CAREER SYMPOSIUM
FOR POSTDOCS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS

Exploring Your Passions and Recognizing Your Potential

WED, OCT 18  UNIVERSITY CLUB, BALLROOM B

CENTER FOR DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC CAREER DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION
Whether you are a medical or graduate student just starting advanced study in your chosen field; a postdoctoral fellow, resident, or clinical fellow embarking on even more specialized training; or a junior-level faculty member serving as a teacher, researcher, or clinician, we want to help you achieve your professional potential.

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PROGRAM

4:00 - 4:30 p.m. University Club, Ballroom B

OPENING REMARKS

Chelsea Stillman, PhD
NIH/NIMH T32 Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh
Brain Health Program Manager, sciVelo

FEATURED SPEAKER

Nathan Urban, PhD

Dr. Urban will discuss how doctoral students and postdoctoral trainees can leverage their advanced scientific and analytic reasoning skills to solve challenging problems working in a wide variety of scientific professions.

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

MODERATOR

Andrew Papale, PhD
Postdoctoral Associate
Department of Neurobiology, School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

CAREER TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with a variety of local professionals from science-related fields who will lead roundtable discussions about career prospects in a range of employment settings, such as academia, industry, and government organizations.
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<td>3 Academic - Research</td>
<td>Nathan Urban, PhD</td>
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<td>4 Academic - Research Administration</td>
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<td>5 Academic - Undergraduate Education</td>
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<td>7 Industry – Clinical Analytics</td>
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<td>8 Industry - Data Science</td>
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<td>9 Industry - Drug Discovery</td>
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<td>10 Industry - Health Technology</td>
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<td>11 Industry - Information Technology</td>
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<td>12 Industry - Material Science</td>
<td>John Watkins, PhD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:watkins@lumishieldtech.com">watkins@lumishieldtech.com</a></td>
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<td>13 Industry - Medical Science Liaison</td>
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<td>14 Industry - Regulatory Affairs</td>
<td>Angela Pardee Coy, PhD</td>
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<td>15 Postdoctoral Training</td>
<td>Chelsea Stillman, PhD</td>
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<td>16 Public Policy</td>
<td>Anna Jean Wirth, PhD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anna_wirth@rand.org">anna_wirth@rand.org</a></td>
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<td>17 Science Policy</td>
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<td>18 Scientific Writing</td>
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NATHAN URBAN, PhD is a Professor and the Associate Chair of the Department of Neurobiology, the Associate Director of the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute and co-Director of the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition. In June 2017, he was appointed to Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives after serving as the Vice Provost for Special Projects beginning in 2015. Prior to Joining Pitt, Dr. Urban was a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon where he was the Frederick Schwertz Distinguished Professor of Life Sciences and served as Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and interim Provost from 2014-2015.

Dr. Urban graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991 with majors in neuroscience and mathematics and philosophy. Following graduation, he attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar before returning to the University of Pittsburgh to earn his PhD in neuroscience. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the Max Planck
Institute for Medical Research in Heidelberg Germany, Urban joined Carnegie Mellon’s Department of Biological Sciences in 2002.

Dr. Urban’s scientific work continues to focus on experimental and computational analysis of sensory processing by neural circuits in the mouse brain, with a focus on the sense of smell. He is also interested in development of new techniques and methods for neuroscience, especially in the areas of recordings of brain activity and the computational analysis of behavior. His work has been funded by NIH, NSF, DARPA, AFOSR, the Simons Foundation, the Commonwealth of PA and the Human Frontiers Science Program.
KAREN E. CARNEY, PhD is currently a Clinical Content Analyst at Via Oncology, a Pittsburgh-based decision support healthcare software company. As a content analyst, she liaises with committees of oncology experts to develop evidence-based treatment algorithms, which guide practitioners to the most efficacious cancer treatment decisions and promote clinical trial enrollment. Via Oncology also provides user institutions with customizable usage reports to facilitate quality and cost management and measure outcomes. Prior to transitioning to industry, Dr. Carney was a Postdoctoral Associate in the neurology department at the University of Pittsburgh. Her postdoctoral research explored the role of ion transporters in the progression of glioblastoma multiforme. Using cell and animal models, she tested the therapeutic potential of ion transporter inhibitors to reduce cancer invasiveness and extend survival. She was also actively involved in the leadership of the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association, the not-for-profit consulting firm, Fourth River Solutions, and the Pitt Professional Development Consortium. Dr. Carney earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biopsychology from Eckerd College, a Master of Science degree in behavioral and cognitive neuroscience from the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, and two PhDs in molecular neuroscience from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Université de Bordeaux.

