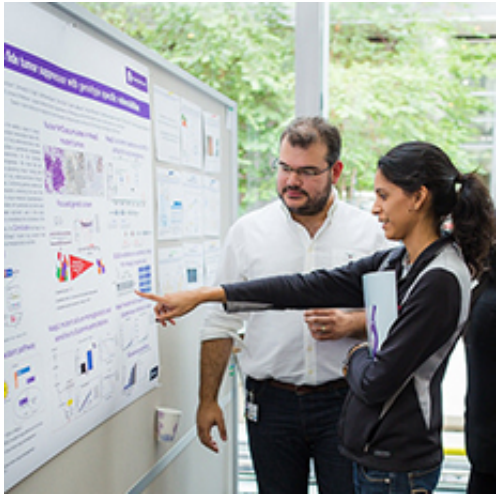


Postdoctoral Fellows Present Scientific Findings at Fourth Annual Research Day

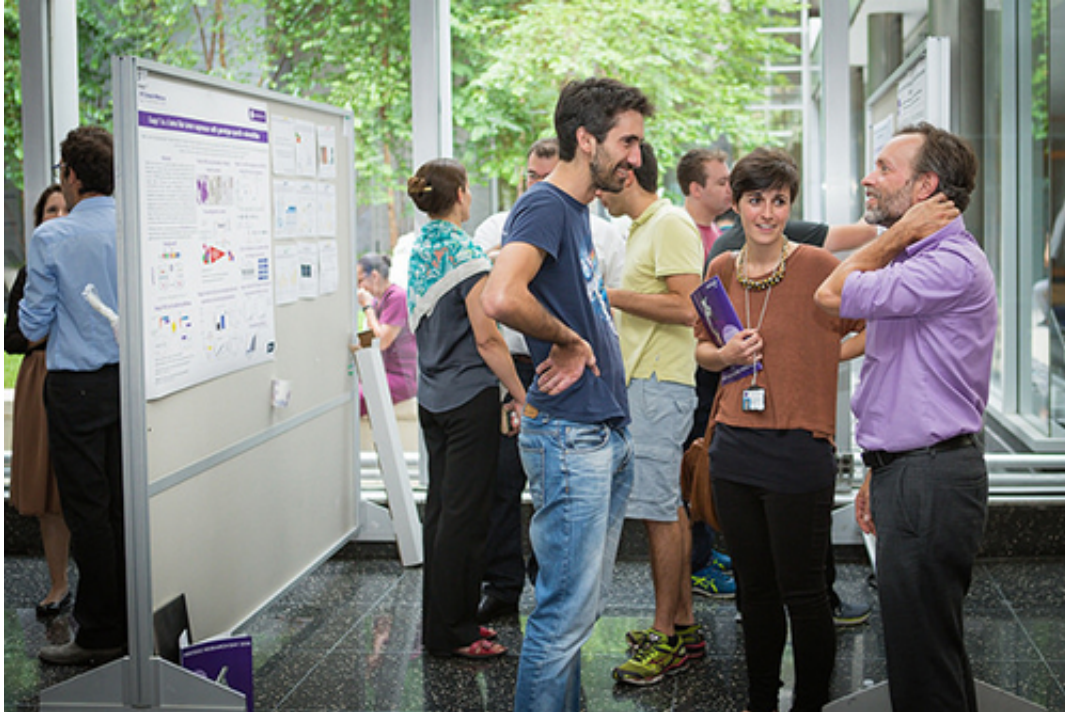


In celebration of [National Postdoc Appreciation Week](#), coordinated by the National Postdoctoral Association, [NYU School of Medicine Postdoctoral Affairs](#) recently held its fourth annual “Postdoc Research Day.” Attendees received a first-hand look at the latest scientific findings of our postdoctoral fellows, who have come to NYU Langone Medical Center not only to train under established investigators, but to play an active role in the institution’s research accomplishments. *(Pictured left, one of NYU Langone’s postdoctoral researchers explains her poster to a colleague at annual Postdoc Appreciation Day.)*

The event is just one of the many initiatives established by Postdoctoral Affairs, the office that supports these scientists-in-training. In fact, as one of the first official offices dedicated to career development for postdoctoral fellows in the nation and one of 17 schools to receive an NIH BEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training) five-year grant, many other schools model their postdoctoral program after NYU Langone’s.

