

Postdoctoral Scholars Association



**POSTDOCS
NEWSLETTER**

MARCH 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PSA CONTACTS	1
UPCOMING EVENTS	1
ANNOUNCEMENTS	2
ARTICLES	5

PSA CONTACTS

PSA website

<http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/>

PSA chair

Dr. Abhinav Bhushan

abhushan@ucdavis.edu

PSA secretary/treasurer

Dr. Rita Mehta

rsmehtha@ucdavis.edu

Questions, comments, or contributions to the Postdocs Newsletter can be sent to Dr. Kwanrawee (Joy) Sirikanchana at joysiri@ucdavis.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thu 4/3** Brown-Bag Presentation—Good Grief (12:00-1:00), Cabernet Room, Silo
- Tue 4/8** UCDCMC RCR Seminar Series—Mentor/Mentee Relationships (12:00-1:30), UCDCMC M.I.N.D. Auditorium
- Thu 4/10** Brown-Bag Presentation—Resumes That Resonate (12:00-1:00), 130 Hoagland Hall
- Thu 4/17** RCR Seminar Series – Animal Welfare (12:00-1:30), 1065 Kemper Hall
- Tue 4/29** PSA April meeting (12:00-1:00), location TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Academic & Staff Assistance Program (ASAP)

By Joanna Friesner

Did you know that UCD postdocs are eligible to use the Academic and Staff Assistance Program? ASAP offers confidential, cost free assessment, intervention, consultation and referral services to UCD faculty, staff, and postdocs. Whether the problem is work-related or personal, administrative or individual, career or relationship focused, their experienced staff can assist you in recognizing and resolving the problem. When additional resources are needed, they can link you to appropriate services in your community. If you are concerned about a friend, colleague, co-worker, subordinate or work group, they can help you. Their goal is to help at the earliest possible moment.

The Academic & Staff Assistance Program is strictly confidential. No information about your participation is released to anyone without your written consent except when legally mandated. No information from ASAP appears in any departmental, central or personnel file. Your need for privacy is respected. Best of all: there is no cost for ASAP's services.

If you have questions you may e-mail the Director, **Dr. Beth Cohen**, at bacohen@ucdavis.edu. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call (530) 752-2727. ASAP is located in Guilbert

House, right off campus, across from the Coffee House at 112 A St. near 1st street.



BROWN-BAG presentations

By Joanna Friesner

'Brown-bag' lunchtime presentations are sponsored by the UCD Staff Development and Professional Services. They are open to members of UCD including postdocs. Sessions are free and enrollment is not required. Feel free to bring your lunch while listening to presentations!

(1) Good Grief

*April 3, 2008: 12:00-1:00 pm,
Cabernet Room, Silo*

Grief is unavoidable in our lives. The reasons for grief are many, including the loss of a loved one, the loss of health or the letting go of a long-held dream. We often struggle with what to say to someone who is grieving or wonder if our own grief is "normal." Come learn what good grief is and when to seek out the experts for more support. Pre-enrollment is not required.

(2) Resumes That Resonate

*April 10, 2008: 12:00-1:00 pm, 130
Hoagland Hall*

Although postdocs typically use CVs for academic jobs, positions in industry or outside academia often require a resume. Learn from an

experienced UCD management services officer how to create and customize an effective resume. In this workshop you will explore how to present your information quickly, clearly and in a way that motivates the hiring manager to put your resume on the top of the pile. Walk away with samples, keywords and tips for effective resume writing. Pre-enrollment is not required.



RCR Seminar Series

By Joy Sirikanchana

Responsible Conduct of Research Program (RCR) '07-08: Building a Solid Foundation for Research Integrity" is a year-long program of brown bag lecture-discussion sessions jointly sponsored by the Office of Research and the Office of Graduate Studies. The objective is to provide researchers and students with information, training, and tools to address the increasingly complex issues that they will confront during their research careers. These sessions will be taught and facilitated by members of the faculty and administration, and guest speakers with particular knowledge and expertise of the RCR topics. The 2007-08 series are being offered at the Davis campus and the UCDCM Sacramento campus. All sessions will be held noon - 1:30. More information and a complete schedule can be found at <http://www.innovationaccess.ucdavis.edu/home.cfm?id=OVC,10,1622>

(1) UCDCM RCR: Mentor/Mentee Relationships

*Date: Tue, April 8, 2008
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM*

Location: UCDCM
M.I.N.D. Auditorium

Speaker: Richard Kravitz

To register for a session in Sacramento, please email or call **Rayanne Hildreth** at rayanne.hildreth@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu or 916-703-9192

(2) RCR: Animal Welfare

*Date: Thu, April 17, 2008
12:00 PM - 01:30 PM*

Location: 1065 Kemper

Description: This discussion will be led by Joy Mench, Ph.D., a professor of Animal Science at UC Davis. She plans to discuss ethical issues associated with using animals in research and teaching, regulations and standards, the role of the animal care and use committee, and the "Three R's" (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement).

