

NIH Fellows Committee Agenda

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Wilson Hall, 3rd floor, Building 1

Welcome New Members

Introductions of Committee At-Large

December Minutes – approval

Presentation: Technology Development & Transfer Committee (Anna Amar, Melissa Maderia)

Presentation about what TDTC is and how they can help Fellows.

If anyone is interested in collaborating with a company, please ask TDTC for advice and help. It was decided that TDTC should have a dialogue with the Job networking subcommittee. Cory Lago informed about an upcoming event organized by this subcommittee. TDTC may join the panel discussion about different potential career paths.

Remarks:

- FelCom Officers
- Appointing IC representatives has to go through the Training Director.
- Attendance has been low and everyone was reminded that two excused absences/year is the limit to maintain voting rights as an At-Large member. Last year most members did not reach these criteria.
- Christina is leaving and the Clinical co-Chair position is open to eligible Clinical Fellows.
 - a. Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE)
- OITE has many activities coming up this spring.
- Two new groups have been started - SACNAS and LGBT Fellows & Friends. If any other new groups want recognition, please let OITE know.
 - b. Office of Intramural Research (OIR)
Mentoring committee survey: Completed and the recommendations are being reviewed. What improvements can be made? Concrete improvements had to be cut due to funding issues (OITE sponsoring fell through).

Bylaws approval

- Discussion about election of a new Clinical Co-Chair. According to the bylaws, none of the potential candidates are eligible. Can we make an exception? YES

Hot topics

- c. Subscribe to FELLOW-L (list.nih.gov)
 - What can we do to get people to sign up for Fellow-L?
 1. Make more people admins of the list with the sole purpose to add people to the list.
 2. OITE can send out specific emails to remind people of the list.
- d. Communication with fellows and promotion of FelCom activities
- e. Postbac participation
 - Why do they want to come to Felcom? They have their own committee (Club PCR). We have very different interests and needs and there is no reason for them to have Felcom representation.

IC Reports

- General discussion about the current IC report format:

Should we make the discussion issue-specific rather than IC specific? Each meeting we can discuss a specific topic, e.g. Fellows Newsletters and all IC reps can inform about their specific ICs. Many people think this is a good idea. Many also feel it should be a complement to the current format. Will time permit this kind of discussion at every Felcom meeting? How will we structure the discussion?

Another question that was raised is how to get information out to Fellows about what was discussed at the Felcom meeting. The secretary can make a summary to be distributed by IC reps. Matt and Christina will prepare a list of NIH-wide topics to be discussed throughout the year.

- f. NIDCR

Please read the report! (Ryan Petrie)

- g. NINDS

All fellows will be required to have outside mentors as a complement since the current mentoring situation has been inadequate. Is it ok and even necessary to make this mandatory? We should discuss the situation at other ICs (Chris Grunseich)

- h. NIAID

Discussion about Fellows retreat and how different demands are depending on the stage Fellows are at in their training (Lindsey Garver).

FelCom Subcommittee and Liaison reports

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|---|---|
| a. Animal Research Advisory Committee | <i>Lara el Touny</i> |
| b. Career Development Committee | <i>Emily Cordas & Ranjini Prithviraj</i> |
| c. Child Care Board Liaison | <i>Adam Lee & Nirali Shah</i> |
| d. Clinical FelCom | <i>Christina Hines & Srinivas Vourganti</i> |
| e. Committee on Scientific Conduct & Ethics Liaison | <i>Meredith Fox</i> |
| f. FAES Liaison | <i>Caroline Jochems</i> |
| g. FARE Committee | <i>Ryan Petrie & Lindsey Garver</i> |
| h. Graduate Medical Education Committee | <i>Banidele Adesunloye & Jose Franco</i> |
| i. Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee Liaison | <i>Paneez Khoury</i> |

