

2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Deaf-Engaged  
Academic Forum  
(DEAF ROC)

**NAVIGATING  
DEAF AND HEARING  
COLLABORATIONS IN SCIENCE**

Hosted by:  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

August 8th & 9th, 2019

School of Medicine & Dentistry  
University of Rochester

*About our program:*

## **DEAF-ENGAGED ACADEMIC FORUM (DEAF-ROC)**

Deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) individuals are greatly under-represented in our nation's biomedical research workforce, for reasons that include lack of access to opportunities, inadequate support, a dearth of peer role models, and a poor understanding of their unique needs at the research-intensive universities where young scientists are trained.

The overall mission of DEAF ROC is intended to address this disparity by bringing together aspiring and successful D/HH scientists and hearing faculty mentors from across the country to network and build a community – thereby facilitating more effective deaf and hearing scientific collaborations. Our mission is both to forge new alliances between D/HH and hearing scientists, and also to provide an opportunity for D/HH scientists to network, build community, meet peer role models, present and share data, and gain important skills through workshops and small group sessions.



**Steve Dewhurst, Ph.D.**, is Vice Dean for Research at the School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD), and Associate Vice President for Health Sciences Research at the University of Rochester (UR). He joined the faculty of UR in 1990 and serves as the Director of the UR's NIH-funded Center for AIDS Research, as well as the director (or Co-Director) of several graduate training programs. He co-directs (with Dick Doolittle at RIT) the Rochester Partnership for Research and Academic Career Training Program of Deaf Postdoctoral Scholars, which offers unique, transformative mentored postdoctoral research training in biomedical and behavioral sciences for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (D/HH) Scholars.



**Robert Pollard, Ph.D.**, is Professor and Associate Dean of Research at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY, a position he undertook in 2016. Since 1990, he also has been on the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, where he holds the rank of Clinical Professor. There, he founded the Deaf Wellness Center, a clinical service, research, and training program. Dr. Pollard has particular expertise regarding deaf persons and mental health, sign language interpreting, and deaf population public health issues. He has served as an expert witness in more than 100 criminal and civil cases involving deaf persons. He has delivered over 300 addresses throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has been principal investigator on dozens of grants totaling over \$6.5 million, authored or co-authored over 100 publications, and produced 15 films in American Sign Language.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



**Stefanie Fingler, MBA**  
Research Program  
Manager,  
Center for Vaccine  
Biology & Immunology  
Conference Chair,  
DEAF-ROC  
University of Rochester



**Erin Lee**  
Administrator,  
Center for Vaccine  
Biology & Immunology  
Conference Co-Chair,  
DEAF-ROC  
University of Rochester

**Wyatte Hall, PhD**

Research Assistant Professor,  
OBGYN  
University of Rochester

**Marlene Elliott, CI, CT, BA**

Designated Interpreter  
University of Rochester

**Lorne Farovitch, MS**

Graduate Student,  
Translational Biomedical Science  
University of Rochester

**Tracey Baas, PhD**

Assistant Professor,  
Microbiology & Immunology  
University of Rochester

**Michael R. Elliott, PhD**

Associate Professor,  
Center for Vaccine Biology &  
Immunology  
University of Rochester

**Shazia Siddiqi, MD**

Postdoctoral Associate,  
OBGYN  
University of Rochester

**John Cullen, PhD**

Professor,  
Clinical and Translational Research  
University of Rochester

**Edwin van Wijngaarden, PhD**

Professor and Associate Chair,  
Department of Public Health Sciences  
University of Rochester

**Alaina Maiorano**

Education Coordinator,  
Clinical and Translational Science  
Institute  
University of Rochester

**Alfred Vitale, PhD**

Director of Research Education,  
Clinical and Translational Science  
Institute  
University of Rochester

**Russell Lackey**

Education Specialist, Clinical and  
Translational Science Institute  
University of Rochester

**Matthew Dye, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
National Technical Institute for the  
Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology

**Robert Pollard, PhD**

Professor and Associate Dean  
National Technical Institute for the  
Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology

## **DEAF-ENGAGED ACADEMIC FORUM**

Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

School of Medicine & Dentistry, Sarah Flaum Atrium

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**

**REGISTRATION, POSTER SET-UP & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**9:00 – 9:30 AM**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Steve Dewhurst, PhD & Robert Pollard, PhD

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:**

**GETTING TO THE HEART OF DEAF-HEARING COLLABORATIONS,  
PI-AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS, & CO-PRODUCTIONS**

Poorna Kushalnagar, PhD

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**10:30 – 11:00 AM**

**BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS**

**11:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

<p><u>Grant Writing</u> Facilitators: Wyatte Hall, PhD Elaine Smolock, PhD CEL 2-7520</p>	<p><u>Cultural Humility</u> Facilitators: Deirdre Schlehofer, EdD Kristin Hocker, EdD CEL 2-7534</p>	<p><u>How to Network &amp; Launch your Career</u> Facilitators: Tracey Baas, PhD Mariam Paracha, PharmD CEL2-7536</p>
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**12:30 – 2:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**DEAF-ENGAGED ACADEMIC FORUM**

Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

School of Medicine & Dentistry, Sarah Flaum Atrium

**2:00 – 2:45 PM**

**SHORT TALKS**

**WORKING TOGETHER:**

**ESTABLISHING PRODUCTIVE TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS  
WITH HEARING MENTORS AND D/HH TRAINEES IN SCIENCE**

Kaitlin Stack Whitney, PhD & Sofie Margaret Christie

Lea Michel, PhD & Kara Farquharson

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**2:45 – 3:45 PM**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:**

**DEAF ECOSYSTEM IN SCIENCE**

Kelby Brick, Esq., CDI

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**3:45 – 5:00 PM**

**POSTER SESSION & COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**DINNER RECEPTION**

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**6:00 – 7:30 PM**

**ROC THAT! ASL IMPROV SHOW**

Matthew J. Schwartz

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**DEAF-ENGAGED ACADEMIC FORUM**

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

School of Medicine & Dentistry, Sarah Flaum Atrium

**8:30 – 9:00 AM**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**9:00 – 10:00 AM**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:**

**NAVIGATING AS A DEAF SCHOLAR OF COLOR IN THE ACADEMY**

Joseph C. Hill, PhD

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**10:00 – 11:30 AM**

**BREAK WITH REFRESHMENTS**

**10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:**

<p><u>Grant Writing</u> Facilitators: Wyatte Hall, PhD Elaine Smolock, PhD CEL 2-7520</p>	<p><u>Cultural Humility</u> Facilitators: Deirdre Schlehofer, EdD Kristin Hocker, EdD CEL 2-7534</p>	<p><u>Making Your Lab Inclusive</u> Facilitators: Michael R. Elliott, PhD Craig Morrell, PhD Mariam Paracha, PharmD CEL 2-7536</p>
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**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

Sarah Flaum Atrium

**DEAF-ENGAGED ACADEMIC FORUM**

Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

School of Medicine & Dentistry, Sarah Flaum Atrium

**1:00 – 1:30 PM**

**SHORT TALKS**

**WORKING TOGETHER:**

**ESTABLISHING PRODUCTIVE TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS  
WITH HEARING MENTORS AND D/HH TRAINEES IN SCIENCE**

Michael R. Elliott, PhD & Sara Blick

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATING & MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH ACCESS SERVICES**

Moderator: Elizabeth Butcher

Panelists: Jen Proseco, Breanne Kisselstein, Corinna Hill,

Joshua Mora, Cheryl Reminder

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

**2:30 – 2:45 PM**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Steve Dewhurst, PhD

Ryan Case Method Room (1-9576)

*Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.*

**POORNA KUSHALNAGAR, PhD**

*Director, Deaf Health Communication & Quality of Life Research Lab  
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology  
Gallaudet University  
Washington, DC*

**“GETTING TO THE HEART OF DEAF-HEARING  
COLLABORATIONS, PI-AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS,  
AND CO-PRODUCTIONS”**



Dr. Poorna Kushalnagar received her B.A. in Psychology at Gallaudet University; M.A. in Psychology at the University of Houston; and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at the University of Houston. She completed a NIH diversity postdoctoral training in patient reported outcomes research at the Seattle Quality of Life Center at University of

Washington and a NIH T32 postdoctoral fellowship in preventive medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Dr. Poorna Kushalnagar directs the Deaf Health Communication and Quality of Life Research Lab at Gallaudet University. She is the principal investigator of grants funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) that total over \$2 million dollars. These grants support studies aligned with her primary research interests in: (1) generic- and deaf/hh-specific quality of life outcomes; (2) adaptation and standardization of PROMIS-Deaf profile for deaf/hh adults; (3) trends of Internet usage for cancer health-related purposes; and (4) applied interventions to improve patient reported outcomes among deaf/hh people across the lifespan.



*Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**GRANT WRITING**



**Wyatte Hall, PhD**  
*Research Assistant Professor, OBGYN*  
*University of Rochester*



**Elaine Smolock, PhD**  
*Senior Associate*  
*Department of Microbiology & Immunology*  
*University of Rochester*

This session will provide an overview to the basics of the grant proposal process, including searching for funding opportunities, reading the funding announcement, putting together the application and understanding what grant reviewers are looking for. The session will further focus on how to write a specific aims page and what to include in your biosketch.

**CULTURAL HUMILITY**



**Deirdre Schlehofer, EdD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Department of Cultural & Creative Studies*  
*National Technical Institute for the Deaf*  
*Rochester Institute of Technology*



**Kristin Hocker, EdD**  
*Co-Specialty Director, Health Care Management Program*  
*Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing*  
*University of Rochester*

We will discuss the process of self-reflection and discovery in order to build honest and trustworthy relationships. Individuals will learn how to recognize and mitigate power imbalance and difficult conversations that exist within their immediate social and organizational structures. This session will provide a forum to discuss how to eliminate disparities, and create a safer, more inclusive environment.

*Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**HOW TO NETWORK & LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**



**Tracey Baas, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Department of Microbiology & Immunology*  
*University of Rochester*



**Mariam Paracha, PharmD**  
*Postdoctoral Fellow*  
*Center for Health & Technology*  
*Department of Neurology*  
*University of Rochester*

Drs. Tracey Baas and Mariam Paracha will describe the art of the informational interview and strategies for networking. They will also lead two fun networking activities, in small groups, that can be beneficial later during the conference to help you meet new scientists, who could turn into collaborators, mentors or allies.

*Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.*

**SHORT TALK**

**“WORKING TOGETHER: ESTABLISHING PRODUCTIVE TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS WITH HEARING MENTORS AND D/HH TRAINEES IN SCIENCE”**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**



**Kaitlin Stack Whitney, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of Science, Technology, and Society*

*College of Liberal Arts*

*Rochester Institute of Technology*



**Sofie Margaret Christie**

*Undergraduate Student, Bioinformatics,*

*RIT College of Science*

*Fellow, NTID RISE Program*



**Lea Michel, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*

*School of Chemistry and Materials Science*

*College of Science*

*Rochester Institute of Technology*



**Kara Farquharson**

*Graduate Research Assistant*

*School of Chemistry and Materials Sciences*

*Rochester Institute of Technology*

*Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.*

**KELBY BRICK, ESQ., CDI**

*Director, Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH)  
State of Maryland  
Crownsville, MD*

**“DEAF ECOSYSTEM IN SCIENCE”**



“Kelby Brick has dedicated his entire career to ensuring that Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals have the same opportunities and access as everyone else,” said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. “Kelby is a tireless leader and advocate for individuals with disabilities.” Kelby led efforts in 2001 to establish the Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and his appointment represents a “return to home” for him. In May 2019, Kelby was awarded The Daily

Record’s 2019 Leadership in Law Award for his impact on the law and the system. Perhaps most known for his coining and advocacy of the Deaf Ecosystem increasing jobs and business ownerships among Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, Kelby’s impact has reached various aspects of everyday lives ranging from mental health services to telecommunication equity.

In 2013, Kelby founded Brick Advantage, a consulting firm that works with and advises corporations and nonprofits. Prior to that, he was a vice president of Purple Communications, Inc., where he led the company’s regulatory and strategic policy to break down communication barriers for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. While at Purple, Kelby transformed the telecommunications relay services industry—which provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-disabled—by establishing a system (later adopted by the Federal Communications Commission) that enables relay equipment to be interoperable and accessible with real local phone numbers and emergency access. Prior to joining Purple, Kelby was the director for law and advocacy at the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). As director, Kelby successfully mobilized NAD in establishing precedents and landmark decisions in litigation and legislative and regulatory areas while increasing NAD’s profile. Kelby is active in numerous advocacy organizations and served as a board member of the American Association of People with Disabilities as well as on various federal and local advisory groups. In 2011, Brick was the first recipient of the Governor’s Kelby Brick Community Leadership Award, which has been given annually ever since. Brick has a Bachelor of Arts in government from Gallaudet University and a law degree from the Temple University Beasley School of Law. He is the first deaf graduate of the law school. He is also a Certified Deaf Interpreter.

*Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*9:00 – 10:00 a.m.*

**JOSEPH C. HILL, PhD**

*Associate Professor, Department of ASL & Interpreting Education  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rochester, NY*

**“NAVIGATING AS A DEAF SCHOLAR OF  
COLOR IN THE ACADEMY”**



Dr. Joseph C. Hill is Assistant Professor in the Department of American Sign Language and Interpreting Education at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). NTID is part of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Dr. Hill’s main research interests are socio-linguistic and historical aspects of the African-American variety of American Sign Language (ASL), henceforth Black ASL, and

language attitudes and ideologies in the American Deaf community. Dr. Hill, a 2004 recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship and a 2008 recipient of the Fulbright scholarship, is a co-author of a Gallaudet University Press’s 2011 volume, *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL: Its History and Structure*, which explores the history and language of the African-American Deaf community in the southern U.S. states and describes the linguistic structure of Black ASL. He also published another 2012 volume, *Language Attitudes in the American Deaf Community*, offering analysis of linguistic and social factors in language judgments and perception about signing variation in the American Deaf community.

*Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**GRANT WRITING**



**Wyatte Hall, PhD**  
*Research Assistant Professor, OBGYN*  
*University of Rochester*



**Elaine Smolock, PhD**  
*Senior Associate*  
*Department of Microbiology & Immunology*  
*University of Rochester*

This session will provide an overview to the basics of the grant proposal process, including searching for funding opportunities, reading the funding announcement, putting together the application and understanding what grant reviewers are looking for. The session will further focus on how to write a specific aims page and what to include in your biosketch.

