

From the Desk of the:

## Director of Postdoctoral Affairs



Dear Colleagues,

As we are at – what looks like – the tail of the pandemic, let me, foremost, congratulate you on your resilience and ability to withstand adversity and continue to thrive. You are part of our research community making it possible for FAU to reach previously unheard of realms of research activity. Unlike many other universities during the pandemic, FAU continued and is continuing to grow its research, and you are part of this growth. So, thank you and congratulations!

As we are now re-envisioning life post-pandemic and are starting to have in-person meetings and gatherings again, I would like to encourage you to participate in some of the activities our office is supporting to assist and improve your career outlooks. Teaching experience and active research are obvious activities important for your future career. Maybe not as obvious, but at least as important, are leadership skills, team building, collaboration and communication skills. Few people are born leaders, but leadership skills can be learned. Take the time now to start that learning process, you will be more successful in your career for it.

Here are a few activities to support your career:

We are working closely with the FAU High School and the Provost's office on providing teaching opportunities that can be used to gather experience for those of you interested in pursuing a career that requires or encourages formal – or informal – teaching. You will find information on this topic in this newsletter.

Your postdoc association has been busy at work organizing a virtual symposium with Florida International University to highlight research at both institutions and provide opportunities for collaborations and networking. If you have not considered it yet, think about joining the Postdoc Association as an officer. Such a position will allow you to hone your leadership skills and get experience in team building and teamwork.

We are hosting a retreat for postdoctoral fellows this fall, which will have both a professional development purpose and provide an opportunity to meet like-minded people. The in-person event will take place on the beautiful Harbor Branch campus. No matter what position you are pursuing, networking will always be one of the most important activities that will aid you in your career. What better way to start, with peers. The Vice President for Research, Dr. Daniel Flynn, and I are looking forward to seeing you at this retreat.

Lastly, as always, we look to you for suggestions on topics or speakers that might be of value to you. Please contact us with any suggestions, challenges and thoughts. We look forward to seeing you in person in the Fall!

**Karin Scarpinato, Ph.D.**

Senior Associate Vice President for Research at FAU  
and Director of Postdoctoral Affairs