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|---|---|
| j. Job Networking Committee | <i>Phoebe Lee</i> |
| k. Medical Executive Committee Liaison | <i>Srinivas Vourganti & Anita Kohli</i> |
| l. Mentoring Committee | <i>Shauna Clark</i> |
| m. National Postdoc Association Liaison | <i>Matt Wenham</i> |
| n. Publicity & Publications Committee | <i>Tracy Ruckwardt & Julien Senac</i> |
| o. Service Outreach Subcommittee | <i>Shu Chen & Julien Senac</i> |
| p. Social Committee | <i>Anna Sundborger & Christiane Kuschal</i> |
| q. Training Directors Committee Liaison | <i>Mawadda Al Naeeli</i> |
| r. Visiting Fellows Committee | <i>Pablo Moya & Xiao-Li Du</i> |
| s. WALs Committee | <i>Chan-Ying Zheng & James Keller</i> |
| t. Women Scientist Advisors Committee Liaison | <i>Sarah Rhodes</i> |

Elections – Child Care Committee Liaison; Liaison to Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

Adjournment

Next meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2012 in Building 1 Room 151.

*****Please note room change*****

IC reports for NCI-CCR and NICHD.

FELCOM January 2012: IC REPORTS

NIDCR – National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

Basic science reps: *Ryan Petrie and Katiuchia Sales*

The NIDCR (established in 1948) intramural program supports approximately eighty-five research fellows, who are distributed among eight research groups located in buildings 10 and 30 on the main NIH campus. The fellows contribute to the institute's mission to improve craniofacial, oral and dental health by investigating the molecular mechanisms driving bone, teeth, salivary gland and connective tissue development and function. Additional research focuses include understanding the role of viruses and bacteria in oral disease, the aberrant signaling associated head and neck cancer and the consequences and treatment of salivary gland dysfunction due to radiation treatment or autoimmune disorders.

Dr. Martha Somerman has recently been appointed Director of the institute, taking over from the interim Director, Dr. Isabel Garcia, who will continue as the Deputy Director. In the past there have been quarterly meetings with the Director, where fellows are encouraged to ask any questions or discuss concerns they have regarding the intramural program, careers or mentoring. While it remains to be seen if Dr. Somerman will continue this tradition, she has begun attending a journal club within the institute and will be invited to attend our annual Fellows retreat.

Over the past year we identified a potential need within the NIDCR for an institute-wide seminar series where NIDCR fellows and students could present their work to each other to help maintain the inter-branch cohesion generated by the Fellows Retreat each spring. Unfortunately, a profound lack of interest by the fellows prevented this from moving forward. However, starting this month and continuing biweekly, Principal Investigators in the NIDCR will be presenting one-hour seminars to the institute and this should help raise awareness of ongoing research.

There are two main activities coordinated within the institute which augment the excellent mentoring and material support provided to the fellows:

1. The annual NIDCR Fellows Retreat, organized Dr. Deborah Philp in the NIDCR Office of Education, is an outstanding forum for the fellows to present their own work and learn about research within the institute. This retreat has been held each of the past five years and participation has always been very good. The retreat includes a career discussion panel, along with workshops run by members of the Office of Intramural Training and Education.
2. The institute hosts a fall festival each year. This is a very well attended event that provides good food, fun games and an excellent chance to network within the institute.

NINDS – National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Clinical Science rep: Christopher Grunseich

The NINDS intramural program consists of fundamental neurosciences, clinical neurosciences, and neurosurgery under a single umbrella. This diversity is a strength in that it supports many different and unique training opportunities. However, the diversity can also become a challenge when organizing events for clinical fellows as a whole.

Research Training

The research component of this program is an important and a major component. Fellows are expected to spend the majority of their time in research. They will identify a primary mentor and an area of research prior to entering the fellowship program.

Fellowship Advisory Committee

It is recommended that the fellows put together an advisory committee that will help guide the candidate. Each trainee will be scheduled to meet with the Committee for a 60 minute period twice annually. These meetings serve to:

- 1) review the progress of the research project in the prior 6 months;
- 2) discuss obstacles encountered in the research experience and to offer insights into solutions or provide direction to institutional resources which could assist;
- 3) review research data, abstracts, publications;
- 4) discuss plans for and/or accomplishments in peer-reviewed publications and presentations at national and international scientific meetings;
- 5) discuss career direction, funding options, and post-Fellowship academic career plans.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month on topics ranging from navigating the IRB process, credentialing, to fellowship mentoring. A majority of the sessions are designed for fellows, but clinical staff are invited to obtain the sessions as well.

Case discussion series

Fellows present an interesting clinical case for 20 minutes preceding the grand rounds every week on tuesday mornings. A diagnosis is not needed for the presentation. CME credit is now offered for those who attend these sessions. Cases have been interesting and a good way to stimulate discussion.

Intramural retreat

The NINDS retreat was held in May 2011 at the Airlie conference center in Warrenton, VA. It was a three day event for PI's, staff scientists, staff clinicians, fellows, graduate students, and post docs. In an effort to improve presentation skills, poster judges evaluate primarily on how effectively the presenter communicates rather than on the finished data.

NIAID – National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Basic Science rep: Lindsey Garver

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is home to postdocs studying all aspects of bacteria, viruses, parasites, vectors and host immune responses

including vaccines, allergy, asthma and autoimmune disease. Our fellows work on several campuses throughout Maryland, at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Montana and in field sites throughout the world. NIAID has multiple seminar series, a newsletter and a Research and Technology Branch (RTB) which provides support for imaging, flow cytometry, genomics, proteomics and more.

NIAID is currently providing the following resources to its postdoctoral fellows through the Office of Training and Diversity (OTD):

Annual Fellows Retreat

For the past five years, OTD has sponsored a day-long retreat for NIAID fellows focusing on career development. We are gearing up for our sixth annual retreat on March 30, 2012 at Natcher. Our 2012 retreat is focused on Global Health and will feature Dr. Mark Dybul, co-director of Georgetown's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and Former Ambassador leading the implementation of PEPFAR, as our keynote speaker. The retreat also incorporates platform discussions and breakout sessions with Intramural investigators whose research involves global health, panel sessions with global health funding agencies and Extramural researchers engaged in global health research as well as a plenary session with NIAID's Office of Global Research.

Mentor Award

This is the fourth year that NIAID will recognize an outstanding mentor. Mentors are nominated by postdocs, and a postdoc committee reviews the nominations and selects the awardee. The winner will be announced at the retreat.

Orientation

A specific IC orientation is occasionally offered to fellows. NIAID representatives from FelCom, IACUC, RTB and others are available to talk to incoming fellows about available resources. Past sessions had irregular participation so the Fellows Advisory Committee is working together with our Training Director to revamp the content and find the timing and type of advertising that would reach brand new trainees. One suggestion was to simplify the orientation by removing the research-specific information (new postdocs may not yet know what resources their future project could use) then provide a second session for any postdoc who was interested in learning more about research resources.

Postdoc coordinator position

OTD has recently hired a coordinator responsible for training initiatives for postdoc fellows. This person is responsible for organizing workshops, webinars, the NIAID training website, and other resources. She has developed a NIAID-specific grant writing workshop that will be offered several times per year. Sessions aim to inform postdocs about grant writing and resources that are available and NIAID specifics concerning the K22 and K99 awards.

Fellows Advisory Board

The Fellows Advisory Board for the OTD convenes once a month with membership turnover in May. The primary responsibility of the board is to plan and execute the Retreat, but the advisory board will also advise the office on new initiatives and act as liaisons between their peers and the OTD.

Concerns: in the past, our retreat has been almost entirely comprised of career development and do not including a scientific component. This year, we have incorporated a scientific learning component (talks and breakout sessions with intramural investigators engaged in global health research) but the retreat does not provide a forum for post-docs to share their own work (poster session, talks given by postdocs, etc). Aside from Work-in-Progress type seminars organized by individual Laboratories, there is no formal scientific communication between NIAID trainees.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Animal Research Advisory Committee: *Lara el-Touny*

Nothing to report. Meeting was cancelled.

Career Development Committee: *Chairs: Cory Lago (NHLBI), Ranjini Prithviraj (NINDS)*

Members: Lori Conlan (OITE), Paul Keller (NIAMS), Brenda Kostelecky (NICHD), Cosima Kretz (NIDDK), Adeola Makinde (NCI), Amanda Melillo (FDA), Nesrin Rechache (NCI), Sarah Rhodes (NIMH), Julien Senac (NHGRI), Ashley Kennedy (NIDA), Hui Cheng (NIAID), Chien Nguyen (NHLBI), Meghan Mott (NIAAA), Nicole Beauchamp (NIDDK)

GSC Pathway Members: Vandana Sekhar (NIAID), Wesley Stepp (NIAID)

- The Career Development committee met on December 1st, 2011. The rest of the 2011-2012 panel series was finalized with the help of a few new members and their ideas.
- Our *Science Writing* seminar on December 13th was a success with ~50 people in attendance. It was followed by a social networking event at BlackFinn in Bethesda.
- Our upcoming seminar topics for the 2011-2012 season are:
 - January 10, 2012 (Bldg 50): Science Policy
 - February 14, 2012 (Bldg 50): Regulatory Affairs
 - March 13, 2012: Biodefense
 - April 17, 2012: Patent Processing
 - June 12, 2012: Entrepreneur/Business

Childcare Board Liaison: *Adam Lee (NLM), Nirali Shah (NCI)*

Review of the Child Care Board Meeting on Thursday December 8, 2011

1. Report from the chair included the following topics:

- a. Child Care Board Letter from Dr. Collins
 - i. Review of the annual report
- b. Maxi-flex pilot initiative
 - i. Flexible hours to vary start/stop time, vary work hours, split work day
 - ii. 6-month pilot
 - iii. Childcare services are NOT open longer or on weekends
 - iv. only for federal employees—Fellows are NOT eligible
- c. Child Care Subsidy Committee:
 - i. Increased annual gross income level to \$70,000 for eligibility
 - ii. Expands services
 - iii. Fellows are NOT eligible
- d. Back-Up Care Pilot program to start in January 2012. This service will be provided through Bright Horizons and is a provision of in-home or center care for eligible and preregistered NIH families. Covers healthy and sick children and includes dependent care. Cost is \$16/hour for in-home care and \$6/hour for center care but

- not officially set yet. Still working on the contract. Pilot program, been granted \$270,000/year for 3 years. The more we use it the more the guarantee that the program will continue. NIH is the only federal executive branch to offer this pilot. Encouraged to “pre-register” for the program once it is available.
- i. Developing a subcommittee to discuss eligibility requirement
 - ii. Fellows ARE eligible
 - iii. Contractors are not
- e. Northwest Child Care Center: possibly breaking ground this summer. Will take 18 months start-to-finish if no delays.
 - i. Childkind will be closing when the Northwest Child Care Center opens
 - ii. Childkind children will have priority to be transferred to the new center
 - f. Parenting Festival to be held in the spring. Date TBA
2. Guest Speaker: John Czajkowski, NCI executive officer. Discussed NCI move to Shady Grove
 - a. Mostly affects Executive Blvd buildings
 - b. Will have lactation rooms
 - c. Notably no childcare center on the Shady Grove campus
 - d. Consider setting up parenting session to look at local daycare options
 - e. Move anticipated January 2013
 3. Next meeting will be on Thursday, January 12, 2012

Review of the Child Care Board Meeting on Thursday January 12, 2012

1. Back-Up Care program contract has been re-awarded to Bright Horizons.
 - a. Fund reserved for FY2011-2014.
 - b. Currently accept pre-registration starting at the ORS website:
<http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/childcare/Pages/NIHBack-upCareProgram.aspx>
 after eligibility check, will be forwarded to Bright Horizons.
 - c. Include out-of-state (in-home, in-hotel or center) cares.
2. The Strategic Planning Committee reported a Marketing Research Tactical Plan. Specific announcements to fellows are scheduled delivery between February 15 and June 15.
3. 2012 Summer Camp Guide can be requested via email by following the image on the right hand side of the NIH Child Care web page:
<http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/childcare/Pages/index.aspx>
 the guide in PDF format will be delivered by email.
4. Next meeting will be on Thursday, March 1, 2012

