



# STEP-BY-STEP

## Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 2018

### FEATURED ARTICLE

## STEP Forward for Science Communication

**Congratulations to our STEP Forward fellows**, who completed their communication fellowship at the Pacific Science Center this past November. The fellows have all designed and prototyped a hands-on activity to teach the public about their research-related topic. They have been (or will be) presenting their activity on the floor at Pacific Science Center's *Meet a Scientist*, a public event on most Saturday afternoons.



Ruth Thomas explains her activity to Ari, one of the Pacific Science Center staff who helped give feedback during the prototyping session.

Please come and support our STEP Forward fellows and our alums who were also PacSci's Communication Fellows! Upcoming presentations for *Meet a Scientist* can be found at:

<https://www.pacificsciencecenter.org/meet-a-scientist/>

For our STEP Forward fellows, please remember to participate in at least **three Meet a Scientist events by May**.

Training in communication with the public is just the first step. Here is the list of upcoming events for STEP Forward, some of which are open to ALL alumni:

**Dec-May:** Participate in 3 PacSci events

**February 5:** Abstract due for the Teaching & Learning Symposium – Open & encouraged for EVERYONE – see announcement on p. 2.

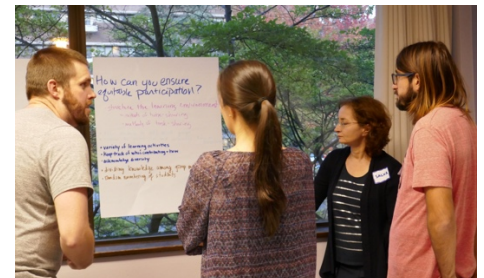
**April 17:** UW Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Symposium – Encouraged for ALL!

**Spring 2018:** Training & networking event w/ local policymakers – STEP Forward Fellows

**Summer 2018:** Writing retreat (1-day) for preparing materials for publication – Open to ALL STEP alumni! More details to come...

### NOTEWORTHY NEWS

## WELCOME OUR NEW 2017-2018 STEP FELLOWS!



**Congratulations to our new STEP cohort** for completing the two intensive workshops on course design and active learning! They're planning some amazing courses for the upcoming quarters, so please help us spread the word!

### Current STEP Winter 2018 Courses:

#### How to build a visual system

Kathryn Jewett, Tera Levin, & Alex White  
(Mentor: Siddharth Ramakrishnan, UPS)

Your sense of sight is the result of millions of years of evolution and intricate development of specialized neural circuits. This course dives into the evolution, development, and design of both biological and artificial visual systems.

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Photo above: Helen Stankiewicz, Justin Roby, and Curtis Easton discuss a question during the gallery walk activity while mentor Salwa Al-Noori listens in.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Call for proposals for UW's 2018 Teaching and Learning Symposium

To **ALL STEP Alumni** and **STEP Forward Fellows**: Are you interested in presenting a poster about work that you have piloted on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning? Did you develop an interesting learning module or activity that you would like to share with a wider audience? Consider submitting an abstract to the UW Teaching and Learning Symposium!

This year's **Teaching & Learning Symposium** will be held on **Tuesday, April 17, 2018 (2:00 – 4:30 pm)** in the HUB Ballroom at UW Seattle. As stated in their call for proposals: "The Symposium is designed for interactive presentations and discussion with participants on innovative strategies in teaching, whether it is work you have done in the past, are in the process of implementing, or have envisioned for the future."

Deadline for abstract submissions is **Monday, February 5, 2018 at 5:00pm.**

<http://www.washington.edu/teaching/innovation/teaching-and-learning-symposium/call-for-proposal/>

If you are interested and would like to see a sample abstract, please contact **Becca** ([beccap@uw.edu](mailto:beccap@uw.edu)).

## UPDATES

## STEP Women's Group

**Thank you** to **Christina Valensisi** who is generously volunteering her time this year to organize the STEP Women's Group.

The **STEP Women's Group** is open to ALL STEP alumni (not just the women!) and is a venue for networking and discussing various topics and issues such as work-life balance, job searches, alternative careers, etc. Meetings are held every other month alternating between UWS and SLU.

The next meeting will be on Friday, **February 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon** in the Sze West Conference Room, Thomas Building, at the Fred Hutch. **Mary Wallingford**, a STEP alumna who has accepted a position at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, will be talking about her journey in finding a job.

## STEP 2017-2018 (continued from page 1...)

### Disease in focus: from cells to society

Heather Feldman & Katrin Hollinger  
(Mentor: Salwa Al-Noori, UWB)

Diseases affect us throughout our lifespan, from developmental to degenerative. With the analysis of scientific literature and interactive lectures, we will explore how molecular changes lead to whole body and societal effects.

### Personalized medicine and wellness: separating hype from reality

Jooyoung Park, Rajiv McCoy, & Priyanka Baloni  
(Mentor: Becca Price, UWS)

Personalized medicine/approaches to health promise to provide better diagnoses and tailored therapies for individual patients. We will critically evaluate the promises and challenges such as awareness, costs and/or clinical effectiveness as well as sustainability of these emerging technologies.

### Fact or not? Addressing misinformation in science reporting about cancer, vaccines, and viruses.

Jesse Erasmus, Sasha Larsen, & Trisha Sippel  
(Mentor: Becca Price, UWB)

Students learn how to interpret scientific information and validate claims about cancer, vaccines, and viruses, and how to communicate their understanding to the general public.

### On the cutting edge:

#### Molecular scissors for gene editing

Joel Berletch, Alisha Mendonsa, & Elizabeth Speltz (Mentor: Becca Price, UWB)

In this course, we discuss the emerging technologies that have enabled us to edit and modify the DNA of any organism from bacteria to plants to human. We will focus on the technology and the ethical ramifications of gene editing.

# New Discoveries at the Market

## Providing a dose of science alongside the fruits and veggies



"Science at the Market" was founded by biochemistry postdocs and STEP alumni Karla-Luise Herpoldt (right), Glenna Foight (middle), & Parisa Hosseinzadeh (left), shown here with their "proteins" at the U-district Farmer's market.

**Science at the Market** is a new project designed to get scientists out of the lab and into their local communities to share the exciting work they do with their neighbors. On the first Saturday of each month, we host a science booth at the University District farmers' market on a different scientific theme.

Our goal is to provide the public with opportunities to meet professional

scientists in person, to share some of the amazing discoveries happening in the Seattle area, and to highlight how this research intersects with their lives.

If you are interested in hosting a booth on your area of research next year, please get in touch with us via email ([ScienceMarketUW@gmail.com](mailto:ScienceMarketUW@gmail.com)) or twitter ([@SciMarketUW](https://twitter.com/SciMarketUW)).

## Congratulations to STEP graduates with new positions!

Will Conrad	Lake Forest College
Amitabha "Guppy" Gupta	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Mary Wallingford	Tufts University Medical School

**Please keep us updated on your job searches!**