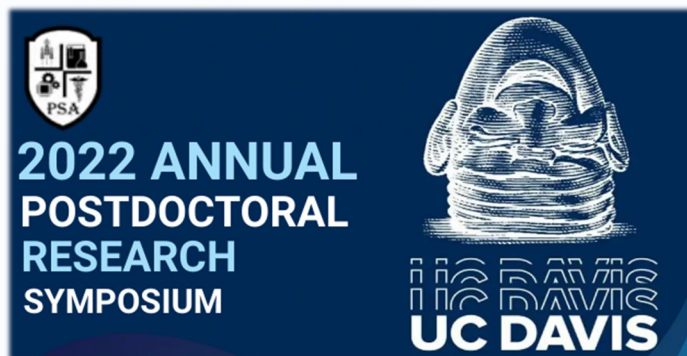


# POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR ASSOCIATION Newsletter

March 2022



**2022 Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium Will be Held on  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**



The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium-2022 (PRS-2022) will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The goal of this symposium is to showcase the contribution of UC Davis postdocs to the advancement of science. We encourage all graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, staffs and faculties to [register](#) and attend this [event](#).

We are proud to announce that we have received 60 abstracts this year. We are looking forward to your presentations on PRS-2022!

## Announcement: PSA Board Changes



We are excited to announce that our former Chair, Dr. Gaurav Jha, has accepted the position as an Assistant Professor of the Precision Agriculture at the Montana State University. Therefore, our board has made some changes in our [officers](#) and positions.

Our new Chair is Dr. Sandipan Samaddar and our new Vice-Chair is Dr. Poulami Chatterjee. Additionally, we heartedly welcome Dr. Lifeng Jiang (see left) to join PSA as our new Secretary.

We will keep serving our community!



This issue is compiled by the PSA Editorial team  
Marwa Zafarullah,  
Yuanjun Shen,  
Nathalie Aoun

To join our team, submit an article or your publications, awards or recognition to be highlighted in the next issue by sending an e-mail to [psarelations@ucdavis.edu](mailto:psarelations@ucdavis.edu).

# The 2021-2022 PSA Board Successfully Held the First Career Development Workshop for Postdoctoral Resources, Funding and Opportunities at UC Davis

The 2021-2022 PSA career development workshop series kicked off on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021! Themed to introduce available on-campus services of UC Davis, we invited Dr. Bethany Hopkins and Dr. Teresa Dillinger for our first workshop event.

Dr. Hopkins, the Senior Career Advisor of UC Davis Internship and Career Center, gave a talk titled “Career Resources for Postdocs at the UC Davis Internship and Career Center”. She introduced the Internship and Career Center (ICC). She reminded us that ICC also serves UC Davis postdoctoral scholars and welcomes all postdoctoral scholars to make advising appointments through [Handshake](#). The appointments cover career exploration, job or internship search, CV or Resume review, cover letter review, academic job application materials, interview preparation, job negotiation, LinkedIn profile review, career planning, goal setting, etc. ICC also has a [YouTube playlist](#) for past event recordings. For future events and more information, please visit the [ICC website](#) or email directly to Dr. Hopkins ([bjhopkins@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bjhopkins@ucdavis.edu)).



**Dr. Hopkins**



**Dr. Dillinger**

Dr. Dillinger, the Director of GradPathways Institute for Professional Development, gave a talk titled “Professional Development Opportunities for UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholars”. She introduced the opportunities that the GradPathways Institute provides. Specifically, Dr. Dillinger introduced two major programs led by GradPathways Institute: Professors for the Future ([PFTF](#)) and Leaders for the Future ([LFTF](#)). The PFTF application for this cycle has been concluded on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please refer to the link for required documents for future application and information. LFTF program will set the application deadline soon, and please pay attention to newsletters and emails from us. The GradPathways Institute has also launched a new program, “[Micro-Credentials](#)”. Please feel free to contact her for more information and questions at [gpi@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gpi@ucdavis.edu).

You can request the workshop video from PSA Career Development Officer, Dr. Yuanjun Shen ([psacareerdevelopment@ucdavis.deu](mailto:psacareerdevelopment@ucdavis.deu)).





## Dr. Sanchita Dey

California Department of Transportation (Division of Engineering Services)

UC Davis helped  
me achieve my  
professional goals

I completed my PhD and Postdoctoral research at UC Davis, which provided me the experience of excellent Materials Research and background to build sound Engineering Solutions. Apart from educational achievements, UC Davis broadened my vision and sharpened my decision-making capability. I learned significance of teamwork, honoring other's opinion, and appreciating diversity. I believe the entire journey at UC Davis still motivates me to strive and persevere.

I feel that being a UC Davis Aggie is a matter of pride. I appreciate the company of brilliant scholars I came across who challenged me to be my best and taught me new skills both in research and in life.

