

## Role of the Postdoc

A successful postdoc experience at Berkeley Lab is determined by a robust collaboration between the supervisor and the postdoc. The primary role of the postdoc is to support the supervisor's research efforts and gain additional experience in conducting viable scientific research. It is incumbent on the postdoc to actively participate in expanding their research skills and techniques, and to develop new professional skills.

## Postdoc's Research Training

- In collaboration with the supervisor, establish a viable research plan with achievable goals and deliverables and establish a publication schedule within 3 months of starting a postdoc position
- Proactively seek out networking and publication opportunities; partner with supervisor to author publications
- Communicate regularly with supervisor on research status; seek guidance as needed
- Conduct ethical and safe research
- Identify ways to use current research efforts to express creativity and innovation
- If conducting independent research is of interest, collaborate with supervisor to identify an area of independent research; reach agreement on the research scope and fraction of time allocated to independent research efforts

## Professional Skills Development

- Actively seek out professional development outside of their research activities (i.e. scientific writing, presentation skills, teaching etc)
- Train and oversee work activities of junior staff
- Attend conferences and present seminars
- Proactively identify and apply for fellowships
- Use formal and informal "mentoring" opportunities within ESD and at the Lab

## Career Development & Mentoring

- Seek opportunities to learn about the larger ESD and Lab organizational structure and scientific foci
- Partner with your supervisor or other mentors at the Lab to identify networking opportunities
- Seek opportunities to work with an informal mentor

## Important Resources/Contacts

- Berkeley Lab Institute Training link: <http://www.lbl.gov/BLI/nettraining.html>
- The ESD Postdoc webpage: <http://esd.lbl.gov/about/staff/postdocs.html>

Postdoctoral training in the Earth Sciences Division is a vital part of obtaining the appropriate experience to advance to a career as a scientific professional within Berkeley Lab, other national labs, academic institutions and in industry. ESD postdocs are a significant member of the scientific community at Berkeley Lab. A postdoc position offers opportunities to undertake scholarly research, interact with career scientists in many areas of expertise, and develop supervisory skills through training students. Other activities that provide excellent experience for career advancement include assisting in organizing scientific meetings and volunteering for committees.