**CULTURAL HUMILITY**



**Deirdre Schlehofer, EdD**  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Department of Cultural & Creative Studies*  
*National Technical Institute for the Deaf*  
*Rochester Institute of Technology*



**Kristin Hocker, EdD**  
*Co-Specialty Director, Health Care Management Program*  
*Assistant Professor, Clinical Nursing*  
*University of Rochester*

We will discuss the process of self-reflection and discovery in order to build honest and trustworthy relationships. Individuals will learn how to recognize and mitigate power imbalance and difficult conversations that exist within their immediate social and organizational structures. This session will provide a forum to discuss how to eliminate disparities, and create a safer, more inclusive environment.

*Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*  
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**MAKING YOUR LAB INCLUSIVE**



**Michael Elliott, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*  
*Center for Vaccine Biology & Immunology*  
*Department of Microbiology & Immunology*  
*University of Rochester*



**Craig Morrell, DVM, PhD**

*Associate Professor, Department of Medicine*  
*Associate Director, Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute*  
*University of Rochester*



**Mariam Paracha, PharmD**

*Postdoctoral Fellow*  
*Center for Health & Technology*  
*Department of Neurology*  
*University of Rochester*

We will lead a discussion and group-based activities to promote awareness and inclusion of Deaf scientists in a modern research environment. The session will include small group discussions and activities that highlight real-life barriers to inclusion and discuss solutions to overcoming these barriers to promote a Deaf-friendly research environment.

*Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019*  
*1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

**SHORT TALK**

**“WORKING TOGETHER: ESTABLISHING PRODUCTIVE TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS WITH HEARING MENTORS AND D/HH TRAINEES IN SCIENCE”**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**



**Michael R. Elliott, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor*

*Department of Microbiology and Immunology*

*Center for Vaccine Biology and Immunology*

*University of Rochester*



**Sara Blick**

*Ph.D. Student*

*Cell Biology of Disease*

*Elliott Lab - Center for Vaccine Biology and Immunology*

*University of Rochester*



*Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.*

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**“SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATING & MAINTAINING  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH ACCESS SERVICES”**



**MODERATOR:**

**Elizabeth Butcher, CI, CT, MS**  
*University of Rochester*

**PANELISTS:**

**Jen Proscio**

*Access Specialist  
Office of Disability Resources  
University of Rochester*

**Breanne Michelle Kisselstein**

*Doctoral Student  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Cornell University*

**Joshua Mora**

*Doctoral Student  
Translational Biomedical Science  
University of Rochester*

**Corinna Hill, PhD**

*Graduate Students  
Department of History  
University of Rochester*

**Cheryl Reminder**

*Interpreter  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
Rochester Institute of Technology*

## POSTERS

**Presenter(s) listed BOLD**

1.	<p>URBEST CAN HELP WITH THE EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESEARCH PROJECT: YOU!</p> <p><b>Tracey Baas</b><sup>1,7</sup>, Paul Dunman<sup>2</sup>, Joan Adamo<sup>3</sup>, Scott Steele<sup>4</sup>, Katrina Korfmacher<sup>4</sup>, Helene McMurray<sup>5</sup>, Kyle Trenshaw<sup>6</sup>, Dina Markowitz<sup>7</sup>, Aslihan Ambeskovic<sup>5</sup>, Sarah Peyre<sup>1</sup>, Steve Dewhurst<sup>1</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup>URBEST PI; <sup>2</sup>Industry, Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship; <sup>3</sup>Regulatory Affairs, Compliance and Review; <sup>4</sup>Science and Technology Policy; <sup>5</sup>Data Science; <sup>6</sup>Higher Education and Teaching; and <sup>7</sup>Communication and Outreach; University of Rochester, Rochester NY</p>
2.	<p>APPROACHING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING</p> <p>Austin U. Gehret<sup>1</sup>, Jessica W. Trussell<sup>2</sup>, <b>Lea V. Michel</b><sup>3</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup>Department of Science and Mathematics, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, 52 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623 <sup>2</sup> Master of Science in Secondary Education, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, 52 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623 <sup>3</sup> School of Materials Science and Chemistry, Rochester Institute of Technology, 85 Lomb Memorial Dr., Rochester, NY 14623</p>
3.	<p>CONFRONTING DISSENSUS IN DEAF EDUCATION RESEARCH: CONFLICTS IN THEORY AND PRACTICE</p> <p><b>Michael E. Skyer</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup>Senior Lecturer in the Master of Science in Secondary Education (MSSE) for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Department, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY; <sup>2</sup>PhD Candidate in the Teaching, Curriculum, and Change Program (T&amp;C) at the Margret Warner School of Education and Human Development, University of Rochester, Rochester NY</p>

