**DUPA October 2021 Meeting Recap**

New Slack group for Duke Postdocs to meet people, ask questions, and find Postdoc events! Join [here](https://join.slack.com/t/dukepostdocs/shared_invite/zt-wmvzeqb6-~ZgjVhkYTB8yUew8wiu6HA) or contact [miranda.scalabrino@duke.edu](mailto:miranda.scalabrino@duke.edu)

Also a Duke Postdoc LinkedIn page! This will be used to highlight postdoc achievements. Join [here](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1883614/), and contact [Miranda.scalabrino@duke.edu](mailto:Miranda.scalabrino@duke.edu) if you are interested in being highlighted!

Open positions for multiple DUPA council positions! Full list is on the DUPA [website](https://dukepostdocs.org/join-us/).

* **Diversity** – Contact: Marhiah Montoya [marhiah.montoya@duke.edu](mailto:marhiah.montoya@duke.edu)
  + **Postdoctoral Working Conditions and DEI Climate Survey** was updated based on postdoc feedback and feedback from the DUPA International Postdoc Committee and will be finalized this month for formal distribution by January 1st 2022.
  + **Diversity Co-Chair Opening**– Postdocs, if you are interested in being part of the DUPA council in the Diversity role, please let me know. We are in need of help, perspectives, and ideas. Let’s do this together!
  + **Events!**If you have any questions, contact: [marhiah.montoya@duke.edu](mailto:marhiah.montoya@duke.edu)
    - 10/26 at 6pm – Whine & Cheese – Monthly Postdoc Virtual Gathering to vent (or whine) about ANYTHING, cheese is optional.  If you’re wondering what this gathering might be like, check out this YouTube video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvhh6ciMmJU](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvhh6ciMmJU__;!!OToaGQ!9knvNJbPdBHE9t1ULEJrRayQhFitayS5TtEdo8YqLES8O8jjCa0qW-Lzc_ISUcI8eqA$)
      * Zoom: [https://duke.zoom.us/j/97088229772?pwd=dWh4QndnMUUzdkl2U21ldFdYTDk1QT09](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/duke.zoom.us/j/97088229772?pwd=dWh4QndnMUUzdkl2U21ldFdYTDk1QT09__;!!OToaGQ!9knvNJbPdBHE9t1ULEJrRayQhFitayS5TtEdo8YqLES8O8jjCa0qW-Lzc_ISkAmFeAk$)

Meeting ID: 970 8822 9772  Passcode: 773391

* + - 10/27 - PUSHED (Postdocs Uniting Science & Healthcare to Eliminate Disparities in Research) virtual gathering!

PUSHED is a Monthly Zoom Brainstorming /“Think-Tank” type meeting (every 4th Wednesday) where postdocs gather to discuss ways to integrate health disparities into their research and informally discuss their research findings that relate to health disparities. If you’re struggling with trying to find ways to connect your research with racial and ethnic health disparities, this group is for you!

* + - * Zoom: [https://duke.zoom.us/j/94141425852?pwd=RUVZYXdiVFhlRlpnUG82OUZxNm85Zz09](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/duke.zoom.us/j/94141425852?pwd=RUVZYXdiVFhlRlpnUG82OUZxNm85Zz09__;!!OToaGQ!9knvNJbPdBHE9t1ULEJrRayQhFitayS5TtEdo8YqLES8O8jjCa0qW-Lzc_IShEfwMdQ$)

Meeting ID: 941 4142 5852   Passcode: 374153

* + Proposal for a new collaborative project between Diversity and International Committee as well as any postdoc that wishes to help:

Welcome Packet and Information for International Postdocs – To include information and contacts to help with finding housing, setting up US federal documents such as social security, drivers license, credit cards, etc., in-city transportation, how to navigate the triangle area for basic needs, health care, and entertainment, and so much more. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!  Reference/Template: [international\_postdoc\_surviv.pdf (ymaws.com)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/cdn.ymaws.com/www.nationalpostdoc.org/resource/resmgr/2019_launch/resources/intsurvguide/international_postdoc_surviv.pdf__;!!OToaGQ!9knvNJbPdBHE9t1ULEJrRayQhFitayS5TtEdo8YqLES8O8jjCa0qW-Lzc_ISBm0IFJ0$)

