CAREER PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., LWSN 3102
Panel, Purdue Postdoctoral Association (PPDA)

Elizabeth Buescher, President of PPDA
Elizabeth Buescher is a postdoctoral research associate in the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture department for the past four years. She received a two-year NIFA USDA fellowship to continue her work on epigenetic control in maize seed development. Collaborations with multi-disciplinary groups has included research on plant leaf architecture and gene cloning using next generation sequencing in which statistics, bioinformatics, biochemistry, and QTL mapping were used. She received her Ph.D. from Purdue University, Department of Agronomy, in December of 2011 in which she examined the small RNA connection to wheat disease response.

Bhisham Sharma
Bhisham Sharma is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Center for Materials Processing and Tribology at Purdue University. Before this he spent two semester as a postdoctoral researcher in the Advanced Computation Materials and Experimental Evaluation (ACME) Laboratory at Purdue University. He received his Masters and PhD in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering at Purdue University and his Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from University of Pune, India. His PhD project, funded by the Office of Naval Research, involved improving the dynamic behavior of composite sandwich structures using resonator embedded cores. His current research focuses on mechanics involved in cutting of rocks and the formation of shear bands during large strain surface deformation during sliding processes.

Vidhya Munnamalai
Vidhya Munnamalai received her PhD from Purdue University in neurobiology studying growth cone guidance and neurite formation. She completely switched fields in her first postdoctoral position at the University of Washington, Seattle to study development of the mouse cochlea in order to design better strategies targeted towards hearing loss. Vidhya is currently pursuing her second postdoctoral position here, at Purdue University to investigate gene regulatory networks in the mammalian cochlea. She is also collaborating on a project investigating chicken cochlear development; a system that can regenerate its damaged cells to gain insights on the limitations of regeneration in mammals.

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