Welcome to The Crimson Chronicle, the PDA Council Newsletter for the Harvard Public Health Scientific Community. The Newsletter is intended to provide a variety of information including, but not limited to short articles, resources, views, comments, and opinions for Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Associates, by Postdoctoral Fellows, Research Associates, and other members of our Scientific Community.

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Photograph by Gillian Franklin  
Botanic Garden  
Fort Worth, Texas
Dear Postdocs and Research Associates: **Happy holidays!**

I am very excited to **welcome 2015!**

We had such a **good year!** We reintroduced **HSPH Poster Day**, prepared **PDA Nanocourses for Spring 2015**, awarded **travel grants** to 8 postdocs, invited **Kocaeli students** to HSPH, and hosted **multiple social events** throughout the Fall of 2014. Yet, there is still plenty to do.

I am happy to continue the tremendous work by the **previous year’s PDA council**, led by **former PDA President, Usheer Kanjee** and **Vice President, Benedicte Mengel**.

This month, we were able to fully **integrate research associates** into the PDA. **David Gregory**, recently appointed as the **representative of research associates**, will work together with other council members to advocate the interests of research associates, as well as postdocs.

It is well understood that Postdocs and Research Associates have **limited resource** from the school in regards to **grant writing**. However, with 320 postdocs and 152 research associates at HSPH, we can do so much more. One particular PDA agenda we plan to advance is the **execution of Post-Doctoral Grant Proposal Network (GPN)**.

The GPN, under the **leadership of Alex Carll**, will establish a network of Postdocs and Research Associates to advance peer mentoring in grant writing. This will make HSPH Postdocs and Research Associates more competitive when applying for grants.

Further, we will host **Nanocourses this spring** to provide teaching experience, and offer workshops with Office of Faculty Affairs throughout the year to help postdocs and research associates achieve their career objectives.

We are here to enhance your experience at HSPH. We are here for you. I invite you to **attend our social events** and **get to know other postdocs and research associates**. Let’s face 2015 with confidence and optimism. Together, we will accomplish great things.

Warm Regards

Christian Suharlim, MD, MPH  
**President, HSPH Post-Doctoral Association 2014-2015**
In this issue of the Crimson Chronicle, we are pleased to continue the tradition of the “Words with” column, following its inauguration last year.

Featuring Jane J. Kim, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Health Decision Science in the Department of Health Policy and Management has been chosen as the winner of the PDA 2014 Outstanding Mentor Award. Here, Dr. Kim gives us some insight from her years as a researcher.

Dr. Kim is originally from New Jersey, the Garden State. After completing her undergraduate work at Dartmouth College in 1995, she immediately began her career working at Mass General Hospital where she had her first real research experience while studying pediatric psychopharmacology, mostly in kids with depressed/anxious parents, and kids with ADHD.

In 1999, she moved on to Harvard for her graduate training in the SM2 program in Health Policy and Management, after which she moved on to the PhD program in Health Policy (GSAS) in 2001. Dr. Kim subsequently joined the HSPH/HPM faculty in 2006, where she remains to-date.

With her positive words of wisdom, she encourages us to never, ever be ashamed to say “I don’t know” when asked a hard-ball question! The best way to improve in anything that you do is to practice, practice, practice—whether it is writing or presenting, practice is the best way to improve. And get sleep!

The best way to get along with others is to always show respect and don’t be dishonest. We all know that at some point in our careers, as students, as professors, or in whatever we do in our lives, we will inevitably work in large groups. Team-work can be challenging at times, but if everyone shows a bit of humility in their work and roles, all challenges can be overcome.

The mentoring relationships between a mentor and their mentees are best when mentees are given the opportunity to discover something they love in terms of research (and hopefully decision science research), in my case. My style of mentoring depends on where the baseline is for my mentee. Some students benefit from more of a hands-on approach, while others are ready to fly. Either way, I like staying in close touch with students/trainees to make sure they have opportunities to ask questions and stay on-target.