“This year’s Postdoc Research Day proved to be just as impressive as the previous events, featuring research across disciplines, from molecular biology to structural engineering,” said Keith Micoli, PhD, director of Postdoctoral Affairs and a driving force behind the program’s success. “Once again, this day has validated the remarkable contributions our postdocs make to NYU

Langone Medical Center's enormous success in science.”



Dr. Keith Micoli, far right, at the 2016 annual Postdoc Appreciation Day.

And the Winners Are . . .

The afternoon commenced with 29 postdocs presenting their posters from a wide range of research areas. Five postdocs who were selected by their peers, then gave scientific talks. Attendees received free t-shirts as they entered Alumni Hall A to listen to the presentations. Later, awards were given to the five main speakers, as well as five of those who presented posters, who were judged on the clarity of their graphics. All 10 winners each received \$500 in travel funds to use towards expenses for a scientific conference of their choice.

One poster winner, Omar El Shahawy, MD, PhD, MPH, who works with [Scott Sherman, MD, MPH](#), associate professor, a member of the Department of

Population Health's section on Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use, demonstrated what primary care physicians in the United States know and think about e-cigarettes. "Physicians' knowledge appeared to be limited, and those who recommended them relied on their own beliefs. Patients interested in trying e-cigarettes will follow their physicians' endorsements, potentially driving e-cigarette use up, which might turn out to be problematic," Dr. El Shahawy explained. "We need to inform physicians about e-cigarettes because once these doctors develop a certain practice, change will be difficult."



The event gives postdoctoral researchers a chance to share their work with the wider NYU Langone community.

Another postdoc, speaker Doua Azzouz, PhD, from the lab of [Gregg Silverman, MD](#), professor, Departments of Medicine and of Pathology, said of the event, "Overall, it was a great experience and a wonderful way to showcase our latest findings, especially to those researchers who inspire us every day. I am thrilled and thankful that I was selected to be a part of it and

to be able to have shared my research with the rest of the NYU Langone community.”

Dr. Azzouz presented her work on autoimmunity, which is still a big mystery, she explained. Her team is working to reveal the impact of the microbiome on the immune system and in triggering lupus autoimmune pathogenesis. “We hope our study will lead to new discoveries that will eventually bring us from bench to bedside and determine the cause of lupus,” she said.

Postdoc Research Day culminated with a lively reception where researchers had a chance to connect with faculty and colleagues in other disciplines.

[View more photos](#) from the event. For the complete list of scientific abstracts, [see the event program](#).

Presenters

Doua Azzouz, PhD, Department of Medicine

“Does Dysbiosis within the Intestinal Microbiome Contribute to SLE Pathogenesis?”

Principal Investigator: Gregg J. Silverman, MD

Nicole Fehrenbacher, PhD, NYU Langone Perlmutter Cancer Center

“Identification of G-Protein Coupled Receptor 31 (GPR31) as a Novel Mediator of Kras4B Membrane Association”

Principal Investigator: [Mark R. Philips, MD, PhD](#)

Carmen Hurtado Del Pozo, PhD, Department of Medicine

“Inhibition of Rage Promotes Lipolysis and Thermogenesis in Beige and Brown Adipocytes”

Principal Investigator: [Ann Marie Schmidt, MD](#)

Michael Peled, PhD, Department of Medicine

“Combinatorial Proteomic Analysis of the Receptor Programmed Cell Death-1 Uncovers New Checkpoint Modulators”

Principal Investigator: [Adam Mor, MD, PhD](#)

Volkan Sayin, PhD, Department of Pathology and Perlmutter Cancer Center

“Keap1 Is a Bona Fide Tumor Suppressor with Genotype Specific Therapeutic Vulnerabilities in Lung Cancer”

Principal Investigator: [Thales Papagiannakopoulos, PhD](#)

Poster Winners

Denise Minton, PhD, Department of Pathology

Principal Investigator: [Richard L. Possemato](#)

Gaurav Jain, PhD, NYU College of Dentistry

Principal Investigator: [John Spencer Evans, DMD, PhD](#)

Axel Concepcion, PhD, Department of Pathology

Principal Investigator: [Stefan Feske, MD](#)

Omar El Shahawy, PhD, Department of Population Health

Principal Investigator: [Scott Sherman, MD, MPH](#)

Deepika Vasudevan, PhD, Department of Cell Biology

Principal Investigator: [Hyung Don Ryoo, PhD](#)