



# OPA Annual Report

Annual Town Hall Meeting  
Oregon State University  
Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# Outline

- ❖ Brief history of OPA
- ❖ OPA Mission
- ❖ Activities this year
- ❖ Financial report
- ❖ Board of Directors for 2016
- ❖ Open Forum: Thoughts for the future

# OPA History

- The Oregon State University Postdoctoral Association (OPA) was formed in 2012 as an auxiliary enterprise of the Oregon State University (OSU) Graduate School.
- The purpose was to develop a framework for liaising with and advising the Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Programs at OSU.
- Additionally, OPA was established to provide a social network for individuals in OSU-affiliated postdoctoral positions.
- In 2013, the OPA Executive Board expanded the purpose of OPA to include networking, professional development, and opportunities for providing service to OSU and the broader university community.

# OPA Mission

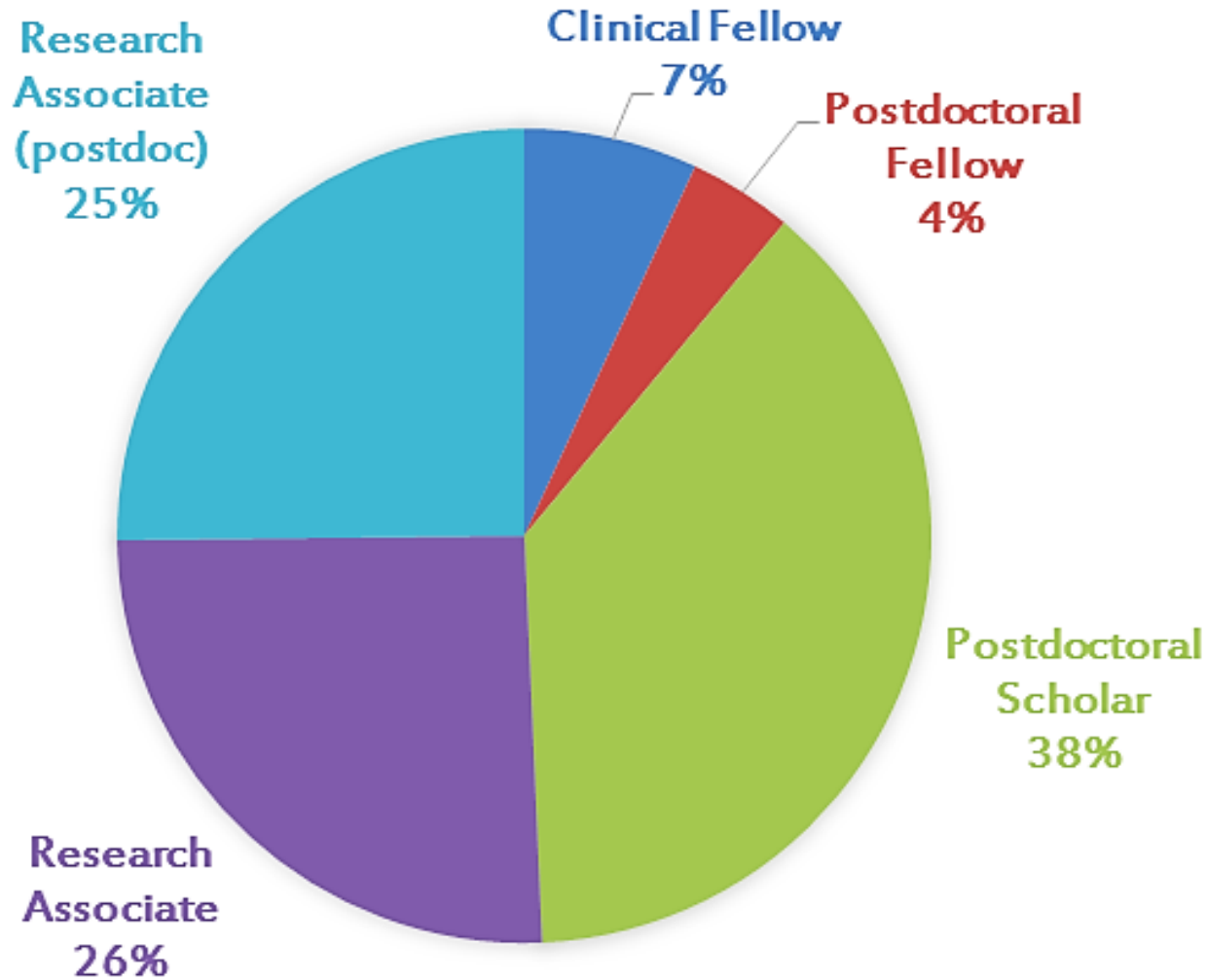
## ARTICLE 2: MISSION AND PURPOSE

2.1. The OPA mission is to enhance the postdoctoral experience at OSU and to facilitate the long-term success of our membership.

2.2. The purpose of the Association shall be to address the needs and concerns of its members by:

1. Providing representation and liaison between its members (defined in Article 3) and the Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Programs and OSU;
2. Promoting the academic and career goals of its members through activities focused on towards enhancing the networking, personal, and professional development needs of the membership.
3. Disseminating information of particular relevance to the current membership;
4. Raising awareness of the contributions of Postdocs to the general OSU community;
5. Providing community service opportunities for its membership; and
6. Providing service to the OSU and broader university community

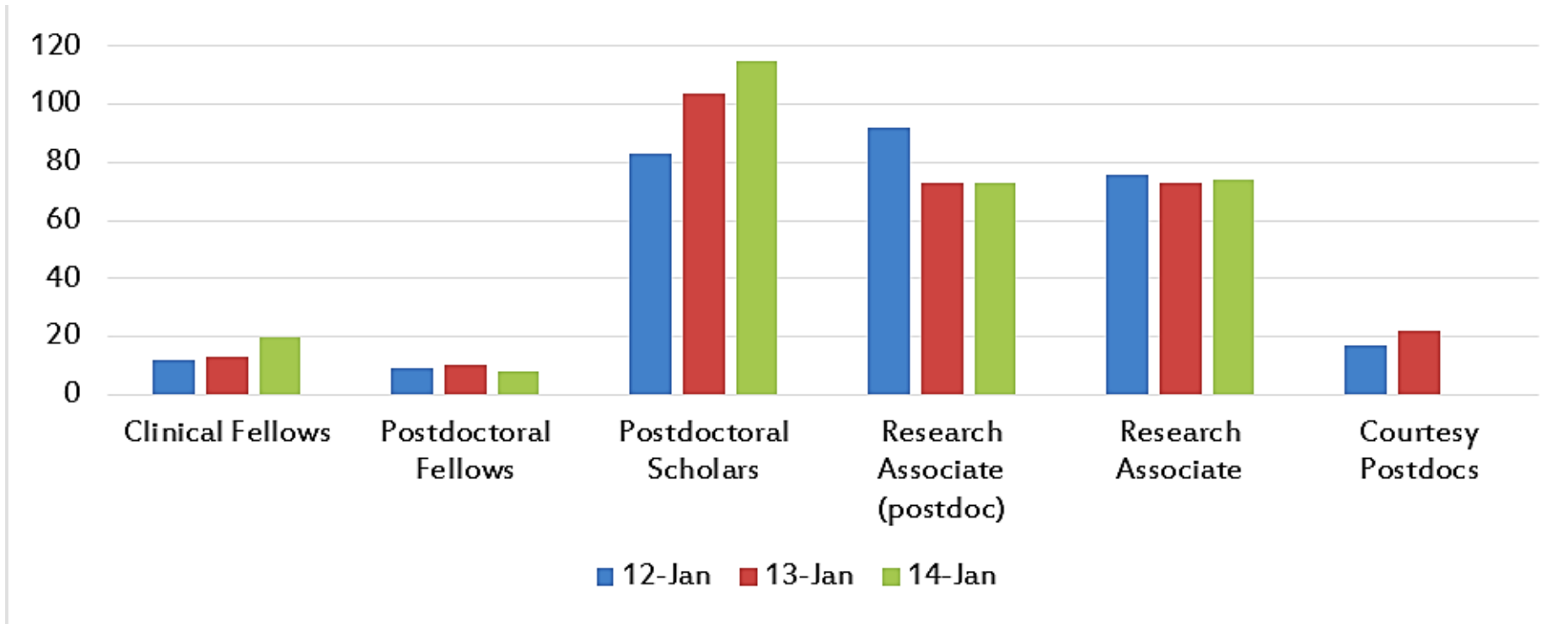
# Distribution among Appointment Categories



