



FOR

Future of Research

October 2-3, 2014, CGS Auditorium, Boston University
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The Future of Research: a postdoc-organized
symposium on the sustainability of the scientific
endeavor

Sponsor prospectus

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Join us to shape the future of science!

The landscape of scientific research and funding is in flux, affected by tight budgets, evolving models of both publishing and evaluation, and questions about training and workforce stability. As future leaders, junior scientists are uniquely poised to shape the culture and practice of science in response to these challenges. We are planning a symposium to give voice to graduate students and postdocs in the ongoing dialog about policies that shape the scientific establishment.

How?

We are a group of postdocs in the Boston area invested in improving the scientific endeavor. We represent eight institutions: Harvard Medical School, Brandeis University, Boston University, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Tufts University, Harvard School of Public Health, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

We are planning a symposium on October 2-3, 2014 in Boston. The event will consist of talks and panel discussions on issues affecting the future of science as well as breakout sessions to expand on these topics. Participants will have the opportunity for in-depth discussion on specific areas of interest including:

- Metrics for evaluating science
- Efficiency of scientific research and communication
- Funding structure
- Focus and duration of training
- Sustainability of the workforce
- Causes and consequences of competitiveness

Each discussion will be moderated by postdocs who have assembled current data and other pertinent background information for workshop participants. The goal of each session will be to elucidate a majority opinion on which challenges are most important to address, and to develop recommendations for moving toward an equitable, sustainable research enterprise.

The output

After the symposium, we will publish a report representing the majority opinion of participants. This document will be available online for a one month period, during which participants and the scientific community at large will be asked to comment on and/or endorse the document. The final report, including an appendix of comments, will be disseminated to journals, policy makers, administrators, and the scientific community at large. We are open to recommendations on the format, content, and recipients of this document.



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What next?

This conference will give young scientists a voice in defining the future culture and practice of science. Furthermore, we will begin the process of working with policy-makers, administrators, and senior scientists on achieving needed change. We hope that this meeting can serve as a template to help future students and postdocs engage on these policy issues. For example, we have been granted an afternoon-long session at the ASCB/IFCB meeting on December 6, 2014, in Philadelphia, and are hopeful this will be the first in a series of events bringing the themes of the FOR symposium to the national level.

Invited speakers

Relevant accomplishments and references are listed below each name and affiliation.

- **Henry Bourne**, Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Francisco
 - Bourne, H. R. A fair deal for PhD students and postdocs. *eLife Sciences* 2, e01139 (2013).
 - Bourne, H. R. A recipe for mediocrity and disaster, in five axioms. *eLife Sciences* 2, e01138 (2013).
 - BiomedWatch. BiomedWatch at <http://biomedwatch.wordpress.com/>
 - Bourne, H. R. The writing on the wall. *eLife Sciences* 2, e00642 (2013).
- **Sibby Anderson-Thompkins**, Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 - Committee member of National Academies Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy report: *The State of the Postdoctoral Experience for Scientists and Engineers Revisited* <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/cosepup/postdoc-2011/>
- **Galit Lahav**, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School
 - Lahav, G. How to survive and thrive in the mother-mentor marathon, *Mol. Cell*, 38, 477-480 (2010).
- **David Glass**, Executive Director in Musculoskeletal Disease at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research
 - Chair of the Cambridge, MA Postdoctoral Steering Committee for the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research
- **Graham Walker**, HHMI Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - Creator of the HHMI Education Group
- **Richard Roberts**, Chief Scientific Officer, New England Biolabs
 - Nobel Prize in physiology for the discovery of introns
 - Testified before congress regarding public access to government funded research
- **Cynthia Fuhrmann**, Assistant Dean, Career & Professional Development in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences University of Massachusetts Medical School
 - Clifford, P. S., Fuhrmann, C. N., Lindstaedt, B. & Hobin, J. A. An individual development plan will help you get where you want to go. *Physiologist* 56, 43–44 (2013).
 - Fuhrmann, C. N., Halme, D. G., O’Sullivan, P. S. & Lindstaedt, B. Improving Graduate Education to Support a Branching Career Pipeline: Recommendations Based on a Survey of Doctoral Students in the Basic Biomedical Sciences. *CBE Life Sci Educ* 10, 239–249 (2011).
- **Marc Kirschner**, John Franklin Enders University Professor of Systems Biology, Harvard Medical School
 - Kirschner, M. A perverted view of ‘impact’. *Science* 340, 1265 (2013).
 - Alberts, B., Kirschner, M. W., Tilghman, S. & Varmus, H. Rescuing US biomedical research from its systemic flaws. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 111, 5773–5777 (2014).
- **Naomi Rosenberg**, Professor of Molecular Biology & Microbiology, Tufts University

