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FACULTY FLASH

An Office of Academic Affairs and Career Development Publication

Nominations Open! Core Leadership Program (CLP) V Cohort

The Office of Academic Affairs and Career Development (OAACD) is pleased to announce the launch of the fifth cohort of the Core Leadership Program, a leadership development program for high-performing, mid-level leaders. In the last four years, the CLP has received outstanding ratings and feedback from the 96 faculty who have participated, and has positively impacted participants' leadership behaviors as reported by managers and direct reports.

The Core Leadership Program is designed to:

- Provide CCHMC faculty with the knowledge and skills necessary for outstanding leadership.
- Meet the unique leadership development needs of high-performing, mid-level faculty leaders who:
  - Perform supervisory duties with direct reports, or faculty who regularly manage others who do not report to them. Examples might be a Fellowship Director, Director of Quality Improvement, Clinical Program Director, or Research Director.
  - Have the ability and desire to assume additional leadership responsibilities – either an expansion of their existing role, or a new role – in the future.

The Core Leadership Program is limited to 24 participants. Initially, one nominee per division will be considered on a first-come, first-serve basis. **All nominations must come directly from Division/Center/Institute Directors and are due by May 20th (*no self-nominations*)**. Nomination of diverse candidates, including women and underrepresented minorities, is strongly encouraged. ***Senior leaders have received an email with details about the program and instructions for nominations; if you are a faculty member interested in participating, please contact your Division, Institute or Center director***.

Please click here for more information about the program: http://centerlink.cchmc.org/workarea/downloadasset.aspx?id=198092

All nominations should be sent via email to Mallory DePalma in the Office of Academic Affairs and Career Development: Mallory.DePalma@cchmc.org.

Interested in a Basic Scientist Faculty Networking Group?

The OAACD supports several networking initiatives, including Wine and Wisdom, a Black faculty networking group, an Asian faculty networking group, and a Field Service Track faculty networking group. We are gauging interest in launching a basic science faculty networking group – if you are interested, please contact us at faculty-affairs@cchmc.org – we want to know what would be most useful to you!

Cincinnati Children's

AAMC Mid-Career Minority Faculty Seminar

June 23-25, 2016
AAMC Learning Center: Washington, DC
The application process is now open for the AAMC Mid-Career Minority Faculty Seminar. Don't miss this opportunity to join a select number of your colleagues in this blended learning program that addresses the specific needs of mid-career faculty with a culturally responsive approach. Applications will be accepted through **Monday, May 2, 2016, 5:00pm EST.**

Click here for more information

Upcoming OAACD Seminars

Career Development Seminar: Practical Self-Care Strategies for the Computer Athlete
Presented by: Dr. Nancy Bloemer
Wednesday, May 18, 2016
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Room S1.203

Career Development Seminar: Strategies for Working with Learners
Presented by: Drs. Ndidi Unaka and Sue Poynter
Wednesday, July 20, 2016
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Room S1.204

A pizza lunch will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. to: faculty-affairs@cchmc.org

Upcoming UCCOM Seminars

Team Science
Presented by: Drs. Christy Holland and Jack Kues
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Medical Science Building Room 3051

Please contact Angie Doud to register: doudaa@ucmail.uc.edu

OAACD Faculty Spotlight: Tesfaye B. Mersha, PhD

Our highlighted faculty member this month is Tesfaye Mersha, PhD. Dr. Mersha is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Asthma Research who joined CCHMC in 2009 after completing his Postdoctoral Fellowship in Statistical and Human Genetics at the University of Alabama and Medical College of Wisconsin. Born in Ethiopia, Dr. Mersha has a unique combination of training including in his native country, Israel, Germany, and in the United States. He received a B.S. degree in Biology from Alemaya University in Ethiopia and an M.S. in Genetics from a joint program between Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel) and Alemaya University. Dr. Mersha completed his Ph.D. in Quantitative Genetics at the University of Goettingen, home of 45 Nobel Laureates.

Since his arrival at CCHMC, Dr. Mersha has built his own research program, secured a career development K01 award, and successfully transitioned to a five year R01 award from the NIH. Dr. Mersha is also the recipient of the inaugural Diversity and Health Disparities Award from the Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation. He received the 2014 Keystone Symposia Early Career Investigator Travel Award to present his work at the "Complex Traits: Genomics and Computational Approaches Conference" and received the Best Featured Poster award at the AAAAI Annual Meeting.

Dr. Mersha's research involves the application of ancestry, association, and transcriptional profiling analysis methods to studies of human populations in order to elucidate genetic and non-genetic contributions to complex diseases, particularly asthma and asthma-related allergic disorders. In addition, his team developed, and made freely available, an online genome-wide ancestry informative markers (AIMs) tool, AncestrySNPminer, the first web-based bioinformatics tool specifically designed to retrieve AIMs from ever growing genomic datasets and link these informative markers to genes and ontological annotation classes [CCHMC Technology Disclosure #: 2011-1105]. The tool includes an automated and simple "scripting at the click of a button" function that enables researchers to retrieve DNA variants between populations with different allele frequency and selection pressure with user-friendly querying and filtering of datasets across various ancestries through a single web interface. This is a timely resource for the population genomics research community. As of April 1, 2016, more than 9,500 registered users from around the world have freely accessed this resource.

In addition to his cutting-edge research undertakings over the past several years, Dr. Mersha has participated in NIH Grant Review Panels, is a member of the T32 NIH/NIEHS Genetic-Environment Interactions Training Program (GEITP), and actively mentors postdoctoral fellows in environmental exposure and genetic susceptibility risk factors. Dr. Mersha is a program faculty member of the system biology PhD program at the University of Cincinnati and is a lecturer in many courses for the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. He serves as Academic Editor for PLoS ONE and Applied Genetic Epidemiology and participates in judging several oral and poster presentations, including judging at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. For his interest in academic research, Dr. Mersha credits his Ph.D. mentor for his critical thinking, fount of knowledge, and dedicated mentorship. He considers himself an optimist who sees an opportunity in every research problem.

Dr. Mersha believes CCHMC is an excellent place for team science — from basic to translational scientists — all vital to child health. He has taken advantage of the numerous collaborative relationships that exist within and beyond the academic health center. He has formed collaborations with Prof. R. Chakraborty, Director, Center for Computational Genomics, University of North Texas Health Science Center; Prof. B. Worku of the Department of Pediatrics, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and Prof. E. Kerem, Chair, Pediatric Department at Hebrew University, Hadassah, Israel.

Dr. Mersha is married and has a 10 year old son. In his free time, he enjoys attending his son's soccer games, gardening, exercising at the YMCA, reading his favorite books including "Power of Positive Thinking" by Norman Vincent Pearle, and being involved in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Cincinnati.