

AGENDA & MINUTES

UPDA monthly meet-up

Time: October 2, 2025 4:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://utah.zoom.us/j/98874461378>

Meeting ID: 988 7446 1378

Passcode: 809179

Known Absences:

Leave of absence:

Guests:

Minutes taken by: Elisa

Board members:

Present Executive Board members			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>
Elisa Balzano	Human Genetics	Senior Chair	x
Rehab Ahmad	College of Architecture & Planning	Junior Co-Chair	
Lokesh Saravanan	Chemistry	Junior Co-Chair	x
Zeynep Ozay	HCI	Communications Chair	x
Emmanuel Aghimien	College of Architecture & Planning	Chairs of Professional Development	x
Thankhoe Rants'o	Pharmacology And Toxicology	Chairs of Professional Development	
Rhiannon Louse Cowan	Neurosurgery	Advocacy Chair	x
Jacob Kisiolek	Pathology	Treasurer	x
Luis Cedeno-Rosario	Biochemistry	Postdoc Success Chair	x
Hasan Al Faruque	Molecular Pharmaceutics	Social Event and Network Chair	x
Deborah Kajewole	Internal Medicine/HCI	Board Member	x
Shixiong Tian	Mathematics	Board Member	
Mary Killela	CoN Nursing	Board Member	
Edwin Miranda	Molecular Medicine Program	Board Member	x
Hillary Wadsworth	Neurobiology Research	Board Member	x
Stephen Decker	Human Genetics	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	
Krishna Prasath Logakannan	Mechanical Engineering	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	
Vince Wang	Civil & Environmental Eng	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	
Past Executive Board members			
Ashwini Sri Hari	Pharmacology/Toxicology	Former Senior Chair and Board Member	x
Faculty/Staff			

Amy Barrios	OPA	Faculty/Staff Sponsor	
Neil Vander Most	OPA	Faculty/Staff Sponsor	x

Agenda

Topics	Discussion Points	Updates / Action Items
Review of NPAW	1. Breakfast and career workshop 2. Professional headshots 3. Keynote speaker and poster session 4. Keynote speaker workshop 5. Bowling and pizza social	✓ 1-5. Feedback: Friday is not a great option for events. The first days of NPAW were more attended, HCI events overlapped with NPAW, so next year, coordinate with HCI at least 3 months in advance to avoid calendar conflicts
Upcoming Events	1. Budget planning (Jacob) 2. Coffee Hours schedule (Ashwini list of Depts) 3. Multicultural potluck planning (Luis, Edwin and Neil) 4. AI workshop and poll for future workshops (Emmanuel and Thankhoe) 5. Funding workshop (Rhiannon and Luis) 6. Wellness workshop on October 29th, 12-1 pm by PDO	✓ 1. The remaining budget \$269.75 from NPAW. Always account for taxes and order food/beverages a few days in advance. New budget: \$3,000 for professional/career events, \$1,000 for social events ✓ 2. Next coffee hour with HCI end of October and Ashwini will send department list ✓ 3. Merge groups across campus to increase visibility of the multicultural potluck event. Edwin will prepare the flyer. Scheduled for Nov 14 at Alumni Hall after 3 PM. Estimated attendance: 40–50 people. Use bags/stickers from PDO ✓ 4. AI workshop: Focus on broad tools to improve work efficiency. Emmanuel and Thankhoe will plan it ✓ 5. Funding workshop: Rhiannon, Luis, and Edwin will coordinate to organize one workshop by December ✓ 6. Resilience Strategies for Postdocs: Navigating Complexity and Uncertainty at Eccles Health Science Education Building 5100C

Grants & Funding for Postdocs	1. Collaboration with SACNAS and Grad School's Director of Accounting & Finance (Amy, Rhiannon, Luis, Edwin) 2. Other ideas?	✓ 1. Host workshop on internal/external grant opportunities (see previous point 5), grant application policy and terminology, cooperation with international office
UPDA Open Positions	1. Voting for new board members	✓ 1. Hillary Wadsworth voted as member of the Social Event and Network Committee
Newsletter & Social Media	1. UPDA Gmail: upda@gmail.com 2. Calendar updates on UPDA website (Lokesh) 3. Slack engagement ideas (Zeynep) 4. Newsletter coordination (Zeynep) 5. Social media: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn (Zeynep and Hasan)	✓ 1-2. Gmail and calendar updates in progress ✓ 3-5. Discussed by email: Slack will be used to share events, flyers, news and open job position. UPDA will use Instagram as social media page and it will be managed by Zeynep and Hasan
Miscellaneous	1. Share UPDA Handbook (Neil, Zeynep, Lokesh) 2. NPA Spotlight (Neil)	✓ 1. Handbook to be shared via Slack, email, website, and Instagram around end of October ✓ NPA will let Neil know in a few weeks
Next Meeting	1. Confirm date for next monthly meeting	✓ 1. Confirmed for November 6, 2025, at 4 pm

Notes: