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*From the Editors:*

With the Holiday season just around the corner, the BCH Postdoc Association encourages all fellows to take time off, to replenish your brain with new ideas and future projects and to spend time with your family and friends, if you can.

As you know, COVID-19 cases are rising again everywhere in the world, so we urge everybody to respect the safety guidelines and take care of yourself and the people around you.

If you feel isolated or are struggling during this period, do not hesitate to contact the BCH Postdoc Association, we are happy to help in any way we can.

To submit comments, articles, or ideas for future newsletters, please contact: [Postdoc-publicaffairs@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Postdoc-publicaffairs@childrens.harvard.edu). For more information on the postdoc association, find us at:

- Childrens.org**
- Twitter (@BCHPostdoc)**
- Facebook**
- LinkedIn**

Check out our newsletter online!



# Fellowships opportunities: Finding Your Funding

*by Alexis Caulier*

Obtaining funding is crucial to sustain research programs, and most of researchers will have to apply for grants. Here are some tips from the Boston Children's Hospital's (BCH) Office of Fellowships Training to become familiar with grant opportunities.

- **What is a fellowship?** Fellowships are funding opportunities to provide postdoctoral research training to individuals to broaden their scientific background and extend their potential for research in specified health-related areas. There are many different types of fellowships/grants, from **public grants provided by the American National Health Institute (NIH) to those provided by private foundations** that are usually more flexible. Most NIH grants for postdoctoral fellows require the applicant to have a green card or be a citizen, such as NIH T32 or F32 or K awards. The K99/R00 Pathway to independence grant is the exception and is open to international scholars (see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/who-is-eligible.htm> for more information). Some grant applications are also specifically dedicated to non-US citizen doing research in the US, but they might require specific visa status and might not apply to H1 or O visa holders.

- **How much is a fellowship?** It is highly variable, but most of them only cover salary, and do not provide any funding for supplies or equipment. Importantly, fellowships at BCH must meet the NIH minimal salary requirement policy. If the funding is lower, **the PI or the department has to supplement the fellow's income to reach the minimal NIH requirements**. Of note, this is a minimum required but research fellows have the possibility to negotiate an increased income with their department based on the amount of funding they received.

- **Why fellowships are important?** Building your career development is important for aspiring academic researchers. As funding is critical to start and run a research program, young researchers are expected to raise funds to sustain their own research. Currently, BCH has approximately 75 active fellowships. **Receiving funding is a major step in proving your ability to support your research**, before applying to any academic position. Research fellows who receive fellowships are more likely to obtain academic positions in this extremely competitive environment.

Even if academics is not in your future, writing grants applications is a relevant



way to increase your ability to communicate science effectively. Moreover, it is an effective way to learn how to sell yourself and your research.

- **Talking about money, what is important to know?** The main difference between all the grants lies in the way they get paid. Some grants are directly paid to BCH following a specific agreement, whereas some of them are paid directly to the applicant. When the fellowship is paid directly to the applicant, the applicant's status will change to AP Research Fellow and there will be no income taxes collected by BCH. Thus, applicants are responsible for declaring their income to the IRS and to pay taxes every quarter. **As BCH does not collect taxes, applicants cannot be eligible for pre-tax benefits**, as healthcare insurance, child daycare FSA, Healthcare FSA, or parental leave. Applicants are not eligible to other benefits either, discounted gym access, or retirement plans sponsored by BCH. They are responsible to subscribe to their own retirement plans if they want so.

- **Health insurance programs and benefits?** If the fellowship is paid through BCH, the applicant remains eligible for all pre-tax benefits. If not, but if the department supplements the income, the applicant might be eligible to some of the benefits depending on the supplemented rate. If the Research Fellow receives 50% or more of their funding through the Hospital, they are eligible for pre-tax benefits (including medical, dental, vision, life and disability benefits). If greater than 50% of a Research Fellow's funding is through an NRSA grant (T32 or F32), the Research Fellow may enroll in a core menu of benefits (medical, dental, vision, life insurance and disability) on a direct bill basis at subsidized rates. If greater than 50% of their funding is through another external funding agency, the Research Fellow is not eligible for benefits and is responsible for subscribing to their own health but must obtain acceptable health insurance through their funding agency or department. In the case of a parenting leave, certain Research Fellows are eligible for 8-weeks of paid leave. For additional information, please go to the Research Fellows Policy Manual, [HR Resources for Research](#), [Benefits](#) or [Leave of Absence](#) sections of the BCH Human Resources Intranet site.

