

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

August 8th, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (15) - Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Abhiram Panigrahi, Rehan Khan, Vivek Prakash, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan, Lenka Hromadkova, Mohammad Siddiqi, Emily Creamer, Justine Renauld, Shashi Singh, Ashley Everett
- Opening remarks by Nidhi Shukla (Senior Co-President, PDA), around the room introductions. Welcoming new postdocs Vivek and Shashi.
- **Felicia Moss:**
 - \$3,600 from the VWR Vendor Fair yet to be received
 - There is currently \$4,065.90 in the PDA account
 - Discussed updating pictures of new arrivals on PDA website
 - PDA meeting minutes now available on the website
- **Professional Development Committee:**
 - **Mohd. Siddiqi** and **Nidhi Shukla** have finalized some of the speakers for the upcoming “Career Series” talks organized for postdocs
 - Objective of this event is to seek guidance from previous postdocs who have made successful transition to non-academic jobs
 - Profile of the speaker and the host will be advertised on the PDA website
 - Plan is to organize one talk each month lasting 45 min with 15 min for discussions
 - Postdocs could volunteer themselves to host the talk
- **Women’s Affairs Committee:**
 - “**Community Baby Shower**” event on July 27th was a big success. 1000 items collected, attended by more than 300 families.
- **Visa and Immigration Committee:**
 - Committee meeting held on 3rd Aug 2022 and attended by: **Adriana Nelson** (Business Immigration specialist), **Brianna Allen** (Immigration manager), **Felicia Moss** and **Sreelakshmi Vasudevan**
 - As most of the postdocs in CWRU are international, Adriana is working on creating some new resources for postdocs for giving them as a handout on their first day at HR. She will update this with Felicia.
 - Brianna suggested to update our postdoc resources page with the events in Cleveland communities.
 - **Action plan:** Our committee will organize talk/meeting every year about the immigration procedures like **J1 waiver**, visa status change to **H1B**, **Green card** application etc. Brianna has some experts in her contact, and we will plan the date and time of talk in the coming meetings according to everyone’s convenience.
- **Social Committee:**
 - **PDA family picnic** will be held on Aug 27th. Will be coordinated by **Abhiram Panigrahi**, **Nidhi Shukla**, **Justine Renauld**, and **Felicia Moss**.
 - Volunteers required for helping with arrangements and shopping
 - Gift ideas for children and adults are welcome
- **Other discussions/business:**
 - **Ideas for National postdoc appreciation week (Sep 19-23, 2022) celebration:**

- Appreciation messages posted by PI's and students about their postdocs
 - Scientific art/pictures competition
 - Workshop on research grant writing
 - Talk on entrepreneurship opportunities for postdocs
- Proposal to create **Postdoc Awards** for postdocs making significant contributions to their research field as well as in extracurricular/social activities
- **Reproductive health taskforce, Ashley Everett is the postdoc representative:**
 - Will be organizing a meeting to discuss recent developments regarding the overturning of Roe v Wade in the US.
 - Meeting will be held in Flora Stone Mather Center for Women on Aug 17th, 12:30 – 1:30 pm.
 - Postdocs are encouraged to attend
 - Check email from **Katie Brancato** and **Gabrielle Lincoff** sent on 9th Aug 2022.
- **Positions to be filled:** Faculty senate representatives for
 - Minority affairs
 - Information and communication technology
- **Rehan Khan** will be leaving CWRU at the end of August and is no longer part of the PDA leadership