Data Source: Office of Postdoctoral Programs

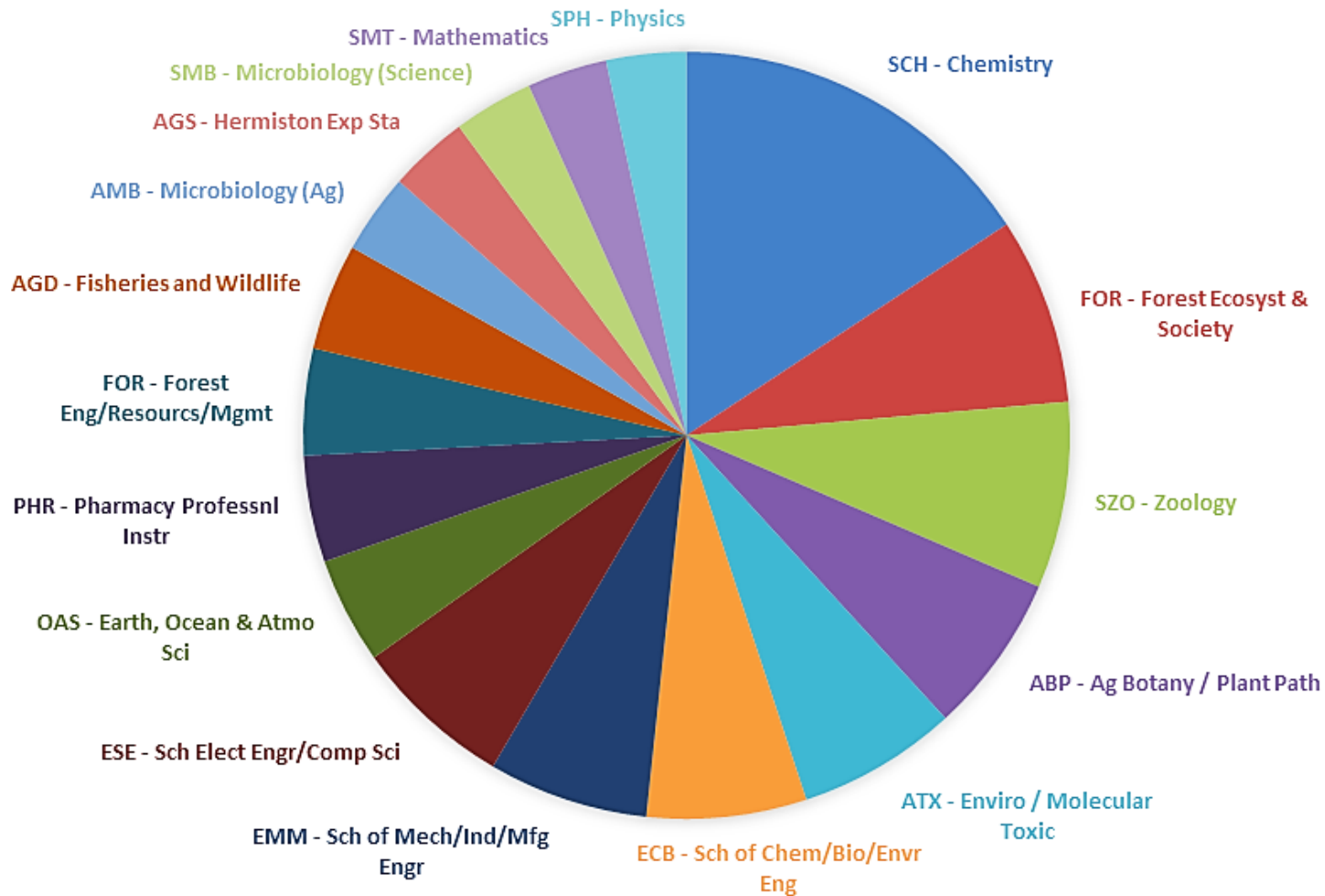
# Changes in Appointment Categories

Jan 2012 – Jan 2014



# Distribution among OSU Units

## Postdoc Scholars only



Data Source: Office of Postdoctoral Programs

# Position Description

- ❖ **Postdoctoral Fellows:** Funded independently, typically by a federal agency. Short-term research appointments (typically two to three years maximum) under supervision of an OSU faculty member.
- ❖ **Postdoctoral Scholars:** Trainees who are typically funded by grants to OSU faculty and paid a monthly stipend (not a salary) through OSU Payroll. OSU policy stipulates that these are short-term research/trainee appointments limited to a maximum of three years.
- ❖ **Research Associates:** Fixed-term employees who are typically funded by grants to OSU faculty to support research and paid a monthly salary with benefits the same as all other non-classified employees at OSU. No time limits on years since PhD or years in the position.
- ❖ **Research Associate (postdocs):** Exactly the same as the Research Associate position from the University's perspective, although some colleges have internal policies and expectations for term limits and a recently-earned PhD.



# Executive Board Members

## 2014

- Rebecca Hutchinson
- Yasmeen Nkumrah-Elie
- Sumit Saha
- David Dickson
- Jim Rivers
- Sascha Hallett
- Linnea Andersson
- Doni Schwalm
- Robert Kokenyesi

## 2015

- Sumit Saha
- Jennifer Faith
- Amy Klocko
- Ann Sitomer
- Renee Greer
- Amanda Brown
- Paul Schrader
- Cory Perkins

# OPA Activities Overview

- ❖ **Professional Development Events:** Workshops, speakers, and panel discussions on topics of interest to postdocs. Refreshments provided.
- ❖ **Industry Exploration Events:** Workshops, speakers, and local industry tour for postdocs. Refreshments provided.
- ❖ **Coffee with Faculty:** Join us every other 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month to meet with postdocs and faculty and discuss topics of interest to the community. Coffee, cookies provided.
- ❖ **Pizza Lunch Workshops:** Join us every other 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month for lunch and discussion of topics of interest to the postdoc community. Pizza provided.
- ❖ **Peers & Beers:** Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday for a social gathering for postdocs to connect with our peers, share advice, and discuss our work. Appetizers provided.
