RNA TRAINING PROGRAM – SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WITH THE WRITERS INSTITUTE

Registration: Sign up with an email to Joyce Salazar (jasalazar@albany.edu) under the subject line RNA Communication, with your name, department and research mentor by 5:00 PM on August 15, 2019.

Workshop: The science-writing workshop will consist of four 2-hour sessions with one session being held each month during the fall semester. All workshops will be led by Dr. Anette Breindl from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM on the following dates: Monday September 16; Thursday October 17; Thursday November 14; and Thursday December 12. Dr. Breindl, a neurobiologist, is senior science editor at BioWorld Today and a member of the National Association of Science Writers. In the workshops, students will improve their own and each other’s science communication skills, primarily by learning to tailor communications to both the writers’ goals and their intended audiences. They will also learn about different science writing opportunities and careers. The expectation is that each fellow will produce a publication worthy essay that could appear in the RNA Institute Newsletter or similar publication.

Popular science presentations: In addition, RNA fellows will attend at least one additional presentation each semester. For fall semester, RNA fellows are to select from the two presentations listed below. Preference should be given to “Superbugs: The race to stop an epidemic” presented by Matt McCarthy, MD, attending the Craft Talk being held at 4:15 PM on November 4, 2019. (Note: attendance at the 7:30 PM event is also acceptable). If unable to attend the Matt McCarthy presentation, RNA fellows will need to attend the “Inventing Tomorrow” presentation on October 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM on the Downtown Campus.

SUPERBUGS: THE RACE TO STOP AN EPIDEMIC

November 4 (Monday): Matt McCarthy, MD, bestselling medical author

Craft Talk—4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Conversation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Matt McCarthy, assistant professor of medicine at Weill Cornell and staff physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, is the author of new book, Superbugs: The Race to Stop an Epidemic (2019), an insider’s account of the current battle against antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and the race to develop new treatments for infections. Bestselling author Siddhartha Mukherjee (The Emperor of All Maladies) called it, “An amazing, informative book that changes our perspective on medicine, microbes and our future.” McCarthy’s previous bestsellers include The Real Doctor Will See You Shortly: A Physician’s First Year (2015) and Odd Man Out: A Year on the Mound with a Minor League Misfit (2009). His work has appeared in Sports Illustrated, Slate, and The New England Journal of Medicine. He is also editor-in-chief of Current Fungal Infection Reports.

Cosponsored by The RNA Institute, a cutting-edge life sciences research facility at the University at Albany, to mark the launch of the NIH sponsored RNA Fellows Program, which features a Science Communications track in partnership with the NYS Writers Institute. The new program will enable students to develop and improve written and oral communication in areas of research that are critical to new frontiers in human health.

RNA Fellows Program
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Inventing Tomorrow

OCTOBER 4 (Friday)

Film screening and conversation/Q&A with director Laura Nix — 7:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

(USA, 2018, 104 minutes, color) Directed by Laura Nix.

Teenage inventors from India, Indonesia, Mexico and the USA, attempt to find solutions to the world’s most urgent environmental problems—including climate change, water and air pollution, and mass extinction—in this prize-winning documentary, nominated for the 2018 Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. Kenneth Turan of the L.A. Times called it “inspirational and invigorating” and said, “these young scientists have a passion and enthusiasm that’s a tonic to the soul.”

Laura Nix received the 2018 Chicken and Egg Breakthrough Filmmaker Award, a prestigious honor bestowed annually on five women filmmakers. She also received the Sundance Institute/Discovery Impact Fellowship in 2017. Her previous films include THE YES MEN ARE REVOLTING (2014), THE LIGHT IN HER EYES (2011), and WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT: THE STORY OF HEDWIG (2003).

Screened in association with UAlbany’s new Department of Environmental and Sustainable Engineering, now offering the first Bachelor of Science degree of its kind in the United States.

For more information about the new major visit https://www.albany.edu/environmental-sustainable-engineering/