

On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, we will host the [14th Annual HSCI Retreat](#) at Harvard Medical School's Joseph B. Martin Conference Center. Please mark your calendar for this full-day event, which will be chaired by Jon Hoggatt (MGH) and Vik Khurana (BWH).

We are pleased to note our keynote speakers will be Peter Marks, Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the FDA, and Beth Stevens, PhD, at HMS and the F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center at Boston Children's Hospital.

This year we will have something different on our program – an 'elevator pitch' competition – and we need you to participate. We would like to give all the postdocs and students in our community the opportunity to deliver a 90-second pitch on their work, similar to what you see in this [YouTube video](#). This can be an excellent way for trainees and students to practice communicating their scientific goals clearly and succinctly to many different audiences, whether they are fellow scientists, investors, journalists, or family members.

TO PARTICIPATE:

1. Develop a script for a 90-second pitch about their research, make a video of the pitch and submit it to Mary Bergman (mary_bergman@harvard.edu) at HSCI. Or if you choose to upload the video to YouTube, simply send Mary the URL.
2. John and Vik will select the top pitches to be shown at the HSCI Retreat.
3. The audience will vote for the best pitch.
4. The winner will receive \$250.00.

To give everyone a chance to show their pitch to the larger HSCI community, we will share ***all*** of the video pitches on the screens in the Martin Center lobby. This has the added benefit of helping members of our community get to know one another better.

ELEVATOR PITCH FORMAT:

Ninety seconds is not a lot of time, so putting together a script for an elevator pitch can be daunting. The following framing might be helpful as you develop your pitch:

My research tackles [insert your focus/general problem], which [impact of problem]. I will [summary of your work] to clarify [name/explain the specific problem]. These findings will help [target beneficiary] overcome [primary difficulty]. My research is different from [competition/current therapy] in that it [unique differentiator].

Videos *do not* have to be studio quality – they can be recorded on a smartphone. We ask only that you ensure the audio is clear.

DEADLINE:

Please send us your pitch by **Friday, April 26, 2019** so that Jon and Vik have time to review them and select the top candidates for the HSCI Retreat.

This is strictly a voluntary effort, but we hope you will give it serious consideration. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing some great pitches at the Retreat!