

From: [Uga Postdoctoral Association](#)
To: UGA-POSTDOCS@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU
Cc: [Office Of Postdoctoral Affairs](#)
Subject: UGA Postdoctoral Association May 2026 Newsletter
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Postdoctoral Association
UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

1st May 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:

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

FEATURED ANNOUCEMENT

Upcoming UGA Postdoc Association Spring

Symposium!



Presentations at the 2025 postdoc symposium

Our Annual Spring Research Symposium is coming up fast on **Friday, May 22nd** from **9:00 am - 5:00 pm** in the **Coverdell Center (S175, Lobby and Rotunda)** on Athens Campus. All UGA postdocs are invited to attend and present their research.

Thank you to all who have registered so far. Come present your research as an oral presentation or a poster and participate in a career development workshop featuring a keynote speaker from UGA.

If you haven't registered yet, [Register here](#). Registration deadline extended to Sunday 10th May 2026.

This catered all-day event will provide coffee, snacks, and lunch.

Both in-person and online participation will be available. Zoom link will be shared for online attendees.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Postdoctoral Scholar Travel Program

The next deadline for the postdoc travel program is coming up on **May 12th, 2026** (**Second Tuesday in May**) at **11:59 pm**.

This program provides support for domestic and foreign travel for two purposes:

1. To present active research at national and international conferences as an oral presentation
2. Participation in professional development events, such as formal workshops or training sessions.

For more information, please visit [here](#).

Award Amounts: Up to \$1,500 for domestic travel and up to \$2,000 for foreign travel will be provided to those awarded. A 1:1 match must be identified. The matching funds may be from the postdoc's research mentor/supervisor, unit, college or another travel award or independent grant.

Eligibility: Persons at the University of Georgia officially seated in a Postdoctoral Associate AD, Postdoctoral Associate AC or Postdoctoral Fellow position. Only one award per year per postdoctoral scholar allowed. This criterion is based on when the travel occurs. Also, only one application per conference per research mentor will be considered.

View this cycle's application submission form on the [Office of Research's InfoReady site](#). Please email opa@uga.edu with any questions.

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.

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.

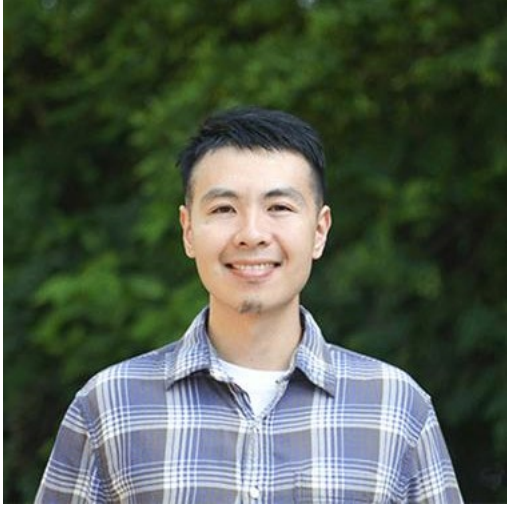
Join our monthly PDA board meeting

PDA board meetings occur on the last Thursday of every month and are open to all PDA members. Interested 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, May 28th** from **9:30-10:30 am**.



Postdoc Spotlight

Major congratulations to this year's recipients of **UGA's Postdoctoral Research Award**, Horace Zeng and Trevor Tuma! Read more about these outstanding researchers below:



Horace Zeng

Haolin "Horace" Zeng, is a postdoctoral associate in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and an exceptional early-career entomologist whose research has generated transformative insights into the genetic and behavioral bases of complex social systems. He combines behavioral experiments, chemical ecology, population genetics, and computational modeling to investigate how selfish genetic elements influence social structure, reproduction, and collective decision-making in ants. Zeng has published as a first or senior author in leading journals, including PNAS, Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology, and Ecology and Evolution, with additional works currently under revision. His research has attracted national attention, competitive National Science Foundation support, and interdisciplinary collaborations across biology, physics, computer science, and the arts. He is also a committed mentor to undergraduate and high school students and an innovative science communicator who bridges scientific discovery and public engagement. His record of intellectual originality, leadership, and impact exemplifies the highest standards of postdoctoral research excellence.



Trevor Tuma

Trevor Tuma, a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Franklin College Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, helps advance student learning, success, and career development in STEM. His work examines how mentoring relationships and research training shape students' motivation, learning, well-being, persistence, and research productivity, addressing a critical but underdeveloped dimension of scientific workforce development. Tuma leads a nationally scaled program designed to help faculty navigate conflict and strengthen mentoring relationships with Ph.D. students. Drawing on relationship and motivation science, he has designed and tested the program through multi-institutional studies at research universities across the country, demonstrating measurable improvements for students and faculty. In parallel, Tuma has developed multiple independent lines of inquiry that integrate novel methods from educational, organizational, and social psychology to advance mentoring scholarship. His research has resulted in high-impact publications, invited talks, and rare principal investigator status on multiple federal grant proposals, reflecting a level of independence and productivity uncommon at the postdoctoral stage.

Upcoming Events

Webinar: PhD Career Conference

Beyond the Professoriate will present [this virtual workshop](#) online **May 4-8 daily 12:00-12:45 pm** for those who are in the final year of their program, a postdoc planning their next steps, or a graduate student exploring their career options. Over the course of the week, attendees will learn what it takes to build a meaningful career beyond the professoriate. Please register to attend [here](#) by selecting University of Georgia from the drop-down list and signing in with your SSO credentials.

Coffee and Conversations: Handling Rejection

UGA's Office of Postdoctoral Affairs will hold a Coffee & Conversations session focused on handling rejection while navigating the job market on **Monday, May 11th** from **9:00-10:00 am** in **Coverdell Center S341**. Come join the discussion - coffee and snacks will be provided!

Workshop: Grant writing

The OPA will host a grant writing workshop led by the Director of UGA's Office of Strategic Research Development **Jacob Maas, M.A.**

This session will cover grant writing generally and is meant for postdocs of all skill levels.

Thursday, May 14th at 12:00 pm (noon) in the Paul D. Coverdell Building (specific room details or Zoom link will be sent to confirmed registrants before the day of the event).

Registration is required by May 7th to secure your spot. [Please register here.](#)

Format of the workshop:

- *Lunch will be served for in-person attendees. (Indicate dietary restrictions on the registration form.)*
- 1 hour presentation and Q&A session (hybrid – in-person and online via Zoom), then
- 1 hour of working on your proposal summary, abstract, or specific aims page in small groups. *This second part of the session is optional and for in-person attendees only.*

You must bring one of the following documents to participate in this workshop:

- **Specific Aims Page**
- **Project Summary**
- **Abstract**

In-person attendees may contact opa@uga.edu for a parking deck fee code. Please also contact opa@uga.edu with any questions.

Coming up next month

TBD

No events are on the calendar for the PDA or OPA for June 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 highly 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 [\[campuslabs.com\]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. Stay Connected with the UGA Office of Research online at <https://research.uga.edu> and on social media.

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