

## PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (12) - Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Ankit Sharma, Justine Renauld, Andrius Tamosiunas, Uppin Vinayak, Gideon Gywa, Lenka Hromadkova, Jonnelle Glenn
- **Nidhi Shukla Senior Co-President, PDA:**
  - Marvin Nieman (Vice Dean for Graduate Education at Case Western Reserve University) requested to be kept informed about the activities of PDA and how he can help in improving the facilities provided for postdocs. A meeting on this to be held on Jan 25<sup>th</sup> with Nidhi and Felicia in attendance to share what the postdocs are doing and discuss how we can share these happenings with PIs.
  - New ideas for professional development of postdocs were discussed.
  - Sources of funding to pay for carrying out professional development programs through experts were discussed.
  - Recommended that PDA members to assist Felicia Moss in carrying out PDA activities to the best of their ability.
  - Discussed creating an Alumni page for previous postdocs. This will not only help improve networking among the present and past postdocs but also help in landing jobs.
- **Felicia Moss:**
  - Working on creating an Exit Survey for postdocs who leave CWRU. Information will be useful in creating the Alumni page.
  - CWRU **Vendor Fair** to be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 – 1:30 pm at Wolstein Research Center. Vendor Fair is a source of income for PDA (\$ 250/vendor). All postdocs are encouraged to attend along with students and faculty from their respective groups.
  - Work being carried out to finalize leave/holiday policies for part-time postdocs; no new changes, just updating the Part Time Postdoc policy.
  - New spoken English language director Eric Moore has started organizing programs for international students. Details of the program can be found [here](#). The program is open for Postdocs **as well as their spouses** who may want to improve their English proficiency and are encouraged to attend the workshops.
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi):**
  - **Dr. Jenny Ro.**, (Marketing Director at Thermo Fisher Scientific) gave a talk about her career path on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 3 pm. **Dr. Shashi Shekhar Singh** will be hosting the talk and had more than 35 participants.
  - **Dr. Heather Calderone** (Director of Research and Grants at the American Brain Tumor Association) shared information about her professional journey on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3 pm. **Dr. Jonnelle M. Glenn** hosted the talk with more than 30 participants.
  - “Appreciation gift” with a Thank You note has been sent to the previous speakers.
  - All postdocs are welcome to volunteer to host the talk, especially if the speaker belongs to their own field of expertise.
  - **Dr. Eric Mosher** will be joining the Professional Development Committee and will team up with Dr. Siddiqi in organizing future events.

- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
  - Monthly Public Relations Committee Meeting every **1<sup>st</sup> Monday** of the month, [zoom link here](#)
  - Twitter handle of CWRU PDA, [@cwrupostdoc](#) is live now. Please follow and promote.
  - All the postdocs are highly encouraged to submit any of their achievements using the [Kudos Form](#) so that it can be promoted on Social Media.
  - Suggestions to create events such as “Postdoc Spotlight of the Month” as well as “Postdoc Awards” were discussed. This will provide the much-needed visibility for postdocs who make extraordinary contributions to their research field as well as to the society.
  - Fall 2022 FSCUL- University Libraries Meeting: No meeting held for the past two months. Zoom link for future meetings [here](#).
- **Women’s Affairs Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
- **Visa and Immigration Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
  - HR Immigration is phasing out Ogletree Law Firm (they previously managed H1Bs on campus). HR Immigration will be managing those visas now.
- **Social Committee (Chair: Shashi Singh):**
  - **Postdoc Holiday Party** was held on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Pictures of the event can be found on the PDA Facebook [page](#).
  - **Ice-Skating** event for postdocs and their families will be held on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, Venue: **Wade Oval**. Information regarding the event will be shared via email and social media posts soon.
  - **Mocktail Hour** for international postdocs will be held on Wednesday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup>. This event is hosted by International Student Services, but they have invited any interested postdocs.
- **PDA Benefits & Policy Committee (Rep: Jeremy Didion):**
  - December 2022 Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies - Discussed the part-time postdoc policy; the policy passed and will now go to the Executive Committee on the Faculty Senate.
  - 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)**
- **Research Committee (Rep: Sagar Regmi)**
  - Faculty Senate Meeting was held on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Points discussed will be updated soon.
- **Other discussions/business:**
  - **Dr. Nicole Wagner** has joined as Representative: Faculty Senate Committee on Women Faculty.
  - In order to garner more PI support and increase awareness, Felicia will begin CCing or forwarding social and professional development events to PIs. Hopefully PIs will also encourage their postdocs to attend these events as well.