* + Duke Visa Policy – It has been brought to my attention that international postdocs are not treated the same in regards to the types of visas granted to them. There are differences by departments for postdocs with the same funding. We need to find out departmental policies and hear from international postdocs about their experiences with visas here at Duke. I would like to use this information to advocate for equal treatment of all international postdocs with the goal of reducing the burden of annual visa renewals for international postdocs that plan to continue research in their lab for more than a year as well as the visa issues that interfere with attending international conferences.
* **International** –  Contacts: Yutian Feng [yutian.feng@duke.edu](mailto:yutian.feng@duke.edu) , Dilimini Wijesinghe k.wijesinghe@duke.edu, Thomas Pomberger thomas.pomberger@duke.edu, Atefah (Aty) Ghazavi atefeh.ghazavi@duke.edu, Weijia Su [weijia.su@duke.edu](mailto:weijia.su@duke.edu)
  + **Mission:** we represent and advocate for international postdocs at Duke.
  + **What we do:** we organize fun events for international postdocs and their families (potluck, picnic, game night, local tours, hiking trips, etc.), and help international postdocs navigate their life and work at Duke.
  + **Immigration and Visa Seminar updates:** The event Sept 29 was attended by 65 postdocs. There were requests to do this type of seminar every 3-6 months. We will invite different law firms in the future.
  + **Buddy Program:** More than 130 Duke postdocs have signed up!
    - New surveys including a Feedback survey and Modified Duke Buddy program Questionnaire
    - Interests outside work, Department, Nationality. Forming interest groups (hiking group, soccer team, basketball team, ultimate Frisbee team, potluck groups, running club, comedy club, etc.)
  + **Upcoming Events:** 
    - Duke Postdocs presents: Thanksgiving special comedy showcase: Gee, thanks Covid!
    - Fall hiking trips
  + OPEN POSITION. What we expect of new members: an hour or 2 per week of your free time to help us produce better events! International postdocs make up more than half of postdocs at Duke, so we need more representations and diversity!
* **Professional Development** – Contacts: Corinne Haines [corinne.haines@duke.edu](mailto:corinne.haines@duke.edu)  & Susanna Brantley [susanna.brantley@duke.edu](mailto:susanna.brantley@duke.edu)
  + **Goals:** The overall goal of the DUPA Professional Development Committee is to provide opportunities for career development and professional interaction in a diversity of fields/careers and to provide support for postdocs on the job market. We will achieve these goals by: Hosting practice job talks for postdocs on the academic job search. Organizing support groups for postdocs writing manuscripts or grant applications. Hosting workshops and seminars with prior Duke postdocs to explore a variety of career tracks. Annually surveying postdocs to determine unmet professional development needs in our community.
  + **Events:**
    - **Job Search Workshop Series:** “Navigating the Academic Job Search in Biomedical Science”

*Romain Cartoni, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, Ophthalmology and Neurobiology*

Oct 26, Nov 2, and Nov 9 from 10-11 am

Rm 143 Jones Bldg

https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_81Vr4RGkdfxeJ9Q

* + - **Practice Job Talks:** Email us if you are ready to do a practice job talk. This service is a available anytime, but we will gear up in February/March of 2022
    - **DUPA Seminar Series:** Starting January 2022! Email us if you would like to present your work – interest form circulation soon.
* **Social**– OPEN POSITIONS!
  + **Social Committee Duties:** The duties of a Social Committee include planning a variety of events that reach out to all Duke University postdocs. The Social Committee is dedicated to improving the postdoc experience by facilitating new interactions and connections for postdocs across campus. Examples of previous events include organizing intramural sports teams, postdoc pub nights, Hurricanes Hockey game group tickets, Lemur Center tours, Trivia/game nights, and more. We also have established connections with the UNC and NC State Postdoc Associations to collaboratively plan joint social events! The Social Committee is always looking for new event ideas, so if you enjoy planning events, socializing, and meeting new people, please join!
  + **Goals of Social Committee:** Acquire 3+ individuals in order to keep up with demand for more variety in events. Offer at least 1 event per month
  + **Sept Events:** National Postdoc Appreciation Week Triangle Social Virtual Event (Thurs, Sept. 23rd) – 30+ total attendees, roughly 10 from Duke . Hosted two Lemur Center Tours on Sunday, Sept. 26th which were very successful!
  + **Ideas for Future Events:**
    - Group rate tickets to the NC State Fair
    - Corn Maze/Pumpkin Patch
    - Food Truck/Ice Cream Truck/Coffee/Drink Truck on Campus
    - Cooking Class – potentially at Season to Taste
    - Wine and Design – Painting
    - Postdoc Pub Night (example venues: Bull McCabe’s, Bull City Ciderworks, and Boxcar Bar and Arcade)
    - Email Yutian Feng if you have a suggested event!
* **Service** – Contact: Jacques Stout [jacques.stout@duke.edu](mailto:jacques.stout@duke.edu)
  + **Upcoming Events:**
    - Communities in Partnership: Vaccination event in East Durham 10/9 and 10/10 (THIS WEEKEND! Sending info to listserv after meeting). Require around 8 people on either days. They are particularly encouraging/asking for the help of bilinguals and Black/Latinx individuals to help with canvassing these communities
    - The food bank needs help with packaging and sorting salvaged food on Saturday 10/16 9am to 12 pm
    - 'Move-A-Bull City' event with Bike Durham 10/16
  + OPEN POSITION
* **Outreach**– Contacts: Claudia Gonzalez-Hunt [claudia.gonzalez@duke.edu](mailto:claudia.gonzalez@duke.edu)  & Daniel Luo [jie.luo@duke.edu](mailto:jie.luo@duke.edu)
  + **Goals**: Give postdocs a forum to present their research to general audiences and help amplify the impact of their work. Reach out to K-12 and college students and familiarize them with graduate school and a career in research by presenting our work and telling our stories. Engage with our local communities and find ways to more effectively disseminate our work and collaborate for their benefit.
  + **Volunteers needed for outreach activities!** Sent an email last week and have gotten amazing participation so far! More postdocs are always needed. Interested? Send a brief description of your research. You can also mention the type of group you would prefer to work with (K-12, college, general population).
  + **Upcoming event:** Outreach at Durham Tech. Will likely be a mix of presentations about our research/how we got here, and then a panel/Q&A. More details to follow!
  + **Other events in the works:** Postdoc Research Showcase. TED-style presentations showcasing the amazing work we do! Will be open to the public (likely virtual, but hopefully will be streamed from a campus auditorium). Youtube series: Spotlights on postdocs and their research! Recorded/edited by us, and then uploaded to Youtube.
  + *Interested in participating in the organization of these events? Enjoy video recording/editing and want to help? Please reach out to us!*