Hi postdocs,

This May is full of PDA programming! Make sure you join some of our cool events:

• **Events by USC PDA, including:**
  ◦ [3rd Annual Postdoc Scholar Research Symposium](#)
  ◦ [Dodgers Game night!](#) (RSVP required)
  ◦ [Special happy hour at HSC](#) to discuss careers in medical writing

Also, featured in this newsletter:

• Events around Los Angeles and USC
• Featured postdocs: Mohamed Kamal & Armin Zare
• Job opportunities
• Funding opportunities from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs and the Misletoe Foundation
• Photos from our whale watching trip
• Volunteer for a USC research study

We hope to see you at one of our events! You can also find information about them in our [public calendar](#).

Yours truly,

PDA Council
The USC Postdoctoral Association proudly presents the
3rd Annual Postdoc Scholar Research Symposium

Thursday May 24th, 2018
10am-6pm

Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine
1st floor
Keck School of Medicine of USC
1425 San Pablo St.

USC postdoctoral scholars, from ALL disciplines, are invited to attend and participate!

10am-4pm
Oral Presentations and Poster Session

Keynote speakers:
Provost Michael Quick
Sarah Mitra Mojarrad

4-5pm
Awards Ceremony:
1st prize - $750
2nd prize - $500
3rd prize - $250

5-6pm
Networking Social

More information to come!!
The application portal will be opening soon.

Visit https://pda.usc.edu or
Email us at postdocs@usc.edu

Sponsored by the USC Postdoctoral Association,
Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and Keck School of Medicine
Networking and Social Events

**Coffee Hour** (every 1st Wednesday of the month):
Next date: May, 2nd
Locations:
- UPC: Illy's at the Annenberg building @ 2 PM
- HSC: CANCELLED!
- CHLA: Aroma's Cafe in the HBO Cafe @ 9:30 AM

**Hike** (every other 2nd Sunday of the month):
Next date: May, 20th @ 4PM
Location: Griffith Park Observatory (meet at the Bear statue on the corner of Los Feliz Blvd and Fern Dell Drive)
[MeetUp website](#).

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**PDA Special event: Dodgers Game!**

Your USC PDA wants to take you to the Dodgers game against the Phillies!

**Date:** May, 29th, 2018 @ 7:10PM.

Reserve your ticket(s) now!! [RSVP@Eventbrite](#) (Password: USCPDA)

We will be planning a pub crawl from Union Station to Dodgers Stadium prior to the game for those interested. More details to come!!!
USC Postdoctoral Association

Guest speaker happy hour

Sharif Taha is the Senior Manager of Scientific Communications at NantBio, a Culver City-based biopharma company focused on developing cancer diagnostics and therapies. His professional background includes experience in the biotech, philanthropic, and academic sectors. A neuroscientist by training and science communication professional, he will talk about career paths outside of academia, focusing in particular on the challenges, opportunities, and rewards associated with professional medical writing in the pharma and biotech worlds. He will share his own experience and perspectives gleaned from work that has spanned roles in academia, non-profit organization, and biotech companies.

Monday May 7 between 4-6PM
HSC - Edmondson Faculty Center

Find below opportunities to add lines to your CV

Break the mold and enjoy a time out in and around Los Angeles
Space Tech Expo & Conference

Learn about the technologies that impact the outer space. More information here.

Time: May, 22-24th
Location: Pasadena, CA

Byte of Science: "Scientific Misinformation on Social Media."
Professor Sarah Mojarad discusses how misinformation about science and what can be done to discontinue the spread of scientific "fake news".

Time: May, 2nd @ 7.00 pm
Location: Wurstkuche, 625 Lincoln Blvd, Venice Beach, CA 90291

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Funding opportunities

The Mistletoe Foundation is delighted to welcome applications to the inaugural Mistletoe Research Fellowship program for the 2018-2019 academic year. The application is available via the online portal at our website and applications will be accepted starting Monday, April 16th through May 16th.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at USC offers research grants of up to $25,000 for postdocs at USC. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, June 1, 2018, 5:00 pm PST. Recipients will be notified by June 29, 2018. More information can be found here.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs at USC offers travel awards for postdocs at USC to attend and present at scientific conferences or visit another laboratory for collaboration. The application for travel between July to December 2018 is now open. The deadline to submit an application is Friday, May 18, 2018. More information can be found here.

