

THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING



Tuesday, September 12, 2023 | 6:00 PM

19 Registered – 17 Checked-in



CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT 6:00PM



<https://cqlink.me/2dA/c217369582810438>

Chairs [5 min]

- o Welcomed and everyone was invited to have pizza! The chairs introduced themselves and how the YPA Open Forum works, reminding everyone to check in using the QR code for the Yale Connect event.
- National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) events from September 18 – 22
 - o Numerous events have been organized for the NPAW by the OPA and the different committees of YPA. The chairs encourage everyone to sign up and attend these events on Yale Connect.
- New YPA logo for 2024 (Open for submissions soon)
 - o The YPA needs to update its logo, aligning with Yale guidelines. Chairs welcome submissions from all Yale Postdoc and ARS community to submit candidate logos which later will be voted on.
- Trainee Accommodations Committee meetings

- o The meeting with Yale leadership will take place in October. The YPA will discuss matters related to Yale postdocs. Those who would like to have certain issues addressed in this meeting can get in touch with the YPA chairs.
- Be aware and be safe.
 - o There have been incidences of mugging and postdocs in our community have expressed feeling unsafe. The chairs expressed their concerns and advised vigilance. Erin Heckler, Associate Provost of Postdoctoral affairs (from OPA) suggested using the LiveSafe App and requesting security escorts when needed.
- West Campus Liaison
 - o The new liaison for the West Campus is ARS Boby Mathew.
- Accepting nominations for the next YPA co-chair to start in January.
 - o The YPA co-chair Cintia will be stepping down in January 2024. The elections for the co-chair position will run in December. Those who are interested in becoming the next YPA chair should check the YPA website for the eligibility criteria and let Sudheesh know of their candidacy.
- Bylaws meeting for executive board after Open Forum

Secretaries [2 min]

- YPA Google Drive Organization ongoing
 - o The secretaries will reach out to the committee coordinators once the reorganization is complete. Old files and folders are being archived but nothing is removed from the drive.
- Be mindful of the time requested for Open Forum presentations.
 - o There has been difficulty in managing the time allocated to the committees at the recent YPA Open Forum. The secretaries remind the committee coordinators that equitable distribution of time is about 4 minutes for each committee. The secretaries will send guidelines on timing in the next agenda e-mail.

Treasury [4 min]

- Current treasury practices for ordering
 - o Treasurers shared the purchasing guidelines and went through the purchasing request protocol. Briefly, the requests can be done via Yale Connect, using a requisition form. It is important to specify the contact's name and number for deliveries. OPA policies for any orders is 10% tip. The treasurers reminded that purchasing forms should be submitted one (1) week in advance of the ordering date as the treasurers check on new orders every Monday.
 - o The treasurers also shared the updated committee spending for September 2023.
- OPA policies for ordering have been updated.

Community and Networking Committee [5 min]

Recent Events

- August 17, 4pm - 5pm - Marsh Botanical Gardens Tour (15 attendees)
- August 25 after 6pm - YPA Summer Picnic Social (Family Friendly) (146 registered, 90 checked in, more present including families).
 - This event had a remarkable turnout despite it being moved to East Rock Brewery due to weather.
- September 2 – Kayaking with the YPA (15 attendees)

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Sept 11th – Campus Tour with Molly from the OISS
 - This event was unfortunately postponed due to the weather.
- Wednesday, Sep 13th – Tour of the Marsh Botanical Gardens
- Thursday Sept 21st – Happy Hour / Pint of Postdoc
- Saturday Sept 23rd – Day trip to Bronx Zoo
- Saturday October 7 – YPA One-shot Roleplaying Game Gathering

Events in progress for the next months

- resuming YPA Board Games Night TBD
- ~ October 20 – Halloween party
- Saturday October 21st – Day trip with OISS to Essex Steam Train and Riverboat
- October / November – Yale Volleyball match
 - All the events organized by the YPA Networking and Communications Committee can be registered on Yale Connect.

