

From: [UGA-Postdocs](#) on behalf of [Uga Postdoctoral Association](#)
To: UGA-POSTDOCS@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU
Subject: UGA Postdoc Association January Newsletter
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Postdoctoral Association UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

5 January 2026

A publication of the UGA Postdoctoral Association Executive Board in association with the UGA Office of Postdoctoral Affairs with announcements and opportunities in support of our postdoc community. Visit the [Postdoc Portal](#).

In this Newsletter:

- Upcoming events
- Postdoc spotlight
- Links to materials from past events
- Available resources

Ask to be featured in our Postdoc Spotlight!

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) with a short biography (~100 words) and a photo. In your biography, you can include your current affiliation at UGA and research, the institution where you completed your PhD, the focus of your PhD thesis/dissertation, and any professional experience before UGA. 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.

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](#).

Introduction to the PDA portal

In this [portal](#), you will find diverse information including *Get settled at UGA*, *Enroll in benefits*, *Find funding*, and event pictures. More information about the UGA Postdoctoral Association can be found [here](#). Contact pdassoc@uga.edu if you are interested or have any questions.

Join our monthly PDA board meeting

PDA board meetings occur on the last Thursday of every month and are open to all PDA members. Interested to hear our plans for the coming month or have a new idea to pitch? Come join the conversation on [Zoom \(Passcode: 728783\)](#). This month's meeting will be held **Thursday, January 15th** from **9:30-10:30 am**. We're meeting earlier than usual this month to start planning our spring UGA Postdoc Research symposium, so come join the discussion to help us brainstorm speakers to invite and scheduling!

Upcoming Events

UGA Postdoc Writing Group: Virtual and In-Person Sessions

Currently working on a grant application, manuscript draft, or similar? Interested in trying out a body-doubling approach to boost focus, productivity, and accountability? Come join the UGA postdoc writing group!

Virtual session: Come join the UGA postdoc virtual writing group **Wednesday, January 14th** from **10 am-12 pm**. Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/99788634766>. All are welcome and registration is not required; additionally, feel free to join for only part of the session if unable to make the full 2 hours.

In-person session: Come join us in person on **Wednesday, January 28th** from **9 am - 12 pm** in **Coverdell Center S175**. Coffee and snacks will be provided! To ensure we provide adequate food and drink for all, please [RSVP here](#) by Monday, January 26th so we can get a head count. Attendance for the full session is not required; feel free to join/leave within any time window the morning of the 28th as best fits your schedule. We look forward to seeing you there!

Coffee and Conversations: Work-Life Balance

UGA's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs will hold a Coffee & Conversations session focused on maintaining a healthy work-life balance while navigating the rigorous academic postdoctoral research training period on **Friday, January 16th** from **9:00-10:00 am** in **Coverdell Center S341**. Come join the discussion - coffee and snacks will be provided!



Postdoc Professional Development: Navigating Conflict

UGA OPA's Jessica Farmer will lead a discussion focused on developing strategies to navigate conflict in professional environments on **Tuesday, January 27th** from **10 am - 11:30 am** in **Coverdell Center N104**.

Postdoc Spotlight



Maria A. Gutierrez (she/her)

Website: mariaalegriagutierrez.com

Maria is a postdoc at the Rohani Lab in the Odum School of Ecology. She is an infectious disease modeler with a background in mathematics. Maria joined UGA in October after completing her PhD at the University of Cambridge. Her PhD research studied how vaccination affects the risk of emergence of new SARS-CoV-2 variants, particularly those that escape existing host immunity (such as Omicron). At UGA, Maria's research tries to explain why the Yamagata lineage of the Influenza B virus has not been observed worldwide since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maria is originally from Madrid, Spain, although she also completed her undergraduate degree in the UK. Outside of work, she spends her time running, reading, and travelling. Maria is also passionate about educational/scientific outreach, and is sharing her journey in academia through YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@mariagutierrezphd>). Maria would love to connect with other postdocs with shared interests, who can email her at gutierrez@uga.edu.

Coming up next month

Webinar: How to Identify and Research Non-Academic Employers

Beyond the Professoriate will present [this virtual workshop](#) for graduate students and postdocs focused on finding and researching potential non-academic employers on **Wednesday, February 4th** from **12:00-12:45 pm**. Please register to attend [here](#) by selecting University of Georgia from the drop-down list and signing in with your SSO credentials.

Orientation for new UGA postdocs

Joining UGA as a new postdoc this semester? Please register for an orientation covering myriad aspects of working at UGA and moving to Athens. Led by UGA's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, this is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with OPA and network with fellow postdocs - plus, lunch is provided! Join us on **Wednesday, February 11th** from **11:30 am - 12:30 pm** in **Coverdell Center N104**.

Coffee and Conversations: Time Management

Struggling to manage your time effectively - or managing well, but interested in learning new strategies anyway? You're not alone! UGA OPA will hold a Coffee & Conversations session focused on effective time management on **Thursday, February 26th** from **9:00-10:00 am** in **Coverdell Center S341**. As always, coffee and snacks will be provided.

Available Resources

Past Professional Development Event Resources:

Need to catch up on events you missed? Summary notes, PowerPoint slides, and videos from Postdoc-specific career development workshops from 2022-2025 can be found at <https://postdocs.uga.edu/calendar/>.

This past November, Elizabeth White of UGA Libraries provided an information session on [Finding Grant Funding for Postdocs](#) using Pivot and the Foundation Directory. See PowerPoint Slides and recorded video from this workshop [here](#).

In October 2025, Dr. Jessica Muilenberg and Dr. Shavannor Smith co-led a session to [peer-review and improve application materials for academic and industry positions](#) including CVs, cover letters, research statements, and teaching statements. PowerPoint Slides and recorded video from this session are available [here](#).

In August 2025, UGA's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs held a session on [Preparing Application Materials for Academic Positions](#) led by Dr. Jessica Muilenberg. If you weren't able to attend, see PowerPoint Slides from the presentation as well as recorded video of the session posted [here](#).

In July 2025, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs held a panel discussion led by Dr. Krista Capps on [Transitioning from Academia to Industry](#). Find video of the discussion [here](#) as well as a summary of [key take-away messages](#) from the session.

UGA Postdoc Portal for Career Development:

A [portal](#) providing information regarding postdoc fellowships and positions as well as faculty position listings.

UGA Involvement Network:

Discover events happening on campus or in your area at [\[campuslabs.com\]campuslabs.com](#).

Non-UGA affiliated events in Athens, GA:

Event calendars for local events in Athens can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



A very happy new year and warmest wishes to all UGA Postdocs from all of us on the PDA board. Let's make 2026 amazing!

This email is sent on behalf of the UGA Postdoctoral Association Executive Board 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. Stay Connected with the UGA Office of Research online at <https://research.uga.edu> and on social media.

Best Regards,
Postdoctoral Association Board 2025-2026
University of Georgia
Email: pdassoc@uga.edu
Website: <https://postdocs.uga.edu/>