

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

February 13th, 2023, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (17) - Nidhi Shukla, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Andrius Tamosiunas, Gideon Gywa, Lenka Hromadkova, Jonnelle Glenn, Haley Nguyen, Mohammad Siddiqi, Ashley Everett, Shalini Verma, Eric Mosher, Nicole Wagner, Shashi Singh, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan
- **Felicia Moss: Director, Postdoctoral Affairs:**
 - **Annual Vendor Fair** being organized by PDA on March 1st from 10 – 1:30 pm at Wolstein Research Center. The event is helpful in collecting funds for PDA. RSVP [here](#).
 - 17 vendors have signed up and \$4,250 has been collected.
 - New ideas for Raffle Basket are welcome
 - Volunteers required for the event, enter details [here](#).
 - Postdoc Leadership **meeting with Marvin Nieman** (Vice Dean for Graduate Education), Felicia Moss, Nidhi Shukla, Catherine Collins (Associate Professor, Department of Neurosciences, School of Medicine), and Kenny Matreyek (Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine) on Jan 25th
 - Discussed the need for grant writing workshops
 - In response, Marvin Nieman will offer a basic grant session on March 6th, 2023 via Zoom.
 - Elevating awareness of what the PDA does
 - In response, Felicia Moss sent an email to all PIs and DAs about the PDA members, events, and what they do.
 - Strengthening connections/networking early on during Orientation phase
 - Monthly in-person orientation, check-in with Orientationers, social and professional events to network, discussion about connecting with alumni.
 - The possibility of having mentoring committees (long term goal), and the importance of an alumni database (manpower and we need a good tracking mechanism).
 - Discussed the need for creating **travel funds** for postdocs
 - Added a **Join A Professional Association list** to the Professional Dev [website](#).
 - **The inclusion survey from OIDEO** did not include Postdocs as an option, Felicia reached out to their office, and it has since been updated.
 - **UNIV402C (presentation skills)** offered this term. It's free and postdocs can take the class. The course has garnered an overwhelming response.
- **Nidhi Shukla Senior Co-President, PDA:**
 - Discussed upcoming PDA leadership elections to be held in May.
 - PDA members eligible for different positions have been informed through emails
 - Encourage all eligible PDA members to participate in the election
 - NPA annual [in-person conference](#) to be held in Philadelphia from 21 – 22 April
 - NPA Virtual conference to be held on May 11th and 12th. Cost of registration covered by PDA Office, up to 23 postdocs can register.
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi & Eric Mosher):**
 - **Mallory Smith & Raechel McKinley** (Science Policy Managers at the *American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology*) gave a talk about their journey from Postdocs to

Science Policy Managers on Feb 6th from 2 – 3 pm. **Dr. Nidhi Shukla** hosted the talk and had more than 31 participants.

- “Appreciation gift” with a personalized **Thank You note** has been sent to the speakers.
- Proposal to create a **Postdoc Alumni Database**, Felicia will be organizing **Exit interviews** in the future to collect information from postdocs leaving CWRU.
- **No new speakers for next month, request all PDA members to reach out to their professional connections**
- All postdocs are welcome to volunteer to host the talk, especially if the speaker belongs to their own field of expertise.
- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
 - Monthly Public Relations Committee Meeting every **1st Monday** of the month, [zoom link here](#)
 - Twitter handle of CWRU PDA, [@cwrupostdoc](#) is live now. Please follow and promote.
 - [LinkedIn](#) page of CWRU PDA is now active with 144 followers. 4 job advertisements were recently posted. Encourage all PDA members to follow the page.
 - 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.
 - [“Postdoc Spotlight of the Month” form](#) was created. Nidhi Shukla will be the first and then we will send it out to other postdocs.
 - “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):**
 - Working on organizing a Panel discussion on **Women’s Work-Life balance**
- **Visa and Immigration Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
 - No new updates
- **Social Committee (Chair: Shashi Singh):**
 - **Ice-Skating** event was held on Feb 5th, 2023 at Wade Oval. There were 17 participants.
 - **Self-Defense** class by CWRU [Kung Fu club](#):
 - **Tue Feb 28th from 5:30 - 7pm.** \$10 per person paid for by the PDA
 - A cap of 30 people has been set, however, postdocs can bring their spouses if we have low attendance.
 - RSVP [here](#)
 - Suggestions/ideas sought for organizing music and art events for postdocs and families.
 - Some members requested to organize a Yoga event
- **Benefits & Policy Committee (Rep: Jeremy Didion):**
 - No new updates regarding postdocs
 - Policy being drafted for graduate students to attend personalized courses from other educational institutions
 - Graduate student dissertation committees are working on getting rid of the criteria for members to be tenured and may be including non-tenured faculty members in the future
- **Information and Communications Technology Committee (Rep: Shashi Singh)**

- No new updates
- **Research Committee (Rep: Sagar Regmi)**
 - Faculty Senate Meeting was held on Jan 13th.
 - Senior Vice President for Research **Michael Oakes** gave a presentation where he highlighted about the imbalance of focus areas (85% research in medicine), team-oriented research grant approach, discussed on core facilities (like optimization of research administration), focus on sustainable management, artificial intelligence, machine learning (AI-ML), therapeutics, eco-system, intercollabrative science board, grant funding for the department, as well as tech commercialization scholarship.
 - Michael Oakes **supports increasing funding** for the postdocs
 - **Sagar** highlighted the need for a **postdoctoral fellowship** (e.g. Presidential postdoctoral research fellowship in CWRU) that can support postdocs with excellent credentials
 - Requested support for the grant writing workshop like finding a speaker, **Joan Schenkel (jms114@case.edu)** is happy to assist PDA for this.
 - Highlighted the importance of organizing an **NSF career preparation workshop** for postdocs.
- **Committee on Minority Affairs (Rep: Haley Nguyen)**
 - Committee will meet Women's Affairs committee and Provost to discuss about the status of a proposed "Child Care Center"
 - Committee will encourage the CWRU management to issue a statement condemning "violence against Asian community"
 - Committee proposed a new position of **Vice-Chair** who will be a "person of color" and will seek nomination for the same
 - Committee considers it is compulsory to include a "Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" while applying for a faculty position to the Executive committee
- **Other discussions/business:**
 - Taxes - Many postdocs are concerned/confused about differences in the amount of tax deducted from their salaries. Postdocs can reach out to the Payroll office (payroll@case.edu) with questions. More clarity sought to understand the tax structure, especially for international postdocs. Maybe a seminar on taxation could be organized by the HR department.
 - **Nidhi Shukla** shared the details of an accountant who helped her with her filing:
 - **Enjoli Haley Muthu** (enjolimuthu@protonmail.com, ehaleym@gmail.com)
 - Charges maybe around \$ 60