoming a medical science liaison. More info on this event to be sent out in the digest

End of the Semester Postdoc Party: As is our tradition, we will hold an end of the academic year Postdoc Happy Hour – tentatively this event has been scheduled for Friday, June 19th at a bar close to the Morningside Campus. More details to come.

Transitioning to Research Independence: This 10 session short course for postdocs will take place from mid-July through early September, and will be focused on preparing for a faculty career and provide insights into scientific management. Check the digest in late May for announcements about this sure to be popular course.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) has run a number of interesting career and professional development events, as well as fun social and networking events over the past few months. We wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the most popular and highly rated events:

On March 20th Professor Bob Bontempo from the Columbia Business School led a fantastic Negotiation and Emotional Intelligence Workshop

On April 16th OPA launched the Postdoc Teaching course with every seat in the course taken. This very popular course will be offered again next Spring.

On April 29th we closed out this year's monthly career panel series with a panel session on Teaching and Education careers for PhD students and postdocs

On April 30th we held a Postdoc Bowling Night – an event we will definitely hold again next Spring

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

The Commuter

By: Qiana Brown, PhD, MPH, MSW

The Commuter is a column that details the daily commute of a postdoctoral research fellow in and out of the City, and captures both her enthusiasm about becoming a New Yorker, and the A-Train shenanigans that abound.

Becoming a New Yorker!

During one of my first trips on the A-Train in New York, a jazz duet was performing right in the middle of the train car. I've never seen anything like this when I was a commuter in Philly, my hometown.

Jazz - my favorite type of music and a free show! The girl sang while the guy played the trumpet. They were phenomenal! Artists going after their dreams – there was a certain freedom about this – performing at what seemed to be an unconventional venue, the A-Train, and I was there to witness it first-hand! It was inspiring!



I moved around, from one seat to another to get a better view, and to record the show using my phone's camera. None of the other commuters appeared interested in the show – as they were likely seasoned New Yorkers and used to the everyday A-Train performances – and a few people seemed more amused by me jumping from seat to seat to get the best view.

The artists thanked me at the end of their performance for my enthusiasm, as they were getting off of the train. I was excited to be in New York and if this was any indicator of what my daily commute in and out of the City would entail, I knew I would absolutely love becoming a New Yorker!

Qiana Brown is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health. Follow Qiana on Twitter @DrQianaBrown.

Have a story, poetry or other literary piece that you want to share? Submit an entry to be included in the next edition of the postdoc newsletter at: cupostdocnewsletter@gmail.com with the subject line "In your words."

CAREER FOCUS: *continued.*

Question: How did you get your job at Elsevier?

Paul-André: I kept applying in Europe and in the US. I was turned down several times. I then came across a job posting for a Managing Editor for Parasitology Journals at Elsevier in Boston. I had the perfect scientific background for the job. My current and former PIs were also very supportive and sent great letters of recommendation. I wanted that job so bad that I had prepared a binder full of notes. I do not think I was ever more prepared for an interview. During the interview, the hiring manager, who was based in New York, pitched the job to me for about an hour and I asked if it was possible to work from the New York office. Elsevier agreed to my request. After working for two years in the role of Managing Editor, I got promoted to my current position as Associated Publisher. So the take home message here is probably that you have to be out there and keep generating opportunities for yourself, without getting discouraged when you get turned down. Eventually, the right job will come your way.

Question: Looking back, would you change anything in your preparation?

Paul-André: Naturally, knowing what you want and do not want is key to preparing for any job search. I am not sure I would change the way how I prepared to leave academia. I think research and networking are at the core of the process. Looking at job postings and company websites will help you get an idea of what jobs are out there and what is required from you. You have to be honest with your feelings as regards to what or who you want to become. So the faster you figure that out, the easier it gets. With hindsight, I could have made my move to leave academia, earlier. I also wish I had learned how to best sell myself, a little

sooner. My advice is, as soon as you see that an academic career is not the right path for you, be confident and make your move.

Question: What is your typical day like?

Paul-André: The atmosphere in my office is very friendly and professional. My colleagues are very helpful and we really work as a team and tap into each other's experience. There is no typical day for me as a Publisher. Every day is different; there are plenty of good surprises and sometimes few less good ones... Depending on the day, I spend about 25-50% of my time answering emails from editors, journal managers, authors and other colleagues. These communications could range from editorial workflows, production processes, editor's contract negotiations, to payments and journal promotional campaigns. I also spend a lot of time on planning trips and editorial board meetings. In addition, I report on the performance of my journals and ensure my spending is in accordance to my allocated budget. Every now and then, I have a training to attend to. The rest of my time goes into business development, like the launch or acquisition of new conferences or journals. So, as you can see, my role is pretty varied. To me, this makes the job particularly interesting, stimulating and exciting. I have a lot of freedom regarding what I do and when I do my job. I do not have many hard deadlines, but naturally I have to be ready in time to set the stage and give my presentations at editorial board meetings.

...keep generating opportunities for yourself, without getting discouraged when you get turned down.

