**Meeting Attendance:**
Barabara Natalizio
Ariella Hanker
Holly Cyphert
Misty Thompson
Lindsey Morris
Daniel Trott
Chris Lord
Sabrina Mitchell
Shilpa Sampathi
Katie Jameson
Annet Kirabo

**Attention Postdoctoral Fellows:**

**Monthly Postdoctoral Association Meeting**
*Wednesday, July 3rd, 2013*
*Light Hall Room 306 A&B, 11:30am-12:30pm*

The Postdoctoral Association (PDA) exists to support the postdocs at Vanderbilt University and serves to enhance and improve the postdoctoral experience. Monthly PDA meetings are an open forum to communicate ideas, identify any areas requiring advocacy, and establish the overall direction of the PDA. Our monthly meetings are typically the first Wednesday of each month and are *open to all Vanderbilt postdocs*. We encourage anyone interested to attend!

**Agenda:**

1. **Discussion on Topics:** *Dr. Brock Schweitzer, Senior Scientist, Insight Genetics Inc*
   - Open discussion with *Dr. Brock Schweitzer*, former *Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Fellow*
   - He will be available to answer any questions you may have about breaking into and working in biotech
“Career Path to Start-up Biotech Industry” His experience in the PDA has been instrumental in the development of his career. INSIGHT GENETICS is a biotech company focused on developing molecular diagnostics.

Career Path:
PhD in Molecular Genetics at U of Cincinnati with the intention to work for Proctor and Gamble which was a common career path. In 2005/06 P&G scrapped all R&D. Started working on high risk projects early on and tried to stay at the cutting edge of technology. Interacted with lots of people outside of department through seminars and extracurriculars.

Postdoc at Vanderbilt. Another aggressive project making mouse models to prevent posttranslational modification of NFkB. Interacted with lots of different groups because of this model. Another postdoc he met through the PDA started work at Insight Genetics. Later when he was looking for a job the former postdoc recruited him to Insight Genetics. Taught at Nashville state during the transition. Felt he was in the right place at the right time, but he put himself in these positions.

Experience with Networking:
Current peers and colleagues are the best networking sources. Networking is not just at career fairs and socials etc., people that are actively involved in your research are better. The best networking occurs under social circumstances, questions coming up in normal conversations. It’s good to help everyone succeed.

About Insight Genetics:
Commercializing new technologies. Testing batches and lots and freeze thaw cycles etc. for developing assays for consistency. Also do discovery to develop new tests and simplifying existing tests. Interacting with commercial partners. Develops NIH applications as NIH funds startup companies that work on translation.
Role as a senior scientist:
Fast paced no single project for months on end. Priorities change frequently. Does discovery science experimental design, data analysis grant writing, project proposals etc. Focus on product development science. Because they want to commercialize their products he does lots of presentations.

When evaluating resumes he looks for skills, a good resume is more elaborate then a list like a CV. Providing evidence from your skills.

2. 2013 BRET Career Development Symposium, “Influencing Human Health with Your PhD Degree”

- [https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-symposium2013/](https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/career-symposium2013/)
- Scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st starting at 9:00 am
- This year’s career development symposium was created to further explore the “Bench to Bedside” phrase so often echoed around the Vanderbilt campus. Our diverse range of speakers - who represent the varied industries of government, policy, nonprofits, translational research, and administration – will ahealth. Join us as we spend the day learning more about the careers of former PhDs who influence human health every day.
- The Keynote Speaker is **Linda Distlerath**, PhD, JD, senior counselor for APCO Worldwide. Distlerath is a public affairs professional in the global health, health care, and biomedical R&D sectors. She currently serves as a senior counselor in the health care practice of APCO Worldwide, a global strategic communication and public affairs firm headquartered in Washington DC.

All day event, keynote and panel presentations in the morning. Breakout sessions in the afternoon, followed by networking reception. Must preregister, registration closes soon. Berg Pharma recruiter will likely be there.
3. Vanderbilt Postdoc Networking Event

- Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 8th or Thursday, August 15th at 4:00pm
- Similar format to last year: Open networking followed by three-four 10 minute rotations at tables, each with a different topic to discuss
- Register in advance
- Handbook including name, email, short (140 characters) research summary, undergrad and grad institutions
- Seeking volunteers to help with planning, set-up, and clean-up
  *(If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Barbara Natalizio)*

August 15 decided as date. Pizza at beginning, register in advance. Topics: work life balance, life in Nashville, etc. Good opportunity to meet and talk non-science things. Door prizes?

4. The Annual Vanderbilt Institute for Chemical Biology Research Symposium

- Thursday, August 8th 8am-5pm in the Student Life Center
- Keynote address: Dr. Jon Clardy, Harvard University [http://clardy.edu.harvard.edu/research](http://clardy.edu.harvard.edu/research)
- Registration and more info: [https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=VnCqJ5](https://redcap.vanderbilt.edu/surveys/?s=VnCqJ5)

5. Nashville Sounds Baseball Game

- Saturday, August 3rd @6:35pm against Tucson Padres
- Tickets are available at the discounted rate of $10 each
- Please email Claudia Cottingham in the BRET office by August 2nd to reserve your tickets
6. **Elections**

- To be held early July
- Call for nominations has been sent out
- Notifications to be sent out to selected officers by late July
- Transition of duties to occur in August/September

Please volunteer/nominate using the survey monkey online.

7. **Science Outreach & Communication: A Career Symposium**

- [http://asbmb-career-symposium.missouri.edu/](http://asbmb-career-symposium.missouri.edu/)
- *Saturday, September 21, 2013 7:30am-5:00pm*
- University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- Registration is free

8. **Sign-up sheets for PDA committees**

- Scholarly Learning/Symposium Planning
- Postdoc Advocacy
- Social Networking and Activities
- Web and Communication

9. **Suggestions for upcoming topics**

10. **Reminders:**

- Register for Kim Petrie’s Career Development List
- Sign up to receive the BRET e-newsletter
- Join Vanderbilt University Biomedical Research Graduate and Postdoctoral Trainee and Alumni Linked-In Group
- **Join the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Association**
Google Group
https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroupss#!forum/VU-Postdocs
  o The webboard is designed for open communication
    amongst Vanderbilt postdocs about science, family,
    life and anything you feel would be of interest to our
    community! Sign up today for email alerts of
    new postings!

Kim Petire’s seminar on career development, overview of PhD level
  careers
Will be July 18, 2013 1PM. 1220 MRBIII