

THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING



Tuesday, March 14, 2023 | 6:00 PM |

Chairs [10 min]

- Welcome
- NIH call for “Re-envisioning NIH-Supported Postdoctoral Training”
 - An NIH Initiative concerning postdoc training system. The issues faced during postdoc training are accelerated by the pandemic and the NIH is interested in hearing the key problems of postdocs. Individuals can submit their concerns, solutions, or suggestions by April 14th. YBPA and the YPA chairs are invited to provide submissions.
- NPA conference attendees
 - The annual event of the National Postdoc Association brings together postdocs from all around the country. Interested individuals can reach out to chairs to know more.
- Postdoc salaries.
 - The minimum postdoc salaries suggested by NIH fall short of the cost of living and other expenses. Postdocs have been communicating their concerns to the YPA. YPA chairs discussed the current situation and expectations with Dean Cooley and the administration will make an announcement regarding the change of salaries in April. We will have more updates by the next YPA forum.

Secretaries [1 min]

- Reminder to fill in the YPA Inventory.
 - The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs is looking for storage space for the YPA.

Treasury [5 min]

- New purchasing protocol (P-card)
 - A reminder about the purchasing protocol.
- Updates on protocol
 - For any purchase, a request order must be done a week in advance to give treasurers sufficient time to process and approve. The request forms are on Yale Connect. The form/survey for purchasing will be updated shortly by the treasurers. The update will only consist of minor changes.
- Update on spending/remaining budgets.
 - An update on committee budgets was communicated by the treasurers. The funds can be redistributed between committees as needed.

- Question: Are the numbers up to date? Answer: Yes, they are.
- Ordering sheet/file
 - Suggestion to create a master sheet for ordering to have a list of past vendors, suppliers, caterers, etc. This would be very useful for new committee members organizing events.

Community and Networking Committee [5 min]

Recent and Upcoming Events

- Friday, February 24th at 6 pm - Happy hour at Trinity (around 100 people attended)
 - Happy hour was very successful almost 100 people. Great!
- Saturday, February 25th at 2 pm - Yale Center for British Art Tour (around 20 people attended)
 - YCBA is closed now.
- Thursday, March 23rd, 7-11 pm - Happy Hour in Gryphon's
- Thursday, March 30th at 5:30 pm - Art Gallery Tour (special exhibition)
 - The exhibition is curated by a postdoc, who is a committee member in the YPA and she will be the guide.

Events in progress for the next months

- April - Behind the scenes tour in the Peabody Museum
- April - Trip to NY organized with the OISS
 - This trip will consist of museum visits and individual sightseeing.
- April - Happy Hour in East Rock Brewery
 - April 21st. At a new location.
- May - Campus tour organized with the OISS
- Leitner Family Observatory & Planetarium
 - The Leitner Family Observatory & Planetarium was closed for visits since the pandemic. They reopened recently and the YPA is organizing a visit.
 - Comment: Tips on where to order alcohol are welcomed, especially from vendors that provide delivery.
 - A bulk order with the symposium committee is discussed.
 - Nicole updates newcomers that they can sign up for the events organized by the Community and Networking Committee and in general by YPA via Yale Connect.

Professional Development Committee [5 min]

- We had:
 - a. Career Development Roundtable with Merck Scientist.
 - b. Vision and Leadership talk-show
 - c. Writing course with Angela Hoffman
- Time management for overwhelmed postdocs- Thursday, March 30th.
- Women's History Month Event + Fund Raiser. March 29th.
 - We are looking for speakers for this event. Feel free to bring forward suggestions.
 - The date for Pint of Postdoc is not set yet however, any postdoc that would like to join this event should e-mail Sadaf and Laura.
- Grant Writing Workshop with Angie Hoffman:

- a. Thursday, April 6, 5-7 pm - Grant Writing - part I
- b. Thursday, April 13, 5-7 pm - Grant Writing - part II
- c. Thursday, April 20, 5-7 pm - Grant Writing - part III
- d. Thursday, April 27, 5-7 pm - Grant Writing - make-up date if needed
- o Sadaf communicated issues experienced with Yale catering. Yale catering has been unresponsive to communications via phone or e-mail.
- o Is it possible to keep an inventory of beverages, glasses, plates, etc., and to have a shared storage of these items? This would help multiple committees.

Communications Committee [2 min]

- Flyers to get postdocs to sign up for the newsletter:
 - o The goal is to introduce YPA to more people.
 - a. Collaborated with the symposium committee to post these on or department notice boards
 - b. Distribution in new postdoc orientation
- Instagram
 - a. Send DM about the content
 - o Alternatively, Benoit can be contacted via Slack.
 - b. Guidelines for creating content
 - o Benoit prepped guidelines on creating content for YPA social media. Please read these guidelines before posting.
 - c. Form under construction.
- T-shirt under construction.
 - o YPA-branded T-shirts will be sold at the Symposium.
- Making someone “officer” on YaleConnect (event management rights)
 - a. Committee Coordinator should reach out to Communications Committee Coordinators over email/Slack.
 - o The message needs to come directly from the coordinator or the coordinator must be cc'd to make sure that the coordinators are on board with the “officer” candidates.
- Benoit is creating short videos of postdoc interviews. If anybody is interested, please reach out to Benoit.
 - o A list of questions for the interviewee is being made and it will cover topics such as self-introduction, description of the research project, life outside Yale, and future plans. The interviewee will choose the questions from the list that they want to answer.

