

THE 18TH ANNUAL
POSTDOC

2023  March 20

SYMPOSIUM

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The Postdoc Symposium is our annual opportunity to recognize the postdoctoral community and its important contributions to the broader university ecosystem.

The 18th Annual Postdoc Symposium will focus on the things, goals and paths that we PURSUE. From community to that next publication, we all pursue something!

This annual event is sponsored by the WashU Postdoc Society, the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

Keynote Speaker



Mary McKay, PhD

Vice Provost of
Interdisciplinary Initiative

Here and Next: From, To, and Now

*Moving from vision to implementation planning, Now,
ready for action.*

Vice Provost of Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Mary McKay, will provide an overview of the core features of WashU's ten-year strategic planning process, Here and Next. Particular emphasis will be placed on elevating the university's ambition to advance research excellence in the areas of Public Health, Environment, and Digital Transformation. In addition, information will be provided regarding the work fueling the People and Community Pillars of Here and Next.

Symposium Schedule

9:00 am	Registration and breakfast
9:30 am	Roundtables – Session I*
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Roundtables – Session II*
11:45 am	Lunch
12:15 pm	Mentorship awards
12:30 pm	Keynote Speaker**
1:30 pm	Break
1:45 pm	K99 Discussion Panel **
2:45 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Postdoc Storytellers**
4:00 pm	Resource Fair, networking, and afternoon snacks

* There will be separate roundtables at which 1-2 speakers will be seated to discuss their experience in their careers. An additional 6-7 participants will be able to join each table. Participants in the roundtable sessions will spend 30 minutes at a table of their choosing before rotating to a different table, allowing participants to visit multiple tables during each session (4 different tables across the two sessions). Because of the limited space, postdocs will receive preferential access to this part of the symposium. Thank you for understanding!

** These events will be broadcast via Zoom.

2023 Outstanding Faculty and Postdoctoral Mentor Awardees

Outstanding Postdoc Mentor Award

This award goes to a current postdoctoral appointee at Washington University who is nominated by their mentees. It recognizes the postdoc for their commitment to building up and supporting undergraduate and graduate mentees on their own scientific journeys. This year, two postdocs have been selected for this award. Congratulations to

Adelita Mendoza, PhD
Elizabeth Carlen, PhD

Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award

This award goes to a faculty mentor of a postdoctoral appointee at Washington University who is nominated by their postdoc mentees. It recognizes a faculty member who goes beyond being a supervisor to their postdocs, truly supporting and advocating for their postdocs to achieve success. This year, two faculty mentors have been selected for this award. Congratulations to

Courtney Reichhardt, PhD
Megan Baldrige, MD, PhD

Roundtable Sessions

The roundtable sessions are for postdocs to explore different career paths by speaking with people who are already along that path. Upon registration select attendance to this event and your topics of interest. Speakers confirmed are listed below; new speakers will be added as they are confirmed.

Industry Research

Samuel Pushparaj, PhD- Vir Biotechnology (samuelmvc@gmail.com)

Xenia Meshik, PhD- Canopy Biosciences (xmeshik@gmail.com)

Priya Sudarsanam, PhD- Climate- Bayer Corporation (priya.sudarsanam@bayer.com)

Monali Prabakaran, PhD- Millipore Sigma (monali.prabakaran@gmail.com)

Zuzana Kocsisova, PhD-CTC Genomics

Non-profit and Government Agencies

Sharon Deem, DVM, PhD- StL Zoo Conservation

Ashley Edes, PhD- StL Zoo Conservation

General Career Advice

Arlene Taich, PhD- Career Center at Washington University (ataich@wustl.edu)

Non-PI Academic Administration

Michelle Delair, PhD- Director of Curricular Innovation, Washington University
(mdelair@wustl.edu)

Rick Moore, PhD- Assistant Director of Assessment & Evaluation at the CTL,
Washington University (rick.moore@wustl.edu)

Early PI (domestic background)

Jen Zellers, PT, DPT, PhD- Assistant Professor, Washington University
(jzellers@wustl.edu)

Elizabeth Pollina, PhD- Assistant Professor, Washington University
(pollina@wustl.edu)

Senior PI (domestic background)

James Skeath, PhD- Professor, Washington University (jskeath@wustl.edu)

David W. Piston, PhD- Professor, Washington University (piston@wustl.edu)

PI (international background)

Silvia Jansen, PhD- Assistant Professor, Washington University
(silvia.jansen@wustl.edu)

Polina Lishko, PhD- Professor, Washington University (lishko@wustl.edu)

Science Communication

Laura Zonia, PhD- Senior Scientific Editor, Washington University
(laura.zonia@wustl.edu)

*Kathleen Schoch, PhD- Assistant Professor, Washington University
(kmschoch@wustl.edu)

Policy

**Brittany Whitley, PhD- Executive Director, MOST Policy Initiative

Francesca Manzella, PhD- Dr. Leroy Hood Science Policy Fellow, Research! America
(fmanzell@gmail.com)

Data Science

**Chris Sorensen, PhD- Senior Support Scientist, Washington University
(sorensenc@wustl.edu)

*Zachary Abrams, PhD- Instructor in Biostatistics, Washington University
(abramsz@wustl.edu)

Academic research, non-PI

**Viju Gupta, PhD- Senior Scientist, Washington University (ggupta@wustl.edu)

John Murphy, PhD- Senior Scientist, Washington University (murphyjt@wustl.edu)

*Alessandro Ustione, PhD- Staff Scientist, Washington University
(a.ustione@wustl.edu)

Entrepreneurship

*Karen Gheesling Mullis, PhD- Director, New Ventures, Washington University
(mullis@wustl.edu)

**Christian Harding, PhD- CSO & Cofounder of Omniose
(christian.harding@vaxnewmo.com)

* ONLY attending session I

** ONLY attending session II

Resource Fair

- [Becker Medical Library](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Center for Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Clinical Research Training Center](#)
- [Dunn Law Firm](#)
- [English Language Programs](#)
- [Family Care- via Wellness Connection](#)
- [First-Gen Scholars](#)
- [InPrint](#)
- [International Spouses/Mosaic Program](#)
- [MEDA](#)
- [MyWay to Health](#)
- [Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [Office of Technology Management](#)
- [Office of International Students and Scholars](#)
- [OUTmed/OUTmentor](#)
- [Postdoc Peer Mentorship Program](#)
- [Research Infrastructure Services](#)
- [Skandalaris Center](#)
- [ToastMasters](#)
- [UHC Nurse Advocates](#)
- [WashU Black Postdoc Association](#)
- [Washington University Postdoc Society](#)
- [WellnessConnection](#)
- [WiSTEM](#)

Organizing Committee

Peter Myers, Ph.D., Program Manager, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs - Chair

Lisa Kuehne, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Graduate and Postdoc Programs, CTL

Franzi Pohl, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Medicine - Oncology

Cristian Wieczorek Villas Boas, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Radiation Oncology

Caroline Fecher, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cell Biology & Physiology

Shweta Bhagwat, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Shilpa Hebbar, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Medicine - Oncology

Paola Cepeda, Ph.D., Director, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs - *ex officio*