I define success in three ways: (1) having an impact on something outside of academia, whether it is at the individual or policy level; (2) achieving #1 while also loving what I do; and (3) passing my love/passion for decision science and health policy onto the next generation. I have been successful in large part because of my own amazing mentors and role models. Most notably, Sue Goldie who has taken any inherent skills that I may have had in public health research and taught me how to effectively apply them.

My typical day is busy with back-to-back meetings and conference calls because I like to stay in close touch with my research team and mentees on any active projects. Usually after my kids are in bed in the evening, I get back on my computer to do some writing and/or catching up on emails.

My best advice to my mentees for success is that it is important to have balance in your life, and to be certain that you love what you do, even if it ends up being something other than public health research.
Christian Suharlim  
**President**  
*Department:* Center for Health Decision Sciences  
*Research:* Resource allocation and cost-effectiveness analysis on vaccines, HIV/AIDS, and Tuberculosis interventions in low and middle-income countries.

Morteza Asgarzadeh  
**Vice President**  
*Department:* Nutrition  
*Research:*Built environment and perception, physical activity, injury prevention.

Fred Tabung  
**Secretary**  
*Department:* Nutrition-Yerby Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
*Research:* Diet and cancer associations, including inflammation, hyperinsulinemia, metabolism and diet-gene interactions.

Sylvia Ley  
**Treasurer**  
*Department:* Nutrition  
*Research:* Dietary approaches to prevent and manage type 2 diabetes; Pregnancy and reproductive risk factors of diabetes and cardiovascular disease over the lifecourse.

Shoukai Yu  
**Educational Initiatives Chair**  
*Department:* Environmental Health  
*Research:* Analysis of genetically modulated environmental diseases, including genome-wide association studies, pathway analysis, and next generation sequencing studies.

Alex Carll  
**Grants and Research Strategy Chair**  
*Department:* Environmental Health  
*Research:* I investigate the biological mechanisms underlying the adverse physiological effects of air pollutants on the cardiovascular system. I am particularly interested in how air pollution exposure weakens the heart.

Guy Harling  
**Social co-chair**  
*Department:* Global Health and Population  
*Research:* Statistical analysis of social determinants of HIV, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa; risk factors for HIV infection and other infectious disease (Tuberculosis and bacterial STIs).

Mudit Chaand  
**Social co-chair**  
*Department:* Immunology and Infectious Disease  
*Research:* I use an *in vitro* erythrocyte culture system and RNAi knockdown technology to identify potential host proteins required for malaria parasite invasion. These essential steps may guide the development of erythrocyte-based interventions to control malaria infections, as an alternative to current parasite-targeting drug resistant therapies.
Your 2014-2015 Postdoctoral Association Council, continued

Martha A. Clark  
Workshops Chair  
Department: Immunology and Infectious Disease  
Research: My research interests are in identifying environmental stimuli that shape malaria parasite virulence and transmission during malaria infection of the human host.

Gillian Franklin  
Editor-in-Chief  
Department: Environmental Health-Yerby Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Research: My research interests are in skin (the Integumentary system), and skin related disorders or diseases. I am currently working on an epidemiologic study, assessing for cumulative arsenic exposure in premalignant skin lesions in a Bangladeshi population who were chronically exposed to inorganic arsenic from natural deposits in their drinking water supplies.

Gholamali Rahnavard  
Webmaster  
Department: Biostatistics  
Research: I am interested in the development of efficient algorithm and software systems to apply high-throughput technology and large data sets to complex diseases. I focus on developing methodology and associated software for mining metagenomics data sets and statistical techniques for microbial biomarker discovery.

Shinichi Tomioka  
General Council  
Department: Global Health and Population  
Research: My research interests are in inequality of health care treatment among various groups of different backgrounds. I am currently investigating differences of hospital treatment based on reimbursement data of Japan.

Source: Dr. Gillian Franklin  
Microscopic Image of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis
Mohlopheni Jackson Marakalala  
PDA Representative to DACDI  
**Department:** Immunology and Infectious Disease  
**Research:** Immunology of tuberculosis; mycobacterial genes requires to survive host immune stress; profiling of proteins associated with various stages of granuloma formation in TB-infected humans.