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- Member of NIH's Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group, a working group of the Advisory Committee to the Director
http://acd.od.nih.gov/biomedical_research_wgreport.pdf
- **Michael Teitelbaum**, Senior Research Associate, Harvard Law School
 - Teitelbaum, M. S. *Falling Behind?: Boom, Bust, and the Global Race for Scientific Talent*. (Princeton University Press, 2014).
- **Senator Elizabeth Warren**
 - Advocate for increased and sustainable science funding

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Location and schedule

Keynotes and panels will be held in the Boston University CGS Auditorium (Jacob Sleeper Auditorium) at 871 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA.

Breakout sessions will be held in nearby classrooms in the Boston University School of Hospitality Administration.

Thursday, October 2

5pm - Keynote (30-40 minutes): Henry Bourne (confirmed)

5:45pm - Panel (10-20 minute talk, followed by Q&A with panel):, Sibby Anderson-Thompkins (confirmed), Galit Lahav (confirmed), Graham Walker (confirmed), David Glass (confirmed), Richard Roberts (confirmed)

7:45pm - Networking and brainstorming

9pm (or 10) - Doors close

Friday, October 3

10am - Panel (10-20 minute talk, followed by Q&A with panel): Marc Kirschner (confirmed), Naomi Rosenberg (confirmed), Michael Teitelbaum (confirmed), Cynthia Fuhrmann (confirmed)

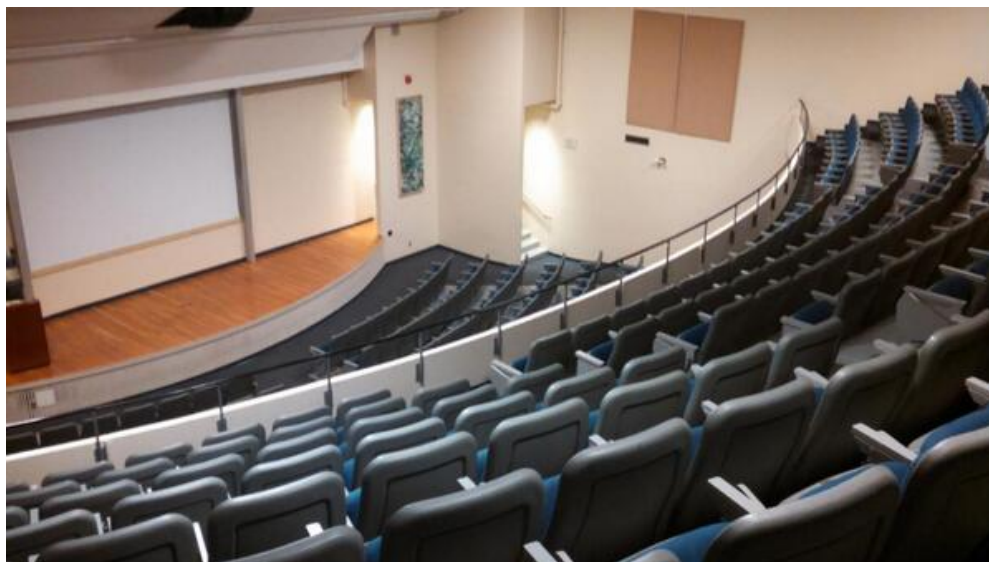
12 noon - Lunch

12:30-2pm - Workshop: first rotation

2:15-3:45pm - Workshop: second rotation

4-4:15pm - Elizabeth Warren (video remarks)

4:15-5pm - Closing remarks



CGS auditorium has a total capacity of 625.

Proposed budget

Our projected budget totals \$19,410, which includes airfare and accommodations for a maximum of 5 out-of-town speakers. This figure also includes non-essential items such as travel awards for postdocs and graduate students not based in Boston. Removing or reducing these expenses, we expect to be able to produce a successful event with a budget of \$12,000.

