



# Postdoctoral Affairs

*Office of Research*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

## UGA Postdoc Newsletter

**March 6th, 2023**

A publication of the UGA Office of Postdoctoral Affairs with announcements and opportunities in support of our postdoc community.

Visit the [Postdoc Portal](#).

### **In this Newsletter:**

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### **Upcoming PDA Social Events**

This month's social will be at **5:30 pm on Friday, March 31st**. We will host it on the **third floor of Coverdell** (500 D. W. Brooks Drive) on campus. You can enter the building before 7 pm. Snacks and non-alcohol drinks will be provided. Feel free to additionally bring your favorite food or drink (NO alcohol please) for sharing (but not required).

### **Chat with us on WhatsApp**

We have created a postdoc WhatsApp group to allow postdocs to connect informally with each other. If you are interested in joining the group, please provide your information [here](#).

### **Additional listservs' for postdocs**

To better serve the diversity in our community, we are planning to create additional listserv's for diverse postdoc groups, eg, group of new parents who may share information of babysitting, daycare etc., group of international postdocs, or group of information (e.g., tips/tricks regarding coming to UGA/Athens). If you feel you would benefit from additional listservs, please contact [pdassoc@uga.edu](mailto:pdassoc@uga.edu) indicating what group you'd like to have. Once we receive enough interest, we'll set up such groups.

# Featured Announcements

**Postdoc summer training opportunities** - Scholarships (**deadline 3/7**) and early-bird rates are available

Our annual registration opening announcement for the summer Skills for Health and Research Professionals (SHARP) Program is here! Geared towards early-career faculty and postdocs, these 1-4-day trainings in omics, data science, climate, and professional development provide immediate take away skills for investigators from any institution and are offered in a variety of in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats.

This year, we've added some exciting new topics (PI's Business of Research, Statistical Analysis with Missing Data, Indigenous Environmental Health Research, Code Rigor and Reproducibility in R, Exposure Modeling, Bayesian Modeling, Creating Compelling Research Narrative, etc.) for a [total of 29 summer trainings](#), many of which I believe will be of interest to your postdoctoral fellows. [Each training has scholarships](#) for early-stage postdocs and trainees from any organization, with the scholarship deadline around the corner on **3/7**. Capacity is limited.

See [flyer here](#).

**UGA Life Sciences Career Day** - March 30, 2023; UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Please note that there is a \$25 registration fee which will include breakfast, lunch, and a reception along with the ability to have first-hand access to life sciences' professionals from industry, government, and non-profit organizations including:

- Scott Nordstrom, DVM - Merck
  - Jamie Deeter - Roche
  - Jan Spaas – Boehringer Ingelheim
  - Adrienne Madison - US Army
  - Bill Scheibe - ORISE & FDA
  - Heidi O'Donnel - ORISE & CDC
- And many more!

**To register, follow this [link](#) to register and for more information. Once you have made it to the registration page, click 'Postdoc Registration'. Spots are limited so secure your spot today!**

**Rising Stars Symposium: 2nd annual junior faculty and postdoctoral diversity recruiting event** –May 3-5, 2023; Sanford Burnham Prebys; Application Deadline: **March 13, 2023**

The Rising Stars Symposium showcases the biomedical research of exceptional postdoctoral and junior faculty candidates from across the country. Candidate selections are based on academic achievements, research scholarship and general fit with Sanford Burnham Prebys laboratories.

We invite you to apply for this valuable career, networking and professional development event. We will showcase the biomedical research of exceptional scientists, especially those seeking:

**Postdoctoral Opportunities**

- For late-stage doctoral students who are less than two years from completing their Ph.D. program

**Junior Faculty Opportunities**

- For late-stage postdoctoral scholars seeking faculty appointments

**To attend the Symposium as an audience member, please RSVP [here](#).**

**Request for Information (RFI): Re-envisioning U.S. Postdoctoral Research Training and Career Progression within the Biomedical Research Enterprise (Deadline: **April 14, 2023**)**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) seeks information from extramural research community members regarding the current state of postdoctoral research training and career progression within the biomedical research enterprise. NIH is particularly interested in understanding the perspective and experience of recent and current postdoctoral trainees, postdoctoral office leaders, as well as graduate students considering becoming postdoctoral trainees within the academic sector. This RFI will assist NIH in hearing the voices of postdoctoral trainees along with others impacted by this unique and skilled training position, and in exploring ways to address some of the fundamental challenges faced by the postdoctoral trainee community. This information will inform the development of recommendations by the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD), an advisory group that provides advice on matters pertinent to NIH mission responsibilities in the conduct and support of biomedical research, medical science, and biomedical communications.