- **Where to find the information about fellowships?** There are multiple ways to find available funding opportunities, and their requirements. Most of the departments have internal websites or newsletters, and some have dedicated staff. BCH's Office of Sponsored Programs also provides details on the [intranet](#) Information is also available on the funding agencies' websites, such as NIH (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm> for NIH funding or <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH?type=postdoctoral> for non-NIH funding). Automatic e-mail alerts from funding agencies, such as community of science (<https://www.communityscience.com/enews.php>) can also be helpful to stay updated on the available opportunities. The Office of Fellowship Training also offers workshops and seminars to help the post-doctoral fellows find funding and prepare their grant applications. Please contact Lu-Ann Pozzi for more information ([Lu-Ann.Pozzi@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Lu-Ann.Pozzi@childrens.harvard.edu)).

- **How to apply?** Every fellowship application is different, and most of them must be completed online. Be careful, some of the funding opportunities are limited in number, and the department must pre-select the applications. Please talk to your PI and your department before applying to one of those.

- **Contact the right people!** Please talk to Lu-Ann Pozzi from the Office of Fellowships Training ([Lu-Ann.Pozzi@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Lu-Ann.Pozzi@childrens.harvard.edu)) to increase your chances of success in fellowship applications.

The PDA deeply thanks **Dr. Lu-Ann Pozzi** from the Office of Fellowships Training, **Kathy Williams**, **Sheila Delahanty** and **Roger Wellington** from the Human Resources, and **Theresa Applegate** from the Office of Sponsored Programs for providing essential information.



## Spotlight on the new PDA co-president

Get to know our new co-president of the Boston Children's Postdoc Association, **Daniëlle Peterse!** Since November 2021, she took over the position along side **Sreya Ghosh** to lead the BCH Postdoc Association, but who is Daniëlle?



### Can you give us a little background about yourself, your lab, your work?

**DP:** Of course! I was born and raised in the Netherlands. After finishing my master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, I moved to Leuven (Belgium) for my PhD on animal models for endometriosis. In 2018, I started my postdoc here at Boston Children's Hospital in the Vascular Biology Program where I'm working on understanding the pathogenesis of endometriosis.

### What was your involvement in the PDA before being elected co-President?

**DP:** I have been a member of the Networking and Outreach committee since October 2020, and I was involved as volunteer for the science carnival and the Christmas party since I arrived at BCH in 2018. I am really hoping that we will be able to organize these exciting events sometime soon again.

### What is your main goal as president of the BCH PDA, where do you really want to make an impact for postdocs?

**DP:** I have several goals as president of the PDA. First of all, I would like to tailor some of our events more towards our clinical fellows. Next, I think that it is very important that every postdoc has access to the benefits offered by BCH, independent on how their salaries are paid and I will work with our leadership to see if we can change the current regulations. Lastly, every survey shows that many postdocs have difficulties to make ends meet, I will bring that to the attention of BCH leadership and work

towards adding benefits for postdocs.

### What are you already super happy with, that has changed for postdocs thanks to the PDA?

**DP:** I have a 2-year-old son, and I was very happy that the PDA had advocated for paid maternity leave for postdocs and for increased availability of lactation rooms. Thanks to the PDA, I was able to enjoy the first few months at home and get used to life as a new parent. Thanks!

### Which is your favorite BCH PDA event?

**DP:** This is a difficult question, the PDA has so many wonderful events! I love socializing and talking to other postdocs at the events organized by the Networking and Outreach committee. I also find it very inspiring to hear from people who were postdocs once and who have moved on to other positions during the events organized by the mentoring and career development committees. I think that the PDA organizes a ton of great events throughout the year, and I have loved every event that I attended.