Clinical FelCom (ClinFelCom): *Christina Hines (NIMH), Srinivas Vourganti(NCI)*

We met with Dr. Lembo and a group of premedical students to discuss opportunities for them to learn about medical school. The consensus was that shadowing would be difficult in the context of a postbac IRTA-ship, but panel discussions and “dating-format” meetings would be more practical and beneficial. Our next meeting scheduled for 4:30 PM on January 9th in the Medical Board Room (4-2551) is most likely being postponed. All clinical fellows are welcome to attend our meetings.

Seeking new ClinFelcom Co-chair starting in March or April!!!

Committee on Scientific Conduct & Ethics: *Meredith Fox*

The Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics is composed of a broad spectrum of scientists from the ICs. The committee was established in September 1995 with three charges:

1. To develop and/or refine existing guidelines for the conduct of research, to develop procedures to protect both whistle blowers and scientists accused of scientific misconduct, and to develop a model for binding arbitration.
2. To develop effective mechanisms for research ethics training for the NIH scientific community, including the ethics column in The NIH Catalyst.
3. To develop a course to train principal investigators in leadership, mentoring, and handling of conflict skills

The Committee meeting the fourth Friday of every month at 2:00.

As the FELCOM Liaison, you will attend meetings and represent the voice of all Postdoc and Research Fellows. You will then report back to FELCOM with updates from these meetings.

Next meeting: Friday, January 27th at 2:00PM.

FAES Liaison : *Caroline Jochems*
Member: Leslie Marshall (NINDS)

There have been no meetings of the FAES board since the last report, but there was a meeting of the housing committee in December, where the possibility of housing for fellows in Bethesda was further discussed. This discussion is still on-going and no definite plans have been made.

FARE Committee: *Ryan Petrie (NIDCR) & Lindsey Garver (NIAID)*
Members: Hannah Arem (NCI); Sheena Aris (NCI); Nicolas Cuburu (NCI); Leslie Hoh (NIA); Kim Jacob (NIA); Madhu Lal (NIA); Oliver Ou (NCI); Iain Scott (NHLBI); Carole Sourbier (NCI); Brajendra Tripathi (NEI).

Recruitment for the FARE 2013 committee has been completed. We now have 15 committee members (including the co-chairs), with good representation at NIA in Baltimore. We had our first meeting and are on schedule for FARE 2013. The next meeting will be sometime in the second half of this month, where we will begin to finalize the FARE poster and flyer, and arrange for training to teach the committee members how to use the administrative portion of the FARE website. In early February we will be asking for the help of Felcom members in placing posters advertising FARE 2013 around their respective buildings.

Graduate Medical Education Committee: *Bamidele Adesunloye & Jose Franco*

No report submitted.

Human Subjects Research Advisory Committee: *Paneez Khoury*

No report submitted. Not applicable to basic science fellows and/or confidential information.

Seeking new liaison to HSRAC!!!

Job Networking Committee: *Phoebe Lee*

Members: Ravikiran Bhairavabhotla (NIAID), Jinxi Li (NHLBI), Jahda Hill (NHLBI), Jonathan Lamb (NHLBI), Tiffany Tuyen Nguyen (NHLBI) OITE support: Lori Conlan and Shawn Mullen

No report submitted.

Medical Executive Committee: *Srinivas Vourganti*

No report submitted.

Mentoring Committee: *Aurélie Névéol*

Members: Tomasz Adamusiak (NLM-LHC), Mawadda Al-naeeli (NIDDK), Benjamin Jimenez (NIMH), Kara Lukasiewicz (NICHD), Joan Schwartz (OIR)

The committee met on December 6, 2011 in order to present committee activities to potential new members. We are pleased to welcome three new recruits.

At the meeting, we started to discuss points that we would like to bring forward to the communication group (OD) regarding Mentoring for the advertisement campaign. Our plan is to come up with a summary of suggestions at our next meeting in January (the 17th), based on some resources brought forth by committee members. Mawadda Al-naeeli (NIDDK) volunteered to more specifically communicate with the OD communication group and will participate in the communication group meetings on behalf of the Mentoring Committee.

