

## Postdoc Retreat

This past August saw the 7th annual PDLC postdoc retreat, and we were delighted to return to the beautiful CSHL Banbury conference center. Despite the pouring rain, nearly 50 attendees were able to come for a full day of panel discussions, a mock chalk talk, and exciting research presentations showcasing the work done by our own postdoctoral community. The day concluded with a workshop hosted by trained actors, who demonstrated a number of techniques that

scientists can use every day to better communicate with each other, their PIs, and the larger non-scientific community. The day was rounded out with a barbecue at the immaculately-appointed Robertson House at the Banbury center, overlooking the harbor.



Postdocs from all major research areas at CSHL attended the 2017 Postdoc Retreat at the Banbury Center.

## Collaborations

**TALKS** The PDLC has been delighted to be able to collaborate with other groups on the CSHL campus this year. In addition to the teaching opportunities spear-headed by the Career Development Program (CDP), we were able to work with CSHL Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) and the Meetings and Courses department to bring Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff to the Lab in April. Dr. Villa-Komaroff gave two talks and spent the day with students and postdocs discussing the need to increase diversity in the STEM fields. In collaboration with Meetings & Courses, we will

be co-hosting Arrakis Therapeutics CEO (and CSHL alum) Michael Gilman on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!



CSHL Professor Lloyd Trotman describes the life of a scientist as "totally groovy, man."

**NPAW** Led by the ladies in Urey, Alyson Kass-Eisler & Monn Monn Myat, we were also happy to show some appreciation to the postdoc community for National Postdoc Appreciation Week, which included an ice cream social at the Delbrück Gazebo. In spite of the arrival of Dean of the Watson School Alex Gann, postdocs from many different labs had fun mixing and mingling on this late summer afternoon.

**WiSE** In August, we again collaborated with WiSE and co-sponsored the Summer Beach Party. This event successfully brought together women and men, both in science and those who are just really interested in science, from throughout Long Island and New York City.

**SCIENCE WRITING COURSE** We are currently co-sponsoring a science writing course led by our own Senior Science Writer Peter Tarr, designed to train scientists to communicate their work to a wider audience. The course was immensely popular and filled up almost immediately, and will be training our fellow science writers into January.



A diverse group of scientists and supporters converged at CSHL for the WiSE/PDLC Summer Beach Party.

**PERPSECTIVES IN SCIENCE CAREERS** In an ongoing collaboration with the CSHL Library and Archives, the PDLC has been co-sponsoring the Perspectives in Science Careers seminar series. These near-monthly talks allow invited speakers from backgrounds as diverse as finance, policy, and law to interact with interested scientists in a less formal manner, providing for many interesting conversations and connections. The next Perspectives talk will feature Nature Communications Associate Editor and former CSHL postdoc Dr. Sachin Ranade. Keep an eye out for more details!

## Opportunities

**POSTDOCTORAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD** Would you like to take a course to enhance your career prospects? Or perhaps you would like to go to a meeting not directly related to your field and you can't get funding? The PDLC is offering small grants (\$300-\$500) to help postdocs attend meetings and courses which will help them explore career options that may be outside the traditional academic world. Our most recent recipient, Mario Shields, was awarded \$300 to attend a course entitled "Scientists Teaching Science" at the New York Academy of Sciences. If you would like to be considered for an award, write up a brief summary (1-2 pages) of the event you would like to attend, including the amount of money you are requesting, and send it to the PDLC at [pdlc@csih.edu](mailto:pdlc@csih.edu). Applications for 2018 are open now!

**COFFEE CHATS** The monthly Coffee Chat series, hosted by the CDP, allows graduate students and postdocs to get to know CSHL PI's and staff through an informal setting over coffee and cookies.

The goal of this series is to provide an opportunity for young scientists to seek advice or ask questions pertaining to career development, grant writing, publications, work/life balance, and more. Featured speakers include Professors Leemor Joshua-Tor and David Spector, Associate Professor Steve Shea, and our newly-appointed Associate Dean of the Watson School Monn Monn Myat.



Nami Tajima presents a mock chalk talk, with her aims including "Get data and chew bubble gum... and I'm all out of bubble gum."

**MOCK CHALK TALKS** For those getting ready to apply on the academic job market or just curious about the chalk talk experience, the PDLC is working with the CDP to arrange Mock Chalk Talks. Recently, Nami Tajima presented her proposed research plan to study the structure and function of the Kainate Receptor to a panel of CSHL faculty. It was a lively discussion, with lots of helpful feedback and suggestions. If you are interested in presenting your own mock chalk talk, please contact us at [pdlc@cschl.edu](mailto:pdlc@cschl.edu) or Leah Banks at the Career Development Program at [cdp@cschl.edu](mailto:cdp@cschl.edu).

## Coming Up

**POSTDOC TOWN HALL** Every fall, CSHL President Bruce Stillman holds a town hall specifically for the postdocs, so that the administration can address the concerns of we the postdocs. To facilitate this, the PDLC will be holding a pre-town hall meeting with the postdocs so that we can collect the thoughts and concerns of the postdoc community and present them to Bruce and the powers that be. We have set the date for the pre-town hall meeting for Monday, 13 November, at 5:00 p.m. in the Hawkins Conference Room. Pizza will be provided, and we hope that as many of you can attend as possible. Of course, it is also important that we have strong representation at the Postdoc Town Hall itself to demonstrate our support for each other and the mission of the Lab. The date for the Postdoc Town Hall is currently set for 30 November; we hope you will plan to attend.



Aman Husbunds describes the time when he punched a grizzly bear in the face. The PDLC was able to immediately relay his concerns with grizzly bears stealing his honey to the administration.



**DEMISTIFYING SCIENCE** Back by popular demand, Demystifying Science will begin again at the end of this year. Immensely popular with scientists and science-enthusiasts alike, this series of talks is designed to convey scientific concepts and the significance of current research to a non-scientific audience. The first speaker will be Jackie Giovaniello, who will discuss the debunked link between vaccination and autism. We are still looking for volunteers to come to a special sneak preview of these talks and provide critiques and suggestions. If you are interested in critiquing Jackie's talk, or if you have an idea for an interesting topic and would like to present a Demystifying Science talk of your own, send us an email at [pdlc@csih.edu](mailto:pdlc@csih.edu).

**CAREER EXPLORATION EVENT** Coming up in April of 2018, the PDLC will host a 2-day information session with a number of local organizations, including representatives from the biotech industry, science publishing, policy, academia, and outreach. For anyone who would like to talk with companies looking to hire scientists, save the date for this one! More information to follow.



Members of a career panel discuss what to do with a postdoc outside of academia.

*Photos courtesy of Constance Brukin*