Hi postdocs,

Do you want to join the PDA council? We meet every two weeks, have fun, learn from each other and help create a better experience for all postdocs at USC. If you are interested to become a council member, please, e-mail us at uscpda@usc.edu. We need more representatives from all campuses: HSC, UPC, and CHLA.

News this month:

• PDA events
• Career development events
• Research on academic career motivations
• Funding opportunities
• Postdoc Publications and Awards
• Featured Postdocs: Dr. Jeremy Mason and Dr. Douglas Barthold
• Life as a Postdoc

Yours truly,

PDA Council
Networking and Social Events: September

**Coffee Hour** (every 1st Wednesday of the month):
Next date: November, 1st

**Locations:**
- UPC: Illy’s at the Annenberg building @ 2PM
- HSC: Starbucks @ 2PM
- CHLA: Aroma’s Cafe in the HBO Cafe @ 9AM

**Hike** (every 2nd Sunday of the month):
Next date: November, 11th @ 10AM

**Location:** Griffith park (meet at the bear statue near the Ferndell entrance)

[MeetUp website.](#)

**Happy Hour**
Next date: November, 30th

**Locations:**
- UPC: Traditions on campus (3551 Trousdale Pkwy) @ 4PM
- HSC: Edmondson Faculty Center (1969 Zonal Ave) @ 4PM
- CHLA: Tiki Ti (4427 Sunset Blvd) @ 5PM

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**Important information**

Are you a postdoc in biomedical or biological field? Then, help fellow researchers figure out why would anyone choose an academic career path by participating in their survey: [http://j.mp/2hCSwER](http://j.mp/2hCSwER). You might win a $100 Amazon e-gift card!
Academic Career Workshops
The Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine has organized a workshop on how to interview for an academic job. The workshop is open to everyone.

Preparing for the interview
Date: November, 9th; 12 pm
Location: Broad CIRM Center 101

An Industry Careers Conference
The LA Chapter of Graduate Women in Science has organized a whole day event, during which you can hear from industry insiders and network.
Date: February, 3rd; 9 am - 3 pm
Location: USC Town & Gown

Byte of Science Presents - Natural and Artificial Intelligence.
Kelsey Scharnhorst will discuss the similarities and differences between natural and artificial intelligence and what the future holds.
Date: Wed, November, 8th; 6:30 – 9:00 PM
Location: Wurstküche Restaurant Venice (625 Lincoln Boulevard)
RSVP here
Funding opportunities

The Postdoctoral Scholar Travel and Training Awards (up to $3,000) are designed to enable postdocs to attend workshops and conferences or to learn new techniques or perform research at off-site locations or in other labs, experiences which would enhance their training but which cannot be funded through their mentor's grant.

Eligibility: The Postdoctoral Scholar Training and Travel Award is only open to current postdocs in the following job titles: Postdoctoral Scholar – Research Associate (Job Code 98227), Postdoctoral Scholar – Teaching Fellow (98223), Postdoctoral Scholar – Fellowship Trainee (Job Code 98219), and Postdoctoral Research Associate (Job Code 98067).

The application for travel between January and June 2018 is now open.

Postdoc Publications and Awards

Want your research featured here? Send an e-mail with the reference to uscpda@usc.edu!

Winners of The Postdoctoral Scholar Travel and Training Awards:

- Helga Farjadi, Dornsife, Psychology
- Inna Arnaudova, Dornsife, Psychology
- Natalia Dame, Dornsife, Slavic
- Timothy Cannings, Marshall, Data Sciences and Operations
- Caitlin Howe, KSOM, Preventive Medicine
- Federico Pozzi, KSOM Biokinesiology
- Huanhao Chen, Viterbi, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
- Sara Rivero-Calle, Dornsife, Marine and Environmental biology
- Anna Kamitakahara, CHLA
- Kate White, Dornsife, The Bridge
- Jianqiang Wei, Viterbi, Civil and Environmental
- Stephanie Shishido, Dornsife, The Bridge
- Moheb Shawky Yani, KSOM BKPT
- Briana Kennedy, Gerontology
Dr. Jeremy Mason works on spatiotemporal patterns of metastatic spread in cancer, which are neither random nor unpredictable, by developing a Markov based model of cancer progression that has predictive capability. Data from thousands of patients collected over several decades is used to create a probability model that can predict patient survival according to the first site of metastasis. Each site can be classified as a ‘spreader’ or ‘sponge’ on the basis the probability of that site to spread the cancer further. The model could help physicians to provide better prognoses and facilitate research into the biology of metastasis.

Additional information can be found HERE.
Dr. Douglas Barthold is a postdoctoral scholar at the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics at USC. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from McGill University in 2015, and is broadly interested in the relationships between health policies, health care utilization, and health outcomes and inequalities. The primary focus of his current work is disparities in utilization and effectiveness of pharmaceutical therapies used throughout the care trajectory of Alzheimer's disease patients.

Additional information can be found [here](#).

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**Life as a postdoc**

Did you know that the School of Cinematic Arts has pre-release movie screenings? It's a great way to unwind after a long day of work! Check it out [here](#).

**Commentary from the USC postdoc community:**

- Fake it till you make it! Attitude is 1/3 the battle, the remaining 2/3 are writing and convincing yourself you're on the right path.
- The USC PDA has been great at creating a forum for connecting with researchers across campus.
- It's tough being a postdoc, but this type of experience can only be had after years of hard work and directed focus.

*If you would like to submit commentary for future newsletters, please email uscpda@usc.edu!*
October USC postdoc hike in Leones Canyon!
USC PDA hosts Postdoktoberfest!!