



## Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

**REMINDER!!!**  
The next GA Meeting is October 10.

The next Postdoc Social is October 17. Please see the events calendar.

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Submissions Welcome  
lapa\_communications@lanl.gov

Visit LAPA's website @  
<http://www.lanl.gov/projects/pda/>

# First Annual LAPA Career Fair

On September 4-6, 2007, LANL and LAPA made Lab history by holding the first ever external career fair for postdocs. This event was an overwhelming success, with twenty-four internationally recognized companies, think tanks, and national laboratories present. The fair attracted over 180 attendees, the majority of them LANL and Sandia postdocs (including some from the Livermore campus in California!). Many of the participating postdocs received on-site interviews.



Holding a postdoc career fair was identified as a LAPA priority at the inception of the Association and led to the formation of the LAPA Career Committee. Earlier this year, the idea was discussed in a meeting with Director Michael Anastasio, who immediately lent his support. The fair was organized over a span of several months by the LAPA Career Committee, LANL Human Resources Office, and Postdoc Program Office. Furthermore, this event was endorsed by the office of the Principal Associate Director for Science, Technology, and Engineering (PADSTE) and financial support was provided by the Technology Transfer division.

The fair began on September 4 with a meet-and-greet event for postdocs and company representatives held at the Best Western hotel in Los Alamos. Principal Associate Director Terry Wallace welcomed those attending, pointing out the importance of LANL's postdocs to the future of the Lab and expressing his support for postdoc career development opportunities. Some of the company representatives present were alumni of the LANL postdoc program or have colleagues who are former LANL postdocs.



The main event took place on the following day at the Research Park. A welcome address was given by Duncan McBranch, then Division Leader of Technology Transfer, and Kim Thomas,



Program Director for Science and Technology Base Programs. The event enjoyed continuous interest during the business day, with attendees mingling in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Company reps described their institutions in several information sessions. Interview rooms were available and almost constantly in use. The career fair wound down on September 6 with additional company information sessions and on-site interviews.



Exit surveys taken among company representatives and postdocs who attended the career fair showed overwhelming satisfaction with the event. The observation most commonly expressed by the reps (94%) was that they were extremely impressed with the qualifications of LANL postdocs. Over 60% of the reps were able to conduct on-site interviews and all expressed strong interest in attending a LANL postdoc career fair next year. Over 80% of the surveyed postdocs were also satisfied with the career fair.



This event has demonstrated the importance of maintaining close connections between Los Alamos National Laboratory, other national labs, and industry. In addition to contributing to the career development of LANL's postdocs, it served as an opportunity for making outside institutions aware of the Lab's creative capacity and as a forum for maintaining contact with alumni of the LANL Postdoc Program. In view of its success this year, LAPA will ask LANL management to continue their support of the postdoc career fair by holding it on an annual basis.



**Meet & Greet**

Sept. 4  
5:30 - 8:00

**Career Fair**

Sept. 5  
8:00 - 3:00



## Upcoming Events

### GA Meeting

Date: 10/10/07

Time: 12:00 - 1:00

Where: Otowi Cafeteria, Siderooms A&B

### Behavioral Interviewing Class

Date: 11/15/07

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Where: Canyon School, Rm. 164

### Postdoc Night

Date: 10/17/07

Time: 5:30 - 8:30

Where: La La's Cocina (on Trinity across from Sonic)

### LAPA Officer Elections

Want to get more involved in LAPA? Officer elections are in November! At the October GA meeting, we will seek nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. You must be a voting member to be nominated, please check with the Secretary ([secretary\\_lapa@lanl.gov](mailto:secretary_lapa@lanl.gov)) if you're unsure of your status.

## LAPA Committee Reports

### Policy Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Communication Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Finance Committee

- Nothing to report

### Social Committee

- The End-of-Summer BBQ scheduled for Sept. 15 is ready to go. See you there!

### Conversion Committee

- Nothing to report.

### Career Committee

Thank you to our Career Fair volunteers:

- Gwen Proust
- Antonia Antoniou
- Ozan Ugurlu
- Nate Mack
- Robyn L. Gdula
- Himashinie V. Diyabalanage

Social Chair:

- Zoë Fisher

Organizing Committee:

- Laura Stonehill
- Michael Demkowicz
- Jason Stairs
- Roshan Shrestha
- Joseph Hickey

Co-organizers:

Postdoc Program Office

Lee Ann Holland

Barbara Roybal

Becky Duran

Mary Anne With

LANL - HR

Tamara Roybal

Sandra One Feather

Sponsors:

- LANL Director's Office
- LANL Principal Associate Directorate for Science, Technology, and Engineering
- LANL Technology Transfer Division
- Los Alamos Research Park



## Committee Spotlight: Policy Committee

The Policy Committee is responsible for reviewing the bylaws and offering opinions on proposed amendments. They also deal with collecting concerns from the postdoc community. The Policy Committee meets twice a year, before the Biannual Meetings, as well as other times in response to actions taken at GA meetings. If you're a lawyer at heart, or just pay attention to details, this is the committee for you. Contact [lapa\\_policy@lanl.gov](mailto:lapa_policy@lanl.gov) for more information.

## General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the LAPA General Assembly was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 12:03 PM in the MSL Meeting Place. LAPA Vice-President Roshan Shrestha was the presiding officer. The agenda was amended to include "New Business", an additional announcement, and taking a photo of the meeting attendees to commemorate LAPA's one-year anniversary. The minutes from the previous meeting (8/8/07), which had been posted on the LAPA webpage, were approved without correction. The Secretary (Chandra Savage Marsden) recognized one new voting member and presented him with a copy of the bylaws.