4.	<p>INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE: A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO INCREASING DIVERSITY AND RETENTION IN SCIENCE</p> <p><b>Rita Margarida Quiñones de Magalhães</b>, Dina L. Newman, Elizabeth Hane, Lea Vacca Michel, Jennifer Connelly, and Scott Franklin Center for Advancing STEM Teaching, Learning &amp; Evaluation Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY</p>
5.	<p>EXTRAPOLATING REACTIVITIES: REFORMED CHEMISTRY CURRICULUM THAT INCORPORATES INCLUSIVITY, CONTINUITY, AND ENGAGED STUDENT LEARNING IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY</p> <p><b>Christina Goudreau Collison</b>, Jennifer Swartzenberg, Douglas Tusch, Asma Sheikh, Morgan Bauer, Kaitlyn Clark and Cristophorus Budidharma School of Chemistry and Materials Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY</p>
6.	<p>AS NATURE INTENDED, A LITERATURE REVIEW OF CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN TOMORROW'S SYSTEMIC INDERDISCIPLINARY INTEGRATED COMPLEMENTARY &amp; ATLTERNATIVE MEDICAL REASEARCH &amp; HEALTH CARE</p> <p><b>Kevin Bernadt</b> School of Individual Studies, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY</p>
7.	<p>DEAF WEIGHT WISE 2.0: SUCCESSFUL DISSEMINATION AND TRANSLATION OF A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE INTERVENTION FOR USE WITH DEAF ADULTS</p> <p><b>Lori DeWindt and Erika Sutter</b> National Center for Deaf Health Research, University of Rochester, Rochester NY</p>

8.	<p>A PROPOSED TOOL TO MAKE PERScription DRUG INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE, ACCURATE, AND ACTIONABLE FOR ASL USERS</p> <p><b>Mariam Paracha PharmD<sup>1</sup></b>, Ellen Wagner MS<sup>1,2</sup>, Monica Javidnia PhD<sup>1,2</sup>, Charles Venuto PharmD<sup>1,2</sup>  <sup>1</sup>Center for Health + Technology, <sup>2</sup>Department of Neurology, University of Rochester, NY</p>
9.	<p>CONDUCTING A SMARTPHONE-BASED SEXUAL HEALTH SURVEY WITH DEAF AND HEARING CAMPUS POPULATIONS</p> <p><b>Jennifer Stewardson</b>, Kelly Matthews, Erika Sutter, and Dr. Steven Barnett  National Center for Deaf Health Research: Rochester Prevention Research Center, Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester NY.</p>
10.	<p>UNDERSTANDING THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF DEAF DOMINICANS: IMPLEMENTING QUALITATIVE METHODS WITH THE DEAF COMMUNITY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC</p> <p><b>Mora J</b>, Taveras P, Estill-Varner H, Sanchez JJ, Hall W, Quinones Z, Batista E, Jesurum A, Siddiqi S, Dye TDV</p>
11.	<p>BARRIERS TO HEALTH EDUCATION IN DEAF K-12 SCHOOLS</p> <p><b>Jason Rotoli, MD, Rebecca Royzer, MS3</b>, Courtney Jones, PhD, Molly McCann, PhD  Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Rochester Rochester, NY</p>
12.	<p>ANALYZING IXODES SCAPULARIS (LYME DISEASE VECTOR) POPULATION INTERANNUAL STABILITY TRENDS IN LONG TERM DATASETS</p> <p><b>Sofie Christie<sup>1</sup></b>, Kaitlin Stack Whitney<sup>1,2</sup>  <sup>1</sup> Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences, College of Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY <sup>2</sup> Science, Technology &amp; Society Department, College of Liberal Arts, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester NY</p>

13.	<p>PRODUCING INFLUENZA A PB1 MUTATION L319Q FOR DETERMINATION OF ITS VACCINE EFFICACY</p> <p><b>Kara Farquharson</b>, Kayla Bell, Stephen Dewhurst  Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.</p>
14.	<p>SYNTHESIS OF 3-((1METHYLPYRROLIDIN-2-Y)METHOXY)-1-ALKYLPYRIDIN-1-IUM</p> <p><b>Adebowale Ogunjirin</b><sup>A,B</sup>, Carissa Meyer<sup>C</sup>, Jonathan Gutierrez<sup>A</sup>, Zachary Davenport<sup>A</sup>, Christopher Pasquarelli<sup>D</sup>  <sup>A</sup>Dept. of Science, Technology, and Mathematics; Gallaudet University Washington DC <sup>B</sup>Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry, James Madison University Harrisonburg Virginia <sup>C</sup>Dept. of Biochemistry, Texas Women University <sup>D</sup>Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY</p>

**The PhD Program in Translational Biomedical Science**  
**University of Rochester Clinical & Translational Science Institute**  
**University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry**

**Program Director:** Tim Dye, **PhD Program Coordinator:** Alaina Maiorano

Clinical & Translational Science Institute, University of Rochester, Rochester  
NY  
School of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Rochester, Rochester NY

Translational Biomedical Science (TBS) transforms research into practical ideas that will improve the health of our world. Through this cutting-edge program, the University of Rochester is preparing trainees for academic, government, private sector, and clinical careers. The PhD in TBS focuses on creating a new kind of investigator – one who has a much broader view of the scientific world. A basic, translational and population health sciences curriculum, and a collaborative mentoring approach make it a uniquely powerful way to train the research leadership of tomorrow.

