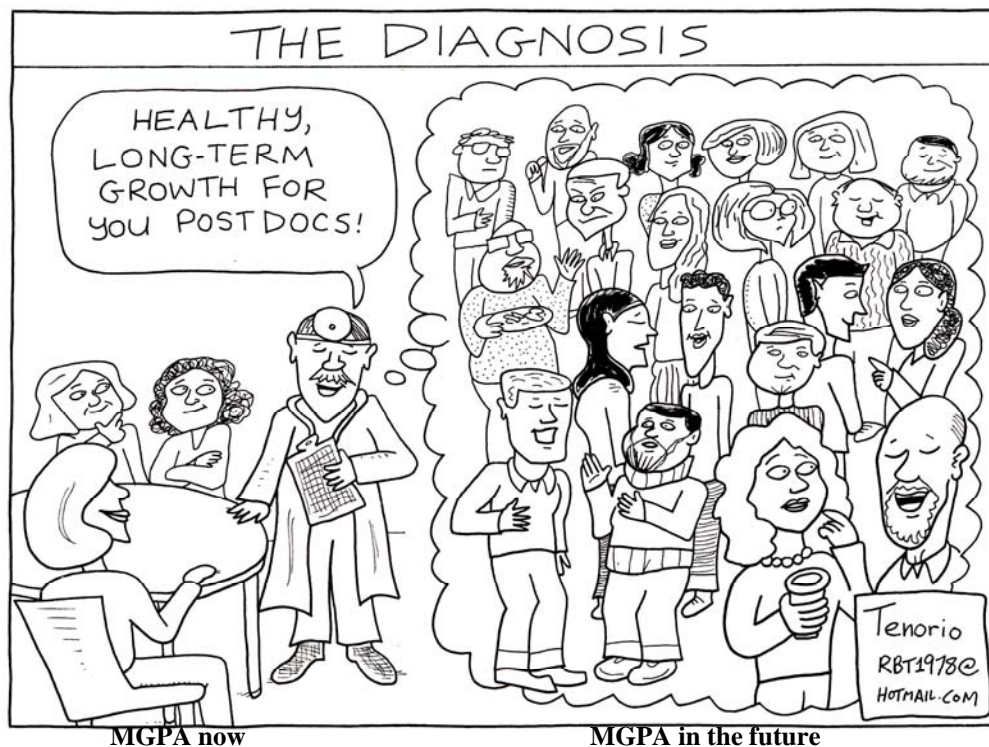


SPECIAL NEWSLETTER FOR POSTDOCS



The therapy: MGPA → The prognosis: Good!

**The Mass General Postdoc Association (MGPA), together with the ORCD, invites all postdocs from the MGH and MGH-affiliated hospitals to a
FALL RECEPTION (Halloween Style)**

**For an introduction of our newly formed MGPA
Followed by food and music.
Come for a fun-filled evening! Costumes encouraged!**

**The event will take place in Thier Conference Room, MGH Main Campus
Thursday, October 26, 2006, 6 – 9:00 pm.
RSVP highly appreciated, but not necessary.**

For questions or RSVP, please contact the Co-Chairs / Coordinators Sarika Verma (sverma1@partners.org), Elena Zalyapin (ezalyapin@partners.org), or the ORCD (orcd@partners.org). We are currently looking for committee members and leaders in additional areas, such as: communication, event coordination, web page maintenance, sports activities, and new postdoc orientation. Find us at: www.massgeneral.org/facultydevelopment/orcd



Here we are: Mass General Postdoc Association

May we introduce to you: **MGPA – Mass General Postdoc Association!** The last weeks and months have been filled with a flurry of activity to make “us” happen: an organization to represent all postdocs at the MGH.

A number of dynamic and passionate postdocs have come together to form a postdoctoral association that can help make life better right here in our MGH community. This process was greatly facilitated through the practical support from the **Office for Research Career Development (ORCD)**, and we are looking forward to a fruitful coordination of mutual event programming. So far, we have defined our mission as follows:

Research advancement – We came here to conduct world-class research, and as the MGPA, we want to facilitate discussion and practical help related to research on the postdoc level. We intend to organize postdoc conferences, seminars, and platforms to promote scientific exchange between postdocs specifically.

Career development – Time as a postdoc is a transition period, and it should be used as a springboard on the way to a permanent position. We are planning to introduce seminars and workshops to address the concerns of postdocs such as: How do you transit to independence in your own lab? Are there alternative options? How to polish your application material and prepare for the interview?

Social activities – Hard to believe: Postdocs are not only working, but also have a life, at times. The MGPA will bring you together with colleagues for networking, events, and sports. We also want to provide practical help for incoming postdocs and begin to build an alumni network.

Quality of life and postdoc advocacy – We would like to provide a forum to discuss postdoc issues at large. Which concerns do postdocs have, and how can they be best addressed? We will work with the ORCD to exchange thoughts on the local postdoc status. On the national level, we have already registered with the **National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)**. The NPA has numerous postdoc associations and offices as members and is, among others, sponsored by the Burroughs Welcome Fund, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Join the MGPA! We hope we have peaked your interest, and now it is your turn to show your support for our ambitious endeavors. Needless to say, the MGPA is a great opportunity for networking and developing your teamwork and leadership skills. Participate in our **next general meeting** on the MGH Main Campus on Monday, November 6, 2006, 12 – 1:00 pm, or become active in one of our committees. Mark your calendars for our much-anticipated **fall reception** with a harvest theme to celebrate the MGPA launching! We are looking forward to meeting you and hearing about your interests.

Yours,

The founding MGPA members

- Pawel Mroz** (Dermatology) – Membership at MGH Main Campus
- Tiago F. Outeiro** (Neurology) – Research
- Hideo Sakamoto** (Reproductive Biology) – Alumni Network
- Keri Siggers** (Medicine) – Career Development
- Olga Syrkina** (Medicine) – Quality of Life and Postdoc Advocacy
- Emi Takahashi** (Psychiatry) – Social Activities
- Julie E. Tetzlaff** (Neurology) – Membership at MGH Charlestown Navy Yard Campus
- Sarika Verma** (Dermatology) – Co-Chair; Membership, Coordination
- Danqing Xiao** (Neurology) – Social Activities
- Elena Zalyapin** (Medicine) – Co-Chair; Newsletter, Membership at Simches Building

Participate in our **MGPA / ORCD event programming survey!** We are interested to hear about your thoughts regarding seminars that the MGPA and the ORCD should offer. Please take a minute and fill out our anonymous survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=787632671080>