Symposium Committee [5 min]

- Symposium- Registration is open, please register and submit abstract
- Symposium- Cover art competition, be ready to submit your entries
 - o Flyers should be sent by the department and the YPA. Postdocs at any stage are welcome to present their work. It is a great networking opportunity.
 - o Postdocs are encouraged to prepare cover art for the cover page of the symposium abstract book.

- o Symposium Committee is making bulk purchases for the event and all leftover items will be transferred to YPA, which then can be shared with the other committees.
- o The Committee is collaborating with YBPA for organizing professional headshots however, the budget seems insufficient to cover the costs of hiring a professional service.
- o The Symposium will take place on May 25th in Science Hill Campus. The information regarding how to get there will be shared after registration. The event is free of charge for all postdocs.

Mentorship Committee [7 min]

- Advertisement - for more members, especially the Buddy program and Peer- mentorship program
 - o They already have one additional member but are looking for more.
- Ongoing - Mentorship Training program:
 - a. In-Person version: Tuesdays on 7th March, 14th March, and 21st March,
 - i. Time: From 2 pm to 4 pm.
 - o Feedback from attendees is appreciated.
 - b. Zoom version - Fridays on 17th March, 24th March and 31st March
 - i. Time: From 2 pm to 4 pm.
- Open nominations for Mentoring Awards (until March 31st)
 - a. Postdocs can nominate faculty, and undergrads/graduate students can nominate postdocs
 - o Nominations are encouraged.
 - o The assessment can be done anonymously by the postdocs. The review will not be done until April. The awards will be given at the Symposium.
- Peer - mentorship program lookout for advertisement coming this month
 - a. Fill in the survey form to be matched with peers in the similar position
 - b. Group formation and social event forthcoming - Mid-April
 - o An ice-breaking event for this program
- Look out for the Modern Instructor program advertisement
 - a. New changes to the program - Rolling advertisement, 1-2 instructors per month
 - b. Two sessions for training
 - o In collaboration with the Poorvu center.
- Welcome new member - Adam Krysztofiak
 - o Welcome, Adam! Adam volunteered to help Amanda with the Modern Instructor Program.

Advocacy Committee [6 min]

- NOT-OD-23-084: Request for Information (RFI): Re-envisioning U.S. Postdoctoral Research Training and Career Progression within the Biomedical Research Enterprise
 - a. RFI: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-084.html>
 - b. Respond here: <https://rfi.grants.nih.gov/?s=639675dcf6d8bc7e840ce9c2>
- Advisory Committee to NIH Director public listening sessions
 - a. 3/17, 3/20

- b. <https://www.event.com/c/express/50df3f1e-a283-42a8-9237-6cd45d90025f>
 - o NIH holds discussions, Q&A, and public forums, which can be found online.
- Being Well is hosting Mental Health First Aid Certification 4/4 @9am-4pm. Contact danielle.casioppo@yale.edu to register.
- "A Conversation with Dr. Brené Brown" on Daring Leadership hosted by the Yale School of Medicine DEI Office/Dept of Neurosurgery
 - a. Apr 14, 2023 12:00 PM
 - b. Register: https://yale.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kzC3OjR5TmC5PbuTING-5w
 - o YBPA is organizing a Women's History Trivia on March 22nd.
 - o NPA smart skill series: A session will be on building an immigration portfolio.
 - o New mental health and well-being events are coming up soon.
- Survey Update
 - o The survey is currently with the general council in order to get the language approved. It should come out soon.
 - o Initiatives can be advertised in the newsletter.

Racial Justice Subcommittee [0 min]

Invited guest from OISS: Alisson Scheetz [5 min]

- o Bara: YPA and OISS collaborate on many events. Therefore, we invited Alisson Scheetz from OISS to introduce us to the OISS.
- o OISS advisors are allocated by school. Advisors are happy to address any questions and issues. Zoom appointments are available. Alternatively, there are walk-in hours every week. For families, OISS plans specific events such as onboarding, English conversation groups, and partner programs. Allison is the Postdoc Liaison, Molly Hampton is the Associate Director of Programming Events
- o Upcoming OISS event: Dinner and a show for 20 USD.
- o OISS Newsletter comes out every Thursday and bears a lot of information regarding immigration. Please check it out.

Open Forum - Questions/Comments [15 min]

- o Sadaf: Question regarding pizza ordering: One pizza feeds how many people?
Answer: Usually, 2 slices are allocated per person.
- o Benoit shared the postdoc interview video. The video was very well-received!
- o Erin: Reminder about the postdoc recruitment event.