

To:

From: "Robert Brown and Alice Gast" <mitpostdocs-www@mit.edu>

Subject: Survey of MIT Postdoctoral Scholars

Dear Postdoctoral Scholar,

In order to better understand the needs of the postdoctoral community at MIT, we are sponsoring a survey of the current postdoctoral population. The feedback will help inform us about issues of importance to you and will help direct our efforts in providing services to postdoctoral scholars.

This survey is entirely voluntary and you may answer as many or as few of the questions as you like. In order to shorten the survey, Information Systems will merge some demographic data with the response data. Please be assured that they will remove all identifiers before the data are transferred for analysis. The data will be treated as confidential, no one will be personally identified, and all results will be reported in summary.

Postdocs who submit the survey will be eligible for the drawing to win a Bose Wave Radio/CD player - one winner will be randomly selected. The winner will be notified by June 20, 2003.

Merging the demographic data, awarding the prize, and insuring that only MIT postdocs are able to participate, requires the use of MIT personal certificates. If you do not have an MIT certificate on the computer you are using, please go to the <http://web.mit.edu/is/help/cert/> to obtain one (have your MIT ID number ready). If you encounter any problems while taking the survey, you may contact Marilyn Smith (smithmt@mit.edu, x3-0473).

You may enter the survey from
<http://web.mit.edu/surveys/postdoc/>

Results of the survey in summary form will be posted to the Postdoctoral Scholars web site (<http://web.mit.edu/mitpostdocs>) and notification of the posting will be sent to the postdoc listserv.

We thank you in advance for taking the time to provide important feedback to us.

Best regards,

Robert Brown, Provost

Alice Gast, Vice President for Research and Associate Provost

Survey of Postdoctoral Scholars at MIT



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YOUR POSTDOCTORAL APPOINTMENT

1) For how many TOTAL years have you held a postdoctoral position, including past and present positions?

- Less than one
- One or more, but less than two
- Two or more, but less than three
- Three or more, but less than four
- Four or more, but less than five
- Five or more

2) How many more years do you plan on holding a postdoctoral position at MIT?

- Less than one
- One or more, but less than two
- Two or more, but less than three
- Three or more, but less than four
- Four or more, but less than five
- Unsure

3) What is the PRIMARY source of funding for your PRESENT postdoctoral position?

- Research contract or grant awarded to my supervisor
- U.S. Federal fellowship (e.g., NIH, NSF) awarded to me
- U.S. Federal Training Grant (e.g., NIH, NSF) awarded to the department/lab/center
- Non-federal fellowship (e.g., American Cancer Soc., Howard Hughes)
- Foreign government/agency
- Private company
- Personal funds
- Other, please specify

4) Does the term of your postdoctoral appointment depend on you securing funding?

- Yes
- No

5) If your postdoctoral funding sources changed during your time at MIT, did you have any difficulties with any of the following during your transition? Mark all that apply:

- Health insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement plan
- Paycheck (incorrect delivery, late, check amount error, etc.)
- Transportation (parking, T-pass, etc.)
- Understanding tax implications of different appointments
- Other, please specify

6) On average, how many hours per week do you work on your postdoc job (including field work and other off-site work)?

- < 30 hours per week
- 30-39 hours per week
- 40-49 hours per week
- 50-59 hours per week
- 60 hours or more per week

BENEFITS and SERVICES

7) Which of the following best describes your current situation.

- I receive health insurance through MIT
- I receive health insurance through sponsor
- I receive health insurance through spouse's employer
- I receive health insurance coverage under COBRA from prior coverage
- I am not covered by Health Insurance
- Other: please specify

8) Which of the following best describes the financing of your health insurance?

- I receive it as part of my postdoctoral associate benefits package
- Paid out of the allowance that comes with my fellowship or training grant support
- Paid by my supervisor using other MIT funds
- Personal funds
- Spouse (through spouse's employment)
- Other, please specify

9) Which of the following best describes your current situation?

- I receive Dental insurance through MIT
- I receive Dental insurance through sponsor
- I receive Dental insurance through spouse's employer
- I receive Dental insurance coverage under COBRA from prior coverage
- I am not covered by Dental Insurance
- Other: please specify

10) Do you have dependent children living with you?

- Yes. Please select the number of children living with you: select...
- No ([skip to question 12](#))

11) Are you satisfied with your current childcare situation?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Not applicable

12) How aware are you that there are career guidance services through the Office of Career Planning and Pre-professional Advising for individuals in postdoctoral positions at MIT?

- Very aware

- Somewhat aware
- Not aware at all

13) How important do you think institutional postdoctoral career guidance services are for you?

- Extremely important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

14) How aware are you of the mediation/grievance procedures available to you at MIT?

- Very aware
- Somewhat Aware
- Not aware at all

15) How important do you think institutional mediation/grievance services are for you?

- Extremely important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

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Survey of Postdoctoral Scholars at MIT



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POSTDOC ORGANIZATION

MIT is establishing an Association of Postdoctoral Scholars. We are interested in knowing what services, if any, you think this association should support.

35) Please rate the functions you think that an Association of Postdoctoral Scholars at MIT should perform:	Extremely Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Help provide more career services to postdocs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publish an informational manual for incoming postdocs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide postdoc representation to MIT administration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide information and referrals to postdocs for benefits and rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organize postdoc seminar series (research and career seminars)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organize social functions for interaction with other postdocs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other:				

OVERALL SATISFACTION

36) How satisfied are you with your overall postdoctoral experience at MIT?

- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Not satisfied

37) Would you recommend spending time in a postdoctoral position in your field to a present graduate student who is similar to you in his/her career goals?

- Would enthusiastically recommend
- Would recommend
- Neutral
- Would recommend with reservation
- Would not recommend

38) Would you recommend spending time in a postdoctoral position at MIT to a present graduate student who is similar to you in his/her career goals?

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- Would recommend
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DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

39) Are you currently married or living with a long-term partner?

- Yes
 No ([skip to question 43](#))

40) Does your spouse / partner work outside the home?

- Yes
 No

41) Does your spouse / partner work in academia?

- Yes
 No

42) Does your spouse / partner work in the Boston area?

- Yes
 No

43) Which of the following best describes your current income in your postdoctoral position?

- <\$25,000
 \$25,001-27,000
 \$27,001-31,000
 \$31,001-35,000
 \$35,001-40,000
 \$40,001-45,000
 \$45,001-50,000
 >\$50,000

44) Which of the following best describes your current annual family income from all sources:

- <\$31,000
 \$31,001-\$40,000
 \$40,001-\$50,000
 \$50,001-\$75,000
 \$75,001-\$100,000
 \$100,001-\$150,000
 >\$150,000

45) What one thing should MIT consider doing to enhance your career preparation?

/

46) What one thing should MIT consider doing to enhance the community for postdocs while they are at MIT?

/

Submit and Finish >>

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