

U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting

12:30 - 1:30 PM on January 10th, 2019

HSEB 5100D

Present: Gaelle Batot (Biochemistry), Jennifer Mabey (Graduate School), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Dorina Diekjürgen (Department of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Jesica Jacobs (Pathology), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Ken Olsen (Ophtalmology), Aaron Simmons (Ophtalmology), Yinshen Wee (School of Dentistry), Aneesa Al Soodani (Chemistry), Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Amelia Hodges (Chemistry), Esther Chang (DFPM), Fatima Abbas (ophthalmology).

Known Absences: Daniel Mendoza (Atmospheric Sciences/GCSC), Chris Cambion (HCI)

Absences: Malini Rajan (Molecular Medicine), Raziye Mohammadpour (School of Pharmacy), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry Department).

Guests: Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology).

Agenda

Action: Gaelle will update time on the agenda for the next meeting.

Action: we need a board member to volunteer to be the secretary and write the board minutes.

12:30 pm Approve minutes from last meeting [5 min]

Minutes approved.

Action: Gaelle will upload minutes and agenda to the UPDA Box and ask Amelia to post it on the website.

12:35 pm Vote Board Members [5 min]

It was 2nd meeting for Esther and Fatima, UPDA Board members voted both to join the board, votes passed. Welcome Esther and Fatima to the UPDA Board!

Action: Esther and Fatima to provide picture and short bio/research summary to publish on the UPDA website.

12:40 pm Lunch & Learn [5 min]

- January 16th HSEB 2120 Why choosing the Faculty path? suggested by Aaron
RSVP 35
- Dr. Frans Vinberg. He is new faculty at the Moran and has a R00 grant (part of the K99/R00 mechanism). Suggested by Aaron.
- Minna Roh-Johnson, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, suggested by Jesica.
- Aaron W. Puri, PhD, Assistant Professor, Biological Chemistry, suggested by Aneesa.
- Sheetal Hardikar, an assistant professor in Population Health Sciences and a former postdoc at Fred Hutchinson at UW, says she would be happy to sit on the panel. She also recently got a K award which might be good for postdocs to hear about, suggested by Chris.

Action: Gaelle will contact IT to get microphones for the event.

Action: reminder mail will be sent the 14th of January.

- February 20th HSEB 2120 Introduction to Twitter by Libby Mitchell, social media coordinator for Utah Health Sciences
This L&L topic was chosen because of rising importance of social media as a platform for scientists to share updates about science in general.
- March 20th HSEB 2120 TBD
Sharanya will organize this event as part of the training for a future role of a Senior Chair. The topic of this L&L should not be about academia because recently we had a lot of events about various aspects of academic careers.
- April 17th HSEB 2120 Immigration with Gen. Counsel
Action: Jen will reach out to General Counsel about the date of this event.

Requested future topics:

- Mentoring
Mentoring L&L will come later in the year, because a similar topic will be offered soon through the Postdoc Winter Workshop Series on April 23, facilitated by Jan Abramson.
- Variety of Academic Positions- Academic beyond professor (Core facility-Communication-Research Development...)
- Visual aid/Presentations
- How to learn statistical programming/skills in other programs (e.g., R, Python) more relevant for industry
Natalia proposed that a variation of this L&L would be to talk about transferable skills and on how to gain some specific technical skills to transition to industry.

12:45 pm Coffee & Bagels with a Mentor [10 min]

- Dana Carroll to talk about CRISPR babies, December 13th, HSEB 5100 B RSVP 15 Attd 11
Very good event, postdocs enjoyed the topic and the speaker.
- Sarah Diefendorf, Online Presence for Postdocs, January 10th HSEB 2958 RSVP 18 Attd 11
Aaron commented that it was a very needed event to discuss online presence for postdocs, however since most attendees were from health sciences it was little bit hard to apply Sarah's knowledge as a political science and expertise to health scientists.
Sharanya proposed to emphasize in the future when speakers are from a social science background to make it more attractive to postdocs that are not from health science.
- Hannah Gordon, Postdoc who transitioned to Recursion
This C&B is organized to discuss transition to Recursion company specifically. There may be one more person coming with Hanna, who is from Recursion HR.
Suggestions for the future:
- Sarah from the Scholar Social Network to discuss about the chapter, which has for aim to connect scientists with policy makers and they want to open to health sciences.
Gaelle pointed out that that it may be very attractive topic as UPDA did not have many occasions to talk about this in the past and it is a career option for postdocs
- Jan Abramson to discuss about the National organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) and Research Development as a potential career for Postdocs
This is also a good career option for postdocs. However, since Jan is presenting in April and has been invited recently to C&B this event should occur in the fall semester.
- Are there any mentors who could talk about social activism, community organization, or even creativity as scientists? People who make time for stuff outside the lab (beyond exercise or getting into the mountains).

