

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

July 11th, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- Participants: (8) - Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Manish Kumar Dwivedi, Abhiram Panigrahi, Akshaya Radhakrishnan
- Opening remarks by Nidhi Shukla (Senior Co-President, PDA), around the room introductions. Thank you to Sagar Regmi, Mohandas and Sreelakshmi for talking to new postdocs at Orientation.
- **Felicia Moss :**
 - \$3,600 will be coming in from the VWR Vendor Fair - Felicia is working with VWR to get the invoice paid.
 - There is currently \$4,065.90 in the PDA account
 - 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)
 - Updating pictures of new arrivals on PDA website
 - Held a Benefits Refresher on June 22nd – 10 current postdocs attended
- **Other discussions/business :**
 - **Facilities suggested for incoming international postdocs:**
 - Provide information on the website regarding temporary accommodation until the postdocs find their own place
 - Provision of temporary phones (with limited data/voice) for the initial few days until postdocs get new mobile connections
 - Add crime maps to the website to help postdocs choose housing
 - Discussions on recent events regarding **Abortion ban** across the US. What to do if a postdoc or their partner encounters a challenge in this regard (contact PDA office or Impact Solutions)
 - **Nidhi Shukla** in contact with a some CWRU alumni to give a talk on professional development for postdocs
 - Committee chairs to send reminders for upcoming meetings in their respective area
- **Women's Affairs Committee:**
 - Community Baby Shower on July 27th organized with the help of Marie McCausland, prior CWRU postdoc (we need volunteers for the event)
 - The PDA has collected over 700 items so far
- **Visa and Immigration Committee:**
 - Organizing an event/meeting to discuss J-1 waiver program
 - HR Immigration will join the next monthly committee meeting
 - HR Immigration has now joined Postdoc Orientation as an optional session; the first one was very informative
- **Social Committee:**
 - **Abhiram Panigrahi** elected as the new Social Chair
 - Upcoming **Wade Oval Wednesday** event on July 20th; meeting at the Turning Point statue at 5:30pm
 - **PDA family picnic** to be announced soon, ideas/suggestions are welcome

- **Updates from Faculty Senate Meeting**
 - Meeting focused on the ARPA-H funding program
 - Program will be officially announced in August
 - Funding is focused on developing niche technologies concerning biomedical devices
 - This funding is for PIs/faculty, not postdocs
- **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.
- **Positions to be filled:** Faculty senate representatives for
 - minority affairs
 - information and communication technology