

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

Sep 12th, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (15) - Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Abhiram Panigrahi, Lenka Hromadkova, Mohammad Siddiqi, Shashi Singh, Ashley Everett, Lisa Boinon, Deepitha Nelson, Gideon Gywa, Jeffrey McCausland, Ankit Sharma
- **Felicia Moss:**
 - \$3,600 from the VWR Vendor Fair received
 - There is currently \$6,600 in the PDA account
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi):**
 - **Mohd. Siddiqi** and **Nidhi Shukla** have finalized some of the speakers for the upcoming “Career Series” talks organized for postdocs
 - 1st talk to be held on 13th October, profile of the speaker (Dr. Samira Joussef Pina) and the host will be advertised on the PDA website as well as sent over email
 - Objective of the career series is to seek guidance from previous postdocs who have made successful transition to non-academic jobs
 - Plan is to organize one talk each month lasting 45 min with 15 min for discussions
 - Postdocs could volunteer themselves to host the talk
 - Money available in the PDA account could be used to send an “appreciation gift” to the speakers
- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
 - Set up a [zoom link](#) for the Monthly Public Relations Committee Meeting every **1st Monday** of the month
 - Discussed ideas for promoting activities of PDA and contributions/recognitions of individual postdocs on social media such as **Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn**
 - Seeking to obtain a dedicated page in **The Daily** for PDA
 - All the postdocs are highly encouraged to submit any of their achievements using the [Kudos Form](#) so that it can be promoted
 - Fall 2022 FSCUL- University Libraries Meeting: First meeting is going to be held this week on Wednesday (Sep 14th). Zoom [link](#).
- **Women’s Affairs Committee:**
 - Postdoc Meeting with Reproductive Health Task Force rep. **Ashley Everett** held on Aug 17th at Mather Center in the Tinkham Veale Center. **Ashley Everett** is open to have more meetings if postdocs are interested.
 - Informational webinar regarding contraception and emergency contraception was held on Sep 9th, from 12:45 to 1:45 pm. A recorded version available on the CWRU [Reproductive Health](#) website
 - Details on initiatives taken by CWRU available in the email from **Katie Brancato** and **Gabrielle Lincoff** sent on Sep 9th - [vending machines, reproductive health kits, and the health emergency fund](#).
 - Visit CWRU [Reproductive Health](#) website for latest updates on resources available
 - Resources available for students are also available for postdocs
- **Visa and Immigration Committee:**
 - Updates awaited from **Sreelakshmi Vasudevan** (Co-Chair)

- **Social Committee (Chair: Abhiram Panigrahi):**
 - **PDA family picnic** held successfully on Aug 27th.
 - Total number of participants = 60 (approx.)
 - Photos available on PDA Facebook page
 - New ideas for future social events discussed. Suggestions are welcome by all PDA members
- **PDA Benefits & Policy Committee (Chair: Jeremy Didion):**
 - Plan to make it mandatory to cover the cost of health insurance for dependents of postdocs with families has been postponed to 2024
 - Faculty Senate Meeting Committee on this topic attended by **Felicia** and **Jeremy**
 - Reason for this delay: Recent change of plan from initial cost sharing model to mandatory payment model
 - As of now, individual postdocs will have to discuss dependent health insurance coverage with their PIs.
 - Efforts are ongoing from PDA to make the healthcare more affordable for postdocs with family. PDA welcomes any ideas and suggestions in this regard.
- **Other discussions/business:**
 - [CWRU Innovation Week](#) (Sep 12-16)
 - 9 – 10 postdocs presenting their ideas in the [2 – Minute Poster Pitch Competition](#)
 - **Upcoming National Postdoc Appreciation Week (Sep 19-23, 2022):**
 - Felicia sent emails to all the PIs informing them about the events regarding National Postdoc Appreciation Week
 - Information and registration for the events can be found [here](#). All postdocs are encouraged to attend the events.
 - **Reproductive health taskforce** headed by **Ashley Everett**:
 - Will be organizing a meeting to discuss recent developments regarding the abortion ban across the US.
 - **Diversity Lecture** for Postdocs – 3rd Thursday, Sep 15th at Tinkham Veale, Senior Classroom B from 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Zoom [link](#) and [Campus Groups Registration](#) here.
 - **Community Dialogue Workshop** for Students and Postdocs (Sep 14th, 5:30 – 8:30 pm, Thwing Center Atrium). Register [here](#).
 - President and Provost's offices active in bettering the benefits and recruitment of postdocs
 - **Shashi Singh** elected as the Faculty senate representative for **Information and communication technology**
- **Positions to be filled:** Faculty senate representatives for
 - Minority affairs