

Rutgers Health and Rutgers Brain Health Institute Postdoc Peek

Postdoc Recruitment Event

May 20, 2026

Rutgers Health and the Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI) will host Postdoc Peek, a two-day, all-expenses-paid on-campus visit for invited senior graduate students and early postdoctoral fellows. We received more than 80 applications and selected 13 highly qualified candidates. Participants will explore postdoctoral training and research opportunities across a broad range of disciplines at Rutgers, connect with faculty members, and learn about research and campus life throughout the university.

Nine candidates will visit the Busch campus on May 19–20 and present their work in the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine (CABM) Room 010 in Piscataway, NJ. Four candidates will visit the Newark campus on May 31–June 1.

We welcome current faculty and trainees to attend the May 20 event to connect with the candidates and spark new ideas.

Time	Details
8:30–9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00–9:30 am	Opening Remarks by Dr. Gary Aston-Jones (Director-Rutgers Brain Health Institute) and Dr. Janet Alder (Assistant Vice Chancellor for Postdoctoral Affairs-Rutgers Health)
9:30–11:30 am	7-minute talks with 3-minute Q&A by nine prospective postdocs
11:30 am–2:30 pm	Faculty take prospective postdocs individually to their labs (11:30–12:30, 12:30–1:30, 1:30–2:30); Lunch with current postdocs in CABM Atrium
2:30–3:30 pm	iJOBS panel about careers in industry (CABM Room 010)
3:30–4:30 pm	Group tours of the core facility on Busch (Waksman imaging core and CAHBIR)
4:30–5:00 pm	Walking tour of Busch Campus

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Candidates Presentation

Time	Candidate	Talk Title
09:30 – 09:40	Sophie Cohen <i>Drexel University</i>	Intermittent access to cocaine promotes mesolimbic dopamine dysfunction, sleep disruptions, and cue-induced cocaine seeking during short- and long-term abstinence periods
09:45 – 09:55	Eunji Hong <i>Binghamton University</i>	Engineering Neural Modulation from Nano to Neural Circuits
10:00 – 10:10	Sanghamitra Nareddula <i>Purdue University</i>	Theta frequency oscillations in visual learning and memory
10:15 – 10:25	Jude Owiredu <i>Weill Cornell Medicine</i>	From Code to Calories: A Cancer Scientist's Journey Across Genomics and Metabolism
10:25 – 10:35	10-minute break	
10:35 – 10:45	Mia Roberts <i>Temple University</i>	The role of PICK1 in cocaine-induced behavioral and molecular plasticity
10:45 – 10:55	Bryan Simmons <i>University of Kansas - Lawrence</i>	Identifying Appropriate Communication Modalities in Adults w/ IDD
11:00 – 11:10	Venkatesh Varadharaj <i>University of Nebraska Medical Center</i>	GlycoRNA Reprogramming in Pancreatic Cancer Progression
11:10 – 11:20	Jinyan Zhou <i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	Neuroimmune crosstalk in disease
11:20 – 11:30	Meredith Ziliak <i>Purdue University</i>	Characterizing the Damage Profile of Small Arms Fire Noise Induced Hearing Loss



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