### What is your favorite thing to do in Boston?

**DP:** I really like being outdoors and spending time at the beach, so one of my favorite things to do in Boston is taking the ferry to the Harbor Islands and spending some time there. Every island has its own charm and beauty. Members of the Boston library can get the ferry tickets at 50% off.

### Favorite Boston Bar/Restaurant?

**DP:** I live on the border of Somerville/ Medford, so my favorite restaurants are located on that side of the city. I love Dali on Washington street for tapas and Sarma has a delicious Middle Eastern inspired kitchen (they will be close to Gilman square station once the extension of the green line is finished).

Thank you Danielle! We are very lucky to have you on board and look forward to your new achievements!



# Throwback to 2021

by Maria Barrachina

Another year is about to end, and with that, we wanted to look back on the amazing events organized by the BCH PDA in 2021. Which one was your favorite?

## Starting with our dearest Networking and Outreach Committee (NOC).

Composed by **Adam Kebede** (until end of 2021) & **Aram Ghalali** as co-chairs, **Danielle Peterse**, **Pooja Sanduja**, **Julia Tilburg**, **Michael Fairchild** & **Jingyuan Zhang**, the social committee's goal is to have postdocs from different departments and programs come together to get to know each other and to network. They organize monthly events ranging from pub tours to sports events.

On the right are some pictures of the funniest 2021 NOC events.

Which one did you prefer? Are you more outdoor events, like the foliage trip or the kayaking adventure? Or more intellectual events, like the game night or the poetry competition?

Give your feedback on our social media or send us an email at [postdoc-social@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc-social@childrens.harvard.edu).



## Continuing with our Career Development (CD)

Composed by **Wade Sugden** & **Alessandra Ferraro** as co-chairs, **Caroline Schuster-Kubaczka**, **Jingyuan Zhang**, **Sreya Ghosh**, **Barbara Robens**, **Mrinmoy Das**, **Samik Chakraborty** & **Maheshwor Timilshina**, the career development committee strives to provide information and training to help post-docs navigate career choices and develop professional skills needed to reach their career goals. They organize monthly seminars on diverse topics and provide resources to help post-docs during every step of their training.

On the right are the posters of the 2021 CD events.

Which one did you prefer? Are you more interested in events related to academic jobs, industry jobs, or both?

Would you like more events to develop skills, like mentoring undergrads or the peer-reviewing?

Give your feedback on our social media or send us an email at [postdoc-career@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc-career@childrens.harvard.edu).

### From Preprint to Peer-reviewed

The seminar, followed by a panel discussion, is for everyone who wants to learn how preprint submissions work and how they influence the peer-reviewed publishing process. Join us to hear from both sides and get valuable insights on navigating the publication process and understand the benefits preprints can present for your career. Our expert speakers are Dr. Sol Fereres Rapoport, bioRxiv and Dr. Gaia Trincucci, JEM. Take the opportunity to clarify your doubts during the interactive panel discussion.



**Sol Fereres Rapoport, Ph.D.**  
Content Lead, bioRxiv



**Gaia Trincucci, Ph.D.**  
Scientific Editor, Journal of Experimental Medicine

Please register: <https://preprint-to-peer-career.eventbrite.com>



### LinkedIn your Career

**Seminar and Workshop**  
Learn how to build a proper online presence emphasizing your experience and building your professional brand in this seminar.

Take the opportunity to implement what you have learned in 15 min 1-on-1 session with Lauren Celano. Signup spots will be available after the seminar.



**Lauren Celano** is the Co-founder and CEO of Propel Careers, a life science search and career development firm in Boston. Lauren has worked with thousands of students, postdocs, medical residents and professionals to advance their careers.



Please register: <https://linkedin-your-career.eventbrite.com>

### Exploring Career Opportunities in the Biotech Industry

#### Are you interested in going to industry?

There are so many potential options to pursue, and each one requires a different understanding of the job market and different preparation steps. Join us for a virtual seminar and Q&A session on how to develop your industry job hunt and tips for industry job talks.



**Bill Lindstaedt, MS**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Career Advancement, International and Postdoctoral Services (CAIPS)  
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)

### Mentoring Undergrads: Strategies and Resources

Interested in honing your mentoring skills for helping 'the next generation' learn and grow as scientists? Then this workshop is for you!