CAREER FOCUS: *continued.*

Question: What particular skills or talents are most essential to be effective in your job?

Paul-André: As you are constantly in communication (both written and oral) with your editors, colleagues and authors, having great communication skills is imperative. You also need to be a good manager and have to be pragmatic, and sometimes diplomatic regarding the decisions you make. You should ideally be scientific and technology savvy. Being a good team player is vital, as you constantly need to work with your editors and colleagues to meet your goals and targets. Flexibility and willingness to travel are also important, as your editors, colleagues and customers are located all over the world.

Question: What advice do you have for graduate students or postdocs interested in pursuing a career in Publishing?

Paul-André: Visiting the websites of the major scientific publishing companies, societies, and university presses is a great place to start. The Scholarly Kitchen blog (<http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/>), which often has interesting news and comments on the publishing industry, is another excellent source of information. There are also a handful of headhunters (like Jack Farrell and Associates, and Personnel Associates) that are specialized in recruitment in the scientific publishing industry. Make sure to know them and then send your resume with a brief note about your experience and career aspirations. In order to break into this business, having experience as an author and/or reviewer is definitively a big plus. Besides that, anything that can demonstrate an interest in scientific communication: participation in a journal club, having a scientific blog, organization of a scientific symposium, etc. will definitely be to your advantage. Be prepared

to be able to confidently demonstrate the value YOU can bring to the organization.

...having great communication skills is imperative.

Question: What is a typical career path for you or anyone in Publishing?

Paul-André: One progresses and gets promoted in Publishing, as in any other industry, by working hard, being proactive, and showing you are ambitious and innovative. If all goes well, I would like to progress to the next step; that would mean a promotion to the level of Publisher. Then I hope to move up the ladder to Senior Publisher and Executive Publisher. People often switch to different departments so there are definitely an infinite number of paths within the company depending on where your interests and ambitions lie.

On a lighter vein, Paul-André also mentions that a career in scientific publishing offers great perks like traveling and working from major city centers with an exciting lifestyle. He says most people work for about eight hours a day, five days a week. He rarely works during weekends, unlike his postdoc days. "Every now and then you have to work outside the usual business hours, mostly when traveling but normally the expectations are very reasonable and manageable."

Sitharam
Ramaswami
(Ram)



IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Theatre/ Music



- **Celebrate Brooklyn**
<http://bricartsmedia.org/performing-arts/celebrate-brooklyn>
- **Summer stage**
<http://www.cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage/>
- **Concerts**
<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/music/summer-concerts-in-nyc?>
- **Theatre**
<http://www.newyorkcitytheatre.com/>

Sports



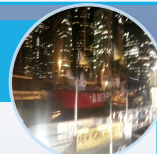
- **Soccer**
- **Basketball**
- **Baseball** <http://www.meetup.com/NYCWorldCup/>
- **Hockey**
- **NYC Mayor's cup**
<http://www.nycgo.com/sports>
- **NYC Marathon**
<http://www.tcsnycmarathon.org/>
- **Sports News**
<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/sports/index.html>

Science/Art festivals



- **World Science Festival**
<http://www.worldsciencefestival.com/>
- **Javits center events**
<http://www.javitscenter.com/events.aspx?mid=376>
- **NY Events & Festivals**
<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do/events-festivals>

Movie events



- **Rooftop Films**
<http://rooftopfilms.com/>
- **Summer outdoor movies**
<http://www.thrillist.com/entertainment/new-york/outdoor-movie-nyc-calendar>
http://www.nycgovparks.org/events/free_summer_movies
- **NY Film Festivals**
<http://www.filmlinc.com/nyff2014/nyffschedule>

Exhibits and shows



- **Javits center events**
<http://www.javitscenter.com/events.aspx?mid=376>
- **TimeOut New York best museum exhibitions**
<http://www.timeout.com/newyork/attractions/best-museum-exhibitions-in-nyc>
- **NYC shows**
<http://www.broadway.com/>

NOT TO BE MISSED IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Le District Café, Restaurant, Marché

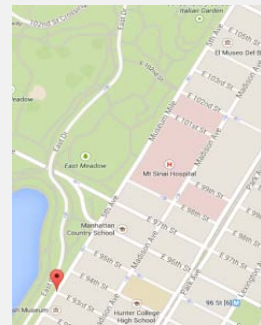
Located at 225 Liberty Street in NYC, Le District offers up a taste of French Culture. It was designed to resemble a French neighborhood. Take a leisurely stroll and explore the neighborhood, the Market District, the Garden District, the Café District and the Restaurant District. Explore the different specialty shops ranging from cheese, meats and bread, to coffee and pastries. Sit down have a drink and sample some of their offerings, or grab a treat to go. For a more formal dining experience check out one of the restaurants housed in the Restaurant District. Check them out at

<http://www.ledistrict.com/index.cfm>.

Museum Mile Festival

June 9, 2015 6pm-9pm

Free admission to all museums along Fifth Avenue between 82nd and 105th Streets)



Summer Movie Nights

June 11th-
August 17th 2015

Catch a free movie in the park. Events being held throughout the summer in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx. Check the schedule on the [NYC Parks website](#) to find an event near you.



