

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

**1 JUNE 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](#).

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**Announcements**

**2026 Spring Postdoctoral Research & Networking Symposium**



*Participants of the 2026 Postdoctoral Research & Networking Symposium*

We are thrilled to share that the UGA Spring 2026 Postdoctoral Research & Networking Symposium, held on Friday, May 22nd, 2026 at Coverdell Hall in Athens, was a great success!

With over a dozen presenters, the event was a vibrant showcase of the exceptional research carried out by our postdocs.

#### *Event highlight*

The highlight of the event was a dynamic keynote talk given by the Associate Dean for Research and John Bekkers Professor in Poultry Science, Dr. Harshavardhan Thippareddi. Dr. Thippareddi delivered an insightful and engaging talk on research leadership, translational science and building impactful careers. In his talk, he helped many postdocs understand the land grant system that UGA operates under and he gave practical tips on how one can position themselves for the academic job market and the soft skills valued for an academic job. His advice and expert tips left us inspired and better equipped for the academic job market.

All the attendees will receive a certificate of participation.

Your active participation and suggestions are what make these occasions impactful. A big thank you to everyone who attended, presented, and volunteered to help organize!

Together, we're building a stronger, more connected postdoctoral community at UGA.

## **Call for Nominations: UGA PDA Board Members Election (July 2026 – June 2027)**

We are excited to announce the upcoming elections for the PDA Executive Committee which

will be held in June. These nominations are for leaders serving from July 2026 through July 2027.

We encourage you to nominate colleagues who are enthusiastic about serving and empowering our postdoctoral community. **Self-nominations are also welcome.**

Your participation helps strengthen our collective voice and shape the future of postdoctoral life at UGA.

Submit a nomination for the following available positions:

1. President (must be from Athens Campus)
2. Vice President (must be from Athens Campus)
3. Secretary (must be from Athens Campus)
4. Treasurer
5. Outreach Coordinator – 1 position
6. Diversity & Inclusion Representative(s) – 2 positions

#### Remote Campus Representative

1. Tifton Representative(s) (Tifton Campus) – 1 position
2. Griffin Representative (Griffin Campus) – 1 position
3. Skidaway Representative (Institute of Oceanography) – 1 position

To submit a nomination or for more information, please contact the current PDA President, Dr. Neha Thakur, at [neha.thakur@uga.edu](mailto:neha.thakur@uga.edu), or the PDA at [pdassoc@uga.edu](mailto:pdassoc@uga.edu).

**Last date for Nominations: June 15th, 2026**

## 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](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 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.

## 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](mailto: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 in hearing 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, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 am.**

## Postdoc Spotlight

### Dr. Justine Nguyen

Dr. Justine Nguyen recently joined the UGA Bee Lab in March 2026 as a postdoctoral researcher to characterize how honeybees behaviorally, physiologically, and collectively respond to environmental stressors.

She received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where her dissertation work assessed the mechanisms of resiliency in a collective honeybee thermoregulatory behavior, fanning, particularly in response to exposure to a common beekeeping antibiotic.

Dr. Nguyen is originally from the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. Outside of science she enjoys video games, adventuring in Dungeons & Dragons sessions, cooking, and arts and crafts.



## Upcoming Events

### Webinar: Beyond the Professoriate: How to Research the Academic Job Market

Beyond the Professoriate will present [this virtual workshop](#) online **June 3, 2026, 12:00-12:45 pm**. This webinar is designed for doctoral students, PhDs, and postdocs from all academic disciplines who are wondering:

- How do I determine what faculty opportunities are available in my discipline or field of study?
- How do I determine my competitiveness in the field?
- If I decide to pursue an academic position, how do I best prepare?

Please register to attend [here](#) by selecting University of Georgia from the drop-down list and signing in with your SSO credentials.

**Check out other postdocs events happening this month on the [NPA website](#)**

## Coming up next month

TBD

No events are on the calendar for the PDA or OPA for July just yet.

## 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.

### Keep in touch with other UGA postdocs on WhatsApp

Add your name and phone number to this [list](#) to be added to the resourceful postdoc WhatsApp group.

### National Postdoctoral Association:

The University of Georgia is an Organizational Member of the [National Postdoctoral Association](#) (NPA). As an Organizational Member, UGA's postdocs are eligible for free Affiliate Memberships. Register for [National Postdoctoral Association Affiliate Membership](#).

The NPA holds multiple career development [webinars](#) every month which you can sign up to attend. It also has a vibrant [career center](#) where postdocs can search and receive job alerts.

### 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 [\[campuslabs.com\]](https://campuslabs.com)[campuslabs.com](https://campuslabs.com).

### Non-UGA affiliated events in Athens, GA:

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

**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](mailto:opa@uga.edu). Stay Connected with the UGA Office of Research online at <https://research.uga.edu> and on social media.

Best Regards,

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Postdoctoral Association Board 2024-2025

University of Georgia

<https://postdocs.uga.edu/pda/>