

AGENDA & MINUTES

UPDA monthly meet-up

Time: November 6, 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: Lokesh, revised 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	
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	
Shixiong Tian	Mathematics	Board Member	
Mary Killela	CoN Nursing	Board Member	
Edwin Miranda	Molecular Medicine Program	Board Member	
Hillary Wadsworth	Neurobiology Research	Board Member	x
Stephen Decker	Human Genetics	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	
Marija Nadsombati	HCI	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	x
Elizabeth Schneider	Cvrti	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	x
Christopher Nguyen	Electric and Computer Engineering	<u>1 meeting for being Board Member</u>	x
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	
Faculty/Staff			
Amy Barrios	OPA	Faculty/Staff Sponsor	
Neil Vander Most	OPA	Faculty/Staff Sponsor	x

Agenda

Topics	Discussion points	Updates/Action items (Minutes)
Review on past events	1. Meeting with HPA 2. Coffee Hour (HCI)	1. ✓ It was useful to talk with the leaders of the HPA to collaborate 2. ✓ Having trouble accessing the HCI South building ✓ Number of participants can be considered to book the place. Find ways to invite and include more postdocs
Upcoming events	1. OPA events calendar 2. Town Hall Postdocs 3. Coffee Hour in December (Hasan & Hillary) 4. Grants Workshop (Rhiannon & Luis) 5. AI Workshop (Emmanuel & Thankhoe) 6. Postdocs spotlight (Weekly or monthly) 7. SACNAS Potluck November 14th @ 4 PM EHSEB Alumni Hall Room 2120 (Edwin & Luis)	1. ✓ Next year - More engagements with NPA ✓ Volunteer opportunities with NPA are available for postdocs ✓ Demoting “a day in the life” 2026 workshop ✓ Neil will send us a list of speakers and postdocs can choose among them for transitions to academia industry career panel event 2. ✓ Event time: January or February 2026 ✓ Think about topics and questions carefully ✓ Goal: Feedback to improve postdocs policy ✓ Send survey to ask questions and create an outline before the town hall (at least 2 months in advance) ✓ Include the timeline to change the policy in handbook ✓ Small modifications in the policy are easier to change ✓ Talk with Amy to ask how to be part of the voting board for postdocs policy 3. ✓ Not yet decided the location 4. ✓ On the process of contacting speakers and fixing the dates

		✓ Rhiannon willing to make the flyer ✓ Zeynep can help in advertising the flyer by Slack and newsletter 5. ✓ Zoom event at the end of November, on the process of contacting the speaker 6. ✓ Monthly spotlight ✓ Select postdocs with writing talent so they can set the tone for the following posts ✓ Nominate postdocs and share with Neil 7 ✓ Table for UPDA: Luis can help with setting the table ✓ Neil can give the stickers on Monday to Hillary
Grants and fundings for Postdocs	1. Ubox for shared word files – Jacob: Budgeting, forms, payments, etc.. – Hasan & Hillary: Social events planning – Zeynep: Newsletter & Slack instructions – Lokesh: Website management guide	1. ✓ Finalize and upload it to the Ubox
UPDA open positions	1. Voting for the new UPDA board members	1. ✓ No new board members voted
UPDA Newsletter and Social network	1. Hasan, Hillary and Zeynep activate Instagram 2. Share the SACNAS Potluck flyer	1. ✓ Cooperation among Hasan, Hillary and Zeynep 2. ✓ Shared the flyer
Miscellaneous discussions	1. Share the Handbook (Neil, Zeynep and Lokesh) 2. NPA Spotlight (Neil)	1. ✓ Upload the handbook with new policy on the website 2. ✓ Published!
Next monthly meeting	1. Can we confirm December 4, 2025 at 4 PM for the next UPDA monthly meeting?	1. ✓ Confirmed December 4, 2025, at 4 pm

Notes: