



January 2009 Newsletter

OPA Website

Volume 2, Issue 1, January 2009

The new OPA website is now live! While the old URL is still active, you can bookmark the new site directly at <http://postdocs.columbia.edu>.

The new site will be updated regularly with events, funding opportunities and employment opportunities. Please use this site as a resource for your postdoc needs. It is a work in progress so any comments and suggestions would be appreciated.

OPA Discussion Board

A new addition to the OPA site is the Columbia University OPA Forum. This was created as an opportunity to promote dialogue among postdocs without OPA being a mediator.

Topics include:

- Jobs and Funding Opportunities
- Postdocs Parents Support
- Life outside the Lab

You must be a Columbia postdoc or an affiliate of a Columbia postdoc to use the OPA Forum. In order to register, please use your Columbia email address to be verified. Registration can take anywhere from 5 - 8 business days. You can access the forum from the OPA website or at this link:

<http://vesta.cumc.columbia.edu/postdoc/messageboard/>

Roommate Opportunity

Sunny, quiet bedroom available to May 2009, longer negotiable.

Co-op apartment located on 123rd and Broadway. Locked intercom lobby, laundry room, 24-hr. security.

Bedroom has closet, dressers and shelving; bed, rug, curtains and furniture are all brand new, never used. Share bathroom with female owner. Light cooking.

Rent/utilities \$750 negotiable, security \$1500. You must have checkable references. Prefer post-doc or similar.

Contact: janeh245@gmail.com
917-597-9650

Want deals on tickets, shopping, vacations, movies and more?!

Columbia has partnered with Working Advantage to offer exclusive discounts and rates to its employees.

Sign up to received daily or weekly emails: <http://workingadvantage.com>
Columbia ID: **99042065**

REMINDER: New York Academy of Sciences Blavatnik Awards

Call for Nomination Deadline: February 1, 2009

For research conducted as a postdoctoral fellow in NY, NJ, or CT. Only work completed after the granting of a PhD or equivalent degree qualifies. Each award in the postdoctoral category is endowed with \$15,000 in unrestricted funds. Finalists will receive \$5,000. **Postdocs must have a Dean's nomination.**

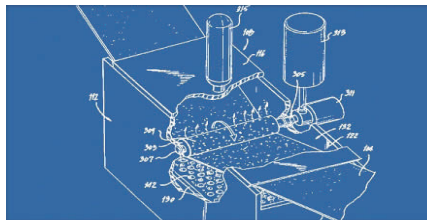
For more information: www.nyas.org/blavatnikawards



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Patents 101: Everything You Wanted to Know About Patents Jeffrey Sears, PhD, CU - Assoc. General Counsel

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2009
Time: 12:00 to 1:00 pm
Location: Morningside, Lerner Hall, 5th Fl., Satow Room



Survival Skills Workshops - Upcoming Schedule

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences hosts "Survival Skills Workshops" that are also open up to all Postdocs. All programs are hosted in the Philosophy building on the Morningside Campus (on Amsterdam Avenue between Kent Hall and St. Paul's Chapel) in Room 301.

For details and pre-registration for all events, visit:
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/qsas/calendar/ma_phd_events.html.

Preparing Future Faculty - all lectures start at 4pm

January 28	Academic Job Search From Start to Finish: Part 3 — The Waiting and Negotiating Part
February 18	Untenured Faculty Life, Tenure Track and Adjunct Faculty Talk about the Job Search, First Year on the Job, and Teaching Expectations
March 11	Welcome to the Professoriate, Pedagogy, Power, Politics, and Pitfalls On Your Way to Tenure

Want to know how to find and apply for grants??

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: BASIC ISSUES IN OBTAINING SUPPORT

Those not wishing to formally register are welcome to audit the course.

Spring 2009, M9780, Call No. 97951, Pass/Fail, One Credit
Thursdays, 5pm-7pm, CUMC - Hammer Health Sciences Center, Room 303

Mar 12

Types of support and review processes for research and training activities: Government Agencies

Mar 19

- a) Types of support and review processes for research and training activities: Voluntary Health Organizations, Foundations, Industry, Clinical Trials, and Development
- b) Identifying sources of funding:

Apr 2

Planning & organizing a research proposal (NIH application used as a reference)

Apr 16

Experiences of a peer reviewer and critical review of a sample grant application.

