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The HQPA

Insider

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
AS PART OF THE ADVANCED FOODS AND MATERIALS NETWORK

2009 HQPA Winter Professional Development School Recap

Thanks to all who participated in the 2009 HQPA Winter Professional Development School (PDS) in Toronto, ON January 23 & 24, 2009! This was our largest HQP event yet with 70 HQP in attendance! It was a great success! We thought we would share some of your feedback as well as pictures to remember the experience by...

Would you be interested in attending future HQP PDS?

Yes! – All 50 returned surveys

After attending the PDS, do you feel better prepared to enter the job market?

- Absolutely!!! The PDS has given me confidence and reiterated that there really are jobs out there. I also learned that there is no perfect job or one way to do things when looking for a job.
- Absolutely yes! This program was a trigger to me to start thinking about what I really want and what kind of talent and ability I have. It also helped make me aware of what skills I have and what skills that I need to improve.
- Yes, it really helped me to shape my resume and CV. The portfolio idea was great!



Allan Bonner's "Effective Communication" - most valuable session
(Photo courtesy of Chibuike Udenigwe)

A favourite pass time at any AFMNet event . . . eating! (and networking!)
(Photo courtesy of Jan Smith)



Allan Bonner and Dave Mackenzie presenting Goutam Thakur with the Early Bird registration prize – a Nintendo Wii!!
(Photo courtesy of Jan Smith)

2009 PDS Recap (continued from cover)

What session was the most valuable to you?

- Effective Communication (Allan Bonner) - 23
- Employer Panel - 9
- Resume Workshop (Sonny and Lisa) - 23
- Effective Grant Proposals - 13

Other Comments

- Keep up the great work! This is extremely useful, relevant and necessary! I would have never thought as a graduate student that I would get to travel, network and share my experiences in this way!
- This has been the best winter school that I have attended!
- Dr. Rickey Yada is an inspiration!
- I have learned a lot of valuable information that I believe is not widespread. I feel that I now have an advantage over my competitors!
- I feel much more excited about what's ahead for me instead of afraid.

*AFMNet CEO Dr. Ron Woznow addressing HQP
(Photo courtesy of Jan Smith)*



The Newest Addition to the AFMNet HQ Team

Hi HQP! I come to you from the laboratories of Kingston, the industry of Montreal and the foothills of the Andes (see photo)! My name is Tom Dowler and I am the new Business Development Analyst at AFMNet. I began working at the AFMNet office in January, with a primary goal to support the transition of exciting research in AFMNet's projects into the food, health and materials industries. In addition to managing the current Strategic Transition & Application of Research (STAR) projects, I will also be monitoring ongoing Discovery projects for potential STAR funding and business opportunities. For many HQP within the network, your cutting edge research has been geared toward development/transfer into industry goods and services. The STAR program is in place to support proof of principle projects to show, by the end of the 1 year funding period, that the technology will be successful and financially viable. I look forward to discussing and exploring the different potential markets for your technologies and how best to develop them to a commercial gain.

My interest in patenting and technology transfer began at Topigen Pharmaceuticals Inc., a clinical stage start-up company based on research out of both

Université de Montréal and McGill University in Montreal. More recently, I obtained my MSc in Biochemistry at Queen's University, specializing in protein structure and function. Armed with my various experiences in pharmaceutical industry and academic research, delving into the business side of AFMNet's science will continue to be both exciting and rewarding.

I met some of you at the HQPA Professional Development School in Toronto and look forward to getting to know everyone at the ASC meeting in Guelph this summer.

~ Tom Dowler





Words of Advice from the Communication Officers

As you may already know, time is running out for this year's Council. We thought this edition of the Insider would be a great place to give all our HQP interested in becoming involved with next year's Council an insight on the responsibilities of the Executive Council. We will explain a bit about responsibilities and our experiences. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us:

Ani Byrne (ani.byrne@utoronto.ca) or Trisha Pownall (umpowna0@cc.umanitoba.ca).

