Navigating Two Realities: First-Generation College Students Reaching the Postdoc

By J. Marcela Hernandez, Vanessa González-Pérez, and Mahadeo Sukhai for The POSTDOCket

Challenges faced by undergraduate students whose parents never attended college make their educational advancement particularly vulnerable. And the challenges persist as first-generation students continue their training as graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

To create a more diverse and inclusive research workforce, more efforts and initiatives need to include first-generation scholars from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Recognizing the two realities these scholars navigate in their academic and personal lives will better enable efforts to retain them in the research workforce.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Taking an Unexpected Turn: Advice to Ph.D.s

By Adriana Bankston for Carpe Careers at Inside Higher Ed

Being a graduate student has many perks (not just free food!), which I didn't realize until after I graduated with my Ph.D. in 2013. For me, as I am sure for many of you, graduate school was a time of exploration. On the scientific front, I was able to spend countless hours reading and learning about skeletal muscle growth and repair, which became my sole interest and the focus of my every waking hour. I was deeply enjoying this scientific journey.

At the same time, however, I was trying to figure out where my life was going. What was I going to do as a career after graduation? How could I use my scientific knowledge moving forward? Like many of you, I, too, contemplated the idea of becoming a faculty member at an academic institution. I wanted to continue exploring the field of skeletal muscle biology
Notre Dame/Saint Mary's College Tax Assistance Program (TAP)

This service is free for those who made an annualized income of $45,000 or below during the 2016 tax period. For international visitors, appointments will be offered Mondays through Thursdays from 2/20 through 4/13. For US citizens, no appointments are necessary. Visit [https://tap.nd.edu/](https://tap.nd.edu/) for more information.

Beware - even if you didn't receive a pay check from Notre Dame or other sources regarding your appointment, you still may be expected to submit a document to IRS.

One-on-One Consultations

Do you need assistance?

- Career counseling
- Plan and define career goals
- Explore career options
- Identify strengths and weakness and plan for skills development
- CV, resume or cover Letter feedback
- Linkedin/Google scholar profile
- Prepare for upcoming interviews

Contact Valli Sarveswaran at vsarvesw@nd.edu to schedule a one-on-one consultation.

International Postdocs

and to use this knowledge in helping patients with muscular dystrophy. So I decided to pursue postdoctoral training, which lasted until 2016. During my postdoc, however, my career path took an unexpected turn.

Click [here](https://tap.nd.edu/) to read the full article.

The ND Postdoc Newsletter wants to share your research or article you have written with the ND Postdoc Community. If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, please email Valli Sarveswaran.

Career Services

Résumé Advice From a Magical Place

By Dr. Joseph Barber for Carpe Careers at Inside Higher Ed

I'm heading to Disney World with my family this month, and it is going to be an opportunity for me to revisit an earlier step in my career path. Although my postdoc was run through the University of Central Florida, I was physically based at Disney's Animal Kingdom -- yes, that's right, with Mickey and the gang.

You might think that a strange place to do a postdoc until I explain that my Ph.D. is in animal behavior. There are lots of real animals at the park (which is known as DAK), not just the giant-headed, costumed kind. Beyond my research into animal welfare, I learned a lot from my Disney experience and gained some great insights into the corporate world of mission statements, branding strategies, marketing campaigns and the laser-like focus that Disney has on customer service.

Some of those distinct aspects of Disney can also be relevant when it comes to thinking about your own professional branding, especially when it comes to documents like résumés.

Click [here](https://tap.nd.edu/) to read Barber's advice.

back to top

The Professor Is In: How to Make the Most of a Prestigious Postdoc

By Karen Kelsky for Vitae: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Question from a new postdoc: "I'm starting a postdoc this fall. There are things that I wish I had known earlier in my Ph.D. process, like the importance of getting my teaching observed and evaluated earlier, or the best places to submit articles for publication. What sort of things should I be aware of going into a postdoc?"

