BSCP | BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE CAREERS PROGRAM

What's Happening @ BSCP

July 2020 Edition

July 2020 Offerings

- **NESS Facilitated Research Discussions will take place virtually July 23 & 24!** Over 100 students/fellows whose abstracts were selected to make a poster presentation at the April 2020 NESS, will participate in small-group facilitated research discussions with professional scientists, researchers and clinicians. The purpose of these small breakout sessions will be to offer professional and peer feedback, foster networking and connections, and provide guidance.

- **VIRTUAL CONNECT: A new program coming soon!** We will be starting small-group mentoring sessions based on subject area of interest for students and fellows. Keep an eye on your email for more information!
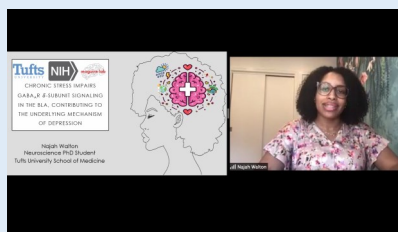
Resources and Highlights

- BSCP students are invited to join the **MGH Youth Neurology Education and Research Program** for their weekly interactive video **INSPIRE Seminar Series**. These interactive chats are for high school and undergraduate students who wish to meet a diverse group of MGH Neurology researchers and learn about their path and research. **Interested students can sign up here.**

- The Boston Globe has teamed up with Vertex for a series of **GlobeConnects Job Fairs**!
  Find out more information **here**.

- The NIH **2020 Virtual Summer Enrichment Program** is still going strong! The curriculum is for high school, college and post-bac students. Find out more on the **NIH OITE** website.

- **ABRCMAS COVID-19 Impacts on Minoritized Scientists Series** This is an on-demand series presented by ABRCMS Online. The opportunity is funded by National Institute of General Medical Sciences and managed by American Society for Microbiology. Registration is free.

- Weekly job postings—New job and internships opportunities are now emailed weekly. New listings from the past month can be found **here.**

- Reminder to check our page dedicated to new resources, virtual offerings and announcements. **Virtual Resources and Covid-19 Response** is updated on a regular basis - check back often!

- Programming Alert—The **Skills Workshops** originally scheduled in person for fall 2020 will be reformatted and held virtually this fall to address the needs of high school students and their parents. More information to come!
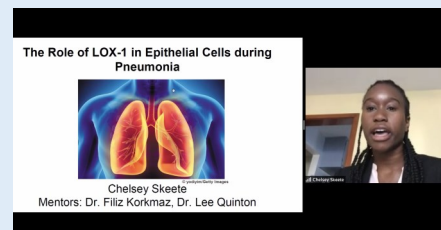
- Over 250 college and post-bac students joined us and advisors on **Getting into Health Professional School and Succeeding.** Have questions about health professional school? Watch the recording **here**!

- The **NESS Virtual Oral Presentations** were a huge success! Eight students/fellows selected to make an oral presentation for the April 2020 New England Science Symposium, presented their research virtually over two nights to a panel of judges and a viewing audience.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Ruth & William Silen, M.D. Awards

for their outstanding oral presentations!

1st Prize - Najah Walton
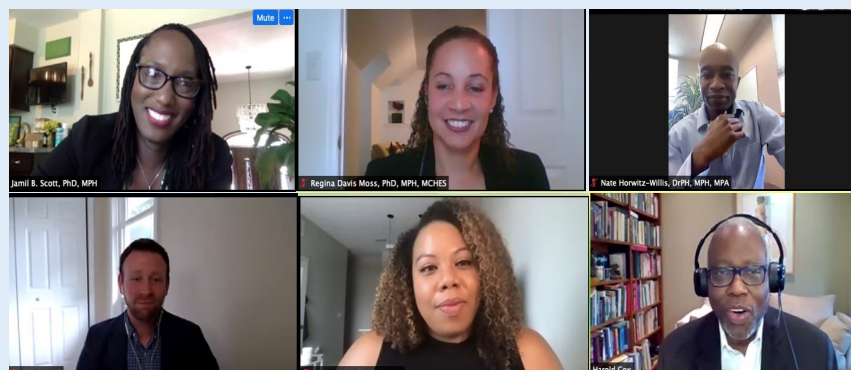
PhD Candidate, Tufts University

2nd Prize - Chelsey Skeete

College Student, Boston College

3rd Prize - Amy Lee

PhD Candidate, Brown University

- Over 200 students joined us for the second edition of our **Getting into Graduate School webinar series!** It was full of great information! Interested in or want to know more about the **Public Health Disciplines?** Watch **here**.

