

PDA Committee - Minutes of Meeting

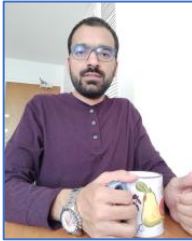
March 13th, 2023, 3 pm (EST)

- **Participants:** (16) – Felicia Moss, Jeremy Didion, Mohandas, Sagar Regmi, Andrius Tamosiunas, Jonnelle Glenn, Mohammad Siddiqi, Shalini Verma, Eric Mosher, Nicole Wagner, Shashi Singh, Ankit Sharma, Andrea Waksmunski, Bernadette Schneider, Vidya Gopakumar, Fredrick Kizito
- **Felicia Moss: Director, Postdoctoral Affairs:**
 - Felicia Moss is on *maternity leave* and won't be part of the next two PDA meetings. Nidhi Shukla will be facilitating the organization of upcoming PDA meetings.
 - **Annual Vendor Fair** was organized successfully by PDA on March 1st from 10 – 1:30 pm at Wolstein Research Center.
 - 23 vendors participated and \$5,250 was collected. \$ 1,100 were spent as part of the event organizing expenses.
 - Around 200 students/faculty attended the event.
 - **PDA Elections** to be held in the month of May during monthly PDA meeting. Emails have been sent to all postdocs who are eligible to participate in various leadership roles of the PDA.
 - Discussed the need for creating **travel funds** for postdocs.
 - The **Flora Stone Mather Center for Women** provides travel grants to female students/postdocs. More information [here](#).
 - **Human Capital Management (HCM):**
 - Postdocs will be able to record their vacation and sick time through HCM hopefully around the end of June 2023.
 - Efforts under way for recording days of working from home in the HCM. This is useful when it comes to different tax rates being applied based on the location of work.
 - **NIH Salary Scale:** If any of the postdocs need clarification regarding NIH salary scale and how it is implemented for CWRU postdocs, feel free to reach out to Felicia's office.
 - **NPA Virtual conference** to be held on May 11th and 12th. Cost of registration covered by PDA Office, up to 23 postdocs can register.
- **Nidhi Shukla Senior Co-President, PDA:** Not present in the meeting.
 - Attended Faculty Senate Committee meeting last month.
 - The Board of Trustees approved new endowments in the aggregate amount of \$1,413,317.00 for research support in the School of Medicine and the School of Engineering, and scholarships in the College of Arts and Sciences, and in the medical, dental, and nursing schools.
- **Professional Development Committee (Chair: Mohd. Siddiqi & Eric Mosher):**
 - **Marvin Nieman** (Vice Dean for Graduate Education) organized a **basic grant writing session** on March 6th, 2023 via Zoom. 96 registered and 55 people participated.
 - Felicia and Marvin will work on assembling a semester long in-person grant writing class with the goal to have a finished grant application by the end of the class.
 - **Upcoming Career Series Talks:**
 - **Kevin Huynh**, PhD [GRS `16], Senior Scientist at **Pfizer**. Friday, **March 31st @ noon**. [RSVP here](#).