Learn about the resources available at the Harvard Science Education Office to help forge healthy mentor/mentee relationships that benefit all and advance our science.



**Dr. Anna Babakhanyan** is the Undergraduate Science Research Advisor for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) at Harvard University. She advises Harvard undergraduate students to maximize their life sciences education and advance their careers in this field.

Please register: <https://mentoring-undergrads.eventbrite.com>



### How to Obtain & Conduct Informational Interviews



**Sarah Cardozo Duncan**  
Career Strategist

**Sarah Cardozo Duncan**, based in Boston, Massachusetts, is a career strategist with an established global client base. Sarah runs her own consulting firm, Career Strategist, and draws upon over twenty years of recruitment and career development experience to help clients define new or existing career paths, or to help them navigate successfully in their current companies.

#### About the workshop

Informational interviews are an effective tool for researchers in basic life science in transitioning to their next career position (academia or industry). This interactive workshop aims at helping you identify your transferable skills and strengths, craft a compelling value proposition, and develop a networking plan to get and successfully conduct an informational interview.

In association with Research Engagement Committee, BCH PDA presents Research Seminar Series with Dr. Stappenbeck

### "Infectious etiology of Crohn's disease: myth or fact"

Dr. Stappenbeck's research focuses on understanding the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) that includes understanding how specific microbes interact with the intestinal barrier to trigger disease in a susceptible host, how specific IBD risk genes function in the intestinal epithelium and how the epithelial barrier regenerates after damage. The overarching goal of his group is to understand how genetic and environmental factors combine to affect specific epithelial cell functions which predispose individuals to develop intestinal inflammation, and to develop novel therapies based on this insight.



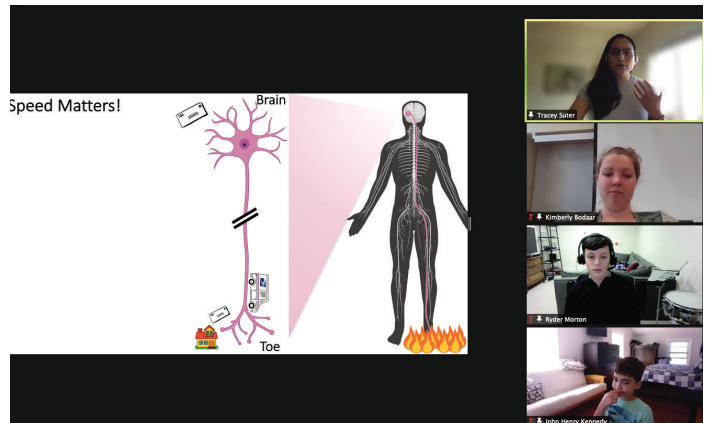
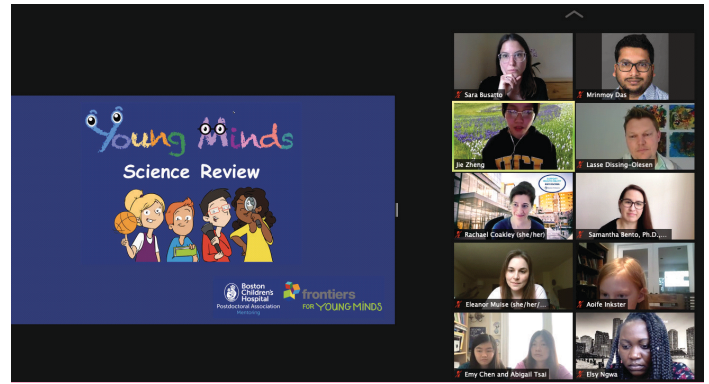
**Thaddeus Stappenbeck, MD, PhD**  
Chair, Inflammation and Immunity  
Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio.



## Last but not least, our Mentoring committee

Composed by **Jie Zheng** & **Sara Busatto** as co-chairs, **Michael Lombardo** & **Mrinmoy Das**, the mentoring committee aims to help post-docs identify and develop skill sets required for a successful tenure at Boston Children's Hospital and prepare them for life after post-doc. They organize peer-mentoring groups that meet on a regular basis during the academic year as well as an annual All-Star Mentoring Event with renowned faculty members in the Boston area. They are also in the process of organizing mentoring circles with scientists who work in industry. Stay tuned for more info!

