

Sept 2026 – June 2027 CNRC Postdoctoral Seminar Program

Fomon Conference Room, USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center

Tuesdays 12-1 PM

Sep	8	"Welcome to the 2026-27 CNRC Postdoc Program and Tips for Giving a Great Talk" -Nancy E. Moran, PhD, USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center, BCM
	15	Journal Club "Title" Deependra Kaji Thapa, PhD (Allison) (20 min) "Title" Titus Sombuor, PhD (Thompson and Musaad) (20 min)
	22	Seminar "Matrix cage: a novel platform for continuous metabolic phenotyping of group-housed mice" Yuhan Shi, PhD (Wang) (40 min)
	29	Seminar "Treatment response heterogeneity: methods and applications" Thirupathi Reddy Mokalla, PhD (Allison) (20 min) "Measuring the prevalence of dramatizing language in childhood obesity research" Mounika Kandukuri, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
Oct	6	"Workshop on How to Submit External Postdoc Funding Proposals in the CNRC" -LaTonya Beavers & Rabab Saab, CNRC Grants and Contracts
	13	Journal Club "Title" Olivia Charlotte Robertson, PhD (Allison) (20 min) "Title" Rita Wang, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
	20	Seminar "The association of psychosocial factors with fruit and vegetable intake following a game-based nutrition intervention" Titus Sombuor, PhD (Thompson and Musaad) (40 min)
	27	Seminar "Active immunization against GLP-1 and GIP to treat and prevent obesity" Weisheng Lu, PhD (Zhu) (40 min)
Nov	3	"The Job Hunt – Combining Your Online Search with Real-life Networking" -Lindsey Cauthen, PhD, Career Development Center, Ofc of Ed Affairs, BCM
	10	Journal Club "Title" Yuhan Shi, PhD (Wang) (20 min) "Title" Ana West, PhD (O'Connor) (20 min)
	17	Seminar "A mixed-methods investigation of Hispanic fathers' participation in the Papás Saludables, Niños Saludables Program" Ana Alvarez, PhD (O'Connor) (40 min)
	24	No Seminar Thanksgiving Week
Dec	1	"Defining Independence to Effectively Mentor Junior Scientists" -Fred A Pereira, PhD, Director of Mentoring and Prof Dev, Grad School Biomed Sci, BCM
	8	Journal Club "Title" Weisheng Lu, PhD (Zhu) (20 min) "Title" Hong Zhou, PhD (Zhu) (20 min)
	15	Seminar "Rigor, reproducibility, and transparency in science"

Seminar Course Leader: Nancy.Moran@bcm.edu Program Coordinator: CNRCPostdocAdmin@bcm.edu Updated: 9/3/2026

Website: <https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/sections-divisions-centers/childrens-nutrition-research-center/education/postdoc-seminar>

		Olivia Charlotte Robertson, PhD (Allison) (40 min)
22		No Seminar Week of Christmas & New Year's Day
29		No seminar Week of Christmas & New Year's Day
Jan 5		Professional Development Seminar "TBD"
12		Journal Club "Title" Jieyi Meng, MD (Zhu) (20 min) "Title" Julia Salamat, PhD (Shen) (20 min)
19		Seminar "Food noise differences between treatment-naïve and treatment-exposed children: cross-sectional analysis in pediatric patients" Rita Wang, PhD (Allison) (40 min)
26		Seminar "Choline metabolism in preterm piglets" Shya Navazesh, PhD (Guthrie and Burrin) (20 min) "Environmental manipulation of spinach flavonoids" Samuel Jesse, PhD (Dzakovich and Paape) (20 min)
Feb 2		"Effective Fellowship Writing Strategies" -Smita Jha, PhD, Office of Training Grants and Fellowships, Grad School Biomed Sci, BCM
9		Journal Club "Title" Katelyn Senkus, PhD (Moran) (20 min) "Title" Samuel Jesse, PhD (Dzakovich and Paape) (20 min)
16		Seminar "Transferrin receptor binding valency governs the circulating half-life and weight-loss efficacy of Fc-FGF21 in TfR-humanized mice" Hong Zhou, PhD (Zhu) (40 min)
23		Seminar "Metabolic mechanisms underlying the divergent effects of glucagon during fasting versus insulin secretion" Jieyi Meng, MD (Zhu) (40 min)
Mar 2		"Motivating Yourself and Others – Building Self-Efficacy" -Evelin Young, PhD, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, BCM
9		No Seminar Spring Break Week
16		Journal Club "Title" Mounika Kandukuri, PhD (Allison) (20 min) "Title" Thirupathi Reddy Mokalla, PhD (Allison) (20 min)
23		Seminar "Carotenoids and cardiometabolic health during pregnancy and infancy" Katelyn Senkus, PhD (Moran) (40 min)
30		Seminar "Title" Shreya Verma, PhD (Soltero) (20 min) "Fuel up for life: working with coaches in rural communities to promote healthy eating among high school students"

		Carley Lutzow, PhD, MPH (Thompson) (20 min)
April	6	Professional Development Seminar “TBD”
	13	Journal Club “Title” Sara Vivatson, DO (Bacha) (20 min) “Title” Shya (Guthrie and Burrin) (20 min)
	20	Seminar “Novel mouse models enabling locus-specific manipulation of DNA methylation” Julia Salamat, PhD (Shen)(40 min)
	27	Seminar “Longitudinal association between muscle mass laterality and neurodegenerative disease” Deependra Kaji Thapa, PhD (Allison) (40 min)
May	4	“Life after Your Postdoc Training – CNRC Alumni Postdoc Panel Discussion”
	11	Journal Club “Title” Carley Lutzow, PhD, MPH (Thompson) (20 min) “Title” Shreya Verma, PhD (Soltero) (20 min)
	18	Seminar “Examining diurnal patterns of bone turnover in children with disrupted sleep” Sara Vivatson, DO (Bacha) (40 min)
	25	Seminar “Title” [Reserved for incoming postdocs] (20 min) “Title” [Reserved for incoming postdocs] (20 min)
Summer Break (June – August)		

Journal Club
Faculty Didactic
Seminar