



## BEST @ Cornell

### Events for February 2017

#### **BIOMS 5665 Community-based Cancer Research Presentations and Discussions**

Do you have an interest in cancer research and cancer healthcare? You will have an opportunity to engage with cancer patients and survivors from the local community as well as to develop skills related to public communication of cancer science. This course is part of a broader curriculum on community engagement by cancer scientists that grew out of a partnership between Cornell and the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes. **Starts this Wednesday, January 25, at 5:15pm**

**Location: Warren Hall room 173**

#### **Should I Do a Postdoc? | 2/1/17 Registration required.**

Attend this session if you have questions about postdoctoral programs. Join a panel of experts to get informed on career trends, and learn when to start discussing your career plans with your advisor.

**Location: Weill 226**

#### **2017 AAAS Annual Meeting | 2/16-20/17**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) will be holding its annual symposium this year at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA. The theme of this year's meeting is: "Serving Society through Science Policy."

**Location: 900 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02115**

For a complete list of events, see the [Events Page](#)

### Announcements

#### **Select Group of BESTies Visits Procter & Gamble Headquarters:**

Seven students, five of which are members of the BEST program, have been selected to attend a site visit to the Procter & Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati, OH. The visit is not for the purposes of job placement, but rather for attendees to learn about career possibilities and evaluate if they fit within an industry setting. We extend our congratulations to Alicia Cintora, **Sabrina Kelch**, **Evgeniya Nazarova**, **Ornella Nelson**, Erik Skibinski, **Michael Weiner**, and **Bo Yang** for stepping outside their comfort zone by giving a 3-minute flash talk to industry experts from multiple disciplines. A corporate overview, lab facility tours and one-on-one conversations with 20 Cornell alumni were highlights of the visit.

#### **Leonardo Arbiza Was Selected for the Insight Health Data Science Program:**

After attending the BEST sponsored info session to get inside tips on how to apply, Leo was accepted to both the Boston and San Francisco locations, and will attend in Silicon Valley. The Insight Data Science Program is an intensive, 7-week postdoctoral opportunity. Program fellows receive training aimed at "bridging the gap between academia & data science," according to Insight. Graduates of the Insight Data Science program hold jobs in prominent companies such as Facebook, JPMorgan, and Palantir. Leonardo is currently a research associate in the Department of Biological Statistics and Computational Biology.

Ethan Sanford, Editor

#### Member Spotlight: Erin Chu



Veterinary medicine might be a dog-eat-dog world, but that hasn't stopped Erin Chu, February's BESTie of the month, from pursuing her dreams. She's currently tackling a combined DVM/Ph.D and is planning to pursue a career in Medical Affairs. Her research investigates the role of long non-coding RNAs in modulating gene expression or repression. Erin has had rigorous basic scientific as well as veterinary training, and hopes to "Make the BEST (!) of it" in her career. She also serves as a consultant for a Cornell-affiliated startup, Embark Veterinary. When asked what skill current grad students should be practicing, Erin was adamant that current grad students should practice a kind of professional empathy, that is, "if you understand what people need and what they uniquely can give to a project, endeavor, [or] organization, you optimize your chance for success as a team." Despite the challenges of a dual-degree program, Erin advocates work/life balance and writes that "I've sort of come to the understanding that to be happy in the lab, you've got to be happy outside the lab."

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