

## Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Meeting

**Agenda:** Overview of the September postdoc retreat and networking events.

**Attendees:**

**PDAC executive board:**

Saumil Sethna, Scott Baliban, Katrina Williams and Archana Gopalakrishnan

**Members at Large:**

Rachel, Taryn

**Office of Postdoctoral affairs members:**

Jennifer Aumiller, Renee Cockerham

**Agenda discussed:**

Saumil and Scott presided over the entire meeting, reporting past events and discussing in detail about the retreat.

**September- Annual post doc retreat**

**1. Attendance:**

Overall was a success. Good turnover of attendees.

Breakdown:

Total registered: 88

Finance Workshop: 40

Postdoc alum panel: 37

Keynote: ~120

**2. Cost:** Katrina covered this

Donations from different schools/ Departments at UMB: 6570/-

Expenditure: 6000/- (Including: Lunch, Coffee, Goodie bags, Gift cards, Coffe hour cookies and macaroon tower, tablecloths, labels)

**3. Round table:**

Good selection of speakers. All stayed back and networked with attendees during lunch.

**4. CV/Resume workshop:**

Overall a good number of attendees, but also the registration was opened up to grad students on the last day. Some of the spots had to be filled by PDAC board members to keep the people engaged. Time management not good. Need to have a person hovering over and ensuring people move on once time slot is done, if we plan to have this next year. Perhaps have fewer people. This year we had 7 people.

**Person from Aerotek:** Rachel and Archana from the PDAC had a session with him and were not impressed. Everyone agreed not to have him next year.

**Person from FDA:** A replacement had come for Veronica, however, another FDA person had come (perhaps from HR) and was having a session with 3-4 attendees on the same table. This appeared to be predetermined and was very disturbing to the other tables. Jennifer has volunteered to perhaps diplomatically raise this point the next time she meets with FDA rep.

**5. Finance talk:** good turnover of people, was very interesting and engaging. Seems like a good topic to have for postdocs to learn more about.

6. **Postdoc panel:** Good selection of speakers, all very engaging and very chatty, but hardly 1-2 questions from the audience. Taryn who had organized this had to initiate most questions. Several people hoped there would be a networking event with these speakers later. Something to consider next time.
7. **Keynote:** Was very well received, very engaging, nice to deal with, a good number of attendees, but a lot of people began to walk out during Jennifer's note of thanks. Suggestion to have this prior to the keynote next year onwards.
8. **Lunch:** Choice of food great, quantity-very less, food was almost gone in the first 15-20 minutes. Perhaps try new caterers for smaller monthly talks, order more quantity also next time and more vegetarian food. This time there was a mix up in the veg order and we received ziti that had meat in it. Some said dessert- (cakes) was not nice at all. Baked ziti was good, the Portobello mushroom option (only veg due to mix up from caterers – was not good).
9. **Coffee hour:** Macaroon tower was well received. All choice of snacks very good.
10. **Joint happy hour:** ~35 (1:1 ratio) attendees from Hopkins and UMaryland. Great location as shuttle from both University stops there.

**October/ November events:**

Archana will organize career related events- seminars/talks/panel for month of October and November and Saumil and Scott will look up Social events.