POSTDOCTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

POSTDOCTORAL opportunity to study autoimmune arthritis in the Mellins laboratory, Stanford Immunology Program. Ph.D. in immunology and experience with animal models required. Send statement of research interests, resume and contact information for three references to e-mail: mellins@stanford.edu

POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS: Personalized Medicine and Spem Nuclear Structure

Several wet-bench and computational postdoctoral positions are immediately available as part of an interdisciplinary research team. Using advanced high-throughput technologies and computational and statistical analyses the successful applicants will join the Krawetz group to determine how sperm RNAs regulate chromatin structure and act to convey environmental cues to the birth and life course of a child (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?family?=krawetz). Highly-motivated individuals able to work in the United States are encouraged to apply. Email a statement of interest, curriculum vitae and three letters of reference to: Professor S. A. Krawetz, Wayne State University School of Medicine, e-mail: a1965@wayne.edu. Wayne State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

POSITIONS OPEN

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TEACHING FACULTY POSITION (Microbiology and Immunology)

The Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia invites applications for a non-tenure-track teaching faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor based on a 12-month appointment. The successful candidate will be responsible primarily for directing and participating in teaching courses offered to medical, graduate and post-baccalaureate students. In addition, this candidate will play a leadership role in support of academic success of medical students. Candidates must have a Ph.D., M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. Expertise in Immunology and appropriate teaching experience are required. Please submit curriculum vitae and a statement of teaching philosophy with names of 3 references to Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti, Chair, Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, SC 29208 or e-mail: teachimmunology@uscmed.sc.edu. The search will start immediately and will continue until the position is filled. USC Columbia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and encourages applications from women and minorities and is responsive to the needs of dual career couples.

POSTDOCTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

A postdoctoral position in the molecular biology of chemoreception is open in the lab of Prof. McCarty, Dept. of Pediatrics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA, for a project funded by the NSF in collaboration with Prof. Julia Kubanek at Georgia Tech. This will investigate the mechanisms that organisms use to sense chemical signals and cues in their environments. Expertise desired in any of these areas: protein and nucleic acid purification, CRIRP-Cas9 technology, immunohistochemistry, gene expression analysis, protein-ligand interactions, signal transduction, protein trafficking, and fluorescence microscopy. Thus, a Ph.D. with research experience in molecular biology, cell biology, biochemistry, pharmacology, or a related field is expected.

The facilities and other resources available at Emory University and Georgia Tech, only 5 miles apart, provide research investigators with a rich environment, supportive of successful scientific research.

The position is available immediately and will be initially offered for two years with the possibility of renewal dependent upon successful progress in research. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience. Interested individuals should contact Prof. Nael McCarty by e-mail (namccar@emory.edu).
Navigating technology transfer issues

You’ve got an idea and you think it has business teeth—now what? If you’re a postdoc aiming to focus your career on commercialization, your institution’s Technology Transfer Office is on the front line, providing a wealth of resources and advice to make sure your innovation’s market potential packs the biggest and most impactful punch. By Alaina G. Levine

David Giljohann began contemplating a career in entrepreneurship as he was finishing up his Ph.D. in 2009 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Together with his principal investigator (PI), he had realized the commercial potential of modifying nanoparticles with nucleic acids to create targeted, personalized medicines for a myriad of diseases. He and his advisor approached the university’s Technology Transfer Office (TTO), which serves to help researchers in all aspects of commercialization.

Northwestern’s TTO team gave him advice, guidance, access to resources, and a sweetheart deal—they arranged for him to do a postdoc in which he would spend half his time in the lab to continue his research and half his time at the university’s incubator to bring his startup plans to fruition. When he finished his postdoc in 2011, his firm had reached a critical milestone and was able to move to permanent headquarters in nearby Skokie, Illinois.

Giljohann now serves as CEO of Exicure, and has a staff of 25 and more than 100 patents and applications to his name. The new enterprise has just completed its first clinical trials in Germany. He shares that his success could not have happened but for the dedicated professionals in the TTO. “A personalized relationship with the TTO allowed me to come up with a unique way to start the company,” he explains. “It took away some of that risk so I would not be left homeless on the street while I was growing the company.”