**We are global.** The program works with a range of global communities and helps to serve their needs, including local and global Deaf communities.

**A true interdisciplinary program.** Our trainees work with world-renowned scientists internally and externally to the University who possess expansive backgrounds and expertise.

**Tailored to your needs.** With the program's director and coordinator, you design your program of study – both didactic coursework and research – to fit your research interests and career goals.

**Mentor approach.** Trainees select their primary mentor(s) at the end of their first year of training, and from there they assemble an engaged, interdisciplinary committee to oversee their dissertation research and advise them throughout the program.

**Survival skills for research.** You will learn what it takes to survive and thrive in an academic environment, write grants, give presentations, how to write and review manuscripts, and how to find postdoctoral positions and jobs after graduation through career development programs.

**We are diverse.** Over 53% of the TBS trainees represent diversity in culture, race, and ethnicity (including >10% of trainees identifying as culturally Deaf with ASL as their native language). We support and advocate for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing trainees in the PhD in TBS program, as well as in other PhD programs in the School of Medicine & Dentistry.

## **The Center for Professional Development**

Elaine Smolock, PhD

The Center for Professional Development (CPD) is an initiative of the Office of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA) and was the #1 graduate education priority of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry (URSMD) strategic plan. The CPD's mission is to supplement every trainee's scientific education with the professional and career development opportunities most appropriate to each individual trainee's interests and skills to ensure that all trainees will have impactful, fulfilling, and prosperous careers. The CPD team includes a full-time Director of Career Services, Eric Vaughn, and a full-time Director of Writing Services and Training Grant Development, Dr. Elaine Smolock. The CPD team offers individual services and group workshops related to skills development with a primary focus on career planning (CV/resume/cover letters, job search strategies, professional communication and networking) and writing (grants/fellowships, manuscripts, presentations, literature reviews, and qualifying exams). The CPD website offers over 500 self-study resources from various sources including University of Rochester faculty and alumni, Science Careers, Nature Jobs, the Chronicle for Higher Education, the NIH, and more. Other self-study resources include a lending library, Bio Careers and Versatile PhD memberships, and the weekly Opportunities to Explore newsletter. The CPD supports the programming offered by the Graduate Student Society and the Postdoctoral Association. In addition, several professional development courses and seminars are hosted by the CPD throughout the year, including Ethics and Responsible Conduct of Research and the Leadership and Management for Scientists in collaboration with URSMD's NIH-funded BEST program.

## **Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students**

PJ Simpson-Haidaris,<sup>1</sup> J Cuculick,<sup>2</sup> PC Hauser,<sup>2</sup> and S Barnett<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Rochester and <sup>2</sup>Rochester Institute of Technology

While the number of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (D/HH) scientists is gradually increasing, there is still a shortage, as D/HH scientists continue to be underrepresented in the behavioral or biomedical sciences. The University of Rochester (UR) and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) have partnered together and established the **Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate (RB2D)** Program to address this gap. In our 7<sup>th</sup> year of funding from the National Institutes of Health, our program aims to train and prepare eligible students while they are completing one of the approved master's degree programs at RIT. The RB2D Program is the first of its kind that provides mentoring for D/HH individuals to become strong candidates for doctoral degree programs in biomedical or behavioral sciences. The UR is a premier research institution offering graduate lab research experiences, doctoral-level mentoring, and valuable networking opportunities. The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at RIT is the foremost technical higher education institution for D/HH students in the world. D/HH Scholars in the RB2D Program are paired with faculty, students, and staff from NTID, RIT, and UR to gain skills necessary for graduate studies and career advancement. RB2D program directors oversee that communication access services are tailored to the Scholar's needs (ASL interpreters, real-time captioning, notetakers), and hearing mentors and lab personnel receive training in Deaf Cultural Awareness. In addition to the master's degree requirements, the following activities prepare Scholars for their PhD aspirations:

### First Year

- Bi-monthly Individual PhD Readiness Team Meetings
- World of Wonder in Science Seminar Series
- Professional Development Seminar Series
- Paid Research Assistantship at RIT Laboratory
- Attendance at a targeted doctoral discipline-specific professional conference
- Attendance at ABRCMS, a national conference for minority students
- Fall UR Course: Ethics and Professional Integrity in Research
- Spring UR Course: Workshop in Scientific Communication

### Summer after 1<sup>st</sup> Year

10-week Research Assistantship at UR Laboratory

### Second Year

- Bi-monthly Individual PhD Readiness Team Meetings
- World of Wonder in Science Seminar Series
- Professional Development Seminar Series
- Paid Research Assistantships at UR Laboratories in Fall and Spring Semesters