MELISSA CHRISTIANSON, PhD is a Medical Writer and Consultant at Whitsell Innovations, Inc. (WI). In her role at WI, she is responsible for writing and reviewing such medical and scientific documents as clinical submissions, regulatory documents, manuscripts, poster and slide presentations, training materials, and many others. Her work at WI entails interaction with a variety of clients, including small and large pharmaceautics, biotech and startup companies, and academic investigators. Prior to joining WI, Dr. Christianson was a Postdoctoral Scholar at Duke University and held part-time writing positions with the American Brain Cancer Cure and HDBuzz foundations. She earned her BA in cognitive science from Yale University and her PhD in neurobiology from Duke University, where her research focused on mechanisms of neurodegenerative disease.

ANGELA PARDEE COY, PhD is a Regulatory Affairs Specialist, CMC (Chemistry, Manufacturing & Controls) with Mylan Pharmaceuticals in Morgantown, WV. She currently supports the pre- and post-approval submission activities for externally manufactured injectable and inhalation solution products. Dr. Coy earned her doctorate in immunology from the University of Pittsburgh in the laboratory of Walter Storkus, PhD, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Lisa Butterfield, PhD, where she developed novel immune-based therapies for melanoma and hepatocellular cancer. Dr. Coy is a member of the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) and Women
in Bio (WIB) - Pittsburgh Chapter, serves as a mentor through WIB’s Mentors, Advisors, and Peers (MAPs) program, and is a two-time recipient of the Scholar-in-Training award from the American Association of Cancer Research.

JOYCE D’ANTONIO, PhD is the Director of the Office of Graduate Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine. Prior to joining the School of Medicine, Dr. D’Antonio was a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education; the Associate Director of Early Childhood Partnerships at the Office of Child Development; and a core faculty member of the Consortium for Injury Research & Community Action at the Graduate School of Public Health. Dr. D’Antonio graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, in 1983 with a Master of Science degree in epidemiology, and in 1988 with a PhD in epidemiology. As a doctoral student, she studied early markers of the long-term complications of insulin-dependent diabetes. Following the completion of her doctoral degree, she was a faculty member of the University of Pittsburgh, Department of Ophthalmology and served as the Epidemiologist of the Clinical Vision Research Center. Dr. D’Antonio then joined the faculty of the Duquesne University School of Health Sciences where she was a Department Chairperson and taught graduate and undergraduate research courses. In 2000, through collaborations with colleagues at the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute, Center for Violence and Injury Control, she became interested in community-based injury and violence research. She returned to the University of Pittsburgh in 2006, where she continued working in this area of research until accepting her current administrative position in 2013.

SANNA GASPARD, PhD serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Rubitection Inc. Dr. Gaspard is the primary engine behind Rubitection’s mission and vision. Her specialty is medical device design and development and entrepreneurship. She received her PhD in 2011 and her MS in 2005, in biomedical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. Upon graduating, she founded Rubitection, Inc., where she serves as the visionary in overseeing the commercialization of the Rubitect Assessment System. She has been recognized for her scientific and business-related work by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) & Lemelson Foundation (AAAS-Lemelson Invention Ambassador, 2017), UpPrize (2nd place winner, 2017), AlphaLab (Hardware Cup 1ST place winner, 2017), Medical Capital Innovation (2nd place, 2017), SPIE (Startup Challenge Photons West finalist, 2016), Hitlab Global Summit (2nd place winner, 2015), Mass Challenge Accelerator (2014), Cartier Women’s Initiative Award (US Finalist, 2013), 3RVF Technology Showcase (1st place, 2011), IEEE (New Face of Engineering Award, 2010).
TRICIA L. GEARHART, PhD is a Medical Science Liaison for Ferring Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Gearhart graduated from Allegheny College in 2004 with a BS in biology. Following graduation, she attended Drexel University College of Medicine and graduated with a PhD in molecular, cell biology, and genetics. She then went on to do a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh under Dr. Ronald Montelaro in the Center for Vaccine Research. In 2016, Dr. Gearhart left the University of Pittsburgh for Ferring Pharmaceuticals. Her role as a medical science liaison focuses in the therapeutic area of reproductive health, where she interacts with doctors and nurses from fertility clinics and pharmacies throughout the Midwest territory.