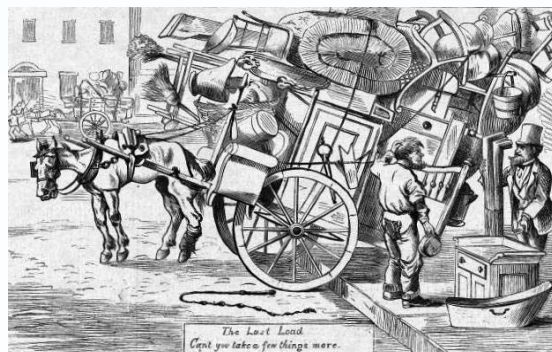
10th Anniversary Jazz Age Lawn Party

June 13 & 14, 2015 and
August 15 & 16, 2015

Step back in time to the roaring 20s and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Jazz Age Lawn Party at Governor's Island. Drink classic cocktails, catch performances paying tribute to Jazz from the 1920s, including Michael Arenella And His Dreamland Orchestra as well as Queen Esther, and watch dance performances by the Minsky Sisters and Roddy Caravella and the Canarsie Wobblers. Looking for other fun activities? Take 20s inspired dance lessons, check out the 1920s motorcar exhibitions. Try your hand at classic carnival games and show off your best Charleston in the dance contest. Tickets range from \$35 to \$95 a person. Find them on [eventsprout](#).

HOUSING WANT ADS

Have an extra room that needs to be filled or want to find a roommate to fill a new place? Have an apartment worth of things to sell? Send an email to cupostdocs@gmail.com with the subject line "housing want ads" to list an ad in the next issue.



I am a post-doc moving out of NY after 3.5 years at Columbia (Morningside campus). I'm interested in selling the entire contents of my apt, including: furniture (bed, tables, chairs, sofa, dressers, bookcases, etc.), small appliances (air conditioner, heater, fan, microwave, vacuum cleaner, lamps, etc.), and various household items, all in very good condition. Will offer attractive prices and giveaways, in particular if multiple items are sold. Please contact me (scarmi@cs.columbia.edu) between May 15 and June 30.

Check out <http://postdocs.columbia.edu/housing.html#2> for information on housing in NYC along with a listing of useful websites for finding housing. Also, look at the Columbia University off-campus housing assistance page for listings geared towards the Columbia community (<http://facilities.columbia.edu/housing/intro-ocha-3>).

COLLABORATION CORNER

Can't get that experiment to work?

Need out-of-lab expertise?

Want to try out some new-fangled equipment?



Perhaps we can help you. Well, not "we", but someone on campus. In this section of the Newsletter, you can suggest co-operations, ask for recommendations or even offer your expertise, if you're looking to get on some else's paper. We will print your requests in the next issue.

Send us an e-mail at cupostdocnewsletter@gmail.com for more information.

UPCOMING ACADEMIC MEETINGS

American Astronomical Society(AAS) High-Energy Space Missions in the 2020s

| June 29 – July 1 2015 | Chicago, IL

https://aas.org/meetings/high_energy_decadal

American Accounting Association (AAAHQ) 2015 Annual Meeting

| August 8-12, 2015 | Chicago, IL

<http://aaahq.org/Meetings/Annual-Meeting>

American Statistical Association(AMSTAT) 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings

| August 8 - 13, 2015 | Seattle, WA

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2015/>

American Chemical Society ACS 250th National Meeting & Exposition

| August 16-20, 2015 | Boston, MA

<http://www.globaleventslist.elsevier.com/events/2015/08/250th-ac-s-national-meeting-exposition/>

The American Sociological Association(ASA) 110th Annual Meeting

| August 22-25, 2015 | Chicago, IL

http://www.asanet.org/am2015/am_2015.cfm

Society For Neuroscience (SfN's) 45th annual meeting

| October 17-21, 2015 | Chicago, IL

<http://www.sfn.org/annual-meeting/neuroscience-2015>

American Public Health Association(APHA) Annual Meeting & Exposition

| Oct. 31-Nov.4 2015 | Chicago, IL

<https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual>

American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) 2015 Annual Meeting

| December 12-16, 2015 | San Diego, CA

<http://ascb.org/2015meeting/>

American Association for the Advancement of Science(AAAS) Annual Meeting

| Feb. 11-15, 2016 | Wash., DC

<http://meetings.aaas.org/program/meeting-timeline/>

NYAS scientific/career development events that may interest you. Coming soon:

Genome Integrity Discussion Group Year-End Meeting

Monday, June 1, 2015 | 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Phylogenetics and HIV Response

Thursday, June 4, 2015 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Scientists Teaching Science

June 8 - August 10, 2015

For others go to: <http://www.manhattancc.org/events/eventdetail.aspx?EventID=1640>

Other events :

New York Postdocs

<https://sites.google.com/site/newyorkpostdocs/>

National Postdoctoral Association

<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/>

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY POSTDOC NEWSLETTER

