Note from Jay Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Coaching and Resource Network Connect web letter! I hope you find this new communication useful in deepening the relationships that the CRN is facilitating. Whether you are a mentor, mentee, or simply interested in CRN and the work of the Butler Center, CRN Connect will be the place to catch up on accomplishments of CRN participants and updates on CRN activities.

My thanks to Dr. Mangala Subramaniam for her terrific leadership of the Butler Center and for conceiving, launching, and stewarding the CRN. While most every unit on campus offers a mentoring program, and many faculty secure informal mentors on their own, the idea behind the CRN is a powerful one: building structured mentoring relationships outside one’s academic home.

By connecting assistant and associate professors with caring, accomplished full professors in another unit, a mentee-mentor relationship can develop unencumbered by some of the processes and dynamics present in a Department (promotion and tenure decisions, teaching assignments, merit review, etc.). In addition, such out-of-department coaching relationships offer the opportunity for assistant and associate professors to build connections and expand their exposure across the University.

COVID-19 and racial tensions of the past year have created another level of challenges for faculty members – especially female faculty and faculty of color. CRN offers our faculty a new support system as they navigate the ups and downs of an academic career – a support system even more important during such an unsettled time. Thanks to all who are formally part of CRN – and thanks again to Dr. Subramaniam and the Butler Center for making this important program happen. Enjoy this inaugural issue!

Note from Mangala Subramaniam, Professor and Butler Chair and Director

I am very pleased to get the monthly CRN Connect newsletter started this semester. It will be a great platform to recognize achievements, share accomplishments, and even build a community of scholars to discuss navigating academic spaces. I hope you will all continue to submit items for the newsletter and also visit the center website at www.purdue.edu/butler. Please take some time from your busy lives to read each issue we put out so that you can celebrate successes!

This initiative and many others of the Butler Center is made possible by the tremendous support of Purdue’s faculty – thank you! I appreciate the time and effort of the CRN members and thank the CRN mentees for believing in this initiative. I am very grateful to Provost Jay Akridge for his unwavering support of all we do from the Butler Center.
Invited Talks & Conference Presentations


Mattoo, Seema, Career Talk: Microbiologists Gone Rogue? Venturing beyond traditional training to expand microbiological studies, World Microbe Forum (ASM/FEMS), June 2021.


Mattoo, Seema, Career Panel: Starting a New Lab, Molecular Genetics of Bacteria and Phages Meeting, August 2021.


Published Articles


Published Articles continued

Awards & Grants


Mattoo, Seema. Member, ASM Program Committee (elected), Host-Microbe Biology Track, American Society for Microbiology. 2022-24.


CRN Mentees - Promotions
To Associate Professor effective August 16, 2021
Seema Mattoo, associate professor of biological sciences, WL
Sherrie Steiner, associate professor of anthropology & sociology, PUFW
Kelly Vaughan, associate professor of english education, PUNW

Thank You!
My left shoulder was fractured and I went through a surgical repair in the last year during the pandemic. Being left-handed and living far from family, it was hard for me to continue and balance my personal and professional responsibilities with this injury. Dr. Dulcy Abraham, my CRN mentor supported me exceptionally in my psychological recovery and self-care in times of extreme self trauma, grief and social isolation. (Submitted by Nasreen Lalani)

Upcoming Butler Center Events & Announcements
See https://www.purdue.edu/butler/events-programs/fall-2021/index.php for Butler Center's 2021 Fall Program
• Support Circle WEN-U Drop-in announcing (a) CRN Connect and (b) WGHI as a Collaborative Partner in Support Circle - September 8, 3-4:30 p.m. Registration for in-person and livestreaming available.
• Lead by Example Series (new series starting Fall 2021), Speaker: Roslyn Carter Artis, President, Benedict College - September 17, 3-4:30 p.m. Registration for in-person and livestreaming will be available in Sept.
• Registration is open for the 12th Annual Conference for Assistant Professors titled "Institutional Resources to Soar to Promotion" - October 12-13, 2021 (https://www.purdue.edu/butler/conferences-for-faculty/conference-assistant-prof/index.php)