

February-March 2008
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"This was the most helpful and useful workshop I have attended in years. Excellent program, superb presentations."

-- Grant Workshop attendee, February 2008

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A newsletter from the MGH Office for Research Career Development

From Our Director

We hope that you find this winter issue of "ORCD Connections" useful. As our office settles into its 3rd year, we look forward to continuing our programs, advising and advocacy for the MGH research community. The office is pleased to be working on a number of

new initiatives this year, including expanded programs on laboratory management, improved resources for mentors/trainees, and an orientation program for new MGH researchers. You will be hearing much more about these programs in the coming

months, and we hope that they will significantly enhance your research experience at the MGH.

Sincerely,

Tayyaba

Tayyaba Hasan, PhD
Director, ORCD

Grant Writing Workshops Give Researchers a Boost

The ORCD has initiated a new style of grant writing workshop that we hope will significantly improve the funding potential of participants. The workshop combines presentations by senior MGH research faculty who offer strategies for optimizing the different sections of a grant proposal, stylistic writing advice, peer-review opportunities, and

individual sessions with a writing consultant. In early February we offered an updated version of the program (to see workshop agenda and slide presentations, [click here](#)). Eighteen participants submitted drafts of their NIH R- or K-level grants, and took part in a rigorous full-day session designed to improve each grant. The program included interactive lectures on

grant writing by MGH faculty Dennis Brown, PhD (Background and Significance, K awards), Susan Slaughenaupt, PhD (Specific Aims), and Kristin White, PhD (Responding to the IRG). These faculty members, along with their colleagues Sylvie Breton, PhD, Tayyaba Hasan, PhD, Keith Miller, PhD and Robert Redmond, PhD, also offered guidance to participants during a peer review session in the afternoon of the workshop. In addition, writing consultant Carol Winkelman, MA, offered writing tips to improve grants. On the second day, she met individually with participants to assist them in editing their grants. The next session of the ORCD Grant Writing Workshop will be held in the fall. For more information, please email orcd@partners.org.



Senior MGH Faculty advised participants on their NIH grants at the ORCD/CFD Grant Writing Workshop in February.

POSTDOC POLICY UPDATE

The MGH Guidelines for Research Fellows (Postdoc Policy) are now in effect. We urge all Faculty and Fellows to read the Policy. It is available at:

<http://www.massgeneral.org/facultydevelopment/orcd/postdoc-guidelines.html>

Please [send us your comments and questions](#) about the policy.

All MGH Postdocs are encouraged to become members of the MGPA. For more information, visit their website:

<https://www.massgeneral.org/mgpa>

To access the COS trial subscription, please visit:

<http://trials.proquest.com/ptc?userid=2550648>

Password: Proquest

The trial expires on 3/14/08
Note: do not try to access the trial subscription from the main COS website; it is only accessible through the above web page.

MGPA Wins National Postdoc Association Grant and Partners in Excellence Award

Since it was founded one and a half years ago, the Massachusetts General Hospital Postdoctoral Association (MGPA) has been doing important work on behalf of the MGH community of research fellows. In addition to collaborating with ORCD on programs relevant to the postdoc community, the MGPA launched its own pilot program of Mentored Lunches. This program was recently awarded a grant by the [National Postdoctoral Association](#). The grant provided national recognition for this excellent program, and \$1,000 to continue the

Mentored Lunches this year. The MGPA's important work also was recognized by MGH in December with a Partners in Excellence Award, for enhancing the postdoctoral experience

at the hospital. Congratulations to all MGPA members! To join the MGPA or be added to their mailing list, please send email to: mgpa@partners.org.



MGPA Board members and ORCD staff, recipients of a Partners in Excellence Award.

Community of Science: Resources for Researchers

The ORCD is actively seeking ways to enhance MGH researchers' access to important information, such as funding sources and potential collaboration opportunities. Community of Science™ (COS) is a web-based global resource for information critical for scientific research. We are exploring the possibility of an institutional subscription to COS, which would allow free access for all MGH researchers. To evaluate this service, we have arranged for a free trial subscription (see sidebar). We hope that as many

researchers as possible will explore the resources at COS, and let us know if you think they provide important and useful information for your research endeavors.

COS services available during the trial:

1. **COS Funding Opportunities.**

Information about more than \$33 billion in funding for grants, fellowships, awards and more.

