Neuroscience Training: Developing a Nimble and Versatile Workforce—
A Virtual Workshop Series

Topic #4: Re-envisioning Postdoctoral Training in Neuroscience

February 16, 2021
Virtual via Webcast

About this Workshop

The vision and approach for postdoctoral training has evolved over the years. Originally viewed as a few years of apprenticeship and an opportunity to establish skills and develop ideas in preparation for an independent research career, postdoc training has progressed to a state of limbo for some postdoctoral researchers, with longer training durations; uncertain career prospects; and variability in the training, mentoring, and professional status across the neuroscience ecosystem. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., challenges securing funding, job seeking, and managing relationships with their mentors), resulting in a high-level of uncertainty and stress for postdoctoral researchers. This workshop—the fourth in a series—will explore the current postdoctoral training models in neuroscience and consider opportunities for modernization to meet the evolving needs in the field.

About the Workshop Series on Neuroscience Training

Cutting-edge neuroscience research increasingly demands extensive technological, computational, and statistical skills, and involves large collaborations. Trainees are pursuing a broad range of careers in academia, private sector industries--which has evolved beyond pharmaceutical and biotech companies, to include engineering, data science, venture capital firms, and finance--policy, publishing, and non-profit organizations. Moreover, traditional boundaries between sectors are becoming less rigid, with more extensive partnerships among the private sector and academia and more academics helping to found biotech companies. Taken together, these factors raise important questions about to how to design training programs that foster innovation across a dynamic ecosystem and ensure that a diverse next generation of neuroscientists has the knowledge, skillset, and support needed to pursue multiple career paths devoted to advancing biomedical science.

The Action Collaborative on Neuroscience Training: Developing a Nimble and Versatile Workforce, an initiative associated with the National Academies' Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders, brings together a wide range of stakeholders, representing different sectors and career stages, to examine current and future workforce needs within and outside of academia and explore how these should inform neuroscience training programs.

The action collaborative's virtual workshop series aims to illuminate critical issues and provide a venue for sharing ways to move forward. Workshops in this series have and may address topics such as:
- Racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in neuroscience training (August 20, 2020);
- Neuroscience training in challenging times (January 19, 2021);
- Fostering inclusion, equity, and diversity in neuroscience training (January 25, 2021); and
- Evolving the culture of science and training to meet a changing world (February 22, 2021).

February 16, 2021

12:00pm	Welcome and Workshop Overview	

BRIELLE FERGUSON, Stanford University

Panel I: Personal Perspectives on Postdoctoral Neuroscience Training – A Conversation	

12:05pm   Session overview

BRIELLE FERGUSON, Stanford University

12:15pm   Panelists

BRITTANY WILLIAMS, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
UBADAH SABBAGH, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
ETHAN HUGHES, University of Colorado, School of Medicine
ROBERT BELL, Pfizer

12:55pm   BREAK

Panel II: Institutional Perspectives on Changes Needed in Postdoctoral Neuroscience Training

1:00pm   Session overview

CAROL MASON, Columbia University

1:10pm   Panelists

STEPHEN KORN, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
CALEB MCKINNEY, National Postdoctoral Association; Georgetown University
ADRIANA BANKSTON, Future of Research; University of California
LESLIE VOSSHALL, HHMI; The Rockefeller University

1:55pm   Final remarks

CAROL MASON, Columbia University

2:00pm   Adjourn Workshop

Continue the conversation and join the workshop participants and members of the action collaborative on *Neuroscience Training: Developing a Nimble and Versatile Workforce* in an online chat discussion immediately following the workshop on Slack. Additional information available upon registration.

Action Collaborative Members

Rita Balice-Gordon (Co-Chair), Muna Therapeutics
Katja Brose (Co-Chair), The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Rosalind Segal (Co-Chair), Harvard University
Huda Akil, University of Michigan
David Cox, IBM Research AI
Sara Fenstermacher, New York University
Ayana Jordan, Yale School of Medicine
Stephen Korn, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Walter Koroshetz, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
John Krystal, Yale School of Medicine
Alan Leshner, American Association for the Advancement of Science (CEO Emeritus)
Peter MacLeish, Morehouse School of Medicine
Carol Mason, Columbia University
Gentry Patrick, University of California, San Diego
Todd Sherer, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
Kaela S. Singleton, Emory University
M. Morgan Taylor, The Broad Institute
Ashlee Van't Veer, National Institute of Mental Health
Cristin Welle, University of Colorado, Denver
Andrew Welchman, Wellcome Trust