



WFAB Workshop Series 2026

A networking and professional development opportunity for pre-tenure faculty and advanced postdocs

THE GOAL of the [Weaving the Future of Animal Behavior \(WFAB\)](#) initiative is to advance the future of animal behavior science and foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive scientific community, by providing support, mentorship, and networking opportunities for early-career researchers navigating the critical transition to permanent research and teaching positions. The WFAB workshop series will include panel and group discussions and activities for pre-tenure faculty and postdocs that facilitate:

- Connecting with multiple mentors in the areas you need
- Forging new collaborations
- Achieving success in research, teaching, and service
- Forming and maintaining long-term peer-mentoring circles

WFAB 2026 is a three-part workshop series and we ask that all workshop participants attend all three parts. Part I will be online, Part II in person at the Animal Behavior Society (ABS) meeting, and Part III will be online. Part III will be focused on setting up peer-mentoring circles, which many participants describe as one of the best parts of joining our WFAB community. See:

Shelton, Delia S., et al. "Expanding the landscape of opportunity: Professional societies support early-career researchers through community programming and peer coaching." *Journal of Comparative Psychology* 135.4 (2021): 439.

Workshop #1:

Making connections

July 7 (8:00 am - 10:00am PDT; 11:00 am – 1:00 pm EDT) ZOOM only

New WFAB community members will gather on-line to connect with the 2026 early career cohort and to engage in self-reflections, activities and discussions on how to get what you want and need to thrive in your career. We will talk about mentoring, networks, and coaching.

Workshop #2

Pre-conference workshop

Tuesday, July 14 (8:30 am - 5:00 pm EDT) in Cincinnati, Ohio; in-person only

WFABers will participate in a day of community connection and professional development in person at the conference center. We will start the day with a workshop called

Communicating and Collaborating. In the morning, we will explore how to be intentional and strategic in identifying potential collaborators and initiating collaborations. In the afternoon, we will discuss time management strategies and talk with a panel representing different career types and stages.

Workshop #3

PoP Circles: getting your group going!

July 28 (9:00 am - 11:00am PDT; 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT) ZOOM only

This workshop is dedicated to the PoP Power-of-Peer circles. In Workshop #2 you will meet your PoP Circle group. In Workshop 3, we will set you up for success in these intentional, structured discussions. If you attend this workshop, you are opting in, making a commitment to your group to meet with them and engage in support and problem solving every other week throughout the coming year.

The organizers for the 2026 WFAB workshop series are: Gail Patricelli, Karan Odom, and Kelly Ronald. To add your name to our participant list, get the Zoom links, or ask questions about the workshop, you can email WFABorganizers@gmail.com. Or you can directly email Gail (gpatricelli@ucdavis.edu), Karan (kjodom@gmail.com), or Kelly (ronald@hope.edu).

WFAB Reunion

We aim to have a WFAB Reunion event each summer for alumni of all cohorts. This will be for current and past participants, mentors, organizers..., the whole WFAB community! Watch the website for more information as it comes available! The alumni events will be organized by Jennifer Smith (SMITJENN@uwec.edu)



WFAB 2025 in Baltimore, Maryland