- UR Graduate Course: elective in Scholar's targeted doctoral discipline
- Present at a targeted doctoral discipline-specific professional conference
- Apply to competitive PhD programs in desired discipline

For more information, please visit: <http://deafscientists.com/>

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**R25 GM107739**

## **Rochester Institute of Technology RISE Scientists-In-Training Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Undergraduates**

Vincent Samar, Paul Craig, Mark Rosica, Jason Listman, Kim Kurz, Stephanie Renner-Cosgrove, Kathryn Womack, Richard Doolittle

Rochester Institute of Technology

Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (D/HH) scientists are underrepresented in the biomedical, biobehavioral, and clinical-research workforce. To redress this disparity, NIH funded the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) RISE program in 2017 to prepare qualified D/HH undergraduates to enter PhD programs in these disciplines. RIT has the largest population of D/HH mainstreamed students of any university in the world. RIT RISE represents a university-wide endeavor involving six RIT colleges encompassing 16 degree programs.

RIT RISE focuses on three need areas for D/HH students, identified through an institutional self-assessment: 1) Specialized curricular and co-curricular programming to increase their competencies in the scientific method, scientific writing, career awareness, self-efficacy, test-taking, and leadership; 2) Individualized academic counseling and intensive mentored research training in labs and other research environments to develop their research competencies in specific disciplines; and 3) Programs to enhance institutional resources and campus culture to support D/HH undergraduate “scientists-in-training”, including faculty cultural-competence training, research-environment communication-access assessment, and new courses to train sign-language interpreters to work in research environments.

Early outcomes include: 1) Enrollment of five qualified undergraduate RIT-RISE Scholars, representing biochemistry, bioinformatics, biomedical sciences, and criminal-justice-related public-health science, 2) Development of several on-campus research-related courses and workshops, and scientific sign-language interpreting courses, plus online versions exportable to other training programs nationally, 3) Development of best-practices materials to share with other university training programs and research environments that include D/HH and other underrepresented students and scientists, and 4) Dissemination of RIT-RISE program activities and RIT-RISE Scholars’ novel research results at national conferences.

RIT RISE is demonstrating that career-driven D/HH undergraduate science students can produce and nationally disseminate rigorous scientific results, garner coveted summer research fellowships at other prestigious universities, and achieve academic and research credentials that make them attractive candidates for first-class PhD programs in biomedical, biobehavioral, and clinical research.

## **Rochester Postdoc Partnership (RPP) to Advance Research and Academic Careers of Deaf Postdoctoral Scholars**

PJ Simpson-Haidaris,<sup>1</sup> PC Hauser,<sup>2</sup> S Barnett,<sup>1</sup> CA Martina,<sup>1</sup> MA Lynn,<sup>2</sup> MR Elliott,<sup>1</sup> CN Morrell,<sup>1</sup> R Doolittle,<sup>2</sup> and S Dewhurst<sup>1</sup>  
1University of Rochester and 2Rochester Institute of Technology

The Rochester Postdoc Partnership (RPP) is a biomedical research training program for deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) scientists. Our mission is to create highly trained D/HH scientists who have the knowledge and skills to pursue academic careers. A strong mentoring environment allows postdoctoral fellows to grow valuable academic skills such as course development and teaching alongside intensive research training in their field of interest. This comprehensive training is made possible through the unique partnership between the University of Rochester (UR) and the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) with significant support from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) on RIT's campus. The foundation of the RPP's approach is the long-standing shared institutional commitments of both UR and RIT for increasing the diversity and inclusion of D/HH scholars.

The RPP is one of several National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)-funded programs centered in Rochester, NY that share the aim of increasing the number of D/HH scientists. Our companion programs include the "Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students" that supports Masters-to-PhD students and the "RIT-RISE: Scientists-in-Training Program for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Undergraduates" for Undergraduate-to-PhD students.

To achieve our goals, the RPP continually develops, implements, and evaluates a curriculum that integrates individual and institutional activities. Some highlights include: 1) UR-mentored research experience; 2) RIT-mentored practicum teaching experience; 3) career development in collaboration with the UR-Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Mentor-Scholar development program; 4) mentoring D/HH undergraduate and graduate students from our companion training programs; and 5) training and education of mentors and lab personnel to increase D/HH cross-cultural competency.

In addition to training D/HH postdoctoral scholars, the program is designed to strengthen and modernize science educational offerings of RIT, and to further promote the research and educational links of UR and RIT.

For more information, please visit: [www.deafpostdoc.urmc.edu](http://www.deafpostdoc.urmc.edu)

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## **Group Mentoring at a Distance: Videoconferencing to Promote Deaf Scholar Resilience, Persistence, Retention, and Success**

Peter C. Hauser<sup>1</sup>, Jessica Cuculick<sup>1</sup>, and Steve Barnett<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology, and <sup>2</sup>School of Medicine and Dentistry/University of Rochester

**Motivation:** Aspiring Deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) scientists often navigate biomedical doctoral training in programs that do not provide DHH peers and role models. This experience can be lonely and frustrating and can negatively impact scholar resilience, persistence, retention, and success. Many Rochester Bridges to the Doctorate (RB2D) alumni have matriculated to biomedical science doctoral programs and found it difficult to thrive as the sole DHH student.