To register for a session, please go to <http://research.ucdavis.edu/home.cfm?ID=OVC,10,20&eventKey=157> or contact **Sandi Glithero** at sjglithero@ucdavis.edu or 530-747-3943.



Updated Postdoc Handbook

By Joanna Friesner

The current UCD postdoc handbook is several years out of date. Joanna Friesner, a postdoc in the Section of Molecular and Cellular Biology, volunteered to assist Kathleen Smith, UCD's postdoc benefits representative, in developing an updated handbook. A draft outline was developed and input was solicited from UCD postdocs over the last few months on the topics of importance to them.

To view the draft outline, please go to this PSA website:
<http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/advocacy/handbook.html>.

The outline will first be discussed with Prof. Jeffrey Gibeling, UCD Dean of Graduate Studies. Work will then begin with Kathleen Smith to facilitate updates to the handbook. Based on postdoc requests, a significant amount of information needs to be organized, making it difficult to predict at this time when the updated handbook will be available. Check back for next month's update when a timeline may be available.



2008 Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral Research

Call for Nominations

Nominations are invited for the 2007 Award for Excellence in Postdoctoral

Research. This award is offered to recognize the vital role that Postdoctoral Scholars play in maintaining the reputation of excellent research at the University of California, Davis. A certificate and \$500 will be conferred to each awardee. Up to five awards will be made.

Eligibility: Currently-appointed UC Davis postdoctoral scholars who have a minimum of one year of postdoctoral study at UC Davis, and less than five years total postdoctoral experience, may be nominated.

Who May Nominate: UC Davis faculty and postdocs are invited to nominate a distinguished postdoctoral scholar for this award.

Qualifications: Nominees should have outstanding research accomplishments. Criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Innovation in research and impact on the field.
- Research productivity and quality as a UC Davis postdoctoral scholar, as demonstrated by publications, presentations, awards, etc.

Application guideline and materials can be found at -
<http://postdocs.ucdavis.edu/awards/awards.html>

The deadline for nominations is **5 pm Friday, April 11th, 2008**, and the deadline for submission of applications is **5 pm Friday, April 25th, 2008**.



ARTICLES

Attention, International Postdocs! – A Presentation summary from Services for Students and International Scholars

By Joanna Friesner

On February 14th the Assistant Director (Kim Haky) and several colleagues from the Services for Students and International Scholars (SISS, http://siss.ucdavis.edu/for_scholars.htm) met with UCD postdocs to talk about some of the services SISS offers. Ms. Haky described that of the 2,261 international scholars currently at UCD, about 1,650 are UCD-sponsored, and therefore processed by SISS. International scholars are non-students and include, among others, visiting scholars, faculty, and postdocs, and are defined as conducting teaching or research on a temporary basis. She further said that about 520 of the SISS-sponsored scholars are postdocs who primarily hold either H1-B or J1 visas.

According to Tracey Pareida in Graduate Studies there are approximately 800 total UCD-sponsored postdocs on campus, a number that includes domestic and international postdocs. The top five countries supplying UCD postdocs are China, South Korea, Japan, India, and Germany. 35% of UCD international scholars are from China and South Korea, and over 50% come from Asia. Interestingly, last year UCD moved from 11th to 5th place in the US among Universities

employing the most international scholars (behind Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkeley and Columbia).

Ms. Haky also emphasized that SISS wants to help international postdocs as much as possible but due to strict liability issues they cannot give certain kinds of advice such as tax advice. SISS maintains a list of lawyers for postdocs who need additional help on areas that are outside the jurisdiction of SISS. She stressed that initial contact regarding new international postdocs is the responsibility of the hiring department and that SISS does not contact new postdocs, although all new international postdocs receive SISS information packets. She said that each department has an SISS liaison that is responsible for making sure postdocs process required paperwork in a timely manner upon hire. However, she said not all departments are equally effective in processing new postdocs and she strongly recommends postdocs take a proactive role in talking to their department liaison and SISS staff when they are first hired and for all future issues (such as changing departments, traveling, converting visa type, etc).

There are regular SISS orientations for J-1 visa holders. More information can be found on the SISS webpages (http://siss.ucdavis.edu/for_scholars.htm)

The information includes orientations, housing, visa issues, how to sign up for SISS email listserves, and a long list of 'practical information' such as tax information,

English learning classes, post offices in Davis, and living in Davis. Contact information for SISS staff is also included. The SISS website is due to undergo renovation which will hopefully provide streamlined access to information.



Articles needed

By Joy Sirikanchana

Postdoc fellows, we are looking for contributors to submit articles for the UC Davis Postdocs Newsletter. Articles of any topic are welcome, but should be of interest to postdoc community. These can include, but are not limited to, hot topics in research and industry, personal development, professional development, career advice, your interesting experiences, hobbies, tips, and even your favorite recipe.

The article should not exceed 300 words. If the article is a summary of copyrighted work, please provide a reference to the original article. Please submit the articles, or any questions, to **Dr. Joy Sirikanchana** at joysiri@ucdavis.edu. The due date for submitting the articles to be included in the April issue of the newsletter is **Sunday, April 6th, 2008**.