So how best to utilize the one to three years at a humanities or social science postdoc? Karen Kelski, founder and president of The Professor Is...
Events and Workshops

Foundations of Teaching

This four-part series will introduce and develop the fundamental skills of effective teaching, including communicating expectations, facilitating a class, grading, and teaching critical thinking skills. This will give first-time and early TAs a solid foundation for successful teaching in graduate school and beyond.

Date: Thursday, February 9
Time: 9:30 to 10:45 am

For more information and registration, click here.

World on Tap

All postdocs are invited to The World on Tap, a social at Rohr's held every first Wednesday of the month. Free appetizers will be served, and the first 50 attendees will receive a free drink ticket valued up to $6. Please bring a valid photo ID to this event.

- Date: March 1, 2017
- Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
- Location: Rohr's at the Morris Inn (map)

The Harper Cancer Research Institute's 6th Annual Research Day

Monday, April 10, 2017

- 7:30am - 9:00am Registration - The Morris Inn, Pre-function Area
- 9:00am - 1:00pm Poster Session - The Morris Inn, Ballroom
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm Trainee presentations - The Morris Inn, Formal Dining Rooms
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm Faculty presentations - The Morris Inn, Ballroom
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm Career Panel- The Morris Inn, Ballroom
- 5:00pm - 6:00pm Keynote: by Dr. Otis Brawley, Chief Medical Officer of the American Cancer Society
**National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)**

The NPA is a member-driven organization that provides a unique, national voice for postdoctoral scholars. Since 2003, they have taken on the ambitious agenda to enhance the quality of the postdoctoral experience in the US. They have assumed a leadership role in addressing the many issues confronting the postdoctoral community that are national in scope and requiring action beyond the local level.

- The University of Notre Dame is a sustaining member of the NPA.
- ND Postdocs can join the NPA for free.
- Learn about the benefits of a NPA membership here.

For more information about the NPA and to become a member, click here.

**Back to Top**

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**Versatile PhD - Humanities & Social Sciences**

**Back to Top**

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Research Day T-Shirt Design Contest**

**Deadline: February 13, 2017**

The Harper Cancer Research Institute wants your designs for their annual Research Day t-shirt. They're getting an early start this year so you can harness your creativity over break. The winning designer will receive a $200 VISA gift card and bragging rights. Multiple entries from one person are welcome. For the full list of contest rules, please email Angela Cavalieri at Cavalieri.2@nd.edu.

**Back to Top**

**2017-2018 Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program**

The Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program seeks to increase diversity in the biomedical research community by recruitment and retention of individuals from groups underrepresented in the life sciences. Through their successful careers as academic scientists, Hanna H. Gray Fellows will move science forward and inspire the next generation of scientists from America’s diverse talent pool. The Institute will select and support up to 15 Fellows in this first competition, which is now open for applications.

Fellows will receive a non-renewable grant of $80,000 annually for up to four years of postdoctoral training support followed by a non-renewable grant of $270,000 annually for up to four years of the faculty phase, if program criteria are met.

**Deadline: 3:00 p.m. (ET) on February 15, 2017**

Click here to learn about Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program.

**Back to Top**

**2016-17 Indiana CTSI Postdoc Challenge**

Grant funding to use CTSI-Designated Core Facilities

Postdoctoral research associates from the University of Notre Dame are encouraged to submit applications that clearly articulate their translational strategy (ie: from lab bench to bed side) and how this strategy can be advanced through the use of technologies offered by a core facility (www.indianactsi.org/servicecores). Applicants must make contact with and request a Letter of Support from the Core Facility Manager(s) to confirm that the proposed project can be accomplished in their core facility. Awardees will be expected to develop and manage a project budget that aligns with the translational strategy. A six-month and a final progress report will be required over the 1-year project period. If you are interested in participating, you must discuss your proposal with your advisor prior to beginning the application process to ensure your participation will be approved.

