

Our Postdoc Association

- The Fellows Committee (FelCom) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is an organization dedicated to more than ~3,000 fellows, spread across 23 institutes.
- The work of FelCom is supported by eight subcommittees and fifteen liaison positions, including the **Visiting Fellows Committee (VFC)**
- <https://www.training.nih.gov/felcom>

Visiting Fellows Committee

- VFC establishes and maintains strong links of visiting fellows at the NIH to help them succeed while training in the US.
- The VFC builds community amongst visiting fellows by organizing social, cultural, and career-oriented activities.
- The VFC maintains a list of country representatives to connect visiting fellows.
- The VFC's "Science Voices from Home" is the organization's signature event.



Science Voices from Home

- "Science Voices from Home" helps fellows stay in touch with the international science community by connecting postdocs with scientists and science-related organizations, like embassies, research agencies, and global organizations.
- Sessions discuss country-specific career options, job search strategies, funding opportunities, transitions, and life as a researcher in that country.
- Seminars are presented in two different formats:
 - In-person speakers are often science seminar speakers from abroad whom do this additional seminar while on campus.
 - Webinars feature NIH alumni who have moved to that country and science administrators sharing insights into transitions to that country.
- Additional benefit: VFC organizers develop essential organizational skills important for their careers.

Format of Science Voices from Home:

1. In-person speakers present for 45 min with 15 min for Q&A.
2. Webinars have 2-4 speakers each talking for 10 min followed by 30 min of Q&A. Postdocs can participate as part of the in-room audience or online.

Invited speakers are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faculty who discuss academic careers 2. Embassies, funding agencies, and repatriation organizations 		Webinars host alumni who share their job search and transition experiences in academics, industry, and non-profits.
In-person sessions have included scientists from 13 countries, INSERM, European Research Council, German Research Foundation, Wellcome Trust/DBT India, and more.	Webinars have included: Canada, China, India, Israel, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan and many more	

Conclusions

- The "Science Voices from Home" program has successfully organized events for **over 15 Years** and hosted speakers from more than **20 countries**.
 - The program provides support to NIH postdocs for their next career step:
 1. Build strong ties with the scientific community.
 2. Create opportunities to network around the world
 3. Provide insights into foreign funding mechanisms
 4. Enlarge the perspective of global career options
 5. Understand alumni career paths
 6. Provide information to postdocs on how to transition to new positions
 7. Offers a timeline on the job search process
 8. Build strong ties to the postdoc office (OITE) for administrative support (alumni suggestions, webinar logistics, etc)
- These event are easy to organize by any postdoc association and a terrific way to support international postdocs!