- ❖ **Postdoc Appreciation Week:**  
We hold a Research Symposium and Poster Session along with Vendor Show to celebrate the success of our postdoctoral research at OSU.

# Industry Exploration Program

Project lead: Jeff Oliver/Paul Schrader

## ❖ March 12

The Hiring and Immigration Process in the US : Workshop for International Postdocs

Attendees: 23

## ❖ April 14

Industry Resumes & Interviews Workshop

Attendees: 25 (Postdoc: 11, Grad Student: 12, Instructor: 2); 55 Registrants

## ❖ May 7

HP Campus Visit in Corvallis

Attendees: 16 (Postdoc: 12, Grad Student: 4); 34 Registrants

## ❖ Nov. 17

Visa & Permanent Residence Options for International Academics/ Scholars

Attendees: 40

# Academic Professional Development Program

Project lead: Amanda Brown

## ❖ May 14

“So you got your PhD... How do you fund your future research?”

Panelists: Dr. Paul Cheong (Chemistry), Dr. Marie Harvey (Public Health & Human Sciences), Dr. Pankaj Jaiswal (Botany & Plant Pathology), Dr. Mark Novak (Integrative Biology)

Attendees: 39; Registrants: 69 (35 postdocs, 32 grad students, 2 others)

## ❖ Sept. 30

“So you got your PhD... How do you get a job?”: Dr. Karen Kelsky of “The Professor Is In”

Attendees: 61 (Postdoc: 40, Grad Student: 21)

Registrants: 93 (about 50/50 postdocs/graduate students)

# Professional Development Awards

Project lead: Amanda Brown

## Spring PD Award

No. of awards: 2 (\$1000 each)

15 Applicants

## Fall PD Award

No. of awards: 3 (\$1000 each)

14 applicants

## PD Applications includes

Statement of purpose

Budget description

Letter of recommendation

## Spring PD Award Winners

Brianna Beechler

Patrick Videau

## Fall PD Award Winners

Christopher Gaulke

Matthew Jones

Cleo Davie-Martin

# Social & Networking Events

Project lead: Renee Greer

## ❖ Monthly Social Events

### ➤ Peers & Beers

Every 3rd Thursday at 5:30 PM; Average Attendees: ~12

### ➤ Coffee with Faculty (Discussion on topics of interest)

Every other 1st Thursday at 5:30 PM; Average Attendees: ~10

### ➤ Pizza Lunch Workshop (Discussion on topics of interest)

Every other 1st Thursday at 5:30 PM; Average Attendees: ~20

## ❖ Spring Picnic

June 6th; Attendees: ~50

## ❖ Summer Volleyball Social (New this year)

June 24th; Attendees: ~15

## ❖ Fall Bowling Social (New this year)

Oct. 15th; Attendees: ~20

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium

Project lead: Sumit Saha

❖ **Keynote Lecture** : “Is your goal this way or that way”