Review of this entire RFI notice is encouraged to ensure your response is comprehensive and to have a full understanding of how it will be utilized. Please provide feedback [here](#) before 2023-04-14 11:59:59 PM EST.

**Postdoctoral Scholar Domestic and Foreign Travel Program**

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is pleased to launch the [Postdoctoral Scholar Domestic and Foreign Travel Funds Program](#). This program provides matching funds

for active UGA postdocs to present their current research at national and international academic conferences. Matching funds (at least 1:1) must be identified and may be provided by the postdoc's research mentor/supervisor, unit, or college, or by an external travel award or grant. The maximum funding from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is **\$1,500** per domestic trip or **\$2,000** per international trip.

Applications will be reviewed in quarterly intervals, with deadlines on the second Tuesday of August, November, February, and May. **The next deadline will be May 9th, 2023.**

### **International Coffee Hour with KUSA (Korean Undergraduate Student Association)**

A weekly program that brings UGA students, faculty staff and community members together for coffee and international cuisine. Excluding scheduled University breaks, this event occurs **every Friday of the fall and spring semesters from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**. This event is located in the Memorial Hall Ballroom. More info can be found [here](#).

### **Athens, GA Events (non UGA affiliated events):**

An event calendar for local events in Athens can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## **Postdoc Spotlight: Introducing our Postdocs**

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to introducing the amazing and diverse body of postdoctoral researchers working at UGA. Each month, the PDA will introduce 1-2 of our postdocs. If you are interested, please contact the PDA ([pdassoc@uga.edu](mailto:pdassoc@uga.edu)) with a short biography (~100 words) and a photo. In your biography, you can include your current affiliation at UGA and research, the institution you completed your PhD, the focus of your PhD thesis/dissertation, and any professional experience prior to UGA, etc. You can also add information about your background (e.g., where you are originally from) and hobbies beyond academia. Feel free to share your professional website and/or social media if you like.



**Heather F Lavender**

*NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

*Department of Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education  
in the Mary Frances Early College of Education*

I received a Postdoctoral grant ([The Young Black Girl: Influencing Science Interest and Commitment to STEM through the Merging of Lived Experiences of Learning in an Out-of-School Program](#)) from the National Science Foundation this year to start my postdoctoral fellowship and selected Mary Atwater as a Sponsoring Researcher and UGA as a host institution. I am overjoyed to be one of two in the entire state of Georgia to carry such a grant and excited to do the work. My research “stems” from the recommendations that I put forth in my dissertation (The Young Black Girl: A Narration of STEM Identity through Science Origin in Elementary School), completed at Louisiana State University in December 2021. My current work focuses on the science experience, exposure, and identity of young Black girls. Overall, I hope to lead my research to encompass the K-5 girl as I am passionate regarding equity for women and girls in STEM and STEM careers. Prior to UGA, I worked as an Education and Outreach Coordinator at LSU, after several years as Research Associate in Microbiology in many states. I am originally from Louisiana. When I’m not working, I enjoy hiking, time with friends, thoroughly missing Louisiana during Mardi Gras, joining my husband as the personal schedulers to our two boys, and time with my beloved Goldendoodle Beignet. You can find out more about me at [heatherlavender](#).



**Michelle Pena MacLellan**

*Postdoctoral Research Associate*

*Department of Plant Pathology*

Dr. Pena received a M.S. in Agronomy – Genetics and Plant Breeding and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Livestock Microbiology from the São Paulo State University – Brazil. During her M.S she used barcode approach to find molecular markers (mitochondrial, chloroplastidial and/or nuclear genes) for plants discrimination. For her Ph.D. she focused on the study of citrus-*Xanthomonas* interactions, working on the functional analysis of hypothetical proteins from *Xanthomonas citri* spp. *citri* responsible for bacterial virulence and pathogenicity. Dr. Pena has served as Postdoctoral Fellow at Auburn University where she worked with pathogenic and nonpathogenic bacteria investigating their diversity, mechanisms of interaction and how we can explore the evolutionary dynamic and the potential influence of these plant-associated microbes on the overall plant health. In her new position as Postdoctoral Research Associate under Dr. Dutta’s vegetable extension program she will work on pathogenic bacterial (*Xanthomonas* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp., *Burkholderia* spp.) of diverse vegetable crops (onion, cucurbits, pepper, and tomato), investigating their virulence mechanisms, potential survival and seed-to-seedling transmission, integrated disease

management and seed treatments to reduce bacterial survival and seedling transmission.