David Gregory  
Representative of Research Associates  
**Department:** Research: Involves the ways macrophages resist or succumb to infection with intracellular pathogens. RNAi screen to identify genes that contribute to macrophages death following infection with the bacteria that cause anthrax, plague or tularaemia are conducted. A bioinformatic meta-analysis is used to identify a micro-RNA that protects macrophages from infection. Identifying the molecular mechanisms by which these gene products influence the outcome of infection is key.

Usheer Kanjee  
Special Advisor to the Council  
**Department:** Immunology and Infectious Disease  
**Research:** Understanding the basic biology of malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, focusing on the parasite’s ability to recognize the appropriate red blood cell surface receptors before invading it.

Benedicte Mengel  
General Council  
**Department:** Genetics and Complex Diseases  
**Research:** The role of calcium homeostasis in liver cells of obese animals; Cellular lipid accumulation; Insulin resistance.

Clark Burbano-Herrera  
General Council  
**Department:** FXB Center for Health and Human Rights  
**Research:** European, Inter-American and African systems of human rights and interim measures in international human rights law, specifically the three regional human rights systems.

Mark McGovern  
General Council  
**Department:** Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies  
**Research:** Health and development economics, that covers infant and childhood health, aging, and correcting for missing data in HIV research. Mark received his PhD in Economics from University College Dublin.

Archana Swami  
Research Associate Volunteer  
**Department:** Research: Targeted nanoparticles for spatio-temporal drug delivery, nanocarriers to manipulate tumor microenvironment to overcome metastasis and multidrug resistance of cancer cells. Nanodevices to improve surgical implants for enhanced osseointegration.

DACDI-Dean’s Advisory Committee on Diversity & Inclusion  
NPA- National Postdoctoral Association
Tell us a little bit about yourself... I am originally from Cameroon, Central Africa where I grew up and studied medical laboratory science for my undergraduate degree. Later, I worked in a hospital for a couple of years helping to diagnosed cancers. Most of the people we diagnosed with cancer died of their cancers. This motivated me to study cancer epidemiology in graduate school, so as to be able to contribute to designing cancer preventive strategies. In 2007, I obtained my MSPH in epidemiology from the University of South Carolina, and went to work in the countries of the Horn of Africa for two years and then returned to the same department to continue pursuing a PhD. I completed the PhD program and accepted the postdoc position at HSPH in September 2014. So I have been here only a couple of months.

Tell us about your research. I am studying the role of diet on cancer prevention and control, and I am specifically interested in helping to elucidate biological pathways underlying the associations between diet and cancer; including inflammation, hyperinsulinemia, metabolism and diet-gene interactions. Knowledge on these pathways could be useful in designing effective diet-related cancer prevention and control strategies. I am working under the mentorship of Dr. Edward Giovannucci in the department of Nutrition.

Why did you come to Harvard? What attracted me to Harvard was the availability of research resources including the work of Dr. Giovannucci that aligned perfectly with my research interests. Also, the Harvard cohorts provide a huge amount of data to advance my research interests.

What would you have been doing if you were not a postdoc here at HSPH? I would probably be doing a postdoc elsewhere, or if I were not doing science at all, I would probably be honing my soccer skills somewhere. I like playing soccer or watching it on TV.

Best and worst things about Boston? Boston is a great city! Commuting within Boston and its surrounding cities is easy. I use the commuter rail to get to and from work. There are many recreational places to ease off the stress of work, or provide a different view to life. I arrived here in late summer and haven’t yet explored these places but hope to take full advantage of the recreational facilities as from next summer. The worst thing about Boston...hmmmmm, probably, the winter weather! In the South, winters are not as bad, but I am adjusting fairly well, though I would be the happiest man if summers never ended.

