

Postdoctoral Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda: To introduce and welcome the new board members of PDAC and discuss the upcoming events for the year of 2018-2019.

Attendees:

Saumil Sethna- Co-president, PDAC

Scott Baliban- Co-president, PDAC

Katrina Williams- Treasurer, PDAC

Archana Gopalakrishnan- Secretary, PDAC

Hannah Lane- Member at Large

Harry Choi- Member at Large

Koyel Ghosal- Member at Large

Dudley Strickland- Associate Dean for Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Jennifer Aumiller-Director, Office of Postdoctoral Scholars

Renee Cockerham- Program Manager, Office of Postdoctoral Scholars

Alexandra Squires- Program Specialist, Office of Postdoctoral Scholars

Excused absence: **Taryn Aubrecht** (Member at Large)

Timeline:

1:30pm: Meeting was scheduled at BRB 1-005, attendees began arriving

1:45pm: Scott and Koyel joined the group, meeting agenda was followed through

2:30pm: Jennifer and Renee had to leave for another meeting

2:55pm: Meeting was adjourned

Agenda discussed:

Saumil and Scott presided over the entire meeting, reporting past events, introducing new board members and discussing upcoming events with inputs from others.

1. May events:

➤ **Scott** gave an overview of the happy hour that took place on May 18th, 2018 at West Madison Craft Beer & Wine Bar. It was well attended with approximately 18 people. PDAC covered meal expenses (up to \$15/-person) but not alcoholic purchases. The event was reported to be a success and the choice of location was considered a hit by members who attended.

➤ **Scott** discussed about the career event that took place on May 30th during lunch hour at Howard Hall 450. This was an Interviewing skills-101 interactive workshop. There were 49 registrants, almost 39 people attended of which 30 were postdoctoral fellows. The event was a big success and was led by **Jennifer Aumiller**. It was agreed upon to make this an annual event and to make it a 90minute event. Alternatively, Jennifer also agreed to have a biannual workshop, with the second workshop concentrating on behavioral questions during interviewing, perhaps name it as "Interviewing skills-201?" This will again be organized and led by **Jennifer Aumiller**.

2. June Events:

Ozge Yoluk, Secretary of PDAC for 2017-2018 term was initially set to organize events for June, however, is unable to commit to this due to work overload. Since the month is almost half way through, it was agreed upon that another happy hour, perhaps by a beach bar, if it is well received by all, can be organized. No career event session for this month has been planned.

3. July and August events: upcoming:

- **Saumil** is in charge of organizing an event for the month of July and will coordinate with **Jennifer** to form another interviewing workshop, with more specific questions. More of this will be discussed between **Saumil** and **Jennifer**.
- **Katrina** has volunteered to be the person in charge of coming up with events for the month of August.

Note: A stipend of \$300/- for up to three people has been allocated if we organize an event with non UMB personnel as speakers.

4. September: Postdoc Retreat:

The focus of rest of the meeting was regarding the structure/timeline of the Annual post doc retreat that will take place in September.

➤ **Time/Date:**

Friday was considered the best possible day, although it was agreed upon that Thursdays can also be accommodated, based on availability of speakers. **13th, 14th and 21st** of September are the dates in hand, taking into consideration holidays and vacation travels.

Akin to last year, a timing of **11am-4pm** has been considered to be ideal and sufficient, without tiring the crowd.

➤ **Fundraising for the event:**

This is to arrange for some funds other than what the School of Medicine-Deans Office, provides OPS.

Previous year, **Saumil** had taken the initiative to send emails across Departments to request for funding postdoctoral retreat events and received positive responses from some. The same will be tried again this year. An attempt was also made to reach out to Biopark companies, but no response, however, this will again be tried this year. **Saumil** also suggested to email vendors from Bioresco.

➤ **Roundtable/Panel discussion:**

Archana suggested to combine these events to save time for panelists to explain their work again and again. Briefly, the selected round table speakers can first sit on a panel and discuss their career and then move on to round tables for speed networking with postdocs. Need to come up with names of people who can be a part of this. It was suggested to consider alumni, as they can be requested to stay back for other events. **Jennifer** mentioned that **AstraZeneca** had reached out to her about organizing an event/talk in September. Could we invite them over as a panelist? **Archana** and **Jennifer**

are as of now in-charge to organize this part of the event. More members can join.

➤ **One-on-One mentoring:**

This was a success last year and should be kept on for this year also. It was discussed that it would be advisable to get people from diverse backgrounds for this session, not just academic professors. Perhaps request some of the round table panelists to stay back. It was agreed upon that it would be good to have senior and junior members from any area. **Koyel** suggested **Bob Ernst** as key note speaker, but perhaps, can have him as a mentor as he has diverse backgrounds (academia, industry) and is very engaging with students/postdocs.

The lunch hour along with this event needs to be coordinated better. Perhaps prepare boxed lunch for the mentors?

➤ **CV/Resume workshop:**

It was agreed upon that if people other than **Jennifer** and **Renne** were available, this workshop could be considered, else it would be ideal to have this as a separate event for a month. **Scott** suggested asking a group to lead this, however, they may be very pricey. Previous year, this occurred parallel to the one-on-one mentoring session and if it is feasible to have it this year, the same structure would be planned.

➤ **Keynote speaker:**

This is at present the most critical to consider. Last year, having **Jorge Cham** of PhD comics coming to the retreat was very well received. It was agreed to consider someone who is engaging and would be interesting for post docs from different disciplines to hear talk. **Dr. Strickland** also suggested to check out TED Talks to consider names and also to have an idea if an expert in a field can also deliver a good talk. Several names were discussed and will be added to the google sheets so that they can be contacted by **Saumil/Renee** at the earliest.

Some general considerations while asking people to come to retreat as panelists/keynote speaker:

- Preferably within 1-2 hours of travel, so that night stay not required
- Most of the fee for the retreat has been fundraised in the past, but the SOM budget also provides for the same.

However, **Dr. Strickland** mentioned that if it is someone that will really benefit the crowd and more funds are needed, the school might be able to provide, need to ask. SOM budget for postdocs covers food, stipend, travel etc (not alcohol).