

Postdoc Association (PDA) Meeting - Monday, August 12, 2024

Attendance (9)

Jody Kunk-Czaplicki, Popular Pandey, Eric Mosher, Nisha Bhattarai, Bernadette Schneider, Satendra Kumar, Syam S, Jonnelle Edwards-Glenn, Jing Ma

PDA President: Popular Pandey

- Welcomed everyone to the monthly PDA meeting and introduced each other.
- After Felicia's departure, from August 1, all postdoc affairs are handled by Rachel, Jody (SOM), and Lynmarie.
- The same **postdoc@case.edu** email is in place for all postdoc-related works. If you want to know anything specific from PDA members, please direct your queries to **postdocassociation@case.edu**. Please do not share your personal information at this address.
- Postdocs are encouraged to connect with fellow postdocs *via* the **discord** server. New postdocs should contact postdocassociation@case.edu for access.
- In the past two months, postdocs were concerned about the ongoing postdoc reorganization. I believe we successfully navigated through this as a team, and we let the university leadership know that CWRU PDA is actively advocating for the needs and concerns of the postdocs.
 - PDA members and fellow postdocs met twice and shared our concerns with Provost Ward and Deputy Provost Thompson about the ongoing reorganization.
 - Requested a postdoc member be part of the confidential administrative director search advisory committee. Jonnelle is serving on the committee on behalf of the postdocs.
 - Got invited to take part in the process *via* biweekly meetings with Dr. Thompson to add additional events that help enhance the postdoc experiences in the campus.

I believe these are all good things for postdocs. I thank you all for your time and contribution.

- PDA members had a meeting with Provost Ward and Dr. Thompson on July 16th. We discussed our concerns about the new office structure, continuity of postdoc benefits, and conflict resolution.
- Me and relevant PDA committee chairs will meet with biweekly meeting with Dr. Thompson. The meeting is scheduled through December starting August 16th.
- PDA members and fellow postdocs participated in the open house event on July 31st to bid farewell to Felicia. On behalf of PDA, a "Thank you" plaque was provided.
- No Main Faculty Senate and Intercouncil Leadership meeting in the summer. Meetings are scheduled through fall 2024 and spring 2025.
- Seeking nominations for Jr. Co-President: We are also looking to fill the position of PDA Jr. Co-President. Stay tuned for more information.
- September Career Series Speaker confirmed. Yinghua Chen, a Senior Research Associate from the Department of Physiology and Biophysics and works at the Protein Expression Purification and Crystallography Core facility (PEPCC).
- Felicia already prepared the NPAW flyer. Events are scheduled from Monday, 9/16, to Friday, 9/20. Highlights include:

- Monday (9/16): Coffee and Donuts sponsored by Proteintech,
- Friday (9/20): Impact Solutions webinar on "Best Practice Mentoring for Mentors and Mentees" at 1:00 PM. [Register here.](#)
- Interested postdocs can fill up the Postdoc Spotlight Form. Confirmed through October.
- Three Faculty Senate positions are VACANT.
 - Campus Planning, Facilities, and Space
 - Information and Communications Technology
 - Ad-hoc Committee; University Media & Social Media Safety & Protection Plan.

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for the position. There will be 1 FS meeting/month in the fall and spring semesters. Please don't forget to review the role and responsibilities in the PDA Bylaws beforehand.

- I request all committee chairs and FS representatives fill out the monthly report's Google form.
- Nisha has volunteered to do some of the secretary roles for now.

PDA Treasurer: Nisha Bhattarai

- According to the expense report emailed by Lynmarie to me, the PDA balance after deducting expenses for May and June: is \$15,497.87

PDA Committee Updates

Benefits Committee: Bernadette Schneider

- The Impact Solutions webinar on "Best Practice Mentoring for Mentors and Mentees" is scheduled for 9/20 during NPAW week. [Register here.](#)

Fundraising Committee: Sina Ahmadi

- No update

Immigration & Visa Committee: Suza Mohammad Nur & Satendra Kumar

- No update

Professional Development Committee: [Eric Mosher](#), Popular Pandey, Nisha Bhattarai, Sekhar Jaggarapu, Arpan Mahanty, and Yalitza Lopez Corcino

- The professional development committee held a successful CV peer-review workshop on August 8.
- The current efforts of this committee are to brainstorm potential speakers for this academic year's Career Series and Biophysics Day.
- We currently have one speaker who has agreed to give a Career Series talk this fall.
- Eric will coordinate the timing and gather materials to create an event flyer.

Public Relations: [Jonnelle Edwards-Glenn](#), Suza Mohammad Nur, and Lamyae El Khalki

- Postdocs volunteered at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on Monday, July 22nd.

Social Activities: [Syam S.](#), Reza Ferdousi Beirami, Prateek Dwivedi

- The report on the annual picnic has been provided to the PDA. The event had over 120 attendees and the total expenses of the program were within the budget. Plans on social events are being under discussion/planned by the Social Activities Committee and details of which will be communicated to the PDA in the upcoming meetings. Suggestions of Felicia on the budget limit of events and the importance of fundraising for future social activities are communicated to the PDA.

Women's affairs: Akshaya Radhakrishnan

- No update

Faculty Senate Committee: [No update in summer]

Campus Planning, Facilities, and Space:

VACANT

Graduate Studies:

Imdadul Khan

Information and Communications Technology:

VACANT

Main Faculty Senate and Intercouncil Leadership:

Popular Pandey

Minority Affairs:

Nisha Bhattarai

Research:

Arpan Mahanty

University Libraries:

Sekhar Jaggarapu

Women Faculty:

Athar Khalil

University Media & Social Media Safety & Protection Plan:

VACANT