MATT MASCIOLI, MBA is an Associate with McKinsey and Company, based out of Pittsburgh. Prior experiences include higher education fund development and Christian ministry. He has a bachelor’s degree from Amherst College, MDiv from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

KELLY PICCHIONE, PhD is a Research Investigator at Knopp Biosciences, a drug discovery company on the South Side of Pittsburgh. Kelly received her PhD in neuroscience from the University at Buffalo in 2010, studying the role potassium channels play in controlling the excitability of neurons. Dr. Picchione has been at Knopp for seven years and is currently the group leader of the Kv7 biology team, where she manages a group of biologists and collaborates with medicinal chemists to drive lead molecules into a Phase I Clinical trial for epilepsy. Currently, she participates in the local Women In Bio chapter as Chair of the Mentors, Advisors and Peers (MAPs) program.

VALERIE L. REEVES, PhD is a Research Program Coordinator in the University of Pittsburgh Sports Medicine Concussion Research Program. In her current role as program coordinator, Dr. Reeves manages a small lab staff and coordinates eight active concussion-related research projects while also analyzing and reporting study results. She actively collaborates on grant, manuscript, and presentation writing with the Concussion Lab Research Director. She has worked with tech industry collaborators to develop a neurocognitive app for testing for concussion. Dr. Reeves earned her PhD in physiology from the University of Kentucky. Following a short postdoc at the University of Kentucky, where she studied the link between obesity and Alzheimer’s disease, she completed two other short postdocs at the University of Pittsburgh involving obesity, metabolic disease, and neurodegeneration. Dr. Reeves pursued her current position as a research program coordinator as a first step toward project management in research and biotechnology.
MIKE RINGLER, MPIA joined the University of Pittsburgh Office of Community and Government Relations as Senior Director for Federal Relations in March, 2015. Prior to that, Ringler was a professional staff member for the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives for 17 years, most recently serving as the Clerk of the Subcommittee on Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. Prior to joining the Committee on Appropriations, he served as the Budget Officer for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Information Agency. Ringler began his federal government career as a Presidential Management Intern with the United States Information Agency in 1987. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree from Georgetown University, and a Master of Public and International Affairs degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

CHELSEA STILLMAN, PhD is a Postdoctoral Scholar in the Clinical and Translational Geriatric Psychiatry program in the psychiatry department. Dr. Stillman earned her PhD in psychology (Lifespan Cognitive Neuroscience) from Georgetown University in 2015. Her pre-doctoral research examining the basic neural mechanisms of learning in aging was supported by an individual NRSA. She joined the Brain Aging and Cognitive Health lab at the University of Pittsburgh shortly after defending to begin examining the plasticity of the brain in a more translational context. Dr. Stillman’s current research focuses on how lifestyle interventions, such as physical activity, meditation, and diet, modify cognitive and brain functioning. She has published more than 10 first author publications and has presented her work at local, national, and international conferences, winning several awards. In her spare time, Dr. Stillman serves as the University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association President. She also works as a consultant for a Pitt-Medicine-based startup, focusing on clinical and commercial translation. Through these activities, Dr. Stillman has gained multiple perspectives on research and life inside and outside of academia. She looks forward to sharing these experiences with young scientists considering their career trajectories.

PATRICK STROH, PhD is the Vice President of Data Science/Decision Analytics at Brunner. Dr. Stroh specializes in data science and machine learning as they apply to digital marketing and customer engagement. At Brunner, he is currently applying deep learning to understand customer journeys and optimize marketing actions. Prior to joining Brunner, Dr. Stroh worked as Vice President of Data Science and Consulting Solutions at customer engagement agency Precision Dialogue. There he specialized in new analytical strategies, technology, and application platforms in the area of customer engagement, including sale attribution modeling, marketing mix, next best action, and digital analytics, as well as big data and automated marketing/CRM platforms. At PNC Bank, Dr. Stroh was Senior Vice President of Customer Engagement Strategy, where he oversaw an advanced analytics group that focused on customer-centric (multi-channel, multi-product)
marketing and contact management through data mining, pattern recognition, predictive modeling, and optimization. He also served for several years as Vice President of Analytics and Decision Support for an industry-leading digital search engine marketing firm, which specialized in advanced analytical solutions, including bid optimization (“Adaptive Bidding” - “untouchable” platform / Forrester Wave 2010), analysis based campaign organization/budgeting, and online sales forecasting. Dr. Stroh formerly was on the faculty of Carnegie Mellon University and New York University, where he taught political science and statistics. Key current and former clients include M&Ms, Mitsubishi Electric, OfficeMax, Chase Bank, PetSmart, Barnes and Noble, Mercedes Benz, and Verizon Wireless. Dr. Stroh has coached soccer, raised honeybees, and traveled extensively; now he fishes, wants to learn blacksmithing, and learns patience/bravery with his student-driver son.