- **Kermit Horton**, PhD (former CWRU Postdoc), Sales Representative at **Avantor**. Friday, **April 21st @ noon**. [RSVP here](#).
 - **Tyler Bammert**, PhD [Sr. MSL, **Eisai US**], **Sandy Chang**, MD MHS [Regional Medical Science Director, **Merk**] and **Karl Pendergrass**, PhD [Medical Affairs Director, **Merk**] will be joining us to discuss what a career working as a medical science liaison looks like from the perspective of both PhDs and an MD. Friday, **May 12th @1pm**. [RSVP here](#).
- All postdocs are welcome to volunteer to host the talk, especially if the speaker belongs to their own field of expertise.
- Many postdocs showed interest in **Spoken English workshop** organized by **Eric Moore** (Director of Spoken English Language Programs) organized on March 10th. More workshops in the pipeline:
 - **“What’s your Opinion about Opinions?”** Asking for, Giving, Agreeing, and Disagreeing (March 28 & 31)
 - **“What? Huh?”** Strengthening your English Language Listening Skills (April 4, 6, & 7)
 - **Baseball: The USA’s National Pastime** (April 11, 13, & 14)
 - [RSVP here](#) in the group "Spoken English Programs and SELP Tutoring".
- **Public Relations Committee (Chair: Ankit Sharma):**
 - There were no meetings held by Committee on University Libraries. The committee is yet to elect a Chair. Zoom link for future meetings [here](#).
 - **Dr. Jonnelle Glenn** elected as Chair of Social Media of the National Black Postdoctoral Association for a period of 1 year.
 - Monthly Public Relations Committee Meeting every **1st Monday** of the month, zoom link [here](#).
 - [LinkedIn](#) page of CWRU PDA is now active with 170 followers. Encourage all PDA members to follow the page. The page also being followed and promoted by non CWRU members.
 - 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](#) created for highlighting unique achievements of postdocs. **Dr. Nidhi Shukla** will be the first to be featured and PDA is awaiting to a slot on **The Daily** to advertise the same.
- **Women’s Affairs Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
 - Working on organizing a Panel discussion on **Women’s Work-Life balance or contract negotiations**.
- **Visa and Immigration Committee (Co-Chair: Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):**
 - Ongoing discussions on introducing some sort of **Standard English Test (SET)** for new incoming postdocs.
 - Human Resources department is working on ensuring that the J-2 visa holders (spouses of postdocs) have access to health insurance which meets the minimum standards set by their visas.
- **Social Committee (Chair: Shashi Singh):**
 - **Self-Defense** class held by CWRU [Kung Fu club](#) on Tue Feb 28th. It had 12 participants.

- Proposal for organizing a **Lake Erie Summer Cruise** for postdocs and families. With enough number of participants, transportation will be arranged.
- **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.
- **Information and Communications Technology Committee (Rep: Shashi Singh)**
 - This meeting was held on February 20, 2023. Faculty and Committee Members were invited to provide suggestions.
 - Following topics were discussed:
 - Tech Security Advisory Committee to inform/guide security initiatives and policies.
 - **ChatGPT** and potential need for policies on the use of that technology-academic vs scientific vs social usage by faculty, staff, students.
 - Addressing concerns around **lacking support** for some old versions of Windows such as **Windows XP**.
 - Teaching technologies-How are we supporting the use of updated modes of teaching?
 - What benchmarks and comparators are we using to understand our classroom/teaching and learning technologies?
 - What is the plan for rolling out **Microsoft 2022**?
 - In addition, discussion was also held regarding **Onedrive** automatic backup and potential ways to address future changes in cost structure in our shared/storage.
- **Research Committee (Rep: Sagar Regmi)**
 - Faculty Senate Meeting was held on Feb 24th.
 - Follow-up from Valerie Toly (Assoc. Prof., School of Nursing) on research resources: “CWRU is a member institution of **Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)**. This repository is free for research teams from member institutions, and it is appropriate for a vast majority of studies in nursing and the social sciences. They have an application process to safeguard access to the data, plus levels of access depending upon the sensitivity of the data.” Information on our CWRU ICPSR Representative, Mark Eddy as well as links to ICPSR information can be found [here](#).
 - Discussions held on “Cochrane subscription – library budget” and BEDAC (Biostats, epidemiology, design and analysis core) recommendations were outlined.
 - **The Research and IRB (Institutional Review Board) submission resources** - Upcoming events & seminars is available [here](#).
- **Committee on Minority Affairs (Rep: Haley Nguyen)**
 - Committee on Minority Affairs in contact with **Committee on Faculty Personnel** to include DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) efforts during faculty recruitment, annual reviews and promotion.
 - Committee still in search of a volunteer for the position of Vice Chair. The position is reserved for a “person of color”.
 - **Update on childcare center:**

- Amy Przeworski (Chair, Minority Affairs) contacted the Women's Affairs Committee, and a survey is going to be sent out soon about childcare needs.
 - The target audience will be faculty, staff, postdocs, undergraduate, graduate and professional students having children of age up to 5 years. Also, those who are considering becoming a parent within the next 5 years.
 - A childcare working group has been convened by the University administration to discuss the needs for childcare. The first meeting was held in November 2022.
 - Efforts by University leadership to partner with other institutions, such as the Cleveland Clinic to do a joint venture was not successful.
- **Other discussions/business:**



- **Dr. Mohd. Siddiqi** is leaving CWRU. PDA leadership thanks him for his contribution to the PDA activities, especially as a Co-Chair of the **Professional Development Committee**. We wish him all the best.