

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

December 12th, 2022, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (11) - Felicia Moss, Jeremy Didion, Sagar Regmi, Shashi Singh, Ankit Sharma, Gideon Gywa, Maura McCall, Lenka Hromadkova, Fernando Cornet Gomez, Jonnelle Glenn, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan
- **Felicia Moss:**
 - A detailed section on "[Taxes](#)" have been added to the PDA website under the Benefits/Pay section.
 - New [Spoken English Program](#) director, Eric Moore, has started attending our monthly Orientation to introduce himself to new postdocs. Will be coming up with new programs and training in terms of English communications. Especially useful for new international postdocs who English is not their first language.
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi):**
 - 3rd talk of "Postdoc Career Series" was held on December 9th where the guest speaker was Dr. Ellen Palmer (Senior Data Scientist at Aetna)
 - Dr. Amra Ismail hosted the talk and around 10 postdocs participated in the virtual event.
 - Two talks are scheduled for January, Dr. Jenny Ro and Dr. Heather Calderon.
 - 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 and will be sent to Ellen Palmer as well.
 - Check PDA website for resources on [Grants related information](#)
 - [Career Transition and Job search](#) information now available on PDA website
- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
 - Monthly Public Relations Committee Meeting every **1st Monday** of the month, [zoom link here](#)
 - We checked on opening up the Linked In page, but unfortunately the way LinkedIn is set up is that all Groups are closed and you have to Join them. Only Company pages can be open for people to see the content without joining the page.
 - 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](#)
 - The PDA would like to create a Twitter. Jonnelle Edwards and Ankit Sharma offered to help manage posting on the page. Felicia has created it, @CWRUPostdocs and Ankit and Jonnelle will help manage the content.
 - All the postdocs are highly encouraged to submit any of their achievements using the [Kudos Form](#) so that it can be promoted
 - Discussed the creation of a Postdoc Spotlight of the Month. Ankit and Felicia will work on creating a form for postdocs to fill in the information and we will then post in the Daily and on social media.
 - Fall 2022 FSCUL- University Libraries Meeting: No meeting held for the past two months.

- Ankit checked with the NPA and we can post our events for free on their website. To post on their social media there would be costs associated. We will reach out to the NPA to advertise any upcoming Career Series events.
- **Visa and Immigration Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
 - Webinar on Green card and H1B for postdocs was held on Nov 30th by Ogletree law firm, 35 people attended.
 - Discussed purchasing licenses through Sprintax for international taxes. Licenses would be around \$2.50 each which would allow the postdoc to file their taxes for free.
- **Social Committee (Chair: Sashi Singh):**
 - The Annual Holiday party was a success. About 75-80 people attended.
 - Overall cost of the holiday party was around \$1,400.
 - Felicia is coordinating with the KSL Library to hold a Games Night sometime in January, perhaps the second week of classes.
- **PDA Benefits & Policy Committee (Rep: Jeremy Didion):**
 - Part Time Postdoc Policy is being reformatted to align with the Time Away Policy for postdocs (minor edits but no actual changes). Passed the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies, now needs to go to the larger Faculty Senate for approval.
 - New Health Resources website is helping a lot of postdocs.
- **Information and Communications Technology Committee (Rep: Sashi Singh)**
 - They discussed and sent around a notification about emails not sending through Google. Be sure to check your email if you haven't heard a reply; perhaps the email was never even sent.
- **Research Committee (Rep: Sagar Regmi)**
 - No monthly meeting
- **Other discussions/business:**
 - Felicia is in discussions with Kermit Horton from Avantor to plan the upcoming Vendor Fair for 2023. The date should be Wednesday, March 1st from 10-1:30pm in the Wolstein Lobby. \$225 charge per vendor. CWRU Postdoc Office will manage collecting the payments from the vendors this year.