

U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting

12.00-1.00 pm on October 4th, 2019

HSEB 5100A

Total Board Member Count: 12 + 1 (Dr.Barrios)

Board members: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Amelia Hodges (Chemistry), Fatima Abbas (ophthalmology), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Aneesa Al Soodani (Chemistry), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry Department), Esther Chang (DFPM), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine)

Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs: Dr. Amy Barrios

Number Present (as recorded in Sign-in sheet): 5

Present: 5 - Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine)

Known Absences: 8 - Aneesa Al Soodani (Chemistry), Amelia Hodges (Chemistry), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Dr.Amy Barrios (Associate Dean of Postdoctoral Affairs), Esther Chang (DFPM), Fatima Abbas (ophthalmology), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry Department)

Absences:

Guests: Nicolas Szabo (Biochemistry), Ali Giese (Geology)

Minutes taken by: Sharanya Kalasekar

Agenda

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| 12:00 pm | Voting in new Board Members/Office holders
We did not have enough attendance (needed at least 7) to hold any voting. |
| 12:02 pm | Approve minutes from previous meeting.
Minutes will be approved during next meeting as the minutes were sent out only the morning of the meeting. |
| 12:05 pm | Postdoc Appreciation Week – Updates and Feedback |

- **Keynote Address: Sharing your Science Story Effectively** – 59 signed in, we had more, Neil wanted a survey circulated, **Sharanya will co-ordinate with him for this.** Board members had mixed responses: some thought the talk was different from what was expected, while other thought it was useful. But everyone agreed that it was too long – it went almost 30 mins over time.
- **Postdoc Poster Competition** – We did not have too much of a turn out, next time advertising should be done ahead of time. Natalia has documented any issues faced with judges, and made provisions for handing out judges' feedback to postdoc presenters.

- **Introduction of the UPDA & upcoming events for Postdocs** – 30 RSVPs, 15 signed in. [We had expected around this number of postdocs to attend.](#)
- **Poster Competition Winner Announcements**
- **Interactive Workshop: Using Improv for Effective Networking** – 15 signed up, 12 attended. [Postdocs had mixed response as some said they expected more, but others thought it was good for 1 hours' time.](#)
- **Postdoc Family Ice Cream Social & Hike** – 21 RSVPs, 6 attended. – [No hike was done as it was cold, but the event went well.](#)
- **Coffee & Headshots** – 35 RSVPs [This event went really well, and the postdocs were very happy with their headshots. We should invite Jacque again for next year.](#)
- **Thirsty Thursday!** –15 attended. [This event went very well – great location!](#)

12:20 pm: October events:

- October 4th: Publication Strategies talk by Jung-Eun Lee, Associate Editor of the journal Communications Biology, Nature Research – Danny Nelson to get back to Sharanya about Grad School co-sponsoring event. [SACNAS was trying to organize an event with this speaker, but decided to postpone for lunch. Also, this is an event to reconsider as speaker needed remuneration. We decided to not pursue planning the event.](#)
- October 5th: Hiking - Ibantik Lake Trail – Update by Shraddha – [it is planned and scheduled to take place on October 5th.](#)
- October 15th: NIH Loan Repayment Program: Jan Abramson, OSP: October 15th, 3pm, room to be reserved -
- October 23rd : Lunch & Learn – Chalk Talks, Asst. Prof Adam Douglass, Neurobiology & Anatomy, 12-1pm, HSEB 3515B, Co-ordinated by Shraddha – [Everything has been organized – Advertisement to be sent out by Monday, 7th.](#)
- Thirsty Thursday: October 31st, Halloween – [Was not discussed since Aneesa was not present.](#)

12:30 pm: Faculty Application Workshop:

- Sharanya will plan Diversity Statement for this end of October/first week of November. [Will be done by Sharanya.](#)
- Teaching Statement – suggestions – consider including only in next workshop – [Marta said she will try contacting CTLE again. Sharanya to forward her previous communication.](#)

12:35pm: Brainstorm ideas/speakers for upcoming L&Ls:

- November: Postdoc Rights and Benefits – [decided to start planning this.](#)
- [Not all of the following events were not discussed in detail in the interest of time.](#)
 - January: Tony Tsai about Creating a Meaningful Career.
 - February: non-academic careers/industry Panel – prelude to career fair
 - March: Choosing Academia/Faculty Application Workshop
 - April: Mentor Award recipients – panel on being/choosing a good mentor
 - May: Financial planning – personal and/or professional? – investments etc.

Brainstorm ideas/speakers for upcoming C&Bs:

- October: We have 2 other events, so do we need C&B? – [we decided to not hold on additional C&B](#)
 - November: Government positions, policy: Ivy Estabrooke, Executive director, Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative – [Sharanya will reach out to Ivy/Erin for November.](#)
 - December 1st week: Erin Young Bioinformatics Fellow at Utah Public Health Laboratory – [Moved to November, as Shraddha will ask Dr. Matt Miller for a C&B in December.](#)
 - January: Entrepreneurship
 - February:
 - March:
- Other topics of potential interest:
 - Generating research ideas/productive brainstorming
 - Families & Careers - academic/industry challenges when you start a family
 - Teaching as a career

12:45pm Additional Points of Discussion [*1 min*]

- Guest comments : [Nicolas and Ali thought the meeting was useful.](#)

1:00 pm End of Meeting