Kara Lukasiewicz (NICHD) set-up a meeting with the NINDS Training Committee (at their request) in order to informally present the results of the Mentoring Survey and discuss mentoring issues with them. This meeting will take place on January 19.

Finally, on December 12 Aurélie Névéol (NLM-NCBI) attended an NAS panel surveying perspectives on the postdoctoral experience from international postdoctoral scholars where issues faced by NIH post-docs were relayed. Many efforts from the OITE were also presented as examples of actions that can be taken to help enhance the postdoctoral experience for both domestic and international Fellows.

NPA Liaison: *Matt Wenham (NIDDK)*

2012 NPA Annual Meeting – Registration now open

Registration for the 10th Annual NPA Meeting is now open. The meeting will be held March 16-18, 2012 at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco, CA. Further details are available on the NPA website, www.nationalpostdoc.org.

2012 NPA Annual Meeting – Call for Poster Abstracts

The NPA invites you to participate in the 10th Anniversary of the NPA Annual Meeting. The 2012 Annual Meeting Poster Competition will be held March 16-18 at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in downtown San Francisco, California. To participate, please submit an abstract (250 word limit) using the form provided on our website. Previous meeting participants have stated that they would have submitted an abstract had they known what was appropriate to present. For that reason, we offer a few examples for poster topics on our website. This list is not exhaustive; please submit posters on other relevant topics as you see fit. Please visit www.nationalpostdoc.org for details.

Publicity Committee: *Christina Hines (NIMH) & Julien Senac (NHGRI)*

The FELCOM flyer was grossly outdated. Over the past 8 months, we edited the content of the flyer and now have drafts of the final product.

Tracy Ruckwardt is replacing Christina Hines as the new Publicity Committee Co-chair.

Service and Outreach Subcommittee: *Chairs: Shu Hui Chen (NIAID), Julien S enac (NHGRI)*

Members: Emily Cordas (NIDDK), Aurora Fontainhas (NIDDK), Lillian Kuo (NCI), Adeola Makinde (NCI), Suman Mitra (NHLBI), Sarah Rhodes (NIMH)

The Services and Outreach Subcommittee met on December 13th, 2011. We reviewed our last event: Tree planting in DC with Casey Trees. This event was a success. Participant had the opportunity to meet people who live in the neighborhood where trees were planted. This was a great experience for SOS and another tree planting event will be schedule for spring 2012.

Events we are working on are:

- Safra Lodge FelCom sponsored dinner (February)
- Safra Lodge food drive (March)
- Tree planting (April)
- Avon walk for breast cancer (May)
- Blood Drive
- Capitol City Food bank
- Hands on Greater DC cares.

Social Committee

Anna Sundborger (NIDDK) and Christiane Kuschal (NCI)

Members: Aurora Fontainhas (NIDDK), Katiuchia Sales (NIDCR), Shu Hui Chen (NIAID)

We had our first Happy Hour at Pizzeria Di Marco in Bethesda on December 14th. It was a great turn out since 50 people showed up. We provided Pizza and arranged a nice Happy Hour deal from 7-10pm. We got great feedback from fellows and we are thinking of having the Felcom Happy Hour every other month at this Pizzeria besides Black Finn. The next Happy Hour is at Black Finn on January 25th.

On January 12th 6-11pm we are having our 2nd Annual First Great Party of the Year at the FAES house. Tickets (10\$, including 2 drinks) can be bought from Anna Sundborger, Aurora Fontainhas (B8), Christiane Kuschal (B37), Kathrin Czarnecki, Shu Hui Chen (B10), Christopher Bachran, Karl Erlandson (B33), and Britni Belcher (Executive Plaza). We are looking for volunteers for the party. It would be great if everyone can help out for ca. 1 hour. Most important is selling tickets at the door and to bartend. The timeframe is flexible. We also need people for cleaning afterwards. We will email a sign up list to FELCOM-L and also distribute the list at the FELCOM meeting Jan 5th.

