

From: [UGA-Postdocs](#) on behalf of [Uga Postdoctoral Association](#)
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Postdoctoral Association
**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**

1st OCTOBER 2026

Welcome to the October 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](#).

In this Newsletter:

1. Announcements
2. Postdoc spotlight
3. Upcoming events
4. Coming up next month
5. Links to materials from past events
6. Available resources

National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week (NPAW) at UGA

NPAW brought together postdocs across UGA's campuses for opportunities to connect, celebrate, and recognize the contributions of our postdoctoral community.

- Athens and Griffin: Postdocs in Athens and Griffin gathered for an NPAW lunch and an opportunity to connect with colleagues and celebrate the postdoc community.



- Tifton: Tifton postdocs celebrated NPAW with a Postdoc Appreciation Lunch and also launched a new professional development lecture series. The first session featured Prof. Bhabesh Dutta, who led an engaging and interactive discussion with the Tifton postdocs. The professional development series will continue during upcoming postdoc coffee hours, with additional faculty members invited to share their experiences, insights, and advice with the Tifton postdoc community.



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

Got a new paper or chapter out? Share your latest publications to us at pdassoc@uga.edu to be featured in our upcoming newsletter so we can spotlight your research and drive deeper engagement across our postdoc community. Please note that the submitted work should have been completed at UGA or in collaboration with a UGA lab.



Postdoc Spotlight



Postdoc Spotlight: Lin Yan

Department: UGA's AI4STEM Education Center and National GENIUS Center.

Lin Yan is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at UGA's AI4STEM Education Center and National GENIUS Center. She earned her Ph.D. in Learning, Literacies, and Technologies from Arizona State University. Her research focuses on equitable STEM learning, educational technology, and responsible AI-supported education. Her doctoral work developed the Equitable Classroom Discussion framework and observation protocol to support teachers in creating more inclusive and meaningful classroom discussions that engage diverse students in science learning. At UGA, Lin designs and studies AI-supported tools, curricula, and assessments that promote student engagement, teacher agency, and equitable learning opportunities in STEM education.

Upcoming Events

A. UGA-PDA and OPA EVENTS

1. Webinar: The Key Difference Between Academic and Non-academic Hiring — and What It Means for Your Job Search

- Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026
- Time: 12:00–12:45 PM
- Location: Virtual
- This webinar will explore differences between academic and nonacademic hiring and discuss how understanding employer expectations can help PhDs and postdocs approach their job searches. Topics include what nonacademic employers look for, how hiring differs between sectors, and why developing a focused career-search strategy is important.
- Registration: Advanced registration is required through Beyond the Professoriate (View event details and registration [information](#)).
- The event is listed by UGA's Career Center, Graduate School, and Office of Postdoctoral Affairs.

2. Workshop: Funding Finder-Unlocking Grants with Powerful Tools

- Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026
- Time: 2:00–3:00 PM
- Location: Virtual

This UGA GradUP workshop will introduce tools and strategies for identifying funding opportunities. This may be particularly useful for postdocs preparing fellowship, grant, or other funding applications.

- View the event on the UGA [Calendar](#).

3. Webinar: Going Beyond Subject Matter-How to Identify Skills Employers Want

- Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026
- Time: 12:00–12:45 PM
- Location: Virtual
- This webinar will help PhDs and postdocs identify transferable skills developed through graduate and postdoctoral training and learn how to communicate those skills to nonacademic employers.
- Advanced registration is required.
- View event details and registration [information](#).

4. Webinar: 5 Secrets to a Super Productive Semester

- Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2026
- Time: 1:00–2:00 PM
- Location: Virtual
- This UGA GradUP webinar will provide practical strategies for creating a productive and sustainable academic semester, including protecting writing time, maintaining research and writing momentum, developing sustainable writing habits, and building a supportive writing community.
- The webinar is free. Participants will need a free NCFDD account and can register using their UGA email.
- View event details and [registration](#).

5. Monthly PDA Social Hour

- The UGA Postdoctoral Association Executive Board hosts a monthly postdoc social hour to provide opportunities for postdocs to connect and network in a relaxed setting.
- Details for the October social hour will be shared through the UGA Postdoc Listserv and PDA communications.
- For questions, please contact pdassoc@uga.edu. The UGA Postdoc Portal provides information about regular PDA social hours and other PDA activities.

6. 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.

B. 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.
- **POSTDOCS: DON'T MISS THESE OCTOBER OPPORTUNITIES!**
- From recruitment fairs and faculty career opportunities to immigration guidance, mentoring, PDA leadership, and professional development-explore what the NPA has to offer this month!

Coming up next month-November

Save the Dates: - November Career Development Webinars

- How to Research Career Options in Industry - November 4, 12:00–12:45 PM
- Building a Network to Help You in Academia and Beyond - November 18, 12:00–12:45 PM
- Acing the Interview - November 18, 2:00–3:00 PM
- Location: Virtual
- For registration and additional details, visit the UGA Office of Postdoctoral Affairs [Calendar](#).
- Postdoctoral Scholar Travel Program- Next deadline: Tuesday, November 10, 2026
- Questions: opa@uga.edu.

Links to Materials from Past Events

Missed a professional development event?

The UGA Postdoc Portal maintains an archive of materials from previous postdoc-specific workshops and seminars, including presentation slides and other resources can be found here. Visit the UGA OPA and PDA [Events page](#) and [here](#) and scroll to Past Professional Development Event Resources to access available materials.

Available Resources

Center for Teaching and Learning



<https://ctl.uga.edu/>

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 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](#).

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](#) 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/>