

Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Genetics

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Welcome to the Department of Genetics!

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to this department. It was founded in 1972 as the Department of Human Genetics as a community for labs working on basic genetic research in humans and medical model organisms. It has been growing over the years and now comprises more than 30 labs with a primary appointment in Genetics.

As a postdoctoral researcher, you are in a unique position of transition. You may just have left a curricular graduate school with dozens of peers. Now you may be the only postdoc in your lab starting at this time, or you may join a group of exciting post-docs. And without a rigorous schedule or very clear instructions, you are striving to develop a new scientific project and to qualify yourself for a future job on a potentially tough job market. This letter intends to give you some advice that may help you start your journey.

The Genetics Department has a number of ways to support you and your goals. If you are interested in meeting the invited speaker of the department seminar, you can reach out to your advisor or the speaker host, and ask for a slot to meet with the speaker. Every speaker will also meet grad students and postdocs for a speaker lunch, which you can join after signing up with the student co-host. If you have an idea of whom should be invited as a speaker at the seminar, ask your advisor to invite them! Once you feel ready to endeavor to the job market, you can schedule a practice seminar or a chalk talk to retrieve feedback from your postdoc peers and faculty. Please check out the post-doc mentoring program offered by Genetics at (<https://medicine.yale.edu/genetics/career/postdoc/>)

I also want to encourage you to seek out your postdoc colleagues, discuss your projects with them, offer your own expertise, or ask them for feedback on your manuscripts and fellowship applications. Such is common practice among the faculty in the department, and doing so will help you build a group of peers. Please also join the Genetics postdocs slack channel (join at yalegeneticsp-72o7048.slack.com) where people maintain connectivity and networking. The postdocs come together for yearly flash talks at the Genetics retreat, post-doc town hall meetings, as well as formal and informal forums for sharing reagents, feed-back and help with fellowships and job applications with the support of the Post-doctoral Mentoring committee.



Beyond the department level, Yale University offers a wide range of services and courses that can be very valuable for your work and education. As a member of the Yale community, you can make use of these offers. Many courses are directly targeted to you as a postdoc, such as career training and teaching classes offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL; <http://ctl.yale.edu/postdoctoral-fellows>). The Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA; <http://ypa.yale.edu/resources>) collects and maintains a list of resources for postdocs that you may find interesting. And in many cases, if you find a class taught by a Yale faculty that you find interesting, you should always feel welcome to reach out to the teacher and ask if it is possible for you to join the class.

I hope you see that, while there is no rigid scaffold that will guide your way from your first postdoctoral appointment to a permanent job, there are plenty of valuable opportunities that this department and this university offer to you. For anything you need, your advisor or your senior postdoc peers will likely be able to help you. Find your way to what you need of the countless opportunities that are given to you. And if there is anything else that you think would be needed for the postdoc community in this department, let us know and we will assess if and how we can arrange that.

Welcome to the Department of Genetics!

Antonio Giraldez, PhD
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Professor, Genetics

Valentina Greco, PhD
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