

April 19, 2017; Ohio Union, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Cartoon Room 12-1pm  
**Minutes in Blue**

**Attendees:**

Mona El Refaey	DHLRI
Timiya Nolan	Nursing
Laura Chavez	Public Health
Klarke Sample	Ophthalmology
Neils Christian Hansen	School of Music
Noah Weisleder	PAC/Physiology
Danielle Chirdon	Chemistry
Megan Zavorka Thomas	Pharmacy
Jing Zhang	Human Sciences
Nathalie Houssin	Optometry
Gardenia Barbosa	Physical Therapy
Hatem Brahmi	MAE
Felice Pepe	Comprehensive Cancer Center
Ioannis Mergos	MSE
Xiaojin Wang	Public Affairs
Jess Irons	Psychology
Elaine Wells-Gray	Optometry
Brenda Reader	PACCS
Yoshie Narui	Chem/Biochem
Manoj Gottipati	Neuroscience
Faith Brennan	Neuroscience
Rudra Purusottam	CBEC
Mary Beth Wade	Plastic Surgery
Sara Koenig	DHLRI

**Introductions and brief background on the PDA** – The PDA was established in January 2013 with support from the Office of Research, is run by Postdoc volunteers, and supported by Postdoc Advisory Council (PAC) advisors from the Office of Research and colleges throughout the university. The purpose of PDA is to address the needs and concerns of its members by:

- *Providing representation and liaison between its members and the administration of the Ohio State University;*
- *Promoting the academic and non-academic career goals of its members;*
- *Advocating for constructive changes in the research environment and in policies that affect the lives of postdocs and their families;*
- *Building a community of postdocs by promoting interaction between postdocs on academic, social, cultural and political issues;*
- *Maintaining a charter with the National Postdoc Association: You are all members, so sign up through the link on the PDA website!*

1. **General PDA Business (Co-Chairs):** Brenda Reader (June 2016-April 2017) and Yoshie Narui (Oct 2016-Current)
  - a. Brenda will be stepping down from the co-chair position at the end of the month (she will still be around to help). Jess Irons has been appointed interim co-chair of the PDA beginning in May!

b. The position of Secretary will need to be filled. Please see one of us if interested.

## 2. Current Postdoc Issues/Announcements:

a. Budgets

**Action Points: Committee chairs who haven't already, please send budget requirements to co-chairs.**

b. Standard operating procedures for committees

c. Discussion/ranking of travel awards (Jess report on survey)

i. Highest ranked criteria for travel awards were active PDA involvement and need.

A survey was conducted at the last PDA meeting to assess members' opinions on travel awards. Results from 12 respondees showed that active PDA involvement and need (i.e., unable to achieve funding from PI etc.) are the most important criteria. Most people preferred using a static timing regime (e.g., twice per year), and the average award value is approximately \$600. The goal will be to begin the awards process in Fall 2017.

d. University Research Committee (Yoshie Narui): **Need a volunteer postdoc representative for this committee**

Yoshie is currently the voting member on the committee, and another members will be in training. A couple of people have expressed interest in the position.

## 3. Announcements from the Postdoc Advisory Council (PAC):

a. OPA update: Noah Weisleder interviewed for faculty director

The Office of Postdoctoral affairs is to be up and running in late Spring or Summer. Formal interviews for the position of director has started and the decision should come soon. The PAC will be in talks with the new direct to ensure the transition goes smoothly.

b. Postdoc Benefits update

Marcela has joined a working group led by Brad Harris from Office if Academic Affairs to discuss compensation and benefits for grad students and postdoc and help specify the university's philosophy on these issues. The PAC will push for minimum postdoc salary of \$50,000, the elimination of hourly postdoc wage, sick leave for fellows, and vacation and paid parental leave for fellows and researchers. Marcela also informed the working group that the PDA and PPCW have pushed for these benefits. Marcela said that based on national data available from the NPA, OSU will have to make these changes if they want to remain competitive.

c. Upcoming events: NPA report meeting April 21<sup>st</sup> 11:30am location TBD

Additional PAC events:

- In mid-May, PAC will hold a professional development event with OUAB. Likely to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.
- The PAC will hold a fellowship writing workshop. The event is most useful if you plan to write a fellowship in the near future.

#### 4. Updates from the Secretary – Jessica Irons (Oct 2016-current)

- a. PDA monthly meeting times: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month 12pm-1pm switching between
- b. May 17th (Wed) 12 – 1pm, BRT 134
- c. June 21st (Wed) 12 – 1pm, Research Commons 352
- d. July 19th (Wed) 12 – 1pm, BRT 134

#### 5. Updates from the Treasurer – Elaine Wells-Gray (Nov 2016-current)

- a. Our current balance is: \$9,529.52
- b. Reimbursements: Give Elaine the original receipt and copy of the event flier ([wells-gray.1@osu.edu](mailto:wells-gray.1@osu.edu))

Planning for the Fall 2017 vendor show will begin soon.

