

U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting

12:00 - 1:00 PM on December 8, 2015

HSEB 4100A

Attendance: Jen Nichols (Orthopaedics), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Jennifer Mabey (Graduate School). Daniel Mendoza (Atmospheric Sciences/GCSC), Chris Tracy (CVRTI), Lars Laurentius (Nano Institute), Yen Wang (Oncological Sciences), Helin Räägel (Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics)

Known Absence: Mary Anne Berzins (HR)

Agenda

- 12:00 pm Approve minutes from last meeting [5 min]
- *Minutes approved with minor corrections.*
- 12:05 pm Select Date for Postdoc Appreciation Day in September [5 min]
- *Tentatively scheduled for September 15th and Jennifer will attempt to reserve space at the Union.*
- 12:10 pm Lunch & Learn [25 min]
- Recap November Lunch & Learn
 - Tues. Nov. 20 – “Teaching as a Postdoc”
with Dr. Patrick Tripeny, Director Center for Teaching & Learning
 - 38 postdocs attended (50 registered)
 - Survey responses (fully summarized on UPDA Google Drive)
 - Usefulness: 4.0 ± 0.93 (4 = “useful”)
 - Satisfaction: 4.5 ± 0.59 (4=“satisfied”; 5=“very satisfied”)
 - *The lunch & learn series has been one of the most successful events thus far. Based on the surveys administered, the majority of participants are satisfied with the topics and talks.*
 - Discussion of Upcoming Lunch & Learns (*proposed topics listed below*)
 - Tues. Jan. 19 – Non-Academic Careers
 - *Contacts: Career Services (awaiting e-mail response)*
 - *Goal: Panel that covers finding a job, personal branding, resume writing, cover letters, and informational interviews*
 - Tues. Feb. 16 – Finances, Money Management, & Taxes
 - *Contacts: TIAA-CREF and/or Fidelity*
 - Tues. March 15 – Fellowship & Grants
 - *Do we want to split it into two parts: (i) pre-award: finding and applying and (ii) post-award grant management?*
 - *Contacts: Writing Center, Library, SciVal, VP for Research, OSP*
 - Future Topics: academic careers, interview skills, negotiation, visas, entrepreneurship, outreach as part of a career
 - *Jen send an email to Francine Mayhack for non-academic career workshop. No response yet. Jen will follow up next week.*
 - *So far we have one panelist, Julie Swaner.*
 - *Contact HR managers from local companies to sit on panel. Jen will call companies.*
 - *We could find a couple of people working in non-academic jobs to elaborate on their hiring process.*
 - *Questions to address: assemble a list of questions that are relevant to the seminar.*
 - *Future topic: Interview process.*

- February meeting panel: financial management for postdocs: 1) There is a center for money management on campus. 2) Amy from TIAA-CREF 3) Fidelity.
- We should send out an email before the event to determine their job code, so they know what category they belong to.
- March seminar will cover fellowships in general from locating appropriate fellowships to managing budget.
- Jennifer attended a conference of the Counsel of Graduate School, interestingly there is a website targeted for PhD's to help them out with the various aspects of their career path. Jennifer will provide access to UPDA board by next week to try it out. We will generate opinions on this website to potentially advocated to provide access to the website. It focuses on non-academic careers.
- Versatilephd.com

12:35 pm

Winter Event Planning – Ice Skating [20 min]

- Proposed Activity: [Ice Skating at Gallivan Center](#)
- Proposed Date: Sat. Jan. 23
- To be decided:
 - Time?
 - Availability of discount?
 - Meeting place?
 - E-mail / Advertising Plan?
- Gallivan center is good option; however, there is no substantial group discount available.
- We will plan for 3-5 on January 23rd.
- We will send out save a date email before Christmas and follow up with a couple of emails in January.
- We can provide cookies and potentially hot chocolate or juice.
- Lars will call Gallivan Center about bringing outside food.

12:55 pm

Website Improvements [5 min]

- FAQs page for website (*list of questions is started on google drive*)
- Other potential website updates (e.g., summary of Lunch & Learns)?
- We still need to update our website.
- Lunch & Learn page: We need to include information on our website with Lunch & Learn information and possibly a summary of previous seminars for postdocs not being able to attend.
- FAQ page: This will take more time to develop as we have to answer questions and providing outside links.
- We could also allot time during our monthly meetings to write these FAQ's collectively.

1:00 pm

Summary of Assigned Tasks & End of Meeting

Next Meeting: 12:00 - 1:00 PM on Tues. Jan. 12 in HSEB 4100A
Documents Sent: Agenda, Minutes from November Meeting

Do you have suggestions regarding what topics you would like discussed at FUTURE Lunch & Learn events?

Careers

- Career opportunities in biomedical research.
- Career choices for post docs.
- Are there job fairs from companies requiring postdocs or research scientists as well? or is it just for undergrad/MS students?
- job search?
- How to make the transition from Academia to industry.
- Careers outside of academia and how/where to find them (Networking is not a sufficient answer :)).
- I am glad to see we have some focused on getting jobs. I would like to see others on making the transition from academia to industry (maybe that is part of the ones planned)
- Careers outside of academia.
- transitioning to a faculty position at a primarily undergraduate institution
- Job hunting
- A lunch about non-academic career paths might be good.
- Non-academia careers
- tenure vs. career line - benefits/cons of each
- Industry job opportunities and how to overcome being discarded by 'Applied tracking System'
- alternative career choices after postdoc, medical science liason jobs, etc.
- working at the industry
- experience for finding a faculty position
- how to find a job
- applying for/attaining faculty positions;
- How to seek establish contacts with pharmaceutical industries? Tips on gaining industrial jobs?
- applying for faculty position
- negotiating a job position

Grants, Fellowships, & Funding

- Successful searching/finding grant funding sources for postdocs.
- things focused on grant writing, applying for faculty position, negotiating a job position, etc. would be helpful.
- grant applications
- how to acquire clinical fellowships at the U
- what is required in grant applications
- How to seek Clinical fellowship at University of Utah as an International applicant?
- grant writing

Other

- Project management
- Part time teaching opportunities around the campus and SLC
- Human relationship; leadership
- negotiating contracts