While Giljohann’s arrangement with Northwestern was somewhat unusual, it is still emblematic of the many resources afforded to postdocs who approach their TTO with their business ideas and seek to craft partnerships to achieve those goals. Indeed, “there is a greater emphasis on proactively approaching the graduate students and postdocs of an institution, as they are often the hands that develop those inventions in conjunction with their PIs,” says Stephen J. Susalka, executive director of the Association of University Technology Managers, the main membership organization for technology commercialization professionals.

Today’s TTOs provide a bevy of benefits for would-be entrepreneurs, including seminars, internships, access to capital, startup space, infrastructure, mentors, and established industry partners, as well as soup-to-nuts assistance with everything from invention disclosures, early-stage commercialization plans, marketing plans, and licensing deals. Since TTOs’ objectives are to spin out innovations developed by researchers, TTO leaders, who often have Ph.D.s in science and engineering, welcome opportunities to converse with postdocs to help them map out their potential startup options.

Postdocs: the MVPs of tech transfer

The postdoc appointment can be the sweet spot in one’s career track for pursuing tech transfer endeavors. First of all, at such an early stage in their research career, postdocs often don’t have preconceived notions of how the tech transfer cont.>
FOCUS ON CAREERS

postdocs

“Professors are, in general, committed to the mission of impacting society through their research. Sometimes, this mission is best accomplished through commercialization.” — Alicia Löfler, associate provost for innovation and new ventures at Northwestern University

process works, or unrealistic expectations associated with forming licensing alliances, says Andrew Corris, a licensing associate at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

One of the bad habits postdocs usually avoid is a problem that Corris and his colleagues sometimes see with veteran inventors—who are more likely to weigh in on terms during licensing than a postdoc who is new to the process. “Sometimes the experience can be a boon in negotiations, but other times those preconceptions can mean a threat to the agreement,” he adds. “Those new to licensing tend to be more willing to accept the validity of reputable third-party benchmarking, which tends to be the only available compromise point anyway.”

Another advantage for postdocs is that since they are just starting out, they risk less by choosing to realize their dreams. “They are at a point in their career where they can easily transition into the startup company to advance their technology,” says Kimberly A. Muller, managing director of innovations at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver.

Cutting a deal with your mentor

Being transparent with your research mentor is the first and most important step to navigating technology transfer waters. “Have an open dialogue with your PI about where you think the technology could go and where your interests may align in starting a company,” says Giljohann. “Not all PIs realize that their students or postdocs have these ideas or designs on commercialization.”

A mentor’s response can range from giving their blessing to the postdoc and letting them take full responsibility for their ideas, to wanting to structure a binding partnership so they do everything together. Serge van de Pavert, a group leader at the Centre d’Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy, in France, agrees that it’s important to be up front with your mentor: “You cannot go behind their back—it will lead to conflict in the end.”

As a postdoc, van de Pavert recognized that an idea he had nurtured in the lab could be developed into a product. “I came to understand that if you don’t patent your finding, there will never be any medical applications generated from it, and that really shocked me. If possible, I want something I put a lot of effort into to provide benefits to the world.” He broached this subject with his PI; she was not interested in entrepreneurship but was fine with him pursuing it, as long as he kept her in the loop and ensured that she was present during meetings with the TTO.

Tech transfer professionals can aid postdocs in having such potentially delicate discussions with their advisors. Alicia Löfler, associate provost for innovation and new ventures at Northwestern University, recalls a case where a postdoc wanted to delve into commercialization, but the PI was not as “enthused.” She and her team were able to convince the PI it was a worthwhile endeavor, in part by highlighting how the venture in question would expand their influence in their disciplines. “Professors are, in general, committed to the mission of impacting society through their research,” she says. “Sometimes, this mission is best accomplished through commercialization.”