Did you like this year's mentoring events? Give your feedback on our social media or send us an email at [postdoc-mentoring@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc-mentoring@childrens.harvard.edu).



## 2021 BCH BEST MENTORS

The **BCH Best Mentor awards** have been announced by **Gus Cervini**, VP of Research Administration, early November at the All-Star Mentoring event (top picture).

The **J.F.P. Ullmann Mentoring Award** was awarded to **Dr. Jay Thiagarajah**, from the Gastroenterology department (bottom left).

The **BCH Postdoctoral Association Award** was awarded to **Dr. Stephen Sanders**, from the Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery department (bottom middle).

Also **Dr. Kevin Churchwell**, BCH President and CEO, was the keynote speaker for the night (bottom right) and gave a very inspiring talk about mentorship.

We warmly thank Gus Cervini, Dr. Kevin Churchwell and all the invited mentors for accepting the invitation. We thank all the attendees and hope you had a great night. And finally we sincerely thank the Mentoring committee for the organization of the event and especially **Mrinmoy Das** for his last event as co-chair within the PDA board,



## BCH Postdoc Achievements!

If you would like to share a recently published a paper or award received: contact us at [postdoc-publicaffairs@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc-publicaffairs@childrens.harvard.edu) (provide your full name, lab, title and journal for publications and information on sponsor for awards). Congrats to the authors and awardees!

### Publications from BCH Postdocs

- **Tracey Suter**, Zhigang He Lab published 2 papers:
  - "How Oligodendrocytes Help your Brain Function" in *Frontiers for Young Minds*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)
  - Utilizing mouse optic nerve crush to examine CNS remyelination" *STAR Protocols*. 2021 [\[Link\]](#)
- **Maria N Barrachina & Andrew P Stone**, Machlus lab (Vascular Biology Program) published this review "The Bone Marrow Niche from the Inside Out: How Megakaryocytes are Shaped by and Shape Hematopoiesis" in *Blood*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Julia Tilburg & Isabelle C Becker**, Italiano Lab (Vascular Biology Program) published this review "Don't you forget about me(gakaryocytes)" in *Blood*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Hongbae Jeong & Georgios Ntolker** (FNNDSC) published: "Numerical Simulation of the Radiofrequency Safety of 128-channel hd-EEG Nets on a 29-Month-Old Whole body Model in a 3 Tesla MRI" in *Transactions on Electromagnetic Compatibility*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Eleanor Muise** (Pulmonary Medicine) published: "Ready, Set, Go! How the Heart and Lungs Respond to Exercise" in *Frontiers for Young Minds*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Ryann Fame**, Lehtinen lab (Pathology) published a review: "Mitochondria in Early Forebrain Development: From Neurulation to Mid-Corticogenesis" in *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)

### Awards to BCH Postdocs

- **Adam Fiseha Kebede**, Shi lab (Newborn Medicine) was named of the 1,000 Inspiring Black Scientists in America Rising Stars in *Cel-Mentor*. 2021. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Jordan Roberts** (Rheumatology) received a "2021 Gary S. Gilkeson Career Development Award" from the *Lupus Foundation of America* for the work "'Assessing the Impact of Immunosuppressants on Infections in Pediatric Lupus.'" [\[Link\]](#)
- **Victor Fattori**, Rogers lab (Vascular Biology Program) has been named as Topic Editor for the journal *Frontiers in Pharmacology* and his research topic is on the "Use of Artificial Intelligence to Evaluate Drug-Related Behavioral Changes in Rodents". He is co-editing this Research Topic with Dr. Rafael Gonzalez-Cano from University of Granada and Dr. Sara Gonzalez-Rodrigues from University of Oviedo. [\[Link\]](#)

#### Interested in a virtual scientific event or an online career development course but there's a fee?

The PDA will fund up to \$100 towards your registration fees!