Committee reports were given by Zoë Fisher (chair, Social Committee) and Roshan Shrestha (acting chair, Career Committee). A motion was approved by unanimous consent that the Career Committee be tasked with creating a survey (to be distributed in 1-2 months) for both postdocs and employers to determine whether any interviews and/or job offers resulted from the Career Fair.

A Call for the Orders of the Day was made in order to vote on the proposed bylaw amendment, and this item of business was then taken up in the proper order. A motion to change all references to "LANL" in the amendment to read "Los Alamos National Laboratory" was approved by a voice vote, and the amendment as corrected was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The business conducted at the July and August

meetings in the absence of a quorum was presented for approval. A motion was approved by voice vote to vote on all the items as a package, and the business was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

In New Business, a motion was made that the Communication Committee work with the postdoc office to institute a monthly postdoc orientation using the presentation presented by the LAPA president to MSCookies and Tea. An amendment was approved by unanimous consent to replace "using" with "based on". Another amendment was proposed to include the date of the presentation, but it was amended to strike all references to the source material. The amended amendment was then approved by a voice vote. The amended motion, that the Communication Committee work with the postdoc office to institute a monthly postdoc orientation, was approved by unanimous consent. The Communication Committee was instructed to report back to the General Assembly at the next meeting.

A motion to serve cake was approved by unanimous consent, and the chair of the Social Committee was directed to cut and serve the cake. Four bylaw amendments were presented, and a motion was approved by unanimous consent to submit them to the Policy Committee for consideration. The Policy Committee was tasked with discussing the amendments and providing recommendations to the General Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM

## Postdoc Profiles

**Name:** Menka Jain  
**Group:** MPA-STC  
**Ph.D. Institution:** University of Puerto Rico  
**Research Interests:** Solution synthesis of metal-oxide thin films.  
**Hobbies or interests:** Painting, watching movies, traveling.



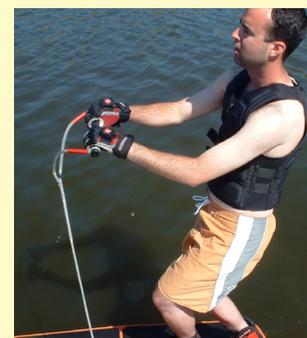
**Name:** Satish Chikkannanavar  
**Group:** C-CSE  
**Ph.D. Institution:** Indian Institute of Science  
**Research Interests:** Carbon nanotubes, nanowires, and related nanoscale materials.  
**Hobbies or interests:** Music, movies, sightseeing, biking, poker, shuttle badminton.



**Name:** August "Gus" Keksis  
**Group:** C-NR/X-2  
**Ph.D. Institution:** Texas A & M University  
**Research Interests:** Neutron capture cross sections.  
**Hobbies or interests:** Playing games, collecting, driving.



**Name:** Eric Loomis  
**Group:** P-24  
**Ph.D. Institution:** Arizona State University  
**Research Interests:** Dynamic deformation of materials using high intensity lasers.  
**Hobbies or interests:** Golf, hockey, soccer, skiing.



**Name:** Leslie Chavez  
**Group:** T-10  
**Ph.D. Institution:** Univ. of California, San Diego  
**Research Interests:** HIV and immune system dynamics  
**Hobbies or interests:** Hiking, bicycling, dancing, blogging, reading.



**Name:** Haiyan Wang  
**Group:** C-NR  
**Ph.D. Institution:** University of Florida  
**Research Interests:** Laser cooling & trapping, mass spectrometry, spectroscopy  
**Hobbies or interests:** Reading, table tennis



# Postdoc Program Office Announcements

## FY '08 Postdoc Salary Guidelines

The FY '08 Postdoc Salary Guidelines, which are effective 10/1/07, can be accessed at <http://int.lanl.gov/science/postdocs/becoming/salary.shtml>. Individual postdoc salaries will be automatically updated to reflect the change to the guidelines. For those postdocs who were hired at a salary that varies from the guidelines, their new salary will be adjusted to the equivalent percentage above the guidelines that they were hired in at.

## Call for Postdoc Distinguished Performance Award Nominations

Next month the call for nominations for the FY07 Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Awards (PDPA) will be distributed by e-mail to all postdoc mentors and postdocs and will also be posted on the Postdoc Program web site at <http://int.lanl.gov/science/postdocs/index.shtml>. These awards recognize individual postdoctoral researchers or teams of no more than three postdoctoral researchers who have made an outstanding and unique contribution resulting in a positive and significant impact on the Laboratory's programmatic/organizational efforts or status in the scientific community during FY07.

## Calendar of Events

October 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 LAPA GA Meeting 12:00 pm Otowi Side-rooms A & B	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Postdoc Night! 5:30 pm La La's Cocina	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Los Alamos Postdoc Newsletter

## LAPA Officers

President:  
Michael Demkowicz

Vice-President:  
Roshan Shrestha

Secretary:  
Chandra Savage Marsden

Treasurer:  
Kevin Houston

## Committee Chairs

Policy:  
Melissa Lucero

Communication:  
Nate Mack

Finance:  
Laura Stonehill

Social:  
Zoë Fisher

Conversion:  
Nate Mara

Career:  
Roshan Shrestha (acting)

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Online Issues available  
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