



Erin Heckler, PhD, Named New Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce Erin Heckler, PhD, has agreed to take on the role of Director of the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA), effective January, 16, 2018.

Dr. Heckler comes to us from the University of Chicago where she has been the Postdoctoral Affairs Administrator in the Biological Sciences Division. In that role, she supported the Biological Sciences Division Post-doc Association, implemented the Postdoc mentor training certificate program, and coordinated seminars, symposia and other events and programming for post-docs. She has been active in the National Postdoc Association and the American Association of Medical Colleges, and has presented work on career development and outcomes at national meetings. She obtained her PhD at the University of Delaware in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Rutgers University in the department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience.

In her new role, Dr. Heckler will serve post-docs on both campuses, oversee all administrative aspects of postdoctoral community affairs, develop publications, programs and events, manage the postdoctoral affairs electronic data, communicate information about positions, housing, and career opportunities, and serve as an advocate for postdoc issues with faculty and administration leadership.

On looking forward to her new role, Dr. Heckler remarked, "This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with groups across both campuses as we expand the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, and I am delighted to join WashU in this role. I have experience in mentorship strategies and data-driven approaches to improving the postdoctoral experience that I plan to incorporate. Additionally, I will continue work advocating for postdoctoral issues on campus as we revise policies to meet the needs of these important members of the research community."

We are very grateful to Dr. Jessica Hutchins in DBBS who has been instrumental in keeping the post-doc office functioning since Mary Bradley's departure. As announced in late November, Jessica has been promoted to be the DBBS Director of Curriculum and Graduate Programs.

Dr. Heckler can be reached at heckler@wustl.edu and can be found in her primary office 451 Becker Library (within the DBBS offices), or in the Hoteling Office on the Danforth Campus (Skandalaris Center, basement of Mallinckrodt Center).

Sincerely,
Jennifer K. Lodge, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research