Prof. Douglas Keszler, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies & Research, OSU

Oct. 20th, Attendance: ~50

❖ **Poster Session**

Opening Remarks: Cynthia Sagers, VP for Research, OSU

Attendance: ~121 (Postdoc: 60; Grad Student: 24; Faculty: 29; Others: 8)

Total no. of poster presenters: **52**

Total no. of judges: **17**

❖ **Vendor Show**

3 Vendors

Semitorr Group; EMD Millipore; Gene Tools

Poster Prize winners (\$100 each)

1. Jaeseok Heo
2. Linnea Andersson
3. Parnian Lak

*Raffle prizes for all attendees*

3 prizes, \$50 each

# Financial Report

Treasures: Ann Sitomer

- ❖ The 2015 OPA Board oversaw the largest operating budget since the OPA was started.
- ❖ The OPA now receives ongoing financial support from both the Graduate School (\$5000 per fiscal year) and the Research Office (\$5000 per fiscal year)



# Financial Report

Treasures: Ann Sitomer

Index Fund (primary account for OPA Activities)		
Income	Expenses	Net for 2015
~\$15, 500	~\$8300	\$7200
Three \$5000 transfers from Graduate School and Research Office, donations from academic departments	Three \$1000 PD Awards, PAW Research Symposia (2015), Karen Kelsky Workshop, Pizza Lunches, Coffee with Faculty, etc.	Remaining expenses (major): Three \$1000 PD Awards

# Financial Report

Treasures: Ann Sitomer

Foundation Fund (primary for libations at OPA events)		
Income	Expenses	Net for 2015
~\$1200	~\$1900	-\$700
Donations and proceeds from Vendor Show	Research Symposium (2014); Spring picnic (2015)	Remaining expenses (major): Three \$1000 PD Awards

# 2016 Board of Directors: Introductions

- *President:* Amanda Brown
- *Vice-President:* Parnian Lak
- *Secretary:* Lisa Oakley
- *Treasurer:* Ann Sitomer
- *Networking Chair:* Dan Preston
- *Academic Professional Development Chair:* Matt Jones
- *Industrial Exploration Chair:* None
- *Membership Chair:* Cory Perkins
- *Communications Chair:* Pedro Molina Sanchez

# OPA Committees

- ❖ **Academic Development Committee:** organizes events related to academic professional development. These include teaching and research workshops and panels. They also review the professional development grants submitted by OSU post-docs in the spring and fall. Chair is Amanda Brown.
- ❖ **Industry Exploration Committee:** organizes events related to non-academic professional development. These include resume writing, industry networking, and site visits to companies. Chair is Paul Schrader.
- ❖ **Networking Committee:** organizes events related to networking within OSU. These include Peers and Beers, Coffee Time and the Spring Picnic. Chair is Renee Greer.
- ❖ **Membership Committee:** organize events related to welcoming and orienting new members of the post-doctoral community. This includes the OSU handbook and welcome wagon. Chair is Cory Perkins.
- ❖ **Public Relations and Communication Committee:** organizes information regarding OPA activities and events to OSU community. This includes the website, social media and print media.



**Sumit Saha**  
President



**Jennifer Faith**  
Vice-President



**Amy Klocko**  
Secretary



**Ann Sitomer**  
Treasurer



**Cory Perkins**  
Membership Chair



**Renee Greer**  
Networking Chair



**Amanda Brown**  
Academic Professional  
Development Chair



**Paul Schrader**  
Industry Exploration  
Program Chair

**Thursday, Nov. 19**  
**5:30pm**  
**Flat Tail Brewing**  
**202 SW 1st St**

Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the month  
for happy hour. **Free**  
**appetizers will be**  
**available!**

**PEERS & BEERS**  
**HAPPY HOUR**



# Open Forum

**Thanks for coming!**

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?