Application: Click here for more information. A letter of support from the applicant's advisor is necessary for participation in this
Discover interesting career paths as an alternative to the faculty track
Join a large community of post-academics to consult about your situation and the versatility of your PhD, MA, or postdoctoral appointment
Read job listings appropriate for postdocs
Network with successful post-academic PhDs nationwide

For more information about Versatile PhD and how to use it, click here.

Fellowships in Energy Research for Postdocs

ND Energy offers competitive fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral research associates to conduct energy-related research at Notre Dame. These fellowships support new advancements in energy technologies, while broadening the educational experiences for students and postdocs receiving these awards. If you are interested in energy-related research and would like to apply for a postdoc fellowship, please click on the appropriate link below. For Postdocs, the applications will be accepted year round.

Click here for the ND Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship Program application guidelines.

Information is also available via the Funding Opportunities Webpage with an ND Net ID and Password required. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Barbara Villarosa (574-631-4776).

Professional Development

Graduate School Professional Development Programs

"Stage Presence (3MT): Drawing in Your Audience"
This presentation will help you to prepare an "elevator pitch." A short, pre-prepared and persuasive speech that explains what your research is, clearly and succinctly and also explains what your future plans are.

- Date: February 8, 2017
- Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
- Location: Room 202, LaFortune Student Center

For more information on this and other events or to register, please click here.
Deep Work: The Secret to Achieving Peak Productivity

In a world full of digital diversions, how are some people able to achieve a higher level of productivity than others? In his new book *Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World*, Georgetown University professor Cal Newport demonstrates how you can develop the skills necessary to focus at an optimum level and reach peak productivity. Learning how to do "deep work," he argues, is among the most valuable skills people can learn, and carries wider implications for economic growth.

Read an excerpt here about Adam Grant, Wharton's top-rated and youngest tenured professor, achieved an exceptionally high level of productivity that made him stand out among his distinguished peers.

Workshops from the Kaneb Center

Are you interested in learning more about discipline-specific teaching and learning in the university setting? The university offers workshops on university teaching and learning in various fields through the Kaneb Center! Consider enrolling in one of the workshops.

For workshop descriptions, click here.

Workshops from the NCFDD

The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity is an independent professional development, training and mentoring community of over 71,000 graduate students, postdocs, and faculty members. The NCDFF is 100% dedicated to supporting academics in making successful transitions throughout their careers. They offer on-campus workshops, professional development training, and intensive mentoring programs.

The University of Notre Dame is an institutional member of the NCFDD. Through Notre Dame's membership, ND Postdocs may claim an Institutional Sub-account Membership at no cost and enjoy all the benefits of a NCFDD Individual Membership. Register here to join NCFDD.

For a list of NCFDD 2017 webinars, click here.

Hesburgh Libraries Workshops

The Hesburgh Libraries and Center for Digital Scholarship workshops are offered to all ND Postdocs.

*Hesburgh Libraries Workshops*

- Register: [http://library.nd.edu/about/workshops.shtml](http://library.nd.edu/about/workshops.shtml)
- Click here for this week’s list of workshops.

*Most of the CDS workshops take place in the CDS Classroom (Room*
It happens to all of us: having your article rejected is bad enough (especially when you waited patiently for months or years for the reviewers to get back to you), but who can afford to wear tear-stained cheeks when sitting down to tackle those revisions? Here are ten tips to looking your best while feeling your worst.

From Postdoc Poise

CDS Workshop Information and Registration: library.nd.edu/cds/workshops

Library Workshop Calendar: nd.libcal.com/calendar/allworkshops

Questions? cds@nd.edu

English for Academic Purposes Workshops

The Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures’ English for Academic Purposes program offers workshops that are open to all ND Postdocs.

More information: https://cslc.nd.edu/programs/eap/workshops/
Registration: https://gradconnect.nd.edu/portal/prof-dev-events
Questions? Contact Lisa Joy Oglesbee

PhD Humor

What is the biggest challenge of science?

The scientists.

©The Upturned Microscope

Courtesy of The Upturned Microscope
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