**Approach:** To address the lack of a critical mass of DHH scholars at different universities, the RB2D program has developed a virtual community (Deaf Scientist Time-DST). RB2D scholars, alumni, and DHH students from other universities videoconference monthly. The video modality is essential for visual communication (e.g., sign language) amongst DHH participants, and also promotes interpersonal connections. DHH faculty facilitate the meetings, which begin with a check-in to see how the scholars are doing and to address any urgent challenges. Each meeting has an additional specific goal, such as allowing participants to practice conference presentations for feedback, or learning effective survival strategies from more seasoned deaf scientists.

**Outcomes:** The first meeting included 10 DHH participants from five different sites. Participants shared that they are thrilled this resource is available and have excitedly offered potential topics for future meetings. We plan mixed methods (survey and interviews) to assess this new program and inform improvements. We believe that as more DHH scholars learn about this open virtual meeting, there will be greater participation and ultimately a critical mass of DHH aspiring scientists to network and support each other.

**Lessons Learned:** This virtual community was enthusiastically received by DHH participants, and is a promising approach to address isolation, promote community building, and foster persistence and success. This model likely has applications with other groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research fields.

## **TriNetX at the University of Rochester: A powerful cohort discovery tool for clinical research**

Brooke A. Levandowski, PhD, MPA,<sup>1,2</sup> David Pinto, RN,<sup>1</sup> Zhe (Jack) Chang, MSc,<sup>1</sup> Jeanne Holden-Wiltse, MPH, MPA,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clinical and Translational Science Institute, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester NY.<sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester NY.

TriNetX is a global health research network that revolutionizes clinical research and enables discoveries through the generation of real-world evidence. URMJ joined the TriNetX network in April 2019. TriNetX will replace i2b2 as the primary patient cohort discovery tool, providing powerful and intuitive query building functions that allow investigators to query electronic medical record (EMR) data in a completely self-serviceable and secure way to obtain summary patient counts.

All employees in URMJ and affiliates (such as Highland Hospital), graduate students, medical students, etc. with a valid URMJ account are eligible to use TriNetX. Access is granted after completion of an online self-paced close captioned training course. Additional training and resources include: 1) two advanced online self-paced close captioned training courses; 2) an online close captioned introduction to the TriNetX Community, a forum where anyone can email questions about TriNetX or how to build specific queries; 3) in person trainings, for which interpreter services can be obtained; and 4) directly emailing TriNetX staff questions about queries.

TriNetX receives clinical data from eRecord, the integrated EMR system of UR Medicine for greater than 1.5 million patients from Strong Memorial Hospital, Highland Hospital, FF Thompson Hospital, UR Medicine Ambulatory Clinics, and URMJ Urgent Care Centers. Clinical data are available in the following categories: demographics, diagnosis, medications, procedures, labs, visit types.

TriNetX provides powerful and intuitive query building functions to identify cohorts for clinical research. Once the patient cohort is identified, investigators can work with the CTSI informatics team to obtain patient-level data for research.

## **PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS & DEPARTMENTS**

American School for the Deaf  
Cornell University  
Gallaudet University  
Gandaki Association of the Deaf  
Johns Hopkins University  
Oregon Health and Science University  
National Technical Institute for the Deaf | RIT  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
State of Maryland  
SUNY Empire  
University of Detroit Mercy  
University of Rochester

### **University of Rochester Departments/Centers**

Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute  
Biomedical Engineering  
Center for Health + Technology  
Center for Vaccine Biology and Immunology  
The College: Arts & Sciences - History Department  
Clinical & Translational Science Institute  
Eastman Performing Arts Medicine  
Warner School of Education  
Emergency Medicine  
Environmental Health and Safety  
Immunology, Microbiology, and Virology (IMV) PhD Program  
Institute of Optics  
Interpreter Services  
Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)  
Medicine  
Mental Health Wellness Center at Strong  
Microbiology & Immunology  
National Center for Deaf Health Research  
Neurology  
Neuroscience  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Office of Disability Resources  
Pathology  
Psychiatry - Deaf Wellness Center  
Public Health Sciences  
School of Nursing  
Social Work  
Surgery  
Translational Biomedical Science

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Val Przybolo-Souky - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Amanda Kernahan - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Chris Grooms - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Jacque Newman - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Lisa Zalar - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Adrian Kelly - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Brianna Conrad - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Alyssa Vaisey- Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Michael Conrad- Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

Tanya Andrews - Interpreter Services, University of Rochester

*Thank you for your participation and helping make this event a great success!!*