Ask an Advisor

"What is the difference between a CV, Resume, and Biosketch?"

CV, Resume, or Biosketch: A Primer on Use and Function

In this time of uncertainty, many of us are looking for opportunities to update, and even bolster, our application materials. This leaves several daunting questions to address like how do I clearly, concisely, and effectively convey my credentials? What is the best use of my materials? How can I write about myself without bragging? Do I highlight all of my skills and training? Am I using the correct style and format?

It may seem difficult to understand what faculty search committees and hiring managers are looking for when polishing your CV or Resume for a potential job, internship or academic opportunity. Understanding the difference between a CV and a Resume will be helpful during the job search and application process. A Resume addresses your *fit* by highlighting relevant training, skills, and accomplishments that are tailored to the position. A CV, while containing much the same content, is a comprehensive listing of your *knowledge* and *independence* that leverages your academic pedigree, research experience, and publications.

You should get a head start on your search by learning the different styles, formats, and uses of the materials needed to successfully apply to jobs, internships and academic opportunities. One of the most important lessons is to understand that the purpose of your document impacts the style and format of your CV or Resume. If you are applying to an academic faculty, postdoc, or residency position you should use a succinct CV of no more than four or five pages (to reduce reader fatigue). As you progress in your academic faculty career, you are required to use an institutionally-specific CV format for your academic promotion package. Additionally, if you apply to a government research position, especially as a PI, you will be using the same CV you used for academic faculty. However, if you are applying to positions in industry research, science-adjacent careers, or government science administration, you should use a two to three page CV/Resume Hybrid that combines the hard scientific and soft transferable skills required to succeed in these environments. For those looking to transition into the non-profit, entrepreneurial, consulting, or non-science sectors, you should submit a one page (or two, at most!) Resume that quantifies accomplishments and demonstrates necessary skills.

To avoid leaving out important information or emphasizing the wrong details, let the job ad be your guide while creating your document. It lists the job duties and expectations, names the required and preferred qualifications, and provides the language and terminology specific to the position. Take full advantage of this by tailoring your document to mirror the job ad in heading order, relevance, and content.

While realizing that most first passes of CV's and Resumes last less than a minute, there are a few things that will ensure the document will not be ignored. CV's and Resumes must be organized logically so that the relevant information is clear, concise, accessible, and obvious. There should be no extra work required of the reader to understand that you are the best candidate for the job.

There is another important document out there that has led to more than a few headaches for some. Similar to a CV or Resume, the NIH Biosketch includes research background, training, and publication history. Unlike a CV or Resume, however, it is a standardized government form with four major sections, Personal Statement, Positions and Honors, Contributions to Science, and Research Support, that allows you, the *grant* applicant, to make the case for why you are uniquely trained to succeed in this particular grant submission. Because of its unique function, a biosketch should not be used in place of a CV or Resume, nor should you submit a biosketch when asked for a CV or Resume.

Regardless of your initial approach or final product, I will remind you of three very important things: 1) This document will only get you an interview, not a job offer (that's for the interview!); 2) You have (or will soon have) a PhD or MD or DVM or some other terminal degree requiring years of arduous training, it's okay to say so; and 3) You, not your PI or institution, are being recruited, so be sure to highlight *your* accomplishments and roles in your training.

Jim Gould, PhD
Director, HMS/HSDM Office for Postdoctoral Fellows

Save The Date

Virtual Evening of Hope
Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7PM, EST

Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference
Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, 2021

New England Science Symposium
Sunday, April 11, 2021

Stay Connected