Minefields to mind

Once you have your PI informed and/or on board, “build a coalition of people who will help with the process,” says Giljohann. In fact, it is never too early to start conversing with your friendly neighborhood tech transfer professionals, who can help you traverse the critical hazards you are likely to meet while building your business.

The first such hazard relates to publishing. Muller strongly suggests that if you think your idea is patentable, speak with the TTO as soon as possible—especially before you publish or even think about publishing, which also includes giving oral and poster presentations at conferences. “Once things are published, it changes the landscape,” she says.

Susalka warns, “Intellectual property rights can be lost if you publish before an invention application is filed. You are always in a better place if you file a patent application before you publish the paper. I’ve said to people ‘send me a draft of your paper,’ and that way it can be reviewed with the tech transfer lens.”

However, if you’re concerned you won’t be able to publish at all, don’t worry, says Nisha Narayan, intellectual property and partnerships lead at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research: “You may need to delay the publishing for a few months, but we ultimately want you to disseminate the knowledge and make it available to the public.”

When Mayuresh V. Kothare, chairman of the department of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Lehigh University, his collaborator, adjunct professor Shivaji Sircar, and their postdoc Vemula Rama Rao realized they had a patentable result based on their bench-scale experiments, they immediately filed an invention disclosure with Lehigh’s Office of Technology Transfer (OTT). “Our OTT immediately recommended that we file a provisional patent so as to lock a priority date on the invention,” says Kothare. From this point on, they remained constantly in touch with their OTT to update on their progress in developing the technology. They filed a second provisional patent application soon after, and a nonprovisional, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application was filed within a year, which provided intellectual property protection across multiple countries cont.>
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The Department of Physiology at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is searching for three outstanding Postdoctoral Fellows to conduct research in the laboratory of Dr. Gadiparthi N. Rao. These positions will be in the area of cardiovascular research and are immediately available to study the role of endothelial cell dysfunction and GPCR signaling in vascular diseases and VEGF signaling in retinal neovascularization. Experience in two or more of the following areas is preferred: Cloning, protein-protein interactions, signal transduction, confocal microscopy/live-cell imaging, atherosclerosis, guide wire injury/restenosis and/or retinal angiogenesis.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. or M.D. with a strong background in biomedical sciences and candidates with publications as first authors in journals with 5 or more impact factors are preferred. Applicants should send their CV and three letters of reference to Dr. Gadiparthi N. Rao, George and Elizabeth Malloy Professor, at rgadipar@uthsc.edu.

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number of applicants) than typical federal research grants, says
Alexandra Hall, intellectual property manager at the University of
Denver in Colorado.

Additionally, more and more TTOs are offering postdocs and
graduate students internship opportunities to learn the
business from the inside out. This type of offering is a “win-
win” for the postdoc, TTO, and university, says Susalka,
because the intern/postdoc can then serve as an “ambassador” in
his or her home department and

share their experience to help peers in their own patenting and
commercialization pursuits.

Your TTO might offer other unexpected opportunities. For
example, CU Anschutz has a partnership with StartUp Health,
a for-profit enterprise that offers global-level connections and
advancement opportunities for innovators in the health care
space. “It provides additional resources to catapult the work
we are doing here onto the national scene,” says Muller. “It
connects our researchers with venture capitalists and others to
accelerate translation of the research from the lab to the public
sector.” The university also has a clinical validation program
with Children’s Hospital Colorado and the UCHHealth system,
in which inventors can test and fine-tune these innovations and
“deploy them in the hospital in real time,” she says.

The TTO can lay out all of the different options available,
from licensing to outright selling of an invention to launching
your own enterprise, and it can facilitate your success in many
ways, including teaching you marketing skills, pairing you with
mentors and partners, and giving you access to funding. “There
are a lot of mechanisms to engage a TTO,” says Narayan. “If a
similar idea has already been patented, don’t not come to me
because of that.”

