



The University of Vermont

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

Promoting a culture reflecting the University of Vermont Common Ground that facilitates professional development, broadens the training experience, and enhances quality of life for all postdoctoral members at UVM to better serve the community.

Newsletter
Vol 1, Issue 2
Aug. 2017

[Symposium Details](#)
[Upcoming Events](#)
[Postdoc Spotlight](#)

Career Development Symposium

September 22, 2017
Medical Education Center
Room 300, Reardon Classroom
1pm – 4:30pm
Networking Social to follow

Keynote Speaker

Alan Dove
Host of "This Week in Virology" podcast



Schedule:

1:00 pm - 1:15 pm:
Introductions

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm:
*Erik Monsen and David Bradbury
The Elevator Pitch for Postdocs*

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm:
Ask the Expert – Career Panel

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm:
Coffee Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm:
Keynote Speaker - Alan Dove

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Networking Social: food and drink provided

Career Panel

Geralyn Heraldson
Grant Proposal Manager,
UVM Office for VP of Research

Cathleen Geiger
Research Professor
University of Delaware
Adjunct Professor, UVM

Paul Held
Lab Manager
Biotek Instruments

Register [here](#), or email Postdocs@uvm.edu

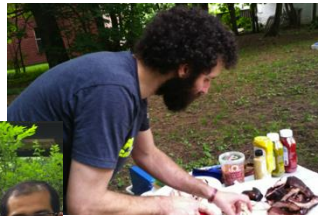
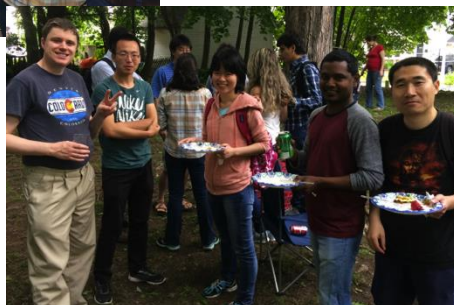
Priority registration for postdocs, junior faculty, and postdoc mentors until Sept. 8th

Postdoc Events



Summer Postdoc Cookout

Thanks to Nick Farina for hosting us! Turnout was great, and everyone shared some yummy food and met some new colleagues from all around campus.



Trivia Night!
Simple Roots Brewing
[Information](#)



Essentials of Teaching and Assessment
LCOM Teaching Academy
[Info and Registration](#)



Career Development Symposium
Details above



Ben Prosser: "Transitioning to Independence" Seminar
UVM Cardio. Res. Institute
Details TBA



UVM LCOM Research Days
Presentations by grad students and now, postdocs! More info coming soon!



Featured Postdoc: Hee Eon (Heon) Park

by Franzi Uhl

Dear fellow postdocs,

We are trying to increase our interconnectivity with our newly formed postdoc association in multiple ways. One part of our approach is to introduce “us” to “us”. We hope that will increase our visibility and potentially foster new connections and collaborations. Personally I hope that it is maybe a bit entertaining, too, and can show how diverse the research we are doing at UVM is.

And with this I will give to you: Mr. Hee Eon (Heon) Park!

Heon is working in the Department of Engineering in our lovely, freshly assembled, new, and pretty awesome STEM building. After studying Life Science and Chemical Engineering at the Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH) in South Korea, he got his M.Eng. in Chemical Engineering at McGill in Montreal, Canada. He also did his PhD at the same university on “Effects of Pressure and Dissolved Carbon Dioxide on the Rheological Properties of Molten Polymers”. If that doesn’t mean anything to you don’t be worried. It has something to do with polymer physics and gas diffusion or simply speaking, plastic processing. He developed a system to measure the viscosity and flow properties of plastics based on introducing highly pressurized carbon dioxide gas into the melt. This is a regular processing method that can be applied for example thin structures or highly complex geometries that would get clogged when the plastic is introduced in liquid form can be coated with the techniques he developed. He further used those methods to create polymer foams using environmentally benign blowing agent such as nitrogen. By adjusting the gas pressure, amount of gas compared to polymer material, and gas release rate from the polymer it is possible to generate foams with very defined pore sizes and material properties.

Heon then went back to Korea to work at Samsung BP chemicals where he had fun developing technologies for thin film coating (based on poly vinyl alcohols, PVA) used in LCD screens and for producing microbeads specific to cancer cells as potential therapeutic treatments. To materialize all those, he went through synthesis of novel polymers, development of reactors, and designing coating process and microbead producing units.

After 5 years he came back into the world of academia. He joined the lab of Prof. Patrick Lee in March 2017 to expand his research area to biomedical engineering utilizing and combining his previous knowledge and wisdom. Prof. Lee has a collaborative project with Prof. Daniel Weiss in the College of Medicine on the development of a bird (avian) lung based lung assist device. This will help critically ill patients, patients on the waiting list for a lung transplant, and patients with end stage lung disease that would not be able to get transplanted. The approach is to use the lung tissue from birds, remove the residing cells in order to overcome the immune reaction of the human body to the foreign tissue, and either recellularize with stem cells harvested from the patient in need or coat with a gas permeable polymer. His former work is perfectly suited to tackle the challenges of creating a thin enough polymer layer while still preserving the delicate structure necessary to allow gas transfer from the blood into the airways. He is also working on all sorts of polymer processing techniques to develop anticoagulative catheters, in which blood usually gets clotted.

Heon brings with him expertise in transport phenomena (diffusion, flow, and deformation) to measure and characterize properties of biomaterials such as tissues. He has skills to perform such tests while minimizing drying and destruction of the samples.

In his spare time Heon likes to play the guitar (for 5 min/day though) and to photograph our beautiful sky at night, which was another reason to come to Vermont. So if you are wondering where you can find him after work, look out for a clear night and spots where it is possible to get a glance at the stars. For further contact and if you like to learn more about the techniques he is using and potential collaborations please contact him at hpark10@uvm.edu.

Call for Volunteers

The UVM-PDA strives to be both a professional resource and an encouraging community to actively grow the careers and lives of all postdocs. With this in mind, we are organizing several opportunities to share expertise and expand communication skills. Opportunities include **group blogging, peer-led workshops, flash talk sessions**, and behind-the-scenes work **connecting postdocs to new career growth opportunities on and off the UVM campus**.

Email postdocs@uvm.edu for more information or to volunteer.



Join Us!

Meetings are in the Larner College of Medicine connected to Given and HSRF research buildings. A group email will announce our next meeting.

All postdocs are welcome! For more details, email postdocs@uvm.edu.



Postdocs@uvm.edu



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