

BEST @ Cornell

The Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training Newsletter

Events | May 2018

[From PhD to Regulatory Affairs Professional](#) | 05/18/18 1:00PM-2:00PM

Do you seek to work in a federal agency? Dr. Rajni Singh, PhD'12 in Molecular and Integrative Physiology will share her experiences transitioning from a researcher to a regulatory affairs professional. She was an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow before taking her current position as a Consumer Safety Officer at the FDA. **Location: 102 Mann Library**

[2018 EWISE Symposium](#) | 05/23/18 10:00AM

The Empowering Women In Science and Engineering (EWIS) symposium is a one-day professional development event for faculty, staff, postdocs, PhD students, and professionals that provides participants with the opportunity to network with women and champions of women across the STEM disciplines.

Location: See Registration Form

Save the dates: The BEST Program and Graduate School invite you to join the [AAAS Workshop: Engaging with Policymakers](#) on June 5 and [Pathways to Success](#) on June 6. See links for more information and registration details.

BESTies have a knack for hacking

A group of 13 Cornellians, including 6 BESTies, joined more than 100 participants from 7 universities for a policy hackathon at MIT on April 6-8. Teams of 6 experts from diverse fields worked together over the course of 48 hours to analyze relevant data and to develop innovative proposals aimed at helping Boston achieve a sustainable future. Participation by the Cornell contingent was spearheaded by BEST advisory board member, Celine Cammarata (see sidebar).

BESTie Joseph Long, PhD student in Biomedical Engineering explained, "I went to the MIT Policy Hackathon with no experience in policy making whatsoever. I was in a group of scientists and engineers who were in the same shoes as me... We persevered through the experience and discovered some of the qualities that scientists need to drive data-based policy decisions." Marie Zwetsloot, PhD student in Horticulture was surprised that, "I had no idea I could do this. I've been working with my own data, but I never realized I had so many marketable skills." Read more [here](#).

One of the hallmarks of the BEST program is that it provides opportunities for experiential learning and skill development. That means a lot more than simply "doing something" like attending the Hackathon. It also includes the notion of engaging as an organizer and driver of ideas and activities. This is just one example of BESTies being exemplars of what the program is about!

Ethan Sanford, Editor
js372@cornell.edu

Member Spotlight: Celine Cammarata



May's BESTie of the Month is Celine Cammarata, a second-year Ph.D. student in the Human Neuroscience Institute within Cornell's Department of Human Development. Celine's work focuses on cognitive flexibility: in particular, she is interested in developing body-brain interventions against age-related declines in cognitive flexibility. Celine came to grad school with the full intention of pursuing a career in science policy, and her intentions have not changed much since then. She was interested in Cornell, in part, because of its support for non-academic career paths for Ph.D. trainees. Like many BEST members with a genuine interest in science policy, Celine had the opportunity to travel to Washington to communicate with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, an experience she notes was both formative for her desire to pursue science policy—and for her CV. Following her D.C. trip, Celine participated in MIT's Policy Hackathon, where she was able to craft real policy suggestions. As for advice, Celine stresses the importance of the Cornell BEST program for career development.

**Broadening
Experiences in
Scientific
Training**



325 Caldwell Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
www.BEST.cornell.edu