

# BEST @ Cornell

## Events for May 2017

### 4th annual BEST Symposium | May 3&4: Opening remarks by President Martha Pollack

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual BEST symposium is upon us! Join your fellow BESTies beginning at 8:30am in Biotech G10 for a symposium sure to be chock-full of career insights and networking opportunities. Among the invited speakers are professionals in science policy, communication, government and industry. A networking lunch is planned for both days to help you meet valuable resources across campus and beyond, and a keynote address will be delivered by Kenneth Gibbs, Jr. on May 4.

**Location: Biotech G10**

### 9th Annual New York State Biotechnology Symposium | May 18 & 19, 2017

Join an assembly of academics and industry experts! Featuring a poster session and a keynote address by Nathan Tinker, this year's Biotechnology Symposium is centered around "Grand Challenges in Biotechnology" – including, for example, infectious diseases, nanobiotechnology, drinking water/wastewater, and public science literacy. NOTE: if you wish to present a poster, the abstract deadline is May 9.

**Location: SUNY ESF Gateway Center, 1 Forestry Dr., Syracuse, NY 13210**

### Creating and Owning Your Individual Development Plan | May 24, 2017

In this workshop, you will create a first draft IDP and an action plan to facilitate conversations with your advisor or supervisor about career goals, current and desired skills, and development opportunities.

**Location: 423 ILR King-Shaw Conference Center**

### Announcements | May 2017

#### Cornell is Well-Represented at March for Science

Bill Nye '77 wasn't the only Cornellian at the March for Science. Below are photos of some of our colleagues who attended the march to demonstrate their support for science, scientific literacy, and government agencies that fund scientific research.



Ethan Sanford, Editor

### Member Spotlight: Aaron Joiner



For May's BESTie of the month, we are pleased to spotlight Aaron Joiner, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Ph.D. student in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology. A member of the Fromme Lab, Aaron is investigating how a set of proteins called guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs) regulate various steps of vesicular transport using yeast as a model system. This type of transport is an essential process for all cells that have organelles and is conserved from yeast to humans. Aaron credits the BEST program as being "one of the few resources at Cornell designed to highlight careers outside of the academy." Aaron helped organize the 2016 BMCB/GGD Biennial Symposium, and emphasized that the opportunity to be on the symposium's planning committee taught him valuable lessons about event planning and about the etiquette associated with inviting speakers to campus. Aaron believes that, to be productive, one must be happy, and he makes a conscious effort to balance work with extracurriculars. When asked about career advice, Aaron encourages us to make informed decisions about our careers and to explore all options, including those that exist outside of the academy.

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