Upcoming Community and Networking Committee meeting

- **Time** – 6-7pm
- **Date** – Tuesday, October 3rd
- **Location** – TBD
- **Contact emails** – gemma.vidal-pedrola@yale.edu and pranav.sanghavi@yale.edu

Professional Development Committee [5 min]

Upcoming Events

- Pint of Postdoc/Happy hour for NPAW. **September 21st at Trinity Bar.**
 - *From 5 to 6 pm:* We will start with a Welcome Happy Hour for the 1st-year Postdocs!
 - *6 to 7 pm:* It's time for "Pint of Postdoc". Grab a drink and tune in to what your fellow Postdocs, Jyot Antani, PhD and Natasa Ganea, PhD, have been up to with their research projects!

- o [Pint of Postdoc is organized monthly and involves two postdocs sharing their work with the rest of the community.](#)
 - *7 to 10 pm*: Festivities continue with the Happy Hour social event!
- Orientation Workshop for Postdocs with Yale Medical Library to discover their free available bioinformatic resources and tools. **September 26th at 11 am on Zoom.**
- Workshop on Drug Development with Dr. Manuel de Lera Ruiz (Principal Scientist in Discovery Chemistry, Merck).
 - o [This is a first-come first-serve event. Approximately 30 people from our Postdoc Community can attend this event, albeit the exact number of possible attendees is not yet clear.](#)
 - Collaboration with the Chemical Biology Training Program (CBTP), Chemistry department.
 - **October 5th from 11 am to 1pm at SCL-111. "FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED"** to enter the seminar room.
- Career Conversation with Merck Scientists: Dr. Manuel de Lera Ruiz (Principal Scientist in Discovery Chemistry) and Dr. Cesar De León (Senior Scientist in Chemical Biology). **October 5th from 4pm to 5pm at SHM I-304.**
 - o [This second part of the event is tailored for a networking opportunity and is limited to 50 attendees.](#)

Next committee meeting will be October 26th on Zoom

Contacts: laura.santos@yale.edu and bianka.mecaj@yale.edu

Communications Committee [2 min]

Updates

- Official YPA T-shirts and Jackets
 - Scheduled to be distributed during the NPAW (Sep 18-22)
 - o [The distribution of T-shirts and Jackets could be delayed.](#)
- YPA Canva account
 - We have purchased a Premium subscription to enhance communication efforts.
 - The login & password will be shared with all Executive Committee Members via email & Slack.
 - All committees should have separate folders to create their ads.
 - We highly recommend using Canva which will help you smoothen your work for the YPA. We are working on organizing a short Canva 101 introduction session for YPA officers.

General

- Ads form
 - The bit.ly/YPAads form has two options: one for Twitter/Newsletter, and another for Instagram/Facebook.

- If you want to advertise your event in the Newsletter/Twitter as well as Instagram/Facebook, you will have to **fill the form twice** – this is because the form asks for different information for each platform.
- **Timeline: Submit by Friday 5:00 pm to include something in the next week's newsletter.**
 - Contact Orchid (orchid.allicock@yale.edu) for special requests regarding the newsletter.
 - Message the Instagram account for special requests there.
- Website requests: fill out the form bit.ly/YPAwebsite
 - These links are available on the Open Forum page of the YPA webpage or on the executive committee channel on YPA Slack.

Symposium Committee [5 min]

- Work to organize the 7th YPA Symposium in spring 2024 is now underway.
- The committee met for the first-time last Tuesday, Sept. 5th, to welcome and onboard new members
- We are still looking to welcome new members to the committee, so reach out to Matteo (matteo.rizzuto@yale.edu) or Jay (dhananjay.bhaskar@yale.edu) if you would like to join!
- Proposal for the Open Forum: reach out to PIs and Departmental staff to increase reach of Symposium advertisement campaign and hopefully involve more people, especially in historically less represented department (e.g., humanities)
 - The Symposium committee is working on the feedback received from the last Symposium. Their primary goal is to increase diversity in the next symposium and involve more talks and posters outside of STEM.


