

## PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (12) - Felicia Moss, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Shashi Singh, Ankit Sharma, Justine Renauld, Andrisu Tamosiunas, Haley Nguyen, Pramod Nagaraju, Bernadette Schneider, Jonelle Glenn
- **Felicia Moss:**
  - A detailed section on “Health Resources and FAQs” have been added to the PDA [website](#)
  - Discussions on leave/holiday policies for postdocs, will be contacting postdocs and PIs informing them about vacation policy for postdocs
  - New spoken English language director joins soon, Eric Moore. Will be coming up with new programs and training in terms of English communications. Especially useful for international postdocs who do not have English as their first language.
  - Felicia is a member of the Complaint Process Committee looking into framing policies regarding complaint redressals of any kind and involving Office of Equity. This is a large scale overhaul for the entire university.
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi):**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> talk of “Postdoc Non-Academic Career Series” was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November where the guest speaker was Dr. Jeffrey Pigott (Executive Director at the Swagelok Center for Surface Analysis of Materials at CWRU)
  - Dr. Nidhi Shukla hosted the talk and around 14 postdocs participated in the virtual event
  - Dr. Pigott shared his career journey and provided valuable advice to postdocs looking to pursue non-academic careers
  - Some of the most important advice for postdocs was to diversify their skill set and participate in seminars/workshops outside their field of expertise, also to network more
  - Next talk by Dr. Ellen Palmer (Senior Data Scientist, Analytics and Behavior Change at Aetna) is scheduled on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Find RSVP [here](#).
  - Postdocs are welcome to volunteer to host the talk, especially if the speaker belongs to their own field of expertise
  - “Appreciation gift” with a Thank You note has been sent to the previous speakers
  - Discussions on organizing training/workshops on academic interviews, grant writing
  - Check PDA website for resources on [Grants related information](#)
- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
  - Monthly Public Relations Committee Meeting every **1<sup>st</sup> Monday** of the month, [zoom link here](#)
  - Working on promoting activities of PDA and contributions/recognitions of individual postdocs of CWRU on social media such as **Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn** and website of [National Postdoctoral Association](#)
  - 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: No meeting held for the past two months. Zoom link for future meetings [here](#).
- **Women’s Affairs Committee:**
  - Event titled **Women in Network (WIN)** will be held on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> (checkout the [flyer](#))

- Objective: To help women mentor “To get what they need to thrive in the academy”
- **Visa and Immigration Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
  - Webinar on Green card and H1B for postdocs to be held on Nov 30<sup>th</sup> by Ogletree law firm
  - Sign up for the event through Campus Group or [here](#)
  - Suggestion to record the webinar (depends on the company) and provide a link on the PDA website
  - [Career Transition and Job search](#) information now available on PDA website
- **Social Committee (Chair: Sashi Singh):**
  - **The Halloween Pumpkin Carving** event held successfully on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Total number of participants = 45 (approx.)
  - Photography for **Professional headshot** held on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>, total number of participants = 40
  - Planning to have one more session of **Professional headshot** in the future, all postdocs are encouraged to make use of the opportunity
  - Ideas/suggestions for the upcoming **Postdoc Holiday Party** are welcome
- **PDA Benefits & Policy Committee (Rep: Jeremy Didion):**
  - No Faculty Senate Committee Meeting held this month
  - Discussions on this year’s **Open Enrollment** by Diana Fox was held on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> on campus, however, there were no participants
  - Contact Diana Fox who works with Gallagher Benefits to discuss any doubts/queries regarding insurance in the future
  - Part Time Postdoc Policy is being reformatted to align with the Time Away Policy for postdocs (minor edits but no actual changes).
  - Postdocs highly encouraged to read in-depth about the terms and conditions regarding their hiring and termination process
- **Information and Communications Technology Committee (Rep: Sashi Singh)**
  - Meeting to be held this month
- **Research Committee (Rep: Sagar Regmi)**
  - Faculty Senate held discussions on how to handle research data when a postdoc leaves CWRU
  - Suggestion put to make **Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)** as part of mandatory coursework for incoming postdocs
  - New guidelines set forth by national funding agencies, and federal guidelines require that all undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers receive RCR training
- **Other discussions/business:**
  - Upcoming **NIH Seminar Series: The Mental Health and Well-Being of Biomedical Researchers**. Details on PDA website events page.
  - Steps in applying for **NIH Student Loan Forgiveness** explained by **Dr. Jonelle Glenn**
  - **Haley Nguyen** elected as Faculty senate representatives for **Minority affairs**