2. **Community of Scholars (Scholars Universe).**

Information about more than 1 million scholars and

organizations, including professional affiliations, research interests and publications.

3. **Illustrata.** Web-based access to indexed tables, figures and other objects found in scholarly research literature.

Results can be saved or imported and used for presentations, lectures or research.

We need your feedback to help us evaluate COS. Please try the service and send us your comments:

orcd@partners.org.

New HMS Promotion Criteria

Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine have adopted new criteria for faculty promotion and appointment. The criteria allow the sum total of each faculty member's contributions and achievements to be considered in the promotion process, and in doing so provide different paths to advancement in the academic ranks.

Dr. Ellice Lieberman, Dean of Faculty Affairs at the Medical School,

visited MGH on January 28th to give an overview of the new criteria.

The former categories of Investigator and Clinician Teacher have been replaced with a flexible structure that allows each faculty member to choose an Area of Excellence: Teaching and Educational Leadership, Clinical Expertise and Innovation, or Investigation. In addition, each faculty will be evaluated for

their contributions to teaching and education, and other significant supporting activities will be assessed during the promotion process.

For more information on the new promotion criteria, including dates and locations of additional information sessions, please visit:

<http://facultypromotions.hms.harvard.edu/index.php>

Mary Clark, PhD, former Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at HMS, is a consultant on all aspects of academic appointments for faculty at MGH. Each Tuesday she meets individually with faculty to discuss their academic career advancement. For an appointment with Dr. Clark, please email cfd@partners.org or phone 617-724-0818.

Mark Your Calendars! Programs and Funding News

Funding Through Innovation: The Licensing Office as your Partner

Frances Toneguzzo, PhD, Director, Office for Corporate Sponsored Research & Licensing at MGH
Dr. Toneguzzo will discuss ways in which Researchers can partner with CSRL to turn research discoveries into patents and potential commercial products.

Thursday, February 28, 2008
[Link to presentation slides](#)

The Relaxation Response: How to Counteract the Harmful Effects of Stress

Herbert Benson, MD
The Benson-Henry Institute for Mind-Body Medicine
A Seminar on the physiology underlying the relaxation response, and an introduction to stress reduction for researchers.

Wednesday, March 5, 2008, 12:30 to 1:30 pm
Thier Conference Room

Lab Management for Research Faculty

Joanne S. Ingwall, PhD, Professor of Medicine (Physiology) and Vice Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of Medicine, BWH
This 2-part workshop will guide new and experienced PIs in becoming effective managers and leaders in the laboratory setting. Two 2-hour, mid-day sessions, details and registration available soon. **Monday, March 31, 2008 and Tuesday, April 1, 2008.** Register: orcd@partners.org

New HMS Promotion Criteria

Ellice S. Lieberman, DrPH, MD, Dean for Faculty Affairs at HMS
The Office for Faculty Affairs at Harvard Medical School will be on-site again to educate faculty on the new changes to the HMS promotion criteria.

Thursday, April 17, 2008, noon to 1:30 pm
O'Keefe Auditorium

Write It So They'll Read It!™

Sheryl Lindsell-Roberts, Principal
Sheryl Lindsell-Roberts & Associates

Write reader-focused documents, get the results you want, and cut your writing time by 30 to 50%. Space is limited, apply to cfd@partners.org by Mar. 24.

Tuesday, April 29, 2008, 9 am to 1:00 pm

Harvard Medical School: The Red Book, Invitational Fellowships – Informational Town Meeting

This meeting will provide information about the invitational fellowships and grants described in the Red Book, including the new Judah Folkman Fellowship at HMS. Attendees will learn about deadlines and eligibility rules, and have the chance to ask questions.

Thursday, March 6, 2008 12:00 – 1:30 pm HMS, Gordon Hall, Waterhouse Room, first floor

Biotech/Pharma Career Discussion for Postdocs

The panel will discuss scientific opportunities available in pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Five panel members will discuss their experiences in this field.

Friday, February 29, 2008, 4:00-6:00pm, TMEC Auditorium.

For information and to RSVP, email ksiggers@rics.bwh.harvard.edu

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick spoke at MGH on February 11th to introduce a new **\$12 million research investment program**, funded and administered by the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. The program will promote research opportunities and increase industry-sponsored research in Massachusetts. For more information about this program, visit www.masslifesciences.com.