Dear Washington University Postdoc,

Welcome to Washington University in St. Louis! Washington University is committed to excellence in research and education and on behalf of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, we are pleased to welcome you to our community. Washington University recognizes that postdoctoral appointees make a critical contribution to the University’s overall research mission through the generation of new ideas, sharing of research knowledge and the publication of research results.

Washington University and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) are committed to providing you with excellent training and career and professional development opportunities. OPA acts as a central resource for postdoc information and resources and plans events and seminars for postdocs at the School of Medicine. OPA sends out a bi-weekly e-newsletter, the Postdoc Update, and maintains the postdoc website at postdoc.wustl.edu. OPA also works with the WU Postdoc Society (WUPS) and we encourage you to get involved. Additional resources on career planning and development for postdocs, as well as individual counseling appointments are available through The Career Center. More information is online at careercenter.wustl.edu. We want you to make the most of your time here at Washington University and hope that you will take advantage of all that is offered to develop and enrich your skills in addition to your scientific pursuits.

The Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences (DBBS) established the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs in November 2002 to serve as a focal point for the postdoctoral community and an advocate for postdoc issues. In July 2004, the University enacted the Postdoctoral Education Policy. This policy provides standardization of postdoc titles and benefits across the University, training limits of five years, a minimum salary/stipend amount and an emphasis on postdoctoral time as a training experience. A copy of the University Policy as well as the School of Medicine Implementation document is posted on the website. The postdoctoral benefit package is maintained by Human Resources. Some information is available on the OPA website, and detailed information is available on the HR website at hr.med.wustl.edu.

The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs was established to support you, the postdoctoral community. Please feel free to contact us at postdoc@wusm.wustl.edu. If you would like to stop by, our office is located on the 5th floor of the Becker library in the Division of Biology & Biomedical Sciences.

Sincerely,

John H. Russell, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Education

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