

## Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Meeting

**Agenda:** Discuss a new timeline for Postdoc retreat and upcoming elections for 2019.

**Attendees:**

**PDAC executive board:**

Scott Baliban, Saumil Sethna, Katrina Williams and Archana Gopalakrishnan

**Members at Large:**

Rachel Abbot

**Office of Postdoctoral affairs members:**

Jennifer Aumiller and Renee Cockerham

**Excused absence:** Alexandra Squires, [Mario Scarpa](#)

**Agenda discussed:**

Saumil presided over the entire meeting, reporting past events and discussing future events

**1. January:**

The CV to resume workshop/seminar to be delivered by Jennifer has been scheduled for January 22nd

Social event: Happy hour will be planned by Katrina for the 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

**2. February:**

Saumil is willing to host the discussion on CRISPR baby discussion-possible date Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Suggestion to have someone with Bioethics background/expertise to oversee the discussion and be around to offer insight into ethically derived questions. (Henry Silverman, someone from law school). Design of the discussion- Saumil will deliver a small presentation and leave open questions for discussion.

This event might occur more as a coffee/cookie than lunch.

Social event: Rachel will organize something for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb

Formatted: Superscript

**3. March:**

Scott will contact someone from Policy background- Jennifer is working on the alumni database list that would be made available to the PDAC in a deidentified manner- Can be utilized to look for potential speakers, who Jennifer could then contact for us.

Mario had suggested Poker social, will need to check with him on that.

**4. Budget update:** Katrina mentioned that PDAC has 3170/- including the 500/- spillover from the retreat. Possibly, speakers requesting an honorarium could be invited for monthly talks. If more leftover money, the PDAC would host a happy hour with paid food for the postdocs.

**5. Training Program in Biomolecular Therapeutics:**

Monthly seminar series in collaboration with IDBR- for trainees who are nearing job market. Trainees can present their work to an audience of active hiring individuals from government, industry and academia. Held in a room with video conferencing with people from IDBR. A test run of this was done in December, where Scott presented. The PDAC is trying to get involved to see how the trainees can be selected. The audience is grading the presentation on a rubric and will give you feedback. Eventually, have graduate students come in for this.

**6. PDAC awards:**

After discussion, it has been decided that it is best to have one set of awards as presented by School of Medicine each year in October. Suggestions to improve the guidelines and criteria of nomination for the different awards has been noted. A proposal for a new award was made by Rachel: the "Postdoc mentor" award (best Postdoc in a mentor role) and rename the existing Postdoctoral mentor award to "Faculty mentor" award.

**7. New E-board selection and election timeline:**

The proposed timeline for starting the new PDAC board has been accepted. This would push election to end of March and provide the new E-board sufficient time (April-June) to work with the old E-board in organizing and taking over responsibilities. By the start of July, the new board is independent to make its decisions for the postdoc retreat to follow in September. All current E-board members are highly unlikely to continue to serve in any role for the new year. Hence the advertisement to nominate and get involved in the PDAC needs to be done soon and more frequently.