

STEP-BY-STEP Newsletter

SPRING / SUMMER 2018

FEATURED ARTICLE

STEP at the UW Teaching and Learning Symposium



Eva Ma with her hands-on model of a "gene" that will need to be "fixed" by CRISPR-Cas9.

STEP was well represented at **UW's 14th Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium** on April 17th, 2018, which featured two keynote speakers and 76 posters across all 3 UW campuses.

STEP alumni Eva Ma, Sarah Morgan, Suzanne Mcdermott, Amy Stone, and Angela Katsuyama all presented posters about the interactive activities that they had developed with STEP Forward and/or the Pacific Science Center's Science Communication Fellowship, while Liz Kwan, presented a module that she and her fellow co-instructors had developed for their STEP course.

Feature photo above: Liz Kwan explains her poster on the "Evaluation of Popular Science Articles Using the Cited Primary Literature" to Dr. Alexandre Neves (another STEP alum).

STEP mentors Salwa Al-Noori, Becca Price, and Eva Ma along with Elizabeth McCullough from the Pacific Science Center also presented a poster on the STEP Forward program's partnership with the Pacific Science Center.

Abstracts for all the presentations from the Teaching and Learning symposium can be found [here](#).



Salwa Al-Noori presents a poster on "STEP Forward: Science Communication with the Public Through Hands-on Engagement."

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

New STEP website is up and running!

Our new STEP website is now available for viewing at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/stepuw/>

Please check it out and let us know if you have additional ideas, photos, and/or suggestions for the website.

Blog highlight: Parisa Hosseinzadeh's moving article on being an international researcher. You can read it [here](#).

We are looking for other STEP alumni who would like to contribute to our blog – either on a regular basis or an article or two. Please contact Becca if you are interested (beccap@uw.edu).

STEP 2017-2018 Updates

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 STEP fellows who have finished their teaching and good luck to the two groups who are teaching this summer!

STEP Spring 2018 Courses:

The viral world - Helen Stakiewicz (Mentor: Salwa Al-Noori, UWB)

Understanding viral function for the development of vaccines and using viral genome-editing techniques against disease.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEP Applications for 2018-19

We are currently accepting applications for the new 2018-19 STEP cohort! Please help us spread the word as we rely heavily on word-of-mouth to recruit. Link to the application can be found on the right-hand sidebar on our website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/stepuw/>

Applications to participate in STEP are due on **August 31st, 2018**.

Discourse in scientific identity among postdocs

Congratulations to Becca on her recent publication in *CBE Life Sciences Education* on postdocs' identities as bench scientists and/or primary investigators. You can read about her findings [here](#).

Becca's paper is also mentioned in *Science*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STEP Forward Networking Event with Business Leaders and Local Policymakers

June 22nd, 2018 (12-4pm; UW Bothell)

STEP Forward fellows and STEP alumni who had undergone PacSci's Science Communication Fellowship will be presenting their research and hands-on activities with local business leaders and policymakers, with a collective goal of communicating our diversity and the need for evidence-based policies.

STEP Women's Group

July 10th, 2018 (12pm; Vista Café - Foege)

Open to all STEP alumni, bring your lunch (counter at Vista Café is closed) and come for a lively discussion on recognizing and dealing with discrimination.

STEP Writing Retreat

August 2018 (Date & location TBA)

We will be holding a 1-day writing retreat/workshop open to all STEP alumni on preparing the materials and/or activities that you have developed for publication.

More details to come!

STEP Spring 2018 (continued...)

Curing cancer: Complex answers for complex disease – JB Dupont, Michelle Messmer, & Heather Wright (Mentor: Becca Price, UWS)

Cancer is a complex disease in need of novel therapies. This course will teach students how to evaluate primary literature and translate these observations into potential clinical trials.

STEP Summer 2018 Courses:

How evolution shapes cancer: Implications for a cure – Heather Gustafson, Jeetu Thakur, & Caiti Smukowski Heil (Mentor: Eva Ma, UWS)

Why do we get cancer? What makes one person more susceptible to disease? Why do people respond differently to treatment? We'll explore

these questions through the lens of evolutionary biology to understand how human evolution, genetic variation, and the environment influence disease onset, progression, and treatment.

Clickbait science, sketchy supplements, and bogus advice: Critically evaluating health claims in the modern age – Daniel Reeves, Jeremy Whitson, & Fan Zhang (Mentor: Eva Ma, UWS)

Health claims surround us in the modern world. With wide-ranging sources like our social media feeds and cable news, how can we tell which claims are supported by scientific evidence? In this class, we will investigate health claims by comparing and contrasting scientific studies, ad-campaigns, and social media

"You are not your PhD. You are a culmination of all that has come before your life, all that happened during, and all that has happened since you earned your PhD."

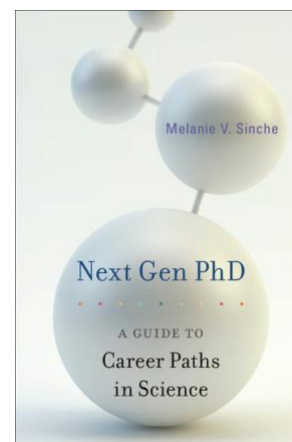
- Next Gen PhD

Book Review: Next Gen PhD

Next Gen PhD by Melanie Sinche is an excellent resource for PhDs in science looking for guidance and career options both inside and outside of academia. Between the discouragement of the ever-tightening academic job market and our identity discourses ([see Becca's paper](#)), we as postdoctoral scientists need a little reminder to step back and reflect on who we are and what is important to us. This is where **Next Gen PhD** starts out – to guide us in assessing ourselves so we can begin searching for a job that can lead us to a rewarding career and a satisfying life.

From self-assessments of your interests, values, and skills through the entire career/job exploration and search process, this book is packed with good advice and examples (e.g., sample resumes & CVs).

If you're still searching for what you're going to do with your life now that you have a science PhD, this book will remind you that you are not alone and can help you with that next step forward.

**Congratulations to STEP graduates with new positions!**

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| Adriana E. Raudzens Bailey | National Center for Atmospheric Research |
| Rhishikesh Bargaje | National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences |
| Laura Gaydos | Sartorius |
| Caiti Smukowski Heil | North Carolina State University |
| Josh Kaplan | Western Washington |
| Angela Katsuyama | UW Microbiology |
| Rajiv McCoy | Johns Hopkins |
| Patrick Nygren | Oncology Resource Group |
| Sandra Zimmerman | NanoString Technologies, Inc. |

Please keep us updated on your job searches!