Next meeting: Monday, October 2, at 5:30 PM ET on zoom

Mentorship Committee [4 min]

- Buddy Program party for mentors and mentees on the 28th of September 6-8 PM at the YSB terrace. First one since the start of the pandemic. Look out for their interviews soon!
 - The mentorship committee introduced the Buddy program, in which the incoming postdocs are paired up with current postdocs and ARSs for guidance. All information related to the Buddy program or other programs organized by the mentorship committee can be found on the YPA webpage.
- Modern instructor series are starting in the last week of September to the first week of October, 4 lectures scheduled.
 - Detailed information will be posted on Yale Connect.
- Mentorship committee meeting is likely to be held on October 6th from 6pm-7pm, location to be finalized soon.

For any more information about the mentorship committee meeting, contact coordinators Marija Markicevic (marija.markicevic@yale.edu) and Swapna Naik (swapna.naik@yale.edu).

Advocacy Committee [4 min]

- **NPAW Events**
 - **Doga with Heidi** (Sept 18th, 4pm)
 - *Doga with Heidi* event is currently fully booked. The Advocacy Committee urges those who registered but cannot attend to cancel their registration so others can join the event.
 - **Chronic Illness Journey as a Postdoc & ARS: Aware, Share, Care** (Sept 19th, 4pm)
 - Ana Lucia Rodriguez De La Rosa, who is an ARS at Yale will share her experience of living with a chronic illness. This will be a chance to raise awareness for the challenges faced by those in our postdoc community who experience chronic illness.
 - **Coffee and snacks with OPA** (Sept 20th, 3-5pm, various locations)
 - There will be postcards for postdocs in the coffee & snacks events.
 - **Navigating difficult situations as a post doc with OPA** (Sept 20th, 6pm)
 - **How to find a therapist: Hands on session** (22nd Sept, 12pm)
 - The Advocacy Committee coordinator Ishita Arora will lead this session. Participants should bring their laptops.
- Other NPAW Activities
 - Postcards for postdocs
 - Postdoc spotlight
 - The Postdoc spotlight is organized in collaboration with the Communications Committee.
 - Twitter NPAW chain
- GoFundMe for Ayse:
 - 
 - Ayse is a postdoctoral associate currently dealing with financial hardship due to her chronic illness. The GoFundMe is organized to help her family travel from Turkey and provide care for her during these difficult times.
 - The YPA encourages those who struggle with similar issues to reach out so that the YPA can provide support, offer solutions, and ultimately drive systematic changes.
 - Another way of driving systematic change is to fill out the Postdoc Experience Survey.

- **Time is running out to complete the Postdoc Experience Survey!**
 - It will be so much easier to campaign for improved conditions if we have lots of data for as many post docs/ARS as possible behind us!

Next Advocacy Meeting: TBD

Contact Ishita Arora (ishita.arora@yale.edu) or Claire Laxton (claire.laxton@yale.edu) to join!

Racial Justice Subcommittee [2 min]

- “Bystander Intervention for Postdocs” event being scheduled with Title IX for week of October 23rd (details TBD)
 - The previous Bystander Intervention event was highly praised and received positive feedback.
- Waiting on executive board
- to vote for establishing a Belonging Committee to take on DEI-focused initiatives within the YPA and increase collaboration with affinity groups on campus. Once decided we’ll have a new handbook and further information for people.
- Reminder, [DEI Toolkit](#) available

Monthly meetings on the last Friday of every month @ 2pm. Contact azmi@ahmad@yale.edu

Associate Provost for Postdoctoral Affairs, Erin Heckler [7 min]

