

Viewing Submission

****NOTE: The order of speakers listed below does not necessarily correspond to their order in the final program.**

Should your proposal be accepted, you will be able to finalize the speaker order at a later date.

Economic Implications of Scientific Training in the Biomedical Research Workforce

ID:

15410

Submitter's Email:

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Session Type:

Discussion Format

Session Description:

Can viewing the biomedical research workforce and its system of scientific training through an economic lens help us better understand the challenges it faces? Are the low wages paid to this highly educated workforce during postdoctoral training causing talent to move to other, more compensated positions in the private sector, or to abandon science and technology altogether? If so, is this a problem for the field? Even more importantly, can policy changes shift the trajectory of the biomedical workforce to sustain U.S. leadership in the research and development arena? This topic is particularly timely considering recent revisions made to the Fair Labor Standards Act that affect the overtime pay threshold. The reaction of the scientific community, including that of the National Institutes of Health, highlights the importance of the larger issue of trainee compensation. Improvements to the rather bleak economic outlook for these trainees will require policy changes and innovative incentives that reflect the value these skilled experts provide to the enterprise. These incentives will determine the future quality and quantity of the biomedical research workforce. This session explores the adoption and implementation of policies, such as the new overtime rule, and other strategies that can improve this arguably flawed system.

Categories:

1. Public Policy
2. Education

Section Member Affiliation:

Relevance to Theme or Special Relevance to the Audience:

Supporting the development of early-career scientists is central to the viability and sustainability of the American scientific enterprise. Many aspects of science policy tend to separate into two areas: science for policy and policy for science. Here, the use of social sciences research to inform natural sciences policy blends these two areas, supplying evidence for policy decisions that can help ensure the scientific community is providing meaningful and lasting benefits to society.

Disciplinary Sections Consulted?

No

Anything to disclose?

Yes

If so, please provide details:

Barbara J. Natalizio, proposal submitter, is a current member of the Board of Directors for the National Postdoctoral Association.

Diversity Statement:

Our panelists represent culturally diverse geographic regions of the United States, namely Georgia, Kansas, and Ohio. Two out of the three confirmed panelists are women. Furthermore, Donna Ginther studies gender differences and specifically, how to improve outcomes for women in biomedical careers. Moreover, Paula Stephan has served on a number of committees outside of the United States thereby enabling her to provide an international perspective.

Sections:

- EDUCATION (Q)
- SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL SCIENCES (K)
- SOCIETAL IMPACTS OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (X)

Type:

Discussion Format

keywords:

STEM education and training, economics, policy, science education research postsecondary and work-force development

Slot:

Sunday, February 19, 2017: 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Moderator

Barbara Natalizio

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Organizer

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Discussant

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Speaker

Donna Ginther

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Title: The Impact of Postdoctoral Studies on Subsequent Career Outcomes

Talk Description: Ginther is a labor economist with expertise in the STEM workforce, who served (with the other speakers) on the NIH's recent Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group. She will examine the causal effect of NIH F32 postdoctoral fellowships on subsequent career outcomes of employment sector, research engagement and NIH funding. In addition, she will discuss the effect of postdocs on earnings.

Status: Confirmed

Speaker

Paula Stephan

Professor of Economics

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Atlanta, GA

USA

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Title: The Economics of the Postdoctoral Position

Talk Description: Paula Stephan is a labor economist who has served on a number of committees both in the US and in Europe, including the National Academies' committee "On the Postdoctoral Experience Revisited." Stephan's presentation will focus on incentives and costs from the Principal Investigator's Perspective for employing postdoctoral fellows and the incentives and costs from the Fellow's perspective for taking such a position.

Status: Confirmed

Speaker

Bruce Weinberg

Professor of Economics and Public Affairs

Ohio State University

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Title: Early Careers of STEM Doctorates: Facts, Determinants, and Policy Implications

Talk Description: Weinberg is a labor economist with expertise in the STEM workforce, who served (with the other speakers) on the NIH's recent Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group. He will draw on his research documenting the early career outcomes of STEM doctoral recipients and studying the determinants of those outcomes drawing on new linked administrative data. He will also highlight some benefits and risks of the proposed policy changes.

Status: Confirmed