

## ***Postdoctoral Association at UCLA 2020 Postdoc Mentoring Award***

*The Postdoctoral Association (PDA) at UCLA is a postdoc-led organization dedicated to improving the quality of the postdoctoral experience. In recognition of the importance of exceptional mentoring to the postdoc experience, the PDA is inviting nominations, due January 11, 2021 for the 2020 Postdoctoral Mentoring Awards to be presented at the UCLA Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Award Ceremony on April 13, 2021.*

### **Goals of the PDA Postdoctoral Mentoring Award**

***Support high-quality mentors*** by providing public recognition of their mentoring excellence, both to raise their profile within the university community and to help them attract strong future postdocs and graduate students.

***Provide a positive forum for UCLA postdoctoral scholars*** to discuss the impact of mentoring in their work, and to express gratitude to remarkable mentors who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping them develop successful careers.

***Enable the university*** to identify and recognize faculty who are excellent mentors to their postdoctoral researchers and other trainees. Mentoring has its foundations in research, teaching, and service; therefore, exceptional mentors typically represent the highest expression of the goals of the university community.

***Empower future postdoctoral scholars*** in selecting prospective postdoctoral mentors who have a proven track record of successful mentoring relationships with trainees.

***To promote the importance of mentoring*** as the interactions between faculty mentors and postdoctoral scholars play a key role in the development of a postdoc.

### **Nominations**

Nominees must be current faculty members at UCLA, and the nomination must come from a current or recent postdoctoral researcher at UCLA. The postdoc may nominate a faculty member regardless of whether that faculty member serves as their primary formal advisor. The postdoc should submit the nomination form, as well as a nomination letter of no more than 600 words describing the impact of the nominee's mentorship on their postdoctoral experience (more information is provided on the nomination form).

***Submit nominations by email no later than 1/11/2021, to the Mentoring Award Committee Chair, Leslie Sedgeman (pda UCLA@g.ucla.edu) Questions relating to nominations can be sent to the same address.***

## **Selection criteria**

Awardees will be selected by a panel of UCLA postdoctoral researchers, based on standards for postdoctoral mentoring excellence outlined by the National Postdoctoral Association, such as whether the mentor:

- Acts as a positive role model
- Develops a supportive lab and/or work environment
- Collaborates in research projects
- Encourages confidence and creativity
- Fosters excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Helps establish professional networks at this campus and/or others
- Actively supports the exploration of diverse career paths for postdocs

Finalists will be identified based on the first round of nominations, and further nomination materials (including reference letters from other postdocs and/or graduate students) will be requested from the primary nominator to establish the breadth of the nominee's mentoring history.

## **Selection timeline**

January 11, 2021	Nominations due
Week of January 25	Finalists notified
February 12, 2021	Additional information due for finalists
Week of March 1	Announcement of award winners
April 13, 2021	Virtual award ceremony

## **Awards**

Awards will be presented at the virtual Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Awards ceremony on April 13, 2021. The awardees will be announced and presented with a plaque, and all finalists will also be recognized at the ceremony and on the Postdoctoral Association's website.