Jennifer Oh
Principal Administrative Analyst I
Academic Affairs: Research Affairs

Jennifer Oh is a senior staff member in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research with campuswide responsibility for direct oversight of Postdoctoral and Visiting Scholar policy and program development and implementation. UCSD's Postdoctoral Scholar population averages more than 800 scholars annually and is the third largest within the UC system. That this complex and challenging program is successful and considered a model among our UC peers -- is directly attributable to Jennifer's tireless attention to the scholars' personal and professional well-being, and to her record of steady improvements to processes and procedures that benefit the scholars, boost productivity of university researchers, and produce significant savings for the institution. This next academic year will see the rollout of an electronic postdoctoral appointment support system that will reduce departmental workload in preparing and submitting appointment files.

Jennifer can also be credited with the recent seamless implementation at UCSD of one of the first ever bargaining contracts for Postdoctoral Scholars in the country. Jennifer and her team spent countless hours developing training materials and programs for faculty, staff, and postdocs, to help them understand their responsibilities under the contract. Jennifer manages postdoctoral scholar benefit administration; pre- and post-award fellowship administration; and postdoctoral education and career development and training. Of special note: As the primary campus expert on postdoc matters, Jennifer advises faculty, staff, and postdocs, and works with HR, Payroll, OPAFS, OCGA, Labor Relations, Office of Sexual Harassment and Prevention, Academic Personnel, SIO, SOM, the International Center, and other central offices to develop solutions to common problems. She performs at a very high level of achievement in all of these diverse functions, and has earned the trust, respect and commendations of those offices.

Jennifer serves on numerous campus and UC-wide committees and workgroups, representing the Vice Chancellor for Research on postdoctoral matters. She collaborates with Torrey Mesa partner institutions and organizations to promote UCSD and postdoctoral education. She keeps abreast of national and international trends and issues impacting postdoctoral scholars and is principal advisor to the Vice Chancellor and Assistant Vice Chancellor on such matters. Her longevity in this demanding position, and her long record of above-and-beyond performance -- often with resources stretched very thin, indeed--are evidence of the exemplary nature of her work, and we believe she well deserves the recognition this prestigious award bestows.

Jennifer is also co-founder of the Torrey Pines Mesa Postdoc Training Consortium. The group was created to leverage the resources of the 4 largest academic research institutions (TSRI, Sanford Burnham, Salk, and UCSD) on the Torrey Pines Mesa. They invite speakers (and share the costs), coordinate larger symposiums, and develop best practices for postdoctoral career development training. Their flagship programs are the San Diego Lab Management Course, which is a two-day workshop for postdocs and junior faculty to learn skills and get tools for running their own lab; and Transition to Industry, which introduces postdocs to careers in industry and soft skills necessary to be successful. This year, Jennifer launched several new programs: Research Connections, which "connects" 18 postdocs with a faculty or campus administrator in an informal forum to learn and discuss selected topics; and Industry Connections, which introduces topics and career paths in industry. Upcoming topics are women in science, understanding the transition from postdoc to faculty, and research ethics in the world of Photoshop. For the latter, postdoc alums at various companies and stages of industry career, company executives, and professionals who can share information on how to be successful in industry will speak.

Jennifer meets monthly with the UCSD Post-Doctoral Association to advise them on activities, financial support and leadership development. Jennifer believes that all postdocs have the potential to be successful in any chosen career, and desires to provide the skills, tools and encouragement necessary to start them on their path.

We believe Jennifer's consistent extra level of effort on behalf of this key campus population makes her worthy of exemplary-employee status.