It’s crucial to let your TTO get to know you and your needs
and goals, and vice versa. “It’s going to be different everywhere,
and you’ll see the flavors of technology commercialization differ
widely depending on institution,” says Corris. So just because
your Ph.D.-granting institution handled tech transfer one way
does not mean that your current university will handle it in the
same manner. And if your institution does not have its own
TTO, Susalka suggests contacting your university’s Office of
Sponsored Research.

But as a postdoc, no matter how you engage the realm of tech
transfer, you should know that you will find more pluses than
minuses there in terms of career opportunities, even if your
plans don’t involve being a full-time CEO. “People used to think
that if you were going to commercialize, you could not be a good
academic,” says Löffler. “But now, most faculty know this is not
true. If you look at most universities, the scientists who are the
best academics are also the best entrepreneurs.”

Alaina G. Levine is a freelance science writer based in Tucson, Arizona.

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Argonne National Laboratory is a multidisciplinary laboratory where more than 1,500 scientists and engineers perform world-class research. Argonne’s Postdoctoral Program provides early career professionals with the opportunity to join them in conducting meaningful, cutting-edge research. There are two types of appointments available.

ARGONNE NAMED FELLOWSHIPS are the Laboratory’s most prestigious fellowships. Applications are accepted in October for the Enrico Fermi Fellowship and in March for the Maria Goepptt Mayer Fellowship. Named Fellows work closely with an Argonne sponsor to pursue their research interests. A Named Fellow is hired as an Argonne Scholar with full benefits, a competitive salary and a stipend for research support. Named Fellows may renew their appointments on an annual basis for up to 3 years, with the possibility of retention.

DIVISIONAL POSTDOCTORAL APPOINTEES perform research in existing science and technology programs; present and publish research; contribute to the overall research efforts of the Laboratory; advance knowledge in basic and applied research; and strengthen U.S. scientific and technical capabilities. Candidates are selected based on their academic background and possible input to the lab’s research. Initial postdoctoral appointments are for one year with the opportunity to extend up to three years.

For information please visit the Argonne Postdoctoral Programs web site at http://www.anl.gov/postdocs/ or www.anl.gov/careers

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Applications must be received by May 1, 2017
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School of Biomedical Sciences

Associate Professor(s) / Assistant Professor(s)
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The School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine (CU Medicine) has three major thematic research programmes focusing on: cancer biology and experimental therapeutics; developmental and regenerative biology; and neural, vascular and metabolic biology. Further information is available at http://www2.sbs.cuhk.edu.hk/en-gb/research/thematic-research-programs. The School welcomes individuals who are highly devoted to innovative biomedical research and who value the opportunity to work in close collaboration with basic and clinical scientists to apply for the post(s) of full-time non-clinical Associate/Assistant Professor(s).

Applicants should have (i) a PhD, MD, or DVM degree or its equivalent in the biological and biomedical sciences or related disciplines; (ii) experience in using cutting-edge technologies such as bioinformatics, genomics, molecular genetics, stem cells, transgenic animal and imaging, animal models of human diseases in their studies; (iii) a competitive track record of research and publication in top peer-reviewed scientific journals in one or more related areas; and (iv) a good track record of external funding support. Individuals with track record in research on genetics and genomics of human diseases, neurodegeneration, vascular and metabolic biology, mammalian reproduction, and regenerative biology are particularly welcome.

The appointee(s) is/are expected to lead a vigorous independent research programme aside from teaching undergraduate, postgraduate, medical and general education courses. Appointee(s) will be provided with appropriate laboratory and office space and a start-up package commensurate with his/her qualification and experience.

Appointment(s) will normally be made on contract basis for up to three years initially commencing in the fourth quarter of 2017, which, subject to performance, funding and mutual agreement, may lead to longer-term appointment or substantiation later.

Applications will be accepted until the post(s) is/are filled.

Application Procedure
The University only accepts and considers applications submitted online for the post(s) above. For more information and to apply online, please visit http://career.cuhk.edu.hk.
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Assistant or Associate Professor
Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology

The Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy invites applications for a full-time tenure-track or tenured faculty position at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor level, with an anticipated start date of either Fall 2017 or Spring 2018. Division faculty members (http://sites.utexas.edu/pharmtox/faculty/) are a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative group with cutting-edge basic and translational research programs. The successful applicant will engage in productive research, high-quality teaching, and active participation in university service. The candidate will be expected to establish a vigorous and externally funded research program.