## UGA Events and Opportunities

**[Professional Education Portal \(PEP\)](#)**: use your UGA credential to access the portal.

The summer schedule includes virtual and in-person classes related to:

- Mental Health and Well-being
- Unconscious Bias
- Human Trafficking Awareness
- Diversity Inclusion and Belonging
- Time Management
- Leadership

### **[Office of Experiential Professional Development \(xPD\)](#)**

The xPD program is designed to support career planning and is open to both graduate students and postdocs. While some information is aimed to support graduate students, many of the resources and topics covered by this office are applicable to postdocs. We highly encourage postdocs to utilize these on-campus resources, please see below for highlighted events and new resources:

Postdocs are invited and welcome to all these events. The [events calendar](#) lists all events and any questions may be directed to Andrew Crain ([acrain@uga.edu](mailto:acrain@uga.edu)).

### **[Office of Research](#)** **[Research Matters](#)**

The Office of Research hosts a listserv that shares large funding opportunities and internal competition announcements weekly as well as a calendar of current limited submissions opportunities.

### **[All Funding](#)**

[All Funding – Research Matters \(uga.edu\)](#)

### **[The Foundation Relations team](#)**

[Foundation Relations Funding Opportunities - UGA Development & Alumni Relations](#)

### **[Limited Submissions](#)**

[Limited Submissions – Research Matters \(uga.edu\)](#)

### **[Subscribe to Pivot](#)**

Pivot is a database of more than 25,000 funding opportunities from numerous sponsors across all disciplines. By signing up, you can create custom funding alerts,

share opportunities with groups and save and track opportunities. Anyone with a UGA MyID can access this valuable resource.

### [Sign up for Weekly Funding Alerts](#)

The Office of Research hosts a listserv that shares large funding opportunities and internal competition announcements weekly.

### **UGA Resources**

#### [Aurora](#) via xPD

Video resource library for both faculty and professional career paths.

#### [Interstride](#) via UGA Career Center

Career development platform focused on International job searching and visa information

#### [UGA I-Corps](#) via NSF Innovation Corps

Hands-on training in research commercialization

## Available Resources

### **UGA Postdoctoral Resources**

- [UGA Postdoc Portal](#)
- [Office of Research](#)
- [Postdoc Policy](#)
- [UGA Research Funding Alerts & Announcements](#)
- [UGA Research News](#)
- [UGA Arch Ready Professionalism Certificate Programs](#)

### **UGA Office of Research**

#### [Research Matters](#)

Research Matters is a compilation of UGA research news items, including funding opportunities and other announcements, relevant to researchers, research administrators and their staff at the University of Georgia. Research Matters is disseminated monthly to [subscribers](#).

#### [Research Matters Live](#)

The Office of Research will offer a series of remote presentations by Research administrators and personnel to help UGA researchers navigate the challenges that face them during this unprecedented time. These short, targeted Zoom sessions are intended to answer your questions without burdening your day—each presentation will last 15-20 minutes, with additional time for Q&A. Sessions are also archived for later viewing.

### **UGA Postdoc Portal Career Development**

#### [Postdoc Fellowships and Positions](#)



- [NIH Postdoctoral Training Opportunities](#)
- [NSF Opportunities for Postdoctoral Fellows](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University – Postdoctoral Funding Opportunities](#): This is a continuously updated repository of federal and private funding opportunities that are intended for postdoctoral investigators. The opportunities are pre-sorted chronologically and alphabetically and can be searched by funding amount and subject matter.
- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [Nature Jobs](#)
- [Science Careers AAAS](#)
- [HigherEd Jobs](#)
- [Internships and Fellowships in Science and Technology Policy](#)

## Additional Postdoctoral Resources

- [National Postdoctoral Association](#)
- [Postdoc Academy](#)
- [Inside Higher Ed](#)
- [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)
- [National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity](#)

## Diversity Resources

If you would like to learn more about available UGA resources on campus concerning discrimination, diversity, and disability services, the [Office of Institutional Diversity](#) (OID) at UGA can provide further information and links. The Office of Institutional Diversity leads the university in fulfilling its commitment to be a diverse campus that is enriched and informed by the personal, cultural, and intellectual differences of its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Diversity resources available at UGA can be found [here](#). The [Office of Human Resources](#) can also provide further information concerning disability services and accommodations at UGA as well as other work-related issues.

[Minority Postdoc](#) also provides a comprehensive collection of resource links, events, and opportunities.

*This email is sent on behalf of the [UGA Office of Research Postdoctoral Affairs](#) to the UGA Postdoc Listserv. As a postdoc at the University of Georgia you have been placed on this listserv for communication purposes. Contact: [opa@uga.edu](mailto:opa@uga.edu)*

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