

April 18, 2022 @ 3pm ET

Participants (12) : Ankit Sharma, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan , Syed Shahbaz Gardezi, Katharina Rynkiewich, Nidhi Shukla, Felicia Moss, Fnu Mohandas, Rehan Khan, Justine Renauld, Kimia Tajik, Maria Gerasimenko, Jeremiah Didion, Lenka Hromadkova ,

Intro (3:15-3:45)

PDA Elections (10 min): To be eligible for senior leadership you have to have been present at 50% of the last 6 meetings. All positions are open: co-presidents, secretary, and treasurer. Committee members are also open. As of now, the PDA elections will be held **May 9th from 3pm-5pm**. See more details below.

Treasurer report (20 min): VWR Vendor Fair coming up on **April 20th 10AM to 2pm**. A sign up sheet for volunteers of the PDA is available [here](#), please consider donating your time. Final details will be figured out prior to Wednesday, including confirmation of food (pizza) and gifts/awards (chocolate, etc.). We will print flyers. Invite anyone in the CWRU community, it is an open event. The event was advertised in the Daily, [here](#).

Committee meeting reports (3:45 - 4:45)

a. **Benefits Committee**: Work coming up this next year will include pushing through changes that were proposed in the fall. Postdocs with families will be increasingly covered through these changes. Discussion of how involved principal investigators are in decisions of benefits for postdocs. Discussion of communication to new postdocs to set expectations about US healthcare and CWRU coverage. Check out the Postdoc Association page for more information for new and current postdocs related to benefits: <https://case.edu/postdoc/postdoc-association> (Jeremiah Didion)

b. **Professional Development Committee**: No updates.

c. **Public Relations Committee**: No updates.

d. **Social Committee**: No updates.

e. **Women's Affairs**: No updates.

f. **Immigration and Visa Committee**: No updates.

Committee meeting reports (4:45-5:00)

a. **Main Faculty Senate and Intercouncil Leadership**: No updates.

b. **Information and Communications Technology**: No updates.

c. **Minority Affairs**: No updates.

d. **University Libraries**: No updates.

e. **Graduate studies**: No updates.

f. **Research**: No updates.

g. **Women Faculty**: No updates.

Priorities for committees:

Get updates on the PDA events via the shareable Google Calendar

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=Y2FzZS5lZHVfdXUyaWdvOXZhZnVqbWgybDdjdiNmYXMxNmtAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLnNvbQ>

Other discussion/Business:

National Postdoc Association conference is April 28 + 29, 2022. Virtual conference:

<https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/page/2022AC> Postdoctoral Affairs will be covering the registration for postdocs if they wish to attend; we have up to 25 slots available. More information will be coming via your CWRU email.

We will be having the CWRU Postdoctoral Association (PDA) ELECTIONS on May 9th, 2022, 3 to 5 pm in person and via zoom option.

Please NOMINATE yourself or others [Here!](#)

Why should you be an active member of the CWRU PDA?

- To play a major role in changing university policies that affect postdocs
- To practice your transferable skills within and outside academia
- To exercise your leadership
- To help plan professional development and social events
- To give value to the greater postdoc community (think outreach)
- To network with your fellow postdocs
- To get out of the lab once in a while (!)

Here are just some of the great projects our members have completed the past few years:

- Led the initiative to increase Paid Parental leave from 6 weeks to 8 weeks for entire university (Benefit committee : July 2020)
- Increased the J1 visa from a one year to a five year appointment (Visa and Immigration committee: 2020).
- Implementing affordable health insurance for postdocs with family (Benefit committee: Starting in 2023)
- Created and presented the Navigating the Postdoc: Balancing Work and Life in Early Career (Women committee).
- Hosted a nationally recognized immigration lawyer to discuss immigration and visa issues (Visa and Immigration committee).
- Reviewed our postdoc benefits (healthcare/retirement/education/vacation/leaves) to effect policy changes (Benefit committee)
- Increased our exposure within the university by being on Faculty Senate Committees to advocate for postdoc interests.

We are looking for:

1. PDA Board Members (nominations open to active PDA members: members who have attended at least half of the last 6 meetings of the PDA) Individuals who have met these requirements will be sent a separate email.
 - a. Junior Co-presidents (2 years)
 - b. Secretary (1 year)
 - c. Treasurer (1 year)

2. Postdoc Representatives to the various Faculty Senate Committees (positions OPEN TO ALL POSTDOCS!)

- a. Committee on Information and Communication Technology
- b. Committee on Minority Affairs
- c. Committee on University Libraries
- d. Committee on Graduate Studies
- e. Committee on Research
- f. Committee on Women's Affairs

3. Members and Heads of the different CWRU PDA Committees (positions OPEN TO ALL POSTDOCS!) a. Social Committee

- b. Benefits Committee
- c. Public Relations Committee
- d. Professional Development Committee
- e. Women Postdoc's Initiatives Committee
- f. Visa and Immigration Committee

Linked are the PDA bylaws outlining the responsibilities of each position. The descriptions of the different Faculty Senate Committees are also attached.

We look forward to working with you to continue this trend of improving the postdoc experience at CWRU in the coming year.

Justine Renauld, President
Katharina Rynkiewich , Secretary
Lenka Hromadkova, Treasurer