A note from the Research Scientist Association Council Chair
We hope everyone is enjoying the warm spring weather and beautiful blooms that this time of year brings to New England! The RSAC has been busy this spring working on projects to support the Research Scientists. Our big project this year has been working on compiling the results of the Research Scientist Survey we sent out in December 2022. Thank you to all who participated! We will be sharing these results with the Research Scientists very shortly and are making plans for a hybrid Town Hall on May 19th to discuss the results with the Research Scientists, followed by the annual RSAC Open Meeting and Spring Social. This meeting is open to all Research Scientists, especially those who are interested in learning more about the Council and potentially joining! Even if you can’t make it to the Open Meeting, please come and join for the Social afterwards!
Kind regards,
Karen Inouye

Important Reminders

RSA Spring Seminar: May 4th, 2023 at 1-2pm
We are pleased to have HSPH Research Scientists Dr. Susan Peters and Dr. Gillian SteelFisher, both winners of the 2022 Research Scientist Association Award, present their work. Zoom link is available here (pass: 649410).

Research Scientist Town Hall and Open Meeting, followed by Spring Social: Friday May 19th, 12:30-2pm, FXB Center, followed by the Social, 2-4pm)
Open to all Research Scientists. Come review and discuss the results of the recent Research Scientist Survey, learn about the Research Scientist Association Council, and get to know your fellow Research Scientists. We especially encourage Research Scientists who are interested in joining the RSAC to attend the Open Meeting. Email invitation to come soon.

Research Scientist Appointment Applications Due - Monday, May 8, 2023
Due dates for application materials for new RS appointments, re-appointments, promotions for consideration at the RS review committee meetings are due Monday, May 8th, 2023, for the May 23rd meeting.

Other School Activities

Grant writing consultation service available
Harvard Catalyst offers individualized feedback for Harvard-affiliated staff planning to apply for an NIH K award. See link for more details.

Harvard Academic Workers (HAW) Union is collecting signatures to indicate interest in being represented by the union. Find out more on their website.
New Research Scientist Appointments

- **Simona Cristea**, Research Scientist, Biostatistics, 11/22
- **Vincenzo Bollettino**, Senior Research Scientist, Global Health and Population, 1/23
- **Mario Flores**, Research Scientist, Nutrition, 2/23
- **Ki-Do Eum**, Research Scientist, Health Policy and Management, 4/23
- **Abhinav Kaushik**, Research Scientist, Environmental Health, 4/23
- **Zhu Zhuo**, Research Scientist, Biostatistics, 4/23
- **Zhuoxin Sun**, Senior Research Scientist, Biostatistics, 4/23
- **Jeremy Simon**, Senior Research Scientist, Biostatistics, 5/23

Promotions

- **Marianna Cortese**, Senior Research Scientist, Nutrition, 12/22
- **Gurol Tunçman**, Senior Research Scientist, Molecular Metabolism, 12/22
- **Michael Chao**, Senior Research Scientist, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, 2/23
- **Shannan Ho Sui**, Principal Research Scientist, Biostatistics, 2/23
- **Danielle Braun**, Principal Research Scientist, Biostatistics, 4/23

Faculty appointments

- **Kjetil Bjornevik**, Epidemiology and Nutrition, Senior Research Scientist appointed as Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, 3/23

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Summary of Research Scientist Survey results

**Find out more, share your experience and contribute to change, join us at the upcoming Research Scientist Town Hall meeting on May 19th**

Goal of the survey: To understand the needs and concerns of HSPH Research Scientists in order to better advocate for Research Scientists and to improve the Research Scientist experience at HSPH.

Survey administration: On December 13, 2022 the HSPH Research Scientist Council sent out a survey to all HSPH Research Scientists. We collected information about demographics, professional development, career trajectory, compensation, mental health and wellness, and overall top concerns of Research Scientists. We received responses from 51 out of 110 TH Chan Research Scientists.

Main findings of what Research Scientists are looking for:

1. Revision of the Research Scientist title
2. Improved salaries and salary equity
3. Improved definition of career and promotion path
4. Improved support/resources

(Full results will be shared prior to Town Hall)
Research Scientist Updates

Collaborations

Susan Peters (Research Scientist, Social and Behavioral Sciences) is a co-investigator and Harvard Sub-award PI for a project entitled Thriving Workers and Thriving Workplaces: Identifying modifiable working conditions, individual characteristics, and the well-being of workers, funded by La Superintendencia de Seguridad Social (SUSESO), Chile. The purpose of this 18-month project is to identify working conditions that affect worker well-being using the Thriving from Work Questionnaire in workers across several sectors in Chile through a collaboration with Mutual de Seguridad and FLACSO Chile.

Presentations

Tim Lomas (Research Scientist, Human Flourishing Program) joined a delegation in March 2023 from Harvard led by Arthur Brooks at the Kennedy School to visit His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India, with whom Dr Lomas participated in a small panel on the topic of leadership and happiness.

Publications


**Tim Lomas** (Research Scientist, Human Flourishing Program) has had a productive few months with these publications:


**Susan Peters** (Research Scientist, Social and Behavioral Sciences) has recently published a study describing the development of the long- and short-form versions of the Thriving from Work Questionnaire, which was designed to evaluate work-related well-being across six domains: basic needs for thriving from work, psychological and emotional well-being from work, social well-being from work, work-life integration, job design and experience of work, and work-related health. (Peters SE, Gundersen D, Sorensen G, Katz JN, Wagner GR. Thriving from Work Questionnaire: Dimensionality, Reliability, and Validity of the Long- and Short-Form Questionnaires. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*. 2023. In Press.)

Susan also published a Cochrane Systematic Review examining the effectiveness and safety of splinting for carpal tunnel syndrome, a common upper limb disorder. (Karjalainen TV, Lusa V, Page MJ, O’Connor D, Massy-Westropp N. Peters SE**. Splinting for carpal tunnel syndrome. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2023, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD010003. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010003.pub2)

**Health Ribaudo** (Principal Research Scientist, Department of Biostatistics, Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research) is the lead statistician and co-PI of the Data Coordinating Center for the Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in people living with HIV (REPRIEVE). A planned interim analysis of data from the trial found that participants who took pitavastatin calcium, a daily statin, lowered their risk of major adverse cardiovascular events by 35% compared with those receiving a placebo. See the [NIH news release](https://www.nih.gov) for details on this exciting breakthrough.

**Minttu Rönn** (Research Scientist, Global Health and Population) recently published a manuscript identifying pre-pandemic correlations between flu vaccination coverage and presidential election vote share: correlations with voting patterns were stronger for covid-19 than for flu, but the characteristics associated with vaccination status were similar. (Minttu M Rönn, Nicolas A Menzies, Joshua A Salomon, (2023) Vaccination and voting patterns in the United States: analysis of COVID-19 and flu surveys from 2010 to 2022, American Journal of Preventive Medicine (2023), doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2023.03.001)

**Matt Smith’s** (Research Scientist, Environmental Health) manuscript "Pollinator Deficits, Food Consumption, and Consequences for Human Health: A Modeling Study" was chosen by editors as one of the top twelve papers published in Environmental Health Perspectives last year, included in their "Editors' Choice Collection 2022.

**Zhu Zhuo** (Research Scientist, Biostatistics) recently published a manuscript that demonstrates that the transcription factor Creb5 plays an instrumental role in the formation of synovial joints, and directs the genesis of the articular cartilage by driving the expression of signaling molecules that specify the joint interzone and inhibit a Wnt5a positive feedback loop in the perichondrium. (Zhang CH, Gao Y, Hung HH, Zhuo Z, Grodzinsky AJ, Lassar AB. Creb5 coordinates synovial joint formation with the genesis of articular cartilage. Nature communications. 2022 Nov 26;13(1):1-8. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-022-35010-0 PMID: 36435829 PMCID: PMC9701237)