#### 6. Committee Updates:

##### a. Communications – Manoj Gottipati (chair/webmaster):

- i. Please send event updates to me as early as possible so they can be put up on the website as well the FB page
- ii. I'm looking for suggestions from the postdocs about improving the visibility of the events organized by the PDA. Is the FB page helping? Or is it the website or the emails that go out from the PDA listserve.
- iii. What would be the best way to communicate the existence of PDA to new incoming postdocs? If anyone is interested in expanding our social media efforts, please contact Manoj (or stay after the meeting to discuss) [gottipati.5@osu.edu](mailto:gottipati.5@osu.edu)

Some people expressed finding the facebook page useful. Many find email most useful. If you have suggestions, contact Manoj.

##### b. International – Mona El Refaey (Co-Chair) and Faith Brennan (Interim Co-Chair)

- i. International committee hosted an immigration attorney (Monica Dorman) for a Q&A session to provide information and answer questions post-docs had regarding visas, legal status, etc. The session ran for two hours and we had a great audience that nearly reached 50 postdocs.
- ii. A follow-up session with (Amanda Giandinoto) from the office of international affairs on 19th April some of the unanswered or unclear issues related to J1 visa, waiver, H1, visa, etc.

Amanda is willing to give an information session with the immigration attorney from OSU, and the international committee will work with her to arrange a session. The Office of International Affairs receive many emails regarding legal issues and felt this would be helpful to their own purposes. The session would focus mostly on temporary visas as OSU does not sponsor green cards for postdocs or research scientists.

- iii. We will try to set up another session with someone from the office of international affairs if possible to meet with postdocs regarding internal update about visa expiration, renewal, etc.
- iv. We have finished finalizing the letter that should be sent to the department chair along with the postdoc leaflet for sending it to new recruited postdocs. The goal will be to have the info booklet sent to new postdocs before they arrive in Columbus

The international postdoc guide is almost complete and will be on website shortly.

##### c. Professional Development – Amara Greer-Short (Co-chair) and Eric Wang (Co-chair)

- i. April seminar “Navigating the Faculty Track: A Panel Discussion” April 18
- ii. May or June seminar’s tentative topic is mentoring: How to find a mentor as a postdoc/The Postdoc/Mentor Relationship (still planning).
- iii. Updating and compiling professional events across campus.

Additional events:

- The professional development committee will be working with the PAC to organize the professional development on May 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

**d. Social – Atsuko Uchida (Co-Chair) and Rudra Purusottam (Co-Chair)**

- i. Coffee break on April 11th at BRT had 23 attendances.
- ii. Next coffee break will be on Tuesday, May 9th at CBEC (Chemical Biomolecular Engineering and Chemistry). The room is pending, either Rm#330 or 267.
- iii. Annual Spring Hike will be at 3pm on Sunday April 23rd. The location is Sharon woods Metro Park (6911 Cleveland Ave. Westerville, OH 43081). After the hike, we will gather for light refreshments. We need volunteer for this event!

Note correction – date for the hike is April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- iv. The first "Friday Happy Hours" will be on Friday, April 28th! The location is TBD.

The location will be Old North Arcade, starting at 5:30pm.

**e. Policy and Advocacy Sara Koenig (Co-Chair) and Mary Beth Wade Co-Chair)**

- i. Welcome new co-chairs!
- ii. Completing FLSA survey to postdocs

The policy and advocacy committee will send the survey out in the near future. The aim of the survey is to report on the effectiveness of the FLSA policy changes at OSU to the provost. A number of people at the meeting were unaware of the details of the FLSA, suggesting that there needs to be improved awareness to postdocs. There was also some confusions about whether Fellows are covered by the FLSA policies, and it seems to vary depending on the funding body.

- iii. Upcoming FLSA survey to faculty

This survey will assess best practices to implanting FLSA from the faculty’s point of view, and what PIs consider “paid work” (e.g. applying for fellowships, faculty positions etc).

- iv. Benefits and compensation being reviewed by Vice Provost Harris
- v. IDI letter about postdoc benefits (April Joice)

A new Infectious Disease Institute is being proposed for OSU. April has been involved in a forming committee and found that many committee members were unaware that OSU postdoc benefits were not on par with big 10 schools. April will be working with the policy and advocacy committee to send a letter asking the IDI committee to give their support to improving postdoc benefits to University leadership.

- vi. Planning to send out a P&A update on listserv