

Postdoctoral Update

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs



OFFICE OF
POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

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May 10, 2016

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GatorCare Blue Rewards



GatorCare is rolling out a new incentive program called Blue Rewards, which allows subscribers to earn points and get rewarded for healthy behaviors.

Get Started Now!

1. **Attend an onsite Wellness Event for a personalized biometric screening, get a free lunch, and earn 100 points.**
- The 2016 Wellness Events will be held May 9th - May 27th. Find a [location](#) near you and make your [appointment](#) today! Appointments are required in order to receive the free lunch.

■ If you miss the onsite Wellness Events or live outside of the Gainesville area, free biometric screenings will be available through Quest Diagnostics beginning June 1, 2016.

2. Complete the Personal Health Assessment using your results from the biometric screening, and earn 100 points.

The Personal Health Assessment is available through your Blue Rewards portal at floridablue.com and takes about 15 minutes to complete.

3. Indicate you are tobacco free on your Personal Health Assessment or complete a tobacco cessation class, and earn 50 points.

Earn these 250 Points by **September 30, 2016** and you will be entered into a GatorCare sponsored drawing for a \$50 Publix gift card!

Over 250 gift cards are available.

Additional information will be provided at the onsite wellness events and is also available on the [GatorCare Blue Rewards](#) webpage.

Submitted by Mary Alice Albritton, GatorCare

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Postdocs in Science: A Comparison between China and the United States

My colleagues and I recently surveyed the postdoc community, the amount of federal R&D funds, and the annual number of publications in both the U.S. and China (BioScience, 65:1088-95, 2015). Postdocs play a crucial role in the research productivity of any country. A lack of jobs leaves postdocs without a future in academia in the United States. Meanwhile, other challenges threaten the postdoc community abroad. The United States and China are the world's two largest economies and are ranked first and second in scientific research, as quantified by the number of annual publications. However, these two countries have contrasting postdoc standards and different amounts of funds allocated for research and development (R&D). We compare the number of postdocs, R&D fund allocation, and the number of annual publications of these two countries and conclude that the United States has comparably higher postdoc standards, but limited growth in R&D funds during the last decade is making it increasingly hard for postdocs to find permanent jobs. Conversely, R&D funds have increased nearly tenfold in China, but postdoc standards remain low. There is an urgent need to change the general environment of postdoctoral research; although many of these changes must be instituted by universities and government organizations, some changes must come from the postdocs themselves. We have therefore provided relevant suggestions for postdocs, academic institutions, and their governments in our paper. We believe that acting on these recommendations will help to raise the standards of the global postdoc community. I have provided the references of this study at the bottom. Please feel free to share your comments with us.

Ahmed MZ (2016) [The Postdoc Crisis](#). The Scientist 30(2) 23-24 (Online first on Jan 4, 2016)

Ahmed MZ, Plotkin D, Qiu BL, Kawahara AY (2015) [Postdocs in Science: A Comparison between China and the United States](#). BioScience 65 (11): 1088-1095

Submitted By [Muhammad Z Ahmed \(zaheerento@ufl.edu\)](mailto:zaheerento@ufl.edu)

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Postdoc of the Month

The Journal of Postdoctoral Research would like to encourage your continued self- and peer-nominations for our Postdoc of the Month award. Winners will be recognized in that month's issue, as well as being invited to submit a "Spotlight" article for publication, and being entered into consideration for "Postdoc of the Year." We've already had two winners from UF and we hope that you are our third! For more information about the award or the journal as a whole, please see the call for nominations at tinyurl.com/postdocaward or email the editor-in-chief, Stephan C. Jahn (a UF postdoc), at editor-in-chief@postdocjournal.com

Submitted by Stephan Jahn, Medicinal Chemistry

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Postdoctoral Associate Position Available

We are looking for a postdoctoral associate. This post-doctoral associate will design and perform experiments pertaining to two different projects: (1) chemical proteomics-based analysis of enzymes in chicken and (2) study of function of human extracellular vesicles in bacterial infections. Previous experience with protein methods or molecular biology is expected. If this person has any bioinformatics or programming skills, it would be an additional bonus. We anticipate that s(he) will have an active interest in developing research project, for example by proposing novel avenues of the project, alternative approaches, and reading relevant literature. After initial training, s(he) will work independently with minimal supervision, and proactively propose and test novel ideas that are relevant to the project. Moreover, this post-doctoral associate will be also responsible for some aspects of the lab maintenance pertaining to biosafety protocols and student training. Please contact Dr. Mariola Edelmann to apply for this position: medelmann@ufl.edu.

Submitted by Mariola Edelmann, Microbiology and Cell Science

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MiCaRT Center Research Supplement Assistance Program

Florida Minority Cancer Research & Training (MiCaRT) Center
NIH/ National Cancer Institute P20 Award (NIH/NCI P20CA192992)

RESEARCH SUPPLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

University of Florida (UF) & Florida A&M University (FAMU)

The MiCaRT Center Research Supplement Assistance program supports the matching of cancer scientists (especially R01 investigators) with UF and FAMU minority faculty & students for the [NIH Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research \(Admin Suppl\) award](#). The support provided by the MiCaRT Center includes identifying mentors, identifying mentees, review of supplement application, etc.

We invite all potential investigators and underrepresented students (undergraduate and graduate) to complete this form: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5zKEI5xLaNq5i7j.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jenn Nguyen, MiCaRT Center Coordinator at jennifernguyen@cop.ufl.edu.

Submitted by Jenn Nguyen, MiCaRT Center

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UF College of Veterinary Medicine Recruiting Dogs

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine's dermatology research group are recruiting dogs for a number of clinical studies. In particular we are recruiting:

- Dogs with allergic skin disease (canine atopic dermatitis) which do not have concurrent skin infections (all breeds, but particularly Golden Retrievers and Australian Shepherd dogs) for a clinical trial of probiotics, fecal microbiota transplant or placebo.

- Healthy and allergic Golden Retrievers and Australian Shepherd dogs for a study of fecal microbiota and gut permeability.

Please see the College's Veterinary Research page for more details of the studies currently recruiting: <http://research.vetmed.ufl.edu/clinical-trials/small-animal/>

Submitted by Nicky Craig, College of Veterinary Medicine

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Postdoc Funding Opportunities

On the [Resources](#) page of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs website, we have created a Funding Opportunities page which lists all the different types of funding available to postdocs.

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Postdoc HR Issues:

Insurance and Benefits: If you have questions about benefits enrollment or eligibility, please contact UF's [Human Resource Services'](#) Benefits Office at benefits@ufl.edu or (352) 392-2477.

Employee Issues: If you are experiencing an issue with your supervisor that is not resolved in your department and need assistance or guidance, please contact Ms. Kim Baxley, Director of Employee Relations, in UF's [Human Resource Services](#). Ms. Baxley can be reached at 392-1072 or kczap@ufl.edu.

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Reminder: University of Florida Postdocs on Facebook and LinkedIn

Join this [Facebook group](#) for University of Florida postdocs as well as the LinkedIn group: http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Gainesville-Postdocs-4479251?trk=myg_ugrp_ovr%20

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Reminder: FREE Affiliate NPA Membership

If you would like to receive an invitation to join the National Postdoctoral Association or if your invitation has expired and you need to be sent a refreshed invitation, please [contact Cheryl Gater](#) to receive an invitation.

[More information.](#)

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Reminder: Postdoc Info Listserv

Want to receive e-mail prompts prior to postdoc events like the [Postdoc Development Workshops](#) and other postdoc events?

A listserv has been created for postdocs to receive reminders for upcoming postdoc events. Please e-mail Cheryl Gater (cgater@aa.ufl.edu) and tell me you wish to subscribe to the "postdoc info listserv."

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Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

University of Florida

235 Tigert Hall

P. O. Box 113175

Gainesville, FL 32611

postdoc.aa.ufl.edu