

# Postdoctoral Update

## Office of Postdoctoral Affairs



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## March 21, 2012

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## Postdoc Survey

Thank you for all who provided a response to the UF Postdoc Survey. The [Postdoctoral Affairs Advisory Committee](#) will be reviewing the survey responses, and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs will work to provide resources and programs relevant to the needs expressed in the survey. Of current interest to everybody at UF is the issue of our new self-insurance changes. Please see the [note from HR below](#) and continue to monitor updates and changes on the [GatorCare Web site](#).

Best regards,

Kim Pace  
Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

*Submitted by Kim Pace, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs*

## Legislature approves UF proposal to self-insure

Earlier this month, the Florida Legislature approved the University of Florida's proposal to self-insure beginning in 2013. Assuming the legislation receives

Governor Scott's stamp of approval, this means the UF Board of Trustees has been authorized to move ahead with its plans to provide or arrange for the provision of health and other insurance programs to UF employees—including the administrative support services required to implement and administer such programs.

For several months, UF and Shands have been collaborating to create a new model of health and wellness insurance—called GatorCare—with the aim of providing more cost-effective, customized care and better health outcomes for employees and their dependents. Focus groups were held in the fall to gain the perspectives of a range of UF and Shands employees, and information regarding the new GatorCare model was introduced in January.

"This is really exciting," said Paula Varnes Fussell, UF vice president for Human Resource Services. "It is certainly the most exciting project I have ever worked on. We have the opportunity to design a plan to provide our employees with a range of choices and improved quality of life while retaining greater control over what we—as an institution and individually—pay for health care."

By taking healthcare costs into its own hands, the University of Florida is following a national trend among large universities and private institutions finding creative ways to rein in their costs while providing optimum care for their employees. Although some UF employees have expressed natural trepidation about the unknown factors the change represents, many are enthusiastic about the project's inherent possibilities, and the university is confident it is working "ahead of the curve" in terms of what it predicts will be future changes to state employee health plans that will lead to higher costs for the university and employees.

An "invitation to negotiate" (ITN) process, which identifies potential third-party administrators for a range of insurance programs, is now underway. Early this year, UF and Shands sent U.S. insurance providers with invitations to submit proposals of how they could best address the employers' needs. Of the vendors who replied to UF and Shands' invitation, eight medical insurance providers and ten pharmacy insurance providers pre-qualified to continue in the ITN process. Those vendors will now submit detailed proposals that will be carefully evaluated by Buck Consultants—the consulting firm hired to help guide UF and Shands through the self-insurance process—as well as several committees made up of UF and Shands administrators.

In addition to securing major medical and pharmacy benefit providers, UF now has the opportunity to identify new vendors for its voluntary insurance programs—including dental, vision, life, cancer, and disability. The ITN process described above has been followed by these potential vendors as well.

Although plan and premium details will not be finalized until mid-summer, UF will announce vendors for its voluntary insurance programs in early April and major medical and pharmacy programs in early May. Announcements will continue to be made as information becomes available.

Town Hall meetings with employees will be held in the summer as soon as plan

and premium details become available. These meetings will also be streamed via the Internet so employees who are not on campus during the summer months will have the opportunity to tune-in and participate. In the meantime, employees are encouraged to continue to monitor the [GatorCare web site](#) and to continue to submit their feedback and questions via e-mail to [healthplan@ufl.edu](mailto:healthplan@ufl.edu).

*Submitted by Angie Brown, Human Resource Services*

### **Webinar Wednesdays: Information Webinars for using E-Learning**

The Technology Learning Center of e-Learning Support Services is offering a new option for users who want more information about using e-Learning - "Webinar Wednesdays." Every Wednesday at 1pm, we will be presenting an interactive webinar for Instructors, TAs, and course designers, covering a specific topic in e-Learning. This week's Webinar Wednesday is March 21 at 1 pm and will concentrate on the features of Discussions. The first ten minutes will be used to give a basic overview of the abilities of this tool and the last 20 minutes are open to your questions and comments. At 12:55pm, simply go to the Webinar <<http://tinyurl.com/7azuktx>>.

This handout <[https://lss.at.ufl.edu/lssmw-faq/images/7/72/Participant\\_orientation\\_handout10.pdf](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/lssmw-faq/images/7/72/Participant_orientation_handout10.pdf)> will help you prepare your computer/speakers/microphone for the best interaction in webinar. Microphone is not a requirement, but you do need speakers.

*Submitted by Doug Johnson, Office of Information Technology*

### **2nd USA Science & Engineering Festival - Washington DC, April 27-29, 2012**

The [USA Science & Engineering Festival](#) is the country's only national science festival and was developed to increase public awareness of the importance of science and to encourage youth to pursue careers in science and engineering by celebrating science. Lockheed Martin is again the presenting host of the USA Science & Engineering Festival and is joined by many other [Festival sponsors and partners](#). The USA Science & Engineering Festival is a grassroots collaboration of over [500 of the United States leading science and engineering organizations](#). For more information on the USA Science & Engineering Festival, please visit the Festival website: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>

*Submitted by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs*

### **Invitation to Attend Family Day at the UF Dairy Farm**

The UF Dairy Unit invites you to an open house: Family Day at the Dairy Farm Saturday, March 24, 9am-2pm. The event is a free public event.

[More information \(on Facebook\)](#)

[Event Flyer with more information and directions](#)

*Submitted by the UF Communications Network*

## Lunch with the Provost

Reminder: if you are interested in receiving an invitation to an upcoming lunch with faculty, postdocs and the provost, please submit your name and information here: <http://postdoc.aa.ufl.edu/postdoc-lunch>

More information about the lunch in the [March 9, 2012 Postdoctoral Update](#).

*Submitted by Kim Pace, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs*

## Career Development Workshop from the Career Resource Center

UF Postdocs are welcome at this upcoming [Career Resource Center](#) workshop. No RSVP is required:

- March 21, 2012 Interviewing and Networking, 7:00pm The Continuum

Your resume and cover letter may be fantastic, but networking and interviewing are equally as important. Proper presentation takes proper preparation. Stop by to learn networking and interviewing skills common for academic and non-academic jobs. Part of Graduate Student Housing, Graduate Student Success Series.

*Submitted by Jon Schlesinger, Career Resource Center*

## Postdoc Discussion Board

Don't forget to visit the [The Postdoc Discussion Board](#). This Discussion Board has been created to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas and information amongst those in the UF postdoctoral community.

*Submitted by Kim Pace, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs*

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