Candidates with research interests related to the developmental origins of health and disease, the role of the environment in those processes, and underlying molecular and epigenetic mechanisms, are particularly encouraged to apply. Teaching in the professional (Pharm.D.) program, and Ph.D. graduate student instruction is required. Qualified candidates must have a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in a relevant field.

Applications received before April 1, 2017 will receive first consideration, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The position carries a highly competitive salary, benefits, and start-up package, commensurate with experience. All highly qualified applicants will be considered. This institution is using Interfolio’s ByCommittee to conduct this search. Applicants may access this position at http://apply.interfolio.com/40595 and will be prompted to submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, research plan, and a list of 3 references.

The University of Texas at Austin is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a commitment to diversity at all levels. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status. (Compliant with the new VEVRAA and Section 503 Rules). Security sensitive; conviction verification conducted on applicant selected. If hired, you will be required to complete the federal Employment Eligibility Verification form, I-9. You will be required to present acceptable and original documents to prove your identity and authorization to work in the United States. UT Austin is a tobacco-free campus.

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The Foundation for Polish Science, the largest non-profit organization in Poland dedicated solely to the development of science.

A globally competitive remuneration package commensurate with the appointee’s qualifications and experience will be offered. At current rates, salaries tax does not exceed 15% of gross income. The appointment will attract a contract-employment status and University contribution to a retirement benefits scheme, totaling up to 15% of basic salary, as well as leave, and medical benefits. Housing benefits will be provided as applicable.

Applicants should send a completed application form, together with an up-to-date C.V., a detailed publication list, a research plan and a statement on teaching philosophy to scphy@hku.hk. Please indicate clearly the reference number in the subject of the e-mail. Application forms (341/1111) can be downloaded at http://www.hku.hk/apptunit/form-ext.doc. Further particulars can be obtained at http://jobs.hku.hk/. Closes July 31, 2017. For pre-application enquiries, please write to the Head of Department (e-mail: philphy@hku.hk).

The University thanks applicants for their interest, but advises that only candidates shortlisted for interviews will be notified of the application result.

The University of Hong Kong is committed to the highest international standards of excellence in teaching and research, and has been at the international forefront of academic scholarship for many years. The University has a comprehensive range of study programmes and research disciplines spread across 10 faculties and over 140 academic departments and institutes/centres. There are 28,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students who are recruited globally, and more than 2,000 members of academic and academic-related staff coming from multi-cultural backgrounds, many of whom are internationally renowned.

The Faculty of Science is one of the larger faculties with 123 academic staff in five departments (Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics and Actuarial Science) and one school (Biological Sciences). The Faculty provides a supportive and friendly environment and is embarking on a programme of recruitment to invest in areas of acknowledged strength and to invest in areas of internationally competitive activity. More detailed information about the Faculty can be obtained at http://www.scifac.hku.hk/.

The Department of Physics is a research-intensive department with recognized strengths in: Astronomy/ Astrophysics, Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science, Quantum computing and information theory. The Department, and HKU generally, are committed to gender equality and applications from suitably qualified women, who are currently under-represented at these levels, are strongly encouraged. The Department will also be happy to consider applications from people with their own funding who wish to explore open-ended positions in the Department. Further information about the Department can be obtained at http://www.physics.hku.hk/.

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Applicants should send a completed application form, together with an up-to-date C.V., a detailed publication list, a research plan and a statement on teaching philosophy to scphy@hku.hk. Please indicate clearly the reference number in the subject of the e-mail. Application forms (341/1111) can be downloaded at http://www.hku.hk/apptunit/form-ext.doc. Further particulars can be obtained at http://jobs.hku.hk/. Closes July 31, 2017. For pre-application enquiries, please write to the Head of Department (e-mail: philphy@hku.hk).

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