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program is designed to support world-class postdoctoral researchers. The fellowship provides $70,000 per year for two years. The program is open to both Canadian and international researchers who have recently completed a PhD, PhD- equivalent, or health professional degree. Applications must be completed in full collaboration with the proposed host institution. The 2018-19 competition was launched in April.
2018 and the application deadline will be **September 19, 2018 (20:00 EDT)**. Please note that institutions may have internal deadlines. Please click [here](#) to access the launch memo, and kindly consult [our website](#) for further details on our program, including how to apply.

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**Job Opportunities**

**Jinan University**, a higher education institute with the largest population of international students in China, is looking to expand their research and teaching faculty. They are **coming to USC** on Friday, May 4, 2018 from 6.00 - 8.00 PM in STU B3 to talk about these opportunities. For more information, students can visit the [USC Main Event's page](#) and RSVP on [connectSC](#) to attend.

The Lawrence J. Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine of USC is looking to hire a [Research Associate](#) and a senior [Research Lab Technician](#). You can apply using the link provided or by getting in touch with Katherin Patsch.

*Want your job posting featured here? Send an e-mail to uscpda@usc.edu!*

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**FEATURED POSTDOCS**
Mohamed Kamal

Dr. Mohamed Kamal is a postdoctoral research fellow at Dr. Yu’s group at the Keck School of Medicine. He is interested in the understanding of breast cancer metastasis. Breast cancer cells spread to other organs through the blood. Dr. Kamal's research is focusing on the isolation of single live Circulating Tumor Cells (CTCs) from breast cancer patients to establish single CTC derived cell lines. He will then use molecular biology and in-vivo experiments to investigate their metastatic and drug resistance potentials. This will provide a precise understanding of tumor heterogeneity which is a step forward towards individualized medicine.

Armin Zare

Armin Zare is a postdoctoral scholar in the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering. He received the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 2016. He is broadly interested in the modeling and control of distributed systems in addition to large-scale and distributed optimization. His current research focuses on the modeling and control of turbulent fluid flows using tools from optimization and systems theory. He was the recipient of the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Minnesota in 2015 and a finalist for the Best Student Paper Award at the 2014 American Control Conference. Additional information can be found HERE.
Research Participants Needed!

Study Name: Interested in learning how to relax by using heart rate biofeedback?

Description: You are invited to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Mara Mather and colleagues at the USC School of Gerontology. We are investigating whether heart rate biofeedback helps to improve functioning of cardiovascular control systems that help regulate emotions. Specifically, we are investigating whether heart rate biofeedback improves well-being and reduces stress, anxiety and depressed feelings.

We seek volunteers who are willing to stick with a program for two months, do daily practice of the heart rate biofeedback every day and come in for weekly group visits to the lab. Weekly lab visits range from 2-4 hours. Volunteers will complete several emotion and cognitive tasks as well as undergoing an MRI scan at the start and end of the study.

Eligibility:

- Healthy adult between the age of 18-35
- Speaks English fluently
• Has normal or corrected-to-normal vision and hearing
• Currently not practicing any relaxation, biofeedback, or breathing technique (e.g., meditation)
• Do not have any of the following conditions: abnormal cardiac rhythm, heart disease including coronary artery disease, angina, and arrhythmia, cardiac pacemaker, stroke, panic attack, cognitive impairment
• Currently not taking any psychoactive drugs other than antidepressants or anti-anxiety medications
• If taking antidepressant and/or anti-anxiety medication or attending psychotherapy, the treatment has been ongoing and unchanged for at least three months
• Have no travelling plans that would lead you to miss any of the weekly meetings
• Currently not nursing, pregnant, or intending to become pregnant
• Have no metals in their body, as metal is incompatible with MRI scanning

**Duration:** 7 weeks. Weekly lab visits range from 2-4 hours.

**Payment:** You will receive payment of $15/hour for each lab visit. You will also be given the opportunity to earn additional money based on your home biofeedback practice completion and performance.

If interested, please fill out the following survey, and you will be contacted by our research team: [https://usc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9XNeClAEL3UsmX3](https://usc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9XNeClAEL3UsmX3)