What’s your favorite place to eat in town? Given that I live outside of town, I haven’t come to Boston to eat in the restaurants, but when I am at HSPH, I mostly eat at the Sebastian’s café.

If you could be a superhero, what would your superpower be? Rid the earth of cancer, create endless time for work and fun, and then make sure summers never end.

A penguin walks through your door wearing a sombrero. What does he say and why is he here? (Stolen shamelessly from Huffpost in the past, and will continue the tradition!): He walked through the right door and is busy making the most out of what he finds in the room in order to enhance understanding of diet-disease relationships but he also understands that to achieve this, he needs to acquaint to the cold weather and have fun as well.

What last fun question do you want to answer about yourself? What do I do with my time out of work? I love to spend time with family and friends. I have a beautiful wife with three great kids-two boys and a girl, who make life away from work very pleasant.

Thank you Fred!
Past Events

**HSPH Poster Day** went **electronic** on November 7, 2014. In collaboration with **HSPH Student Government** this was the first time the HSPH used an **electronic poster board** format. This format allowed for **dynamic interaction** and **multimedia**. There were **50 abstracts** submitted, of which **45 posters** were showcased, and judged by **29 judges**, including myself. The day went very smoothly and closed with six **(6) poster winners**, in various categories.

**Dean of Academic Affairs, David Hunter, ScD, MPH, MBBS**, closed the ceremony with an inspiring **talk**, followed by the **award presentations**.

A very BIG **thank you** to all of the **planning committee members**, judges, and other **volunteers** who participated.

**Winners and Winning Categories**

**Best Overall Poster:** Winners were two students

**Youngji Cho**
**Poster Title:** The Effects of a Depleted Microbiome on Ozone-Induced Airway Hyperresponsiveness in Mice

**Slawa Rokicki**
**Poster Title:** Let’s Text About Sex: Evaluation of an Interactive Mobile Phone Program to Improve Knowledge of Reproductive Health among Ghanaian Adolescents

**Research Fellow and Research Associates Posters:**
The **first place prize** went to **our PDA President, Christian Suharlim**

**Poster Title:** Bridging the gap between science and the media: the potential role for social ventures
The **second place prize** was awarded to **Assieh Saadatpouri**
**Poster Title:** Characterizing heterogeneity in leukemic cells using single-cell gene expression analysis

**Graduate Student Posters:**
The **first place prize went to Sandra V. Pirela**
**Poster Title:** Consumer exposures to engineered nanoparticles released during printing: A case study of lifecycle EHS implications from nano-enabled products during consumer use.
The **second place prize went to Rose Filoramo**
**Poster Title:** Determining the Role of Pubertal Status in Sepsis Survival
Past Social Events

The PDA hosts several social events over the year, including but not limited to the Ice Cream Social, Stop Hunger, and the Holiday Lunch.

Bright Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Associates always find time to play after working very hard. "All work and no play makes Jack a very dull boy". Jack Nicholson, The Shining (Film). Social skills are a necessary life skill, therefore, we find time to socialize with our colleagues, friends, and family. Take a look at how some postdocs put their social skills to work at various fun events hosted by the PDA Council.

The **Ice Cream Social**, September 16th, 2014 on the “hill” (Kevin Fitzgerald Park on Mission Hill). This event was a part of the **Fifth Annual National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW)** celebrations.

During NPAW, Postdocs celebrate throughout the week all over the country. This is a way of raising awareness and recognizing Postdocs contributions to the research scientific community, according to the National Postdoctoral Association (www.nationalpostdoc.org)

HSPH Postdocs and Research Associates participated in a "meal packing event", the **Stop Hunger Now** international hunger relief campaign on November 19th, 2014. The event was organized by the **Office of Student Affairs (OSA)**. The goal was to package 10,000 meals for children and their families in need all over the world. This event was an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in need, and it shows the big hearts of many in the Harvard community. This event also provided an opportunity for Postdocs and Research Associates to meet and get to know each other. The group headed our to have more fun with trivia at Jerry Remy’s after meal packing.
Happy Holidays!