BETH STRONACH, PhD has been an academic research scientist and educator for over a dozen years. After receiving a PhD in biology from the University of Utah in 1997 and pursuing postdoctoral work in genetics at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Stronach moved to Pittsburgh in 2002. Since then, she has been a faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh, first in the Department of Biological Sciences, then in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the School of Medicine. Dr. Stronach’s research program focused on understanding how cells organize into complex tissues during organism development, with a particular emphasis on the roles of MAP Kinase signal transduction pathways. Recently, Dr. Stronach moved to a position in the Office of Research for Health Sciences. There, as a Scientist Administrator, she uses her experience to provide scientific and editorial review of faculty grant applications. In her personal time, Dr. Stronach is strongly committed to volunteer and advocacy work to raise awareness for rare disease research and legislation. She is currently a board member-at-large for the RASopathies Network organization, fostering communication and collaboration among scientists, clinicians, families, and biotech to help individuals with genetic syndromes linked to mutations in the RAS/MAPK pathway. In this role, she participated in garnering NIH conference grant support and co-organizing a recent international scientific symposium. Dr. Stronach is also a member and former Program Committee Chair of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Women in Bio (WIB), where she organized events to empower and support women’s professional development in the life sciences space.

ROSS THOMSON, PhD is a Senior Technical Solutions Consultant at Google’s Pittsburgh location. Ross earned his BS in physics from Concordia University and his PhD in computational physics from McGill University. Prior positions held by Dr. Thomson were Senior Engineer at Fairchild Semiconductor, Member of Technical Staff at Lucent Technologies, and Technical Product Manager at Channel Intelligence. A few start-up adventures are mixed in there as well.
ALEXANDER CHUKWUMA UFELLE, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Department of Public Health and Social Work at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. He received a medical degree from Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Nigeria, a Master of Public Health degree from Western Kentucky University and a PhD in Public Health (Environmental and Occupational Health) from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. He has over seven years’ experience as an emergency care physician in Nigeria, treating patients with occupational-related injuries and diseases. Dr. Ufelle had his postdoctoral training at the University of Pittsburgh, where he investigated the role of gender and sex hormone in modulating hemolytic propensity of red blood cells. He also conducted research to investigate the role of macrophage polarization in hepatitis B virus and HIV co-infection in chronic liver disease. Dr. Ufelle is an active member of the National Environmental Health Association, Society of Toxicology and American Public Health Association and has presented his research at meetings of this organizations. Dr. Ufelle instructs Master of Public Health students in environmental toxicology, environmental and occupational health science, and environmental and occupational exposure monitoring analysis and control. In addition, Dr. Ufelle has ongoing research collaborations with the University of Pittsburgh Liver Center (PLRC) and National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). Finally, Dr. Ufelle acts as a mentor to undergraduate students in bench research in toxicology.

JOHN WATKINS, PhD is currently the Senior Electrochemist with LumiShield Technologies, a materials science start-up in Robinson. Dr. Watkins received his PhD from the University of Bath in the UK in 2012, studying electrochemistry, before moving to the United States in 2013. In the U.S. Dr. Watkins worked as a postdoc at Princeton University for one and a half years. He then moved to Pittsburgh in 2014 to accept a second postdoc as an ORISE fellow with the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), a U.S. Department of Energy lab in the South Hills. It was here that Dr. Watkins developed an interest in environmentally responsible solutions to scientific problems and met his current business partners at LumiShield. After two and half years with NETL, he left to join LumiShield Technologies full time, initially as an Innovation Fellow with CMU and now as a full-time employee. LumiShield aims to commercialize an environmentally-friendly, alternative electroplating technology for corrosion protection of steel based on the electroplating of aluminum from water, a technology spun out from CMU and NETL in 2015.
ANNA JEAN WIRTH, PhD is an Associate Physical Scientist at the RAND Corporation, a not-for-profit think tank and research organization. Dr. Wirth uses modeling, simulation, and data-analysis to inform decision making in National Security and Defense, with a particular focus on logistics and CBRN readiness. She has contributed data analysis to help the U.S. Army manage medical materiel and built a model that enables U.S. Coast Guard analysts to understand the impact asset allocation to mission performance. In addition to conducting research, Dr. Wirth leads project teams, writes reports, and presents RAND analysis to government stakeholders. Dr. Wirth earned her PhD in chemistry from the University of Illinois, where she was an NSF fellow. Her research used a variety of spectroscopy methods—including fast laser spectroscopy and whole-cell fluorescence microscopy—to study protein folding. She leveraged her quantitative background and experience in data analysis to transition to the policy world, where she applies many of the same analytic techniques she used in science to problems facing government decision makers.