

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

June 21st, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- Participants: (19) - Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Mohammad Siddiqi, Kimia Tajik, Wasiu Balogun, Lenka Hromadkova, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan, Elina Misicka, Ashley Everett, Justine Renauld, Katharina Rynkiewich, Ankit Sharma, Sagar Regmi, Manish Dwivedi, Amine Missaoui, Malene Johnson, and Qikui Zhu
- Opening remarks by Nidhi Shukla (Senior Co-President, PDA), around the room introductions. Thank you to Sagar Regmi and Emily Creamer for talking to new postdocs at Orientation.
- **Felicia Moss :**
 - Announcement of “Postdoc Benefits Refresher Program” on June 22nd, 12 – 1 pm
 - \$3,600 from the VWR Vendor Fair - Felicia is working with VWR to get the invoice paid.
 - Plans for **Third Thursday events:** Seminar on diversity from the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity (Sept), seminar by Office of Equity (Oct), Gallagher Benefits (Nov), Office of Professional Development - IDPs (Dec)
 - PIVOT database and other funding info, adding healthcare rates, recruitment info, newsletter, and kudos button for the PDA website
- **Other discussions/business :**
 - Proposed by **Nidhi Shukla:** Similar to the University of Washington, proposal for a Career Series on various careers in industry, research, academia, etc. One hour meetings on how they transitioned careers, how they got there, what their postdoc did for them, background necessary for their career, etc. Postdocs could help find people for these events; we could also use prior PDA members.
 - Postdocs encouraged to enroll for **National Postdoc Association** membership (https://www.nationalpostdoc.org/general/register_member_type.asp?)
 - **Women’s Affairs Committee:** Marie McCausland, prior CWRU postdoc, reached out about having the PDA hold a diaper or baby item drive. This would support a Community Baby Shower on July 27th. More information to come. Could get other groups like WISHED, Flora Stone Mather, and the Faculty Senate Women’s Committee involved.
 - **Social Committee:**
 - Proposal to organize social activity on Wade Oval Wednesday (<https://www.universitycircle.org/events/2022/06/15/wow-wade-oval-wednesdays>)
 - **Postdoc family picnic** – Date to be announced (Planned in Aug or late July). More information to come.
 - Mental health awareness: Proposal for a seminar by **Impact Solutions** (<https://case.edu/hr/worklife/employee-assistance-worklife-program#:~:text=CWRU%20is%20pleased%20to%20offer,family%20members%20and%20household%20members.>)
 - **Review of the possible changes in postdoc benefits which will be hopefully effective January 1, 2023.** The Postdoc Office is working diligently on adjusting the current benefits plan to be more affordable for postdocs with families. The proposal is a cost sharing method where all postdocs pay 14% of their own benefits. This proposal already went through the Faculty Senate and was approved, but needed some tweaking.