Training Directors Committee: *Mawadda Al-Naeeli (NIDDK)*
Nothing to report.

Visiting Fellows Committee: *Pablo Moya & Xiao-Li Du*

No report submitted.

WALS Committee: *Chan-Ying Zheng & James Keller*
Alika Maunakea (OD), Julie Wu (NHLBI), Kristina Lu (NHGRI), Sally Davis (NIAID), Shan He (NIDCD)

1. Alika may have managed to recruit a few new members for the WALS committee. New people expressing interest in the WALS committee are Silviya Zustiak, Daniel Kraushaar, Benjamin Kidder, and Gabriel Linares. Hopefully, they will be able to find the time to participate.
2. WALS nominations end January 16th. The WALS committee will receive a list of nominations by fellows opting to nominate through Felcom some time after that and then we will meet to decide which to endorse. I think in the past we have been allowed to endorse about 10 nominations.
3. Our next WALS speaker comes in April. The nominator is interested in hosting, so we will probably not have much to do for that visit.

Women Scientist Advisors Committee: *Sarah Rhodes*

1. The committee heard a report on a pilot WSAs/UMBC outreach mini-symposium/mentoring panel on Dec 2nd, to the Meyerhoff Scholars program to target Women of Color in the sciences. The WSA plans to submit a NIH CATALYST article covering the event. The Women of Color subcommittee of the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers committee are interested in offering guidance/assistance as WSA moves forward with follow up mentoring of Meyerhoff graduate fellows.
2. The committee started planning for the spring WSA Scholar talks to be held during Women's History Month in March 2012.

3. The next Anita Roberts speaker, Dr. Judith Walters, will give the seminar on April 5th, at 1pm. To complement the lecture, WSA interviewed Dr Walters about her career path in a NIH radio (Episode #0149). Preparations for next year's nominations are underway. The committee discussed securing funds for the Anita Roberts seminar series and other WSA initiatives.
4. A WSA nominee Bonnie Berger, will give the annual Margaret Pittman Lecture, on Feb 1, 2012.
5. Following on from a discussion, the WSA will look into the NIHs policy for PIs to bring in a temporary staff scientist or lab manager if they are on extended leave.

NCI-Frederick: *Jason Stagnos*

The CCR Fellows and Young Investigators Steering Committee would like to invite you to the 12th Annual Colloquium being held at Natcher Auditorium at NIH on March 26-27, 2012. Registration is free, and open to all members of the CCR, including post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows, graduate students, and post-baccalaureate fellows.

The Colloquium attracts more than 400 fellows each year and provides a wealth of activities beneficial to young scientists, including oral and poster presentation opportunities, career development workshops and excellent keynote speakers.

Further information, as well as the registration page, can be found at the CCR-FYI Colloquium website: <http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/CCRfellows2012/default.asp>

Registration with Abstract Deadline is Monday, February 27, 2012.
Registration without Abstract Deadline is Friday, March 2, 2012.

NIA-Baltimore: *John Delaney, Irene Avila, Ipolia Ramadan*

1. We had our monthly happy hour with NIDA and it was well attended.
2. NIA wide, we celebrated winter solstice.

This month, we will have a viewing of the Ph.d. movie on the 19th plus our monthly happy hour with NIDA.

NIDA-Baltimore: *Natasha Lugo-Escobar & Ross*

On December 2nd, NIDA fellows were invited to present their research at the annual Bayview Research Symposium. NIDA hosted its Holiday Party on December 16th.

NIEHS-North Carolina: *Sonika Patial & Emily Zhou*

We don't have anything to report from NIEHS as no relevant topics were discussed at our last NTA meeting.

Elections

Child Care Board Liaison

Clara Bodelon, NCI-DCEG

I am a postdoc at NCI-DCEG and a parent. Since my family and I arrived to NIH, just over a year ago, I have been very interested in the opportunities that NIH has to offer to parent postdocs for both our children and to facilitate the work-life balance so that postdocs are able to successfully move to the next step of their careers. Last year I contacted Adam Lee, one of our two liaisons to the NIH Child Care Board, to learn more about the board and about the child care facilities that fellows in my division will have after we move to the new NCI campus. After attending several board meetings, including those for the NIH Child Care Board and for the Executive Child Development Center (one of the three NIH child care centers) board, I feel I can become the FELCOM liaison to the Child Care Board.

I have experience in leadership after being a committee member in other organizations (MIT European club committee member, Association of Spaniards in the Boston area committee member, and in the Society of Research Fellows Committee at The Salk Institute).

Sarah Williams, NIMH

I am interested in volunteering for the position of Felcom Liason to the NIH Child Care Board. I am passionate about advocating for family-friendly policies and I have relevant experience to be able to contribute to the board's initiatives. Decisions about child-care are some of the most important personal decisions to make in an attempt to maintain a healthy work-life balance. The issue of adequate and convenient early child-care is an especially important issue for younger professionals, who are more likely to have younger children and who are simultaneously launching their professional careers. Employer decisions about family-friendly policies and child-care can increase satisfaction and productivity of employees as well as recruit and maintain the best talent. I understand that policy making can be a complicated process requiring a sequential approval steps. As a member of the graduate student government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I served on several Boards of Directors helping make decisions from funding a new tower for the student radio station, guiding alcohol policy on campus and organizing parent/child friendly social events on campus (see attached CV). Relevant to this position, I worked with the Child Care advocate to promote better lactation areas on campus. The policy there only allowed for 6-8 weeks of postpartum leave, so many new mothers needed to pump breast milk while they were at work. We successfully convinced the University to add three new lactation across campus. To accomplish this, it was necessary to reach out to both students to collect and analyze a survey of student need as well reach up in the command structure to the deans of different departments. Although I

have no children of my own yet, I believe promoting family friendly policies are critical for the career development young professionals.

Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics

James Whittle, NIH/VRC

I would like to be considered for this position. I am a postdoc at the Vaccine Research Center of NIAID. (I was also formerly a postbac IRTA at NHGRI.) I've always felt that ethical conduct of research is important both to fairness in scientific research and to the integrity of published results. I hope that by being the liaison to this committee I could help ensure that the guidelines the committee develops reflects the concerns of postdocs and protects their interests, that ethics training is relevant to their needs, and that any PI training course developed includes lessons designed to improve the postdoc experience at NIH. I've always enjoyed "The Ethicist" column in the New York Times, and might be able to occasionally contribute something similar to the NIH Catalyst.

Michele Kadnar, NHGRI

This statement of interest is to submit my candidacy for the Liaison to the Committee on Scientific Conduct and Research Ethics. I am a post-doctoral fellow approaching the one-year mark in NHGRI. Before coming to NIH, I was a Science Fellow at Scientists and Engineers for America (SEA), a science advocacy and policy-focused non-profit. As a Fellow, I was involved in SEA program development and teaching graduate students interning at SEA. At the close of SEA programming, I conducted a survey-based analysis of the intern program that indicated many interns participated in SEA programming because they were interested in the ethics of research and its societal implications. This past November, I presented the results at the first Congress of Teaching the Social and Ethical Implications of Research sponsored by the Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes at Arizona State University. At this conference, I was introduced to research on improving both microethics (research ethics, authorship, scientific misconduct) and macroethics (the broad social and ethical implications of research) training. From the conference, it was apparent that the early incorporation of ethics training into scientific training results in mitigation of ethics conflicts by creating a culture of open discussion. Upon returning, I spoke with faculty in the NIH Department of Bioethics about opportunities for learning more about ethics on campus. Ultimately, I would like to become involved in providing educational opportunities for post-doctoral and research fellows in both micro- and macroethics issues. I am looking forward to beginning this endeavor by becoming the Liaison to the Committee on Scientific Conduct and Research Ethics.

Results of election:

Clara Bodelon - Child Care Board Liaison

Michelle Kadnar - Committee on Scientific Conduct and Ethics