Responsibilities – The Council is designed to provide a bridge between all HQP in the Network and the Administrative Centre in Guelph, ON. Responsibilities of the Council include quarterly publications of the HQPA Insider, planning the Professional Development School and keeping HQP up to date on the happenings around the Network. Of course, each Council is more than welcome to develop new activities and initiatives – for example, this year we initiated the weekly HQPA contribution to Louise's Friday FYIs.

This year's Council had six members – and while we all had our “titles,” the Council truly is cooperative in nature and our roles overlap. We always have excellent support from the staff at the Administration Centre – Louise, Jan and Kelly - who recognize that we are students and school comes first! While the time commitment is necessary to consider when deciding to be on the council, school does take priority and if you miss a teleconference or need help with publishing the Insider, other members are always willing to step in and lend a hand.



Ani Byrne and Trisha Pownall
(Photo courtesy of Chibuike Udenigwe)

An AFMNet HQP Success Story

In July 2005, I joined the Department of Human Nutritional Sciences of the University of Manitoba as a Postdoctoral fellow in Dr. James Friel's Laboratory. A few months later my project, entitled “Bioactive Compounds of Human Milk,” was selected by AFMNet for funding. I then became involved with the Network and the HQPA. As part of my AFMNet project, I developed separation methods and assays to identify novel compounds in human milk that have antioxidant properties. These antioxidants can be used to reduce lung and intestinal diseases in infants, most of which are related to oxidative stress. Results from this research have been published and presented at international conferences such as Experimental Biology and Free Radical Biology, as well as at the AFMNet Scientific Conference. I actively participated at 3 professional development workshops organized by the HQPA. I found these workshops very interesting not only in terms of networking (knowing what others are doing) but also in terms of the content. In July 2008, I joined

the Food Science and Nutrition program at Carleton University, Ottawa as an Assistant Professor. This is a new program at Carleton and is designed to provide students solid science knowledge in chemistry, biology and biochemistry with a strong emphasis on assessment, management and communication of risk in food safety. Graduates of the program will not only be skilled scientists but will also have the ability to assess risk and formulate policy. At Carleton, I teach courses in Food Chemistry and Food Analysis and my research interest is oxidative stress. I evaluate the antioxidant properties of food components using in vitro and cell based assays as well as the effects on components of protein expressions and their relation to disease states.

~ Dr. Apollo Tsopmo



Upcoming Events Call for Nominations 2009-2010 HQPA Governing

What: Call for Nominations for the 2009-2010 Governing Council

When: The deadline has been extended until **March 20, 2009**

The elections for the 2009-10 HQPA Governing Council are fast approaching and we are encouraging everyone who is interested in joining to submit a nomination. Although there are six designated positions within the council, it is a collaborative group where ideas and positions can be shared. The council is responsible for the development of the HQPA Insider, creating and hosting an HQP Professional Development School and generally promoting the involvement of fellow HQP in the network. If you are curious about your potential responsibilities, time commitments or the positions available, please feel free to email anyone on the council or Kelly Krashinsky.

Who can apply: Any HQP who is on active AFMNet research projects - this includes all undergraduates, graduate students and post-doctorates.

How to apply: Nominations are to be forwarded to Kelly Krashinsky at: kelly.krashinsky@afmnet.ca.
And YES, YOU CAN NOMINATE YOURSELF!!

Include in your nomination: a) AFMNet project with which you are associated b) Supervisor c) Current position in network (BSc, BA, MSc, MA, PhD, post-doc, research associate) and d) Brief bio and why you think you would be an asset to the HQPA Council

5th Annual Scientific Conference

June 11-14, 2009 - Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre in Guelph, ON

AFMNet will host its 5th Annual Scientific Conference in Guelph, Ontario this coming spring. The Annual Scientific Conference is the prime conduit for the sharing of information within the Network and amongst our partners.

Program Highlights:

HQP Poster Competition

Industry Reception

Scientific Presentations

... plenty of good food and company!

Keynote Speakers

***Early bird registration and poster abstract submission deadline:
Friday April 10, 2009***

For More Information & to Register, please visit:
<http://www.afmnet.ca/asc/5/summary.html>

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