The University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Association (UPPDA) is seeking nominations for its Annual Postdoctoral Mentor Award.

Postdoctoral associates and scholars are invited to nominate their faculty mentors/PIs. As effective mentoring is a key component of a successful postdoc experience, this award is intended to recognize and honor mentors who have engaged in exceptional mentoring of postdoctoral associates/scholars. The recipient will receive his or her award at the annual UPPDA Data and Dine Symposium scheduled to be held on May 9th, 2018. In addition, the recipient will be nominated for the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) 2019 Garnett-Powers & Associates, Inc. Mentor Award. The recipient of the NPA Mentor Award will receive a plaque, an honorarium of $500, complimentary registration and a travel stipend to attend the 2018 NPA Annual Meeting. In fact, our 2015 winner of the UPPDA Postdoctoral Mentor Award, Dr. Jennifer Silk, went on to be awarded the NPA Mentor Award that year.

To learn about previous winners of the NPA Mentor Award, please visit the following sites:

2017 Mentor Award Recipient: Malene Hansen, Ph.D.

2016 Mentor Award Recipient: Shannon Manning, Ph.D., M.P.H.

2015 Mentor Award Recipient: Dr. Jennifer Silk (University of Pittsburgh)

2014 Mentor Award Recipient: Dr. Joel Elmquist

2013 Mentor Award Recipient: Dr. Munoz-Carpena

Nominations will be accepted from current University of Pittsburgh postdoctoral associates/scholars (anyone who is currently a postdoc or within five years of having completed postdoctoral training) from now through April 15, 2018. The UPPDA will adhere to the National Postdoctoral Association guidelines listed below.
To submit a nomination, please provide the following:

1. Brief description of the nominee (NIH Biosketch, etc). Please include the nominee's full name, title, institution, and academic credentials.
2. Short essay describing why you believe that your nominee should receive the 2018 University of Pittsburgh Postdoctoral Mentor Award. Mentor Award (1200-word limit). Consider addressing the following points:
   1. How your nominee provides "hands-on" professional development experiences for postdocs, such as writing papers or reviews and applying for grants/fellowships.
   2. How your nominee provides postdocs with guidance on networking and planning for their future careers.
   3. How your nominee maintains accessibility with postdoctoral scholars by consistently providing open lines of communication and helping them to become competent in communication.
   4. What are the philosophy, activities, characteristics, or traits of your nominee that make this person a truly outstanding mentor? Be sure to give specific examples.
   5. How the nominee's mentoring has benefited you personally (if applicable).
   6. A summary of the nominee's mentoring efforts, including, for example, the length of time that she or he has served as a mentor; the number of postdocs that the nominee has mentored; and examples of the success that these postdocs have had under the mentor's guidance, especially regarding increased proficiency in any of the six NPA Core Competencies.
   7. How the nominee has influenced the quality of the postdoctoral experience on a local, regional, or national level.
3. Up to three (3) supporting documents (e.g. letters of support from former postdocs within five years from completing their postdoctoral training and/or current postdoctoral scholars; newspaper, magazine, or journal articles).

Submit the nomination package electronically by e-mailing it to uppda@pitt.edu.

The UPPDA Executive Board will be responsible for reviewing nominations and making a final selection. The recipient will be notified no later than April 30, 2018.