Apr 23

Practice of seeking grant support: Tips from experienced researchers at Columbia
Topics will include: finding sources of support, grant writing, career development, how to make the transition from post-doc/fellowship to first independent research position, K awards, basic science research in a clinical dept, and institutional resources

Apr 30

How to Write: Discussion of proper grammar and composition. Critical review of selected writing pieces.



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An early stage entrepreneurial opportunity designed to nurture ideas, connect people, and build business partnerships among Columbia students, faculty and alumni.

You have 90 seconds under the spotlight to make your pitch, with some of the best minds in the Columbia Community listening to you. Early stage ideas are most welcome!

If you are interested in pitching, please prepare a 90 second presentation and submit your pitch to <http://seti.seas.columbia.edu/pitchfest>.

This event is open to the general public as well, but RSVP is necessary (<http://seti.seas.columbia.edu/pitchfest>).



PitchFest 2009

**February 4, 2009
6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Research Commercialization: A Free Webinar Series

This 11-session course is intended for researchers in both academic and for-profit settings. The webinar will cover fundamental and advanced business and legal issues that researchers should understand if they are interested in commercializing their research.

This 11-lecture course is **free**, but registration is **required**. [Register Here!](#)

Lecture 1: Commercialization Methods: **Employment, Licensing, Consulting, Joint Venturing and Startup** [January 14, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 2: The Fundamental Essentials: **Patents** [January 21, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 3: The Fundamental Essentials: **Copyrights, Trademarks, Trade Secrets** [January 28, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 4: The Fundamental Essentials: **Employment Agreements** [February 4, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 5: The Fundamental Essentials: **Tech Transfer and Licensing Agreements** [February 11, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 6: The Fundamental Essentials: **Consulting Agreements** [February 18, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 7: The Advanced Essentials: **Business Entities** [February 25, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 8: The Advanced Essentials: **Shareholder Agreements; Directors and Executives; Term Sheets; Private Placement Memoranda; Stock Purchase Agreements** [March 4, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 9: The Advanced Essentials: **SBIRs/STTRs** [March 11, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 10: The Advanced Essentials: **Corporate Strategic Alliances and Joint Venturing** [March 18, 1-3pm EST](#)

Lecture 11: The Advanced Essentials: **Angel Investors and Venture Capital** [March 25, 1-3pm EST](#)



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SUBLET OPPORTUNITY

Studio Washington heights (@187 st & Cabrini Blvd)

Very well-maintained, clean, large (~450 sqf), very bright studio (8 windows!) for sublet!!

- Beautiful, safe and quiet street close to restaurants and shopping.
- Two blocks from Fort Tryon Park.
- Third floor walkup, top floor so you don't have upstairs neighbors!!
- Separate kitchen, huge living area easily split into living and bedroom areas.
- Windows with north, east and south exposure!
- Very close to public transportation (the A express line, M4 bus stop one block away).
- 15-20 min walk to Columbia Medical Center or a short bus or subway ride.

Available February 15th for short term sublet (can leave furnished in this case) or for longer term, after taking over my lease (which ends at the end of March).

Sublet rent until March 31st **only \$1190/month** (normal rent \$1290/month)

Contact me and I can send you photos: Luisa (mlc2155@columbia.edu)

Discount Broadway Tickets

Looking for a fun indoor activity during the winter season?

In conjunction with the School Theater Ticket Program, OPA is happy to offer discounted Theater tickets to postdocs.

To request ticket passes, please send OPA (postdocaffairs@columbia.edu) an email indicating: Name of Show, Office Address, and Number of Tickets. I will send the ticket passes via Intercampus Mail. The coupons must be brought to the box office where they can be exchanged for valid tickets.

Show	Expiration Date	Price Range
Big Apple Circus	January 18, 2009	\$25.00 - \$45.00
Chicago	February 1, 2009	\$66.50 - \$76.50
Equus	February 5, 2009	\$49.50 - \$74.50
Grease!	January 31, 2009	\$71.50
Mary Poppins	April 3, 2009	\$30.00 - \$90.00
New York City Ballet	March 1, 2009	\$15.00 - \$55.00
Phantom of the Opera	April 4, 2009	\$26.50 - \$71.50
Stomp	December 18, 2008	\$39.00
Thirteen	January 18, 2009	\$46.50 - \$66.50

Questions? Comments? E-mail postdocaffairs@columbia.edu.