

November 5, 2018

Postdoctoral Fellows,

I am pleased to announce the establishment of the MSU Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. The new office will provide increased support for the work and work lives of our postdoctoral fellows, and continued support for the activities of the MSU Postdoctoral Association. Responsibilities of the OPA will include enhancement of career development resources available to postdoctoral scholars, as well as improvement of the postdoctoral experience at MSU through timely resolution of postdoc-specific issues. Strategic planning for the role of the office and the scope of its tasks will take place in consultation with the MSU Postdoctoral Association.

To help advance this work, Antonio A. Nunez, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Postdoctoral Education, has agreed to serve as the office's inaugural faculty advisor and interim director while the University conducts a director search next year. Dr. Nunez will remain in the role of faculty advisor after a new director is identified and has taken the position. Dr. Nunez's appointment will be effective January 1, 2019.

Dr. Nunez received a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Florida State University in 1977, and was then awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health to do research at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In 1980 he joined the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Program at Michigan State University, where he holds the title of full professor. Before taking his position at the Graduate School, he served as associate chair and director of graduate programs in Psychology and as acting director of the Neuroscience Program. Dr. Nunez's research is in the areas of neuroendocrinology and chronobiology. His laboratory has been funded over the last 35 years by research grants from several NIH institutes and from the NSF. In addition to his research support from national funding agencies, he is also co-PI of an I3 grant from NSF that supports the MSU Center for Academic and Future Faculty Excellence.

The new Office of Postdoctoral Affairs will be located on the first floor in Owen Hall. Space is currently being prepared and it is anticipated that the office will formally open in early 2019.

Please join me in celebrating the creation of this new office, and in welcoming Tony to his new positions.

June Pierce Youatt
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs