

CWRU Postdoc Association

Meeting 5/13/24

Format: In-person in Tomlinson Library and via Zoom

Attendees (22): Felicia Moss, Jody Kunk-Czaplicki, Shashi Singh, Sekhar Jaggarapu, Arpan Mahanty, Eric Mosher, Nisha Bhattarai, Prateek Dwivedi, Popular Pandey, Yalitza Lopez Corcino, Jonnell Edwards-Glenn, Imdadul Khan, Sina Ahmadi, Sreelakshmi Vasudevan, Vidya Gopakumar, Bernadette Schneider, Suza Mohammad Nur, Athar Khalil, Reza Ferdousi, Akshaya Radhakrishnan, Deyan Mihaylov, Andrius Tamosiunas

Felicia Moss (Director):

- Felicia asked for volunteers for Commencement (Bernadette and Suza volunteered)
- Popular Pandey presented the Biophysics Day awards at the annual Graduate Awards Ceremony on May 1st
- Postdocs are now in HCM, emails sent with instructions and they are on the website too
- Walking tour of campus May 22nd (14 attended)
- Career Series with Dr. August Li, Patent Agent at Wilson Sonsini Law Firm (15 attended), sent her a thank you package and letter
- Healthy Choice Food market volunteer opportunity on Monday, July 22nd @ 2-430pm
- Annual postdoc picnic on Thursday, July 11th from 6-830pm at Edgewater Park

Shashi Singh (President):

- Shashi thanked the current PDA for all their hard work the past year under his tenure.
- The PDA achieved some big things this year including getting postdocs in HCM for the first time in 20 years, passing the insurance coverage policy to cover postdoc families, joining the Cleveland Biomedical Trainee Alliance (CBTA), promoting and supporting the inaugural Childcare Subsidy for CWRU, creating the Postdoc Spotlight of the Month, hosting our inaugural Biophysics Day with 70+ attendees, holding a picnic with over 125 attendees and a holiday party with 75 attendees, hosted a postdoc volleyball league, maintained the Career Series, and held our biggest Vendor Fair yet with 33 vendors raising \$8,500!

Benefits Committee (Bernadette Schneider):

- Postdocs are in HCM now
- 12 postdocs were approved for the Childcare Subsidy
- We are looking into options for creating a Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Looking to create a vacation transfer policy when postdocs move into other postdoc roles at CWRU or when they move between Scholar/Fellow status
- Will work with the LGBT Center to highlight any special insurance options for members of the LGBT community

Professional Development (Eric Mosher):

- Sending out a survey to gauge interest in certain events
- Planning another Resume Roundtable
- Debating on planning a pre/postdoc networking event
- Case Comprehensive Care Center is trying to connect their trainees (anyone working on cancer research on campus), encouraging people to get on their list and participate, will add a section to the Discord for postdocs to connect
- encouraging postdocs to attend the UCITE faculty meetups on Fridays
- Initial talks about a postdoc retreat at the University Farm
- Etiquette training in the works

Public Relations (Jonnelle Edwards-Glenn):

- Will work on a photo contest in the fall of postdocs working in their labs and doing things around Cleveland
- Community Service project at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank
- Are there other social media spaces we should be in?

Social (Syam S):

- Wanting to host another Paint Night
- Another campus tour during Postdoc Appreciation Week in September
- will try to host another sport at Veale soon
- looking into hosting a Cricket night
- Looking at going hiking at Rocky River

Women's Affairs (Sreelakshmi Vasudevan):

- Looking to team up with WISER
- want to host a panel on negotiating

Other Business:

- There is some confusion on whether postdocs are voting members on the Faculty Senate Committees. Felicia will get clarity from Kelly Marcus