If you ask me to state in one word what I achieved at UC Davis, I think it is my **listening** capability. It might sound simple, but it is a great skill to have in my opinion. Going through rigorous peer review process while trying to publish my research helped me achieving this skill. I thank my advisors, co-authors, and all the reviewers to always push me to hone my listening, which subsequently helped in my personal life.

My Advice to current UC Davis  
postdocs

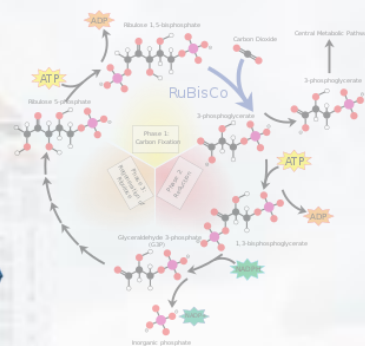
**M**y career path was not smooth like many others. I had to push forward in the career path while giving birth and raising two wonderful kids. Most of my non-academic time was occupied with raising my toddler daughter. I was part of the MSA (Microscopy Society of America) student chapter and actively involved in guiding aspiring graduate students from Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (my undergrad alma mater), in the graduate admissions process in the USA.

Whenever I felt depressed/demotivated, I used to listen the famous song of Katy Perry, Firework, and I believe all the words in that song especially the following --

***"Maybe a reason why all the doors are closed. So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road. Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow. And when it's time, you'll know."***

So, I feel we all should have some sort to keep-going attitude and figure out





Dr. YuanYue Li  
Fiehn Lab

**F**rom this issue, we will start to recognize our peers. Our first featured current postdoctoral scholar is Dr. Yuanyue Li, a member of Dr. Oliver Fiehn Lab from the College of Biological Sciences. Recently, Dr. Li and colleagues published their new work in the high-impact Journal of Nature Methods. Congratulations!

*Congratulations!*

### Spectral entropy outperforms MS/MS dot product similarity for small-molecule compound identification

Yuanyue Li, Tobias Kind, Jacob Folz, Arpana Vaniya, Sajjan Singh Mehta & Oliver Fiehn

[Nature Methods](#) 18, 1524–1531 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)

**What is the motivation for your research at UC Davis?**

**W**hen we eat, we digested the food into amino acids, glucose, and many small molecules and absorbed them. When we exercise, we convert ATP into AMP, providing energy for our muscles. When we think, the neuron cells communicate with each other with acetylcholine. When we are pleased, dopamine is traveling through our body to share happiness. When we are in danger, adrenaline alarms our body to prepare for a fight.

The metabolites are so small that, but also so important that they control our life. It's lucky that we have mass spectrometry technology, which allows us to measure metabolites sensitively and accurately. My research is using this technology to generate a unique spectrum for every metabolite. It's like giving each metabolite its own "fingerprint", and we are "detectives" collecting fingerprints from every corner and finding the criminal hiding in the dark corner.

**What has UC Davis provided that makes you a successful researcher?**

**U**C Davis has a good infrastructure. First, we have the West Coast Metabolomics Center, which generates high-quality mass spectrometry data day and night. We also have a very good computer center. Of course, the most important resource in UC Davis is the people! There are so many smart and kind people you can work with; they really help me a lot. I am proud as a UC Davis post-doc as I adopt the informatics theory to analyze mass spectrometry data and published it on Nature Methods! Apart from research, I enjoy the Arboretum Garden. There are so many different plants, and you can get inspired from them!



# The Winter-2022 Cycle of UC Davis PSA Travel Award



Please join us to congratulate our new PSA Travel Awardees! They are **Dr. Fernanda Furlan Gonçalves Dias, Dr. Sonali Das, Dr. Xianhui Liu, Dr. Parsa Saffarinia, and Dr. Yuanjun Shen.** This cycle, we have received 17 applications, and we encourage every UC Davis postdoctoral scholars to compete for the next cycle. We will update the information on our website.

## Other Good News

Dr. Lifeng Jiang has been awarded with the Abstract Scholarship from the 2022 Annual American Thoracic Society International Conference by the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation.

**We heartedly congratulate the  
achievements of our peers!**



## Please Join the PSA Career Development Workshop Series #2

### Utilizing Library Resources

Please register [here](#) to finish a survey and get the Zoom link and refer to our [website](#).

You will learn about library resources and services that are critical for success in post-doctoral research. Topics on the menu include: searching and monitoring the literature, open access publishing services, resources for writing data management plans, finding reusable images, publication metrics, selecting an open data repository for research datasets, etc.

*Walker Hall, Gibeling Room 1220 and Zoom*

*Thursday, Mar 24, 2022 @ 11:00am - 12:00pm*

