

Minutes
U of U Postdoctoral Association Board Meeting
12.00-1.00 pm on April, 3rd, 2020
Virtual meeting via ZOOM

Total Board Member Count: 12

Board members: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry), Esther Chang (DFPM), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), Dr. Amy Barrios (Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs), Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry), Matthias Lange (CVRTI).

Number Present (as recorded in Sign-in sheet): 11

Present: Sharanya Kalasekar (HCI), Marta Szulik (CVRTI), Natalia Torres (CVRTI), Shraddha Nayak (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kolawole (Pathology), Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry), Esther Chang (DFPM), Tosifa Memon (Pharmacology and Toxicology), Ioannis Karagiannidis (Internal Medicine), Kristen Davenport (Biochemistry), Matthias Lange (CVRTI).

Known Absences:

Absences:

Guests: Hiran Thyagarajan (Immunology), Surbhi Verma (Biochemistry), Harriet Dashnow, Dengpan Dong (Materials Science and Engineering)

Minutes taken by: Noemi Paguigan (Medicinal Chemistry)

Agenda

12:00 pm: **Introduction of attendees if we have first time attendees (3 mins)**

No first time attendees.

12:03 pm: **Approve minutes from March meeting (2 mins)**

We skipped this.

12:07 pm: **Discussion on COVID-19 situation and postdoc concerns (15 mins)**

Some postdocs in different departments have been given information and lab management plans by their respective research groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some departments have advised lab closures and only have essential employees working during this time to minimize possible exposure to and spread of the virus. For most postdocs this is a time to stay focused, stay on task and keep being productive to achieve our career goals.

Virtual open house via ZOOM was held with Amy Barrios. She can be emailed with any of the postdocs' grievances. Resources for postdocs will be circulated.

12:22 pm: **Ideas for virtual events (10 mins)**

Organizing virtual panel discussions can be tricky to organize-can encounter technical difficulties but on the bright side its cheaper and we can invite guests from anywhere in the world.

The UPDA has already discussed in the past board meetings about organizing events focusing on the job search process (and getting one). With this current pandemic there are several concerns on the availability of positions that are open especially in the industry (i.e. freeze hiring).

Panel discussion will be more useful if it will focus more on postdocs that are planning to apply next year. However, this needs to be discussed with the invited guests.

The panel discussions will be held depending on the availability of the invited panels.

Postdocs need to come up with ideas to organize events that can be held online.

Webinars and social gatherings can be hosted virtually via ZOOM.

Kristen Davenport and Esther Chang have university accounts with Zoom and can use it to host.

UPDA can ask Amy Barrios for Zoom license.

For different webinars or activities different postdocs can volunteer to host at different times during the week.

Ideas:

UPDA can organize peer support activities.

We can organize a RIP for postdocs.

Host an event that will center around working from home.

Shradda will organize a virtual social event (happy hour, cooking) for community support.

We need an RSVP for the virtual social event.

12:32 pm: **Discussion on UPDA Working Committees (25 mins)**

- Purpose of committees
- Committees Proposed so far and volunteers:
 - Advocacy Committee
Kristen, Martha, Harriet
 - Communications committee
Natalia
 - Social events Committee
Shradda, Esther
 - Outreach committee
Kristen, Kenneth (not a board member yet)
 - Green card committee
Matt, Esther (will interface with the university General counsel)
- Next actionable steps (up for discussion):
 - Committee chairs will discuss goals and strategies with Sharanya & Ioannis and draft statements of purpose/goals
Committee chair and members get together and create a draft of the goals of the committee; strategies to achieve these goals; timeline to achieve these goals.
Drafted statements will be made available through google documents (Sharanya will make it available by April 6) so everybody in the board can have access and edit.
 - Announcement of committees and solicitation of volunteers
- Can CCs decide how to recruit members, run committees? – degree of autonomy, work-flow, decision-tree
- Including language in UPDA Board Policy

- Recognition Incentives – Titles? Certificates? – to announce

Postdocs who are part of the committees should be given incentives that can be part of their CV.
Subcommittees will be officially announced on the UPDA website by the end of April.
Sharanya will set up a SLACK account for UPDA. Different channels for different committees will be organized in this SLACK account later on.

12:57 pm: **Guest comments (3 mins)**

Harriet Dashnow was voted in as a board member.

1:00 pm: **End of Meeting**