- Update on postdoc experience survey responses. Planning to close end of this month.
 - Victoria Hallinan, Program Manager at the OPA, introduced herself and explained that OPA is happy to provide support to postdocs regarding professional development and career trajectory.
 - The Postdoc Experience Survey received 432 responses since it was launched in May. The OPA is pushing for 50 more participants and is expected to reach its goal in the NPAW. The survey will close soon.
- English Language Program courses begin Weds Sept 13
<https://cls.yale.edu/programs/english-language-program/english-language-program-courses>
 - Those interested in improving their English competency could benefit from the offered courses focused on pronunciation and written or verbal communication.
- 1:1 Writing Consultations for Postdocs – two consultants dedicated to postdocs and postgrads: <https://yale.mywconline.net/>
 - This new resource for postdocs provides writing consultation. Those who are interested can receive feedback on a wide range of written work, from manuscripts to job applications.
- Sept 12 launched Coffee with the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs held in the Humanities Quadrangle

- o This event is an opportunity to connect with the OPA and other postdocs. The OPA thanks those who attended.
- Upcoming events in Yale Connect:
 - Equitable Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities: A seminar series in pedagogy for postdocs and graduate students – 8 session series with Poorvu
 - o The first session of this series took place the week of this Open Forum, however, those interested could join from the second session onward.
 - Practicing Leadership: A workshop series for postdocs and PhD candidates – 9 session series with the Grad school
 - o This workshop series will allow the community of fellow postdocs and PhDs to articulate values around leadership and to engage with experts in the field. Each session there'll be an expert to share their experience. They plan to launch 1-off workshops.
 - Academic Job Search Workshops with Poorvu
 - Preparing the Teaching Statement - 9/14 <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2162464>
 - Writing a Compelling Diversity Statement - 9/20 <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2151846>
 - Preparing the Teaching Portfolio - 10/3 <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2163589>
 - Preparing the Teaching Statement - 10/11 <https://cglink.me/2dA/r2163566>
 - o The OPA will send e-mails with further details. An upcoming e-mail will be about creating a cover letter for CVs.
 - NPAW:
 - Sept 18 12-1pm lunch for West Campus Postdocs
 - Sept 19 4-5pm Chronic Illness Journey with YPA
 - Sept 20 3-5pm Coffee grab and go with YPA on Med Campus TAC lobby, YSB Kline Tower Mezzanine
 - Sept 20 6-7:30pm Navigating Difficult Situations with YPA
 - Sept 21 10-11:30am New Postdoc Orientation
 - o Some of these NPAW events will have Heidi or Handsome Dan. Events for NPAW will be advertised soon.

Open Forum - Questions/Comments [15 min]

Question from the audience:

- o Is it possible to introduce the new postdocs during the Open Forums? Perhaps by reserving a few mins slot in the beginning for these introductions? Answer from the chairs: This is a good suggestion. Although the Open Forum has limited time and often a full agenda, we can try incorporating an introductory slot.
- o Question from the audience: What is the Postdoc Symposium? Could you please elaborate? Answer from the Symposium Committee: The Symposium is an annual event organized by the YPA which takes place at the end of May. It is an event organized by Postdocs and for the Postdocs. It involves a few sessions of talks and posters, as well as side activities. The symposium offers coffee breaks, lunch, social gathering, and a happy hour. Last year the Symposium event also had a

professional photographer for headshots. It has previously been a hybrid event, however, for next year it will likely switch to an in-person-only event.

- o Question: The Symposium is attended primarily by STEM Postdocs; how can we make more non-STEM postdocs join? Answer: We would like to gently prod people to join as well as to contact PIs and Departments to advertise.
- o Question: Is it possible to have a non-STEM keynote speaker in the Symposium to engage non-STEM Postdocs? Answer: The Symposium committee usually selects a non-STEM keynote speaker.
- o Question: Can you offer different ways of presenting work, an alternative to talks and posters, which might not be attractive/applicable to non-STEM postdocs? Answer: Yes, we will consider that.
- o Question from Claire: Could the talks be only an introduction to the topic rather than the presentation of the data and the work? Answer: The talks in general should not be too detailed and subject-specific but rather accessible to everyone in the audience.