From: UGA-Postdocs on behalf of Uga Postdoctoral Association
To: UGA-POSTDOCS@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU
Subject: UGA Postdoctoral Association September 2026 Newsletter
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Postdoctoral Association
UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

1st SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to the September 2026 PDA Newsletter!

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 (postdocs.uga.edu).

In this Newsletter:

1. Announcements
2. Postdoc spotlight
3. Upcoming events
4. Links to materials from past events
5. Available resources

Announcements

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **Join our monthly PDA board meeting**

PDA board meetings occur on the last Thursday of every month from 3-4pm and are open to all PDA members. Interested in hearing our plans for the coming month or having a new idea to pitch? Come join the conversation on Zoom (Passcode: 728783).

4. **Postdoc Publications of the Month**

Beginning with our next newsletter, we will feature recently published journal articles in this section. We warmly encourage you to share your recent publications with us at pdassoc@uga.edu for consideration in an upcoming issue.

5. **Postdoctoral Scholar Travel Program**

UGA's Postdoctoral Scholar Travel Program provides travel support for eligible postdocs presenting research at conferences or participating in qualifying professional development activities.
Awards: Up to $750 for domestic and $1,500 for international travel, with a required 1:1 match.
Deadline: September 8th, 2026.
Questions: opa@uga.edu

Postdoc Spotlight

Postdoc Spotlight: Dr. Ashmita Khanal
Department: Plant Biology
I am a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia. I work on comparative genomics of maize mutation-accumulation lines to understand how spontaneous mutations arise and evolve under genetic drift in the absence of selection. I earned my Ph.D. from Texas Tech University, where my research explored the evolution of diverse sexual phenotypes across multiple willow species. I am excited to serve as Outreach Coordinator for the UGA Postdoctoral Association for 2026–2027 and look forward to supporting, engaging, and connecting our postdoctoral community. Outside of work, I enjoy hiking, traveling places, and reading good books.

Postdoc Spotlight: Dr. Christine Bowen

Department: Physiology and Pharmacology

I am a postdoctoral researcher in the Kanthasamy lab as part of the Iskson Center for Neurodegenerative Disease. In the Kanthasamy lab, we study the mechanisms that progress Parkinson's Disease and treatments of the disease. We show that changes in the amount of proteins present is one important aspect to PD. My project aims to evaluate how those proteins are regulated and how that changes during PD. I'm currently the vice president of the Postdoctoral association and I am excited to be working with everyone. I completed my PhD at Emory University in Biochemistry, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. In my free time, I enjoy all sorts of activities including board games, hiking, skiing and kayaking.

Upcoming Events

- **Webinar: How to Use Beyond the Prof PhD Career Training Platform in Your Job Search**
    - Date: Wednesday, September 02, 2026 12-12:45pm.
    - Location: virtual
    - Description: In this webinar, learn how to make the most of the PhD Career Training Platform. Access to this platform means you have a research-informed toolkit designed specifically to support doctoral students and postdocs in both academic and nonacademic job searches — so they can move forward with a clear strategy from day one.

- **Loss of D/S Rule Info Session**
    - **Date:** Friday, September 04, 2026
    - **Time:** 9:30 AM
    - **Location:** Please register for the Zoom session **at this link** by today, September 1.
    - **Description**: OGE-Immigration Services staff will join us for an information session. Immigration Services will provide an overview of immigration regulations affecting international students, scholars/postdocs, and their dependents

- **Finding Grant Funding for Postdocs**
    - Date: Thursday, September 10, 2026
    - Time: 9:30AM
    - Description: The session will introduce postdocs to two key funding search tools—Pivot and the Foundation Directory—which help users discover funding opportunities, set up alerts, find collaborators, and identify grant makers likely to support their work.
    - **RSVP Here**

- **Free 14-Day Writing Challenge – Fall 2026**
    - Date: September 11, 2026
    - Description: Ready to make progress on your writing? Join this free 14-day virtual

challenge to build a consistent writing routine and dedicate focused time to your scholarly work.
    - **RSVP Here**

- **Webinar: Is the Faculty Job Right for You?**
    - Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12-12:45pm.
    - Location: virtual
    - Description: In this webinar, learn the key factors to consider when deciding if a faculty career is the right path. PhDs are building careers in a wide range of roles — both within and beyond academia — and understanding the options is an important first step.

- **Monthly PDA Board Meeting**
    - Open to all UGA postdocs.
    - If you'd like to learn about the PDA's activities, suggest new initiatives, or get involved, contact pdassoc@uga.edu for the meeting schedule.

National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Events
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.

Coming up next month

- Save the Date: National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW)

  September 21–25, 2026
  Celebrate postdoctoral researchers through professional development events, networking, and recognition activities organized by institutions across the country.

- National Graduate student and Postdoc Industry Recruitment Event (virtual)

  September 21, 2026, Time: 12-4pm EST
  Register through this website
  Date: September 21, 2026, Time: 1:00pm ET

Find all other events in NPA website.

Stay tuned for more information coming to you soon from the OPA about celebrating UGA's postdocs!

Available Resources

Center for Teaching and Learning

Postdocs are welcome to participate in both student and faculty facing CTL programs (with relatively few exceptions for programs with selection processes for specific audiences).

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 here.

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.

Non-UGA affiliated events in Athens, GA:
Event calendars for local events in Athens can be found here and here.

Keep in touch with other UGA postdocs on WhatsApp
Add your name and phone number to this list (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14kH6ER3JPJjPEHXvgcdYkkQjHr4hvTZevM9CJfyykQY/edit?gid=0#gid=0) to be added to the resourceful postdoc WhatsApp group.

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 2026-2027
University of Georgia
Email: pdassoc@uga.edu
Website: https://postdocs.uga.edu/