Annual Postdoc Holiday Lunch

Join fellow postdocs for a catered lunch (first-come, first-served) & announcements of the Fall HSPH PDA Travel Awards!

Where: FXB Atrium
When: December 19th, 2014
Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Sponsored by the HSPH Postdoc Association

Holiday Lunch and PDA Travel Award Ceremony

Meet, greet, eat and celebrate your winnings!

Left to right, 1: Shinichi Tomioka, 2: Shu Yang 3: Christian Suharlim

Mudit, the food was very good!

The Travel Award statistics; the PDA received 24 applications for Spring 2014 travel awards. During the PDA Travel Award Ceremony on December 19th, three (3) postdocs Shu Yang, Kerry Ivey, and Maya Vadiveloo were the winners of the Travel Awards.

Congratulations to the three winners!
**Upcoming Events**

**HSPH PDA Nanocourses: Spring of 2015**

These courses were a huge success last year. The Public Health 101, 6-course series, taught by Postdocs and Research Associates on public health will be launched again in the Spring. These are mini-courses that are approximately 6-9 hours total, and are completed over a two-day period.

If you would like to teach a course, or would like to team up with someone else to teach a nanocourse please come to our next meeting on January 23rd, 2015 from 9:00 – 10:00 am, place TBD.

**https://nanosandothercourses.hms.harvard.edu/node/242**

**Ice Skating:** HSPH PDA co-sponsor Ice Skating Social with Boston PAN-PDA in January, 2015. This is an excellent opportunity for Postdocs and Research Associates to meet other Postdocs in the Boston/Cambridge area. Hot chocolate will be provided. More details coming soon!

**Other Important Items!**

In September 2014 the Harvard School of Public Health was renamed the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Thanks to a generous gift from The Morningside Foundation and the Chan family.

The HSPH Research Associates now join the HSPH PDA. We are very excited to have David Gregory and Archana Swami to join the PDA Council.

HSPH PDA T-Shirts for sale, only $15.00!

Enhance your wardrobe in Harvard pride and style! These tees look awesome and are simply irresistible! Just look at the fit on our stylish model above!

**Men Tees**-Crimson

**Women Tees**-Midnight Blue

Order via email: pda@hsph.harvard.edu

The PDA Council would like to thank Jennifer Moltoni and Christina Burkot for all of their assistance at several of our events, in addition to conducting workshops that benefit postdocs! Read more...

Jennifer Moltoni is the Assistant Director of Faculty Affairs for Postdoctoral and Research Appointments. Jennifer oversees all annual non-faculty academic appointments at HSPH, and serves as Department Administrator of Faculty Affairs, the Director of Research Scientist Appointments, Reappointments and Promotions, and supervises all postdoctoral career development programming. She is also the Director of the HSPH Yerby Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Christina Burkot is the Senior Search and Review Officer in the Office of Faculty Affairs at the Harvard School of Public Health. In this role, she supports the HSPH Postdoc Association and Postdoc Advisory Committee, manages the postdoc career development programming, and helps run monthly orientation sessions for new incoming postdocs. In addition, she manages the HSPH Yerby Postdoctoral Fellowship, a program designed toward diversity expansion of those entering academic public health. She received her B.A. from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, and is currently enrolled at Boston University (MA Administration).
We are easy to find, so don’t hesitate to look us up!

HSPH POSTDOC ASSOCIATION

www.hsph.harvard.edu/pda

HERE IS WHAT WE ARE ABOUT...

Enhance your Postdoc experience
Enable your conference trip, through Travel Awards
Liaise between Postdocs, Research Associates, and the administration/faculty
Promote professional enrichment and development
Provide opportunities to network and socialize

The HSPH PDA is here for YOU!

Please send us your ideas for courses, socials, events, and more! As you can see we are always EXCITED to hear from you, always! Write to us at pda@hsph.harvard.edu!

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There are many opportunities to attend events and many activities to get involved in as a part of giving back to the community.

I hope that you find this issue interesting and useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us at: pda@hsph.harvard.edu