There were many good suggestions about whom UPDA may invite for an informal C&B event: Natalia suggested a person from Biochemistry Department who is doing photography, and Daniel Mendoza who is involved in local environment initiatives. Fatima suggested Anne Martin (<https://cargocollective.com/annebrogdon>) who does art that is science-related, Gaelle mentioned Sarah Franklin and her work in Hope Humanitarian. UPDA should reach out to these people and organize C&B not consecutively but throughout the year.

Action: Aneesa and Amelia will forward Gaelle an email with possible contacts from a panel that they attended in the past.

Action: any board member is welcome to send suggestions to Gaëlle

- Nels Elde, from the Genetics Department, PI working on Pathogen-Driven Evolution
Gaelle received this suggestion from someone through email and will keep it in mind for a future C&B event.

12:55 pm Social Events [5 min]

- Thirsty Thursday 31st of January 6 pm

1:00 pm Winter Workshop [5 min]

- January 22 The Intercultural Conflict Style Inventory (ICS): Improving Communication and Conflict Resolution Across Cultures by Jude McNeil, Assistant Director of Inclusive Excellence, Office for Inclusive Excellence, University of Utah.
- February 24 How to manage microaggressions as a bystander by David Derezotes, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence at the University of Utah.
- March Emotional Intelligence
- April 23 Mentoring up Jan Abramson, Sponsored Projects Officer, Office of Sponsored Projects, University of Utah.

Thanks to Natalia this workshop will be sponsored by Office of Health Equity and Inclusion. Natalia confirmed proposed dates and format of the workshop with all speakers. David is still working on the title and as soon as Natalia has it, she will update UPDA. For now, it is settled that events will take place in Eccles Health Sciences Library in the upper campus (in the advertising email directions and map are provided), but if for some reason location appears to be problematic to attendees it will be relocated to HSEB or nearby locations.

Action: Amelia will update the website about the list of upcoming workshops so people can start to plan.

Action: reminder mail for the first workshop sent the 20th

Action: Jude's name will be corrected on the website

1:05 pm Survey [10 min]

Sharanya summarized the survey from last fall.

- There were 56 people who took the survey, among them majority of postdocs who are here up to two years now.
- 30% of them did not attend any of the UPDA events because they were busy. The other most scored reason was that the topic was not interesting to them.
- The most desired way to contact postdocs about the upcoming event are emails, however other ways such as Facebook or website were also indicated.
- Postdocs will most likely attend events about professional development, and in general highest number of votes were for 1hour event held on upper campus in the afternoon. There was an equal interest for academia and industry.

- As part of off-campus events there was significant interest in outdoor activities and social event like happy hour, etc. Board commented that UPDA always tried to organize outdoor activities like hikes, etc. however almost always nobody except few board members would respond and go. Fatima suggested to advertise them as the opportunity to meet new postdocs, but Board's experience is that it was not very successful catch in the past. Any board member interested to organize such an event is welcome to give it a shot.
- Because of the interest in the afternoon events Board discussed an option of alternating C&B with a similar event but held in the afternoon – as a coffee break.
- We will keep the discussion going at the next board meeting.

1:10 pm Faculty Application Package Workshop [5 min]

Sharanya will organize these workshops based on all the documentation, schedule and facilitators that Marta prepared last year. Fatima will help her, and Marta will join them later in February to help shape the workshops. Three of them will work on this outside the usual UPDA Board meetings and report progress to the board. This group will consider to making the teaching and diversity part not mandatory.

1:20 pm Additional Points of Discussion [5 min]

- Assign person for taking notes on next L&L
Action: Aaron will take notes on the next L&L
- New Postdoc Welcoming mail
Action: Gaelle and Jen will work on this.
- Linked In account for UPDA
Action: if any board member is interested to open a UPDA Linked In account, just contact Gaëlle.
- Next board meetings on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm HSEB 5100 A (21st of February, 14th of March and 18th of April)
- Guest comments
Tosifa thinks it is great. She asked about teaching opportunities for postdocs, so Board discussed L&L event "Teaching for Postdocs" that was held every year and taught by Patrick Tripeny from CTLE. Also, about CTLE offerings of workshops, seminars and courses for those who are interested in gaining or improving teaching experience. There was also a L&L panel about faculty package where it was discussed briefly what is required when applying for a teaching academic faculty position. All the information and notes from past events can be found on the UPDA website at upda.utah.edu

1:55 pm Summary of Assigned Tasks & End of Meeting

Next Meeting: 12:30 - 1:30 PM on Thursday February 21st, in HSEB 5100A

Documents Sent: Agenda, Minutes from December Meeting