**October 2015**

**OSU-PDA Monthly Meeting Agenda**

October 15th 12-1pm

200 Bricker Hall

**Introductions and brief background on the PDA (Hugh and April)–** The PDA was established in Jan 2013 with support from the Office of Research, is run by Postdoc volunteers and supported by advisors from the Office of Research (Jeff Agnoli) and the College of Arts and Sciences (Marcela Hernandez). The PDA receives financial and mission support from the Graduate School, Office of Research, Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, and Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Public Health, Dentistry, and Education and Human Ecology, and receives administrative support from Life Sciences and Environmental Sciences Networks. Promoting the academic and non-academic career goals of its members.

* Advocating for constructive changes in the research environment and in policies that affect the lives of postdocs and their families
* Maintain a charter with the National Postdoc Association: You are all members!

Introduction by PDA members

1. **General PDA Business**, Hugh Morris, Co-chair (Sept 2015 – Current), April Joice (Oct 2015 – Current)

Nancy being phenomenal in serving PDA and contributing to the overall development of the PDA addenda.

* 1. PDA was represented at the Research Expo, was very successful.

Good networking opportunities with various vendors.

The banner is with April, please take the banner from April if you’ll need for the social activities.

* 1. Met with the **STEAM factory** (Sharlin) is an outreach program from OSU, science/tech/arts related activities, and hosts exhibition to showcase the science to public. Membership meeting include presentation of scientist work to the members. Relevant to postdocs and becoming members would benefit to networking opportunities. Need to advertise.

Jeff pointed out STEAM factory hosts talk, choose faculties and have different faculties approach the same problem taking different approaches. Encourage postdocs to visit website and become members and explore the opportunities.

* 1. Plan to reach out to new postdocs via email and to enhance recruitment at social and professional development events.

Sending emails to new postdocs and try to get response or pair them with active postdoc member in the committee. Planning to send email off listserv. Propose of “**Buddy program**” for the postdocs.

Connect with other successful postdoc association from other institutions and get their advice to further grow our own PDA.

* 1. Vendor show set for Oct 27th 11am to 1pm BRT 115. Final set up meeting is Oct 22th 1 pm, DHLRI 159. Lots of response from the vendors and preparation is going in full swing.

1. **Current Postdoc Issues/Announcements:**
   1. **From** Marcela - The NPA has been giving a lot of attention to the women postdoc’s guide they have published. In addition, the PDA’s advocacy committee is devoting energy to the family and leave policies at Ohio State. Marcela wanted to see if anyone in that committee would like to work with her and the other NPA diversity officer in writing a piece around these themes for the NPA’s newsletter the POSTDOCket. If interested please contact Marcela Hernandez (hernandez.16@osu.edu).
2. **Announcements from the Postdoc Advisory Council (PAC): Jeff Agnoli or Sayak Bhattacharya**
   1. **Career Fair Update:** There not much response from companies and as of now there is still only one RSVP. Fatima went to undergraduate career fair to talk to some of the employers on our list and reached out to new ones as well. She sent a follow-up email to these companies, and hopefully there is a response and we get some RSVP’s.
   2. **Another idea is to have a faculty recruiting fair:** This would be beneficial because many postdocs want to be hired as faculty, but are naïve when it comes to the process (collaborating with HERC Ohio).
   3. **October Orientation:** The orientation was well organized October 14th. Nancy shared her experience. Shorter schedule was very effective in increasing the attendance.
3. **Updates from the Secretary – Sayak Bhattacharya**
   1. No updates
4. **Updates from the Treasurer**
5. Create budget for next year
6. Order more Postdocs t-shirts (each t-shirt cost $4.99/per t-shirt and sold/charged $10), received couple of request, Jeff proposed order management at the vendor show. Food, drinks all set up for the vendor show.
7. Balance on the account is $5773.21
8. Yannis is taking over as the new treasurer creating the budget for the next academic year.
9. Arrange a meeting with the core committee to spend/allocate budgets to different committee. Travel awards should be well evaluated.
10. **Committee Updates**
    1. **International**
       1. Suresh talking to Dr. Hawley setting up the presentation and send out recent blurb about the event.
       2. Planning on webex for the Wooster campus.
       3. Professor declined to be recorded for the meeting to be uploaded on PDA website
    2. **Professional Development – Zeenia Kaul (Chair)**

Two events on October and November. Advertising for more seminar members

* + 1. Upcoming Events
       1. **Interviewing –** Concerned about interviewing for a new career in industry? Ana Berrios, PhD is the Associate Director for Career Counseling and Support Services at Ohio State. She will present a seminar focused on interviewing for industry positions from 10AM – 11AM in BRT 105 on October 29th.
       2. **Careers Outside Academia** – There are currently a lot of postdocs transitioning to careers outside of academia or traditional scientific industry positions. Orin Hemminger, PhD (Nikon) and Annette Ratcliff, PhD (OSU Technology Commercialization Office) will be discussing careers outside academia from 11AM – Noon in BRT 105 on November 3rd.
    2. **Things in mind**:
       1. Initiate planning for seminars for next year events (feedback from survey)
       2. Recruit more Professional Development Committee members
  1. **Social – Elaine Wells-Gray (Committee Chair)**
     1. The October coffee break in the Physics Research Building was successful in drawing out a more diverse crowd – many engineers and computer scientists attended. However, turnout was lower than the previous meeting in BRT. Comparable thin show for the change in location. But new postdoc showed up from around the region. Refer the addresses of the postdoc population (bldg.) that may help choosing a location.
     2. Next coffee break is tentatively scheduled for Thursday November 5th. Location TBD, but probably BRT.
     3. September’s Happy Hour was fun, though few people attended.
     4. No other social events planned. Open to suggestions and/or help planning.
     5. Looking for an interim Social Committee chair while Elaine is on maternity leave (roughly Dec – Feb).
     6. Need to advertise for new committee member
  2. **Policy and Advocacy**
     1. Committee formed to campaign for change to the university parental leave policy
     2. Report on meeting with Joanne Turner – director of the women’s group.
     3. Draw up a document a brief, bullet point document that explains the current OSU parental leave policy, data to explain why this is a problem, benchmarks (how does OSU’s policy compare to other schools), and how the policy change will benefit OSU.
     4. Pelatonia fellows gets paid parental leave, discrepancy with the general postdoc policy.
     5. Potential supporters: senate members, President and Provost’s Council on Women (PPCW), Women in Math and Science, HR, Women’s Place, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Joanna Groden.
     6. Create a focus group for postdocs and former postdocs to share their parental leave stories. Propose: Five people can tell their storied and stress on the importance of the advocacy on the parental leave agenda. Get letters from the focus group to bolster the program.
     7. Submitting the memo within couple of months
  3. **Website**
     1. No updates
  4. **Postdoc Survey**
     1. Positives
        1. People find the career development events to be useful.
        2. People are successfully networking at our social events.
        3. Postdocs meet regularly with their advisors, and some of them are getting career mentoring.

* + 1. Issues:
       1. Postdocs are very concerned about understanding their benefits- some have considered leaving their training because of benefits issues.
       2. Postdocs seem to be in favor of a set amount of vacation leave to reduce ambiguity.
       3. There are concerns about salary.
       4. Many postdocs are unaware of funding opportunities.
       5. Most postdoc respondents are aiming for jobs in academia.
       6. There is interest in webcasting the seminars to the Wooster campus, and possibly starting a satellite social program at the Wooster campus (we would just need one of them to volunteer).