Item	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost
TRAVEL*			
Airfare	5	500	2500
Hotel	5	500	2500
FOOD & BEVERAGE			
Reception refreshments (BU Catering)	500	5	2500
Lunch (BU Catering)	200	12	2400
Coffee (BU Catering)	200	2	400
FACILITIES			
A/V and facilities costs (BU Student Production Services)	1	2000	2000
Security and catering staff			760
Posters	200	1	200
Event Signage	5	50	250
Programs	200	2	400
Misc			500
Nonessential			
Travel awards	10	500	5000
		TOTAL	19410

**Travel units may be reduced to 3, as we are awaiting confirmation from other speakers.*

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Sponsorship

We are offering four Sponsor tiers, outlined below. In addition, the first 10 organizations to support us will be listed as founding sponsors on a PowerPoint marquee.

Sponsorship Tiers

Level	Support	Logo on website	Logo in program	Logo on signage	Verbal thanks in opening and closing remarks	Named reception or lunch (subject to availability)	Table at lunch for promotional materials and representative
Platinum	10,000	*	*	*	*	*	*
Gold	5,000	*	*	*	*		*
Silver	1,000	*	*	*			
Bronze	any	*	*				

Current sponsors



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Organizers

Kristin Krukenberg & Jessica Polka (HMS) – Lead organizers
Sarah Mazzilli (BU) – Meeting director
Elaine Lee (BU) – Venue coordinator
Avi Robinson-Mosher (HMS) – Moderator coordinator
Vaibhav Pai (Tufts) – Sponsor coordinator
Gary McDowell (Tufts) – Social media coordinator
Drew MacKellar (HMS) – Speaker coordinator
Erica Walsh (BWH) – Volunteer logistics organizer
Patricia Goodwin (Brandeis) – Institution liaison
Eldi Schoenfeld (MIT) – Institution liaison

Alireza Ziaei (BU), Alison Taylor (DFCI), Andrew Paek (HMS), Anna Wronski (Tufts Boston), Casey Ydenberg (Brandeis), Castano Zafira (BWH), Erin Clark (Brandeis), James Kraemer (MIT), Jonathan Jackson (Brandeis), Julia Wang (BU), Keith Hengen (Brandeis), Leila Shokri (BWH), Maggie Angelova (HMS), Matt Mattozzi (HMS), Michaela Gruber (DFCI), Michaelanne Munoz (Tufts Boston), Nicole Broekema (HMS), Praveen Parasar (BWH), Sheng-hong Chen (HMS), Shirley Sanchez (BU), Sireesha Chinthala (BWH), Thomas Bowman (Tufts Boston), Usheer Kanjee (HSPH), Veda Kumar Tatavarty (Brandeis), Yuliya Sytnikova (Brandeis)

Advisors

Rebecca Ward (Systems Biology Executive Director, HMS)
Judith Glaven (Associate Dean for Basic and Interdisciplinary Research, HMS)
David Cameron (Director of Science Communications, HMS)

Partners

HMS/HSDM Office for Postdoctoral Fellows
HMS Department of Systems Biology
HMS Office of Communications and External Relations
Boston University GWISE (Graduate Women in Science and Engineering)

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Symposium on the
**Future of
Research**

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The landscape of scientific research and funding is in flux, affected by tight budgets, evolving models of both publishing and evaluation, and questions about training and workforce stability. As future leaders, junior scientists are uniquely poised to shape the culture and practice of science in response to these challenges. This symposium will give voice to graduate students and postdocs in the ongoing dialog about policies that affect the scientific establishment.

Talks and panel discussions will be followed by highly interactive workshops. After the symposium, we will generate a consensus opinion to be circulated to administrators, journals, and policy-makers.

Details, updates, and
free registration at
futureofresearch.org



Keynote

Henry Bourne

Professor Emeritus,
University of
California, San
Francisco

Speakers

- **Marc Kirschner** – Harvard Medical School
- **Sibby Anderson-Thompkins** – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- **Michael Teitelbaum** – Harvard Law School
- **Cynthia Fuhrmann** – University of Massachusetts Medical School
- **Naomi Rosenberg** – Tufts University
- **Galit Lahav** – Harvard Medical School
- **David Glass** – Novartis
- **Graham Walker** – Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Richard Roberts** – New England Biolabs

Video remarks

Elizabeth Warren

Massachusetts Senator