Please submit an application by emailing [postdoc@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc@childrens.harvard.edu) with the following information:

- Full name and Lab
- Title of the course
- Date of the event
- 4-5 lines about what motivates you to attend this course



## Upcoming Events

Look out for our emails and subscribe to our calendar to find out about new events: [tinyurl.com/BCHPDACalendar](http://tinyurl.com/BCHPDACalendar)

### Career Development

**Lessons Learned in 1yr as a PI** (on the right)  
**Speakers:** Elliott Hagedorn and Alejo Fraticelli  
**Date:** Tuesday December 14th, 2021 3:00pm-4:00pm VIRTUAL  
Register [here](#)

### NOC

**Holiday Party** (on the bottom)  
**When:** Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** Longwood Hall at Longwood Galleria  
Register [here](#) (place are limited)  
Don't miss the party of the year with games, gifts, appetizers and drinks!

### Public Affairs

**Vote for your favorite PDA and take the chance to win amazing PDA gears!**

How to vote?

1. Go on Twitter ([link](#)) or Facebook ([link](#)) and vote indicating the number of your favorite event in comment!
2. Share the tweet with your colleagues and spread the word!
3. We will pick 2 winners per committee and contact them to pick up their kit!



## Special Thanks & Welcome

The PDA would like to specially thank **Kimberly Wong, Adam Kebede & Mrinmoy Das** who served as co-President, co-chair of NOC and co-chair of Mentoring, respectively for several years. Now transitioning to another position or moving to another hospital, we wish you best of luck!

The PDA would also like to welcome all new PDA board members! All the board members are looking forward to network, organize events and have fun with you!

To join our next PDA board meeting, contact us at [postdoc@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc@childrens.harvard.edu)



TUESDAY,  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
3:00-4:00 pm

**VIRTUAL**

### Lessons Learned in One Year as a PI

This seminar, followed by panel discussion, is for everyone who wants to learn more about the experience and challenges during the establishment of independent new lab/academic career. Take this unique opportunity to interact with and get valuable insights from BCH alumni **Elliott J. Hagedorn, PhD** (BCH Fellow: 2013-2020) from Boston University with area of expertise on "tissue-specific mechanisms of endothelial transmigration", and **ALEJO E. R. FRATICELLI, PhD** (BCH Fellow: 2015-2021) from Quantitative Stem Cell Dynamics Lab at IRB Barcelona with area of expertise on "lineage tracing to understand the consequences of stem cell functional variation in aging and cancer."



**ELLIOTT J. HAGEDORN, PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Hematology & Medical  
Oncology  
Boston University



**ALEJO E. RODRIGUEZ FRATICELLI, PhD**  
Head of the Lab of  
Quantitative Stem Cell  
Dynamics at IRB  
Barcelona, Spain

Please register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lessons-learned-in-one-year-as-a-pi-tickets-220225088167>



Organized by **Wade Sugden, Alessandra Maria Ferraro and the Career Development Committee**

Email us: [postdoc-career@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc-career@childrens.harvard.edu)



@BCHPostdoc



Children's Hospital Boston  
Postdoctoral Association



BCH Postdoctoral  
Association



The BCH Postdoc Association invites you to our holiday party!  
*Appetizers and drinks will be served*

**When:** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
6pm – 10pm

**Where:** Longwood Hall at Longwood Galleria

**Register\*:** <https://bch-pda-2021-holiday-party.eventbrite.com>

\*One ticket per postdoc: use BCH email address to register!







## Leaving soon?

Send us your personal email address at [postdoc@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:postdoc@childrens.harvard.edu) to register as **BCH Alumni**, to keep in touch with us and share your career path with the postdoc community.

## OUR TEAM

**PDA EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Daniëlle Peterse and Sreya Ghosh (co-Presidents), Julie Sesen (Treasurer), Caroline Schuster-Kubaczka (Secretary)

**EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:** Julie Sesen

**CONTENT:** Julie Sesen, Maria N. Barrachina, Alexis Caulier, Daniëlle Peterse, Sreya Ghosh

**LAYOUT EDITOR:** Maria N. Barrachina



To submit comments, articles, or ideas for future newsletters, please contact: [Postdoc-publicaffairs@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Postdoc-publicaffairs@childrens.harvard.edu).

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