

## YPA OPEN FORUM

### Chairs [5 min]

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1. Committees: YaleConnect can be to advertise/organize events and surveys
  2. Advocacy committee: how the mental health survey will be presented?
  3. Liaisons: confirm roles this term
  4. Community and Networking: new members needed!
  5. Potential volunteers: [bit.ly/YPAvolunteers](https://bit.ly/YPAvolunteers)
  6. NPA conference
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1. Committees and general members may benefit from using YaleConnect more often
    - Amazing platform that we have been using to host events and surveys and polls, even the election of the committee chair.
    - Please have in mind and use in the next events/surveys being hosted
    - Is there a chance there could be a training new session?
  2. The results of the mental health survey, are we going to have some sort of report from that?
    - This will be addressed in the advocacy committee section
  3. Need to confirm that current liaisons can continue to represent them
    - Anderson and Anne will follow up on this
  4. Need more members for community and networking
    - Use the [bit.ly/YPAvolunteers](https://bit.ly/YPAvolunteers)
      1. Google sheet the communications committee gathered info on incoming postdocs that joined the Facebook group.
      2. They are asked three questions, one of the questions is about if they will eventually want to join the board
  5. NPA conference is hosted in April, and we got a bulk registration discount
    - Will be releasing a survey to collect names of people who might be interested in joining the conference
    - We have 25 registrations available

### Treasury [0 min]

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1. N/A

### Mentorship Committee [6 min]

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1. YPA Buddy program (1min)  
Switch to Yale Connect platform  
Looking for new coordinators
2. Peer mentoring program (3min)  
New coordinator-Uri Berger

Revisiting Curriculum-new ideas open for discussion

Start a new round this semester

3. Undergraduate-graduate student mentoring initiative (2min)  
Lina Ntokou will speak for her idea on starting a series of seminars given by postdoc mentors to help undergraduates -graduates with scientific skill and professional development
  
1. YPA buddy program- we are looking for new coordinators
  - Maybe [bit.ly/YPAvolunteers](https://bit.ly/YPAvolunteers) link will help with this search
  - Contact Maria if you are interested
  - Current coordinators are stepping down soon, will try to make transition smooth
  - Will need new coordinators every year
  - Getting buddy program on YaleConnect platform, much better than the current platform
  
2. Want to restart the peer mentoring program that was run spring 2020
  - Intend to start virtually this semester
  - Basic problem is organizing virtually
    1. To solve this, we need more coordinators
      1. We have new coordinator, Uri Berger (psychiatrist and postdoc with Yale Child Health)
    2. Will revisit curriculum and try to initiate a new schedule
    3. More of a group system
      1. Not only one to one meeting
      2. Same formation of groups on campus that use faculty members
      3. There is a need for this, especially with what is going on right now
        - These groups could discuss this, career development, etc
    4. More information to come next meeting
  
3. Undergrad/grad student mentoring initiative which has to do with postdocs mentoring students (mostly undergraduate)
  - Does not run throughout committee
  - Students associated with biomedical students could be primary target
  - Have a series, like a conversation, half research in progress and half is an explanation about a technique
  - Useful to see troubleshooting a protocol, application in research, person they could contact if they need help or have questions
    1. Good for us as postdocs to talk about our science, practice our communication
  - Need to think about some topics, such as data visualization
  - Could start survey or google forms to collect topics
    1. Then structure and organize time
    2. Who is the intended audience?
      1. Maybe mentorship and communications can merge to talk about this
  - Yale does have two projects for undergrad research
    1. STARS and First Year Summer Research Fellowship
    2. could reach out to them and engage with their audience

### **Advocacy Committee [6 min]**

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1. Postdoc Pods (5 min)
2. Mental health and first aid workshop (1 min)

1. Post pods is forming a small community of people that postdocs can join to get together
  - Help combat isolation
  - Run like a “speed dating”
  - Meet in large zoom, give out ice breaker topic, then use break out rooms to have pairs discuss
  - Encourage three to four people pods, people can meet with online
    1. Anything larger and people start talking over each other
2. Mental health survey
  - Trying to make PDF of it
  - Maybe present data next week in slides
  - Other ways to use the data
    1. Disseminating the childcare questions to YCC (childcare community)
    2. Take to monthly trainee meetings and administration
    3. Take to Tori Stone (community networking committee)
  - Jessica and Elze meeting to discuss an additional mental health training
    1. Discussing logistics on another postdoc mental health first aid training

### **Professional Development Committee [5 min]**

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1. Result of the survey about 2021 events
2. Pint of Postdoc series update

Aileen Fernandez is new co-chair

Thank you, Anna, for all of your hard work and continuing work with the committee!

1. Almost have final result on which kind of event people would like for 2021
  1. Link: <http://cglink.me/s40441> (available through evening of 1/12/2021)
  2. How to decide what to do next and networking naturally are first choices
    1. Already planned for what to do next with Brian
    2. Have some discussion of how to negotiate with fellow symposium
2. Pint of postdoc is starting this month
  1. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month
  2. Lots of great speakers, but only 10-15 people come
    1. If you have any ideas of how to improve participation, let them know
  3. Survey for topics is:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchSczqV8vdHAUaVgHxPzNrJfXLBy9N2kpYFF26i\\_g1CMm0Qg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchSczqV8vdHAUaVgHxPzNrJfXLBy9N2kpYFF26i_g1CMm0Qg/viewform)
  4. Past speakers are posted here:  
<https://ypa.yale.edu/skills-and-career-development/pint-postdoc>

### **Communications [5 min]**

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1. Thanking Anderson for procedural contributions to our committee
  2. Asking coordinators to update their member list
  3. Progress on using the Yale Connect
  4. Attending the postdoc orientation to connect with new postdocs
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1. New coordinator Gita, thank you Anderson, especially for all the manuals you created
  2. Please update spreadsheet of members

1. Those of who left, those who have joined, and give communications their photo and bio to add to website
3. If there is something that would belong on the Yale Connect, contact Roozbeh and Gita and they will share what they have to help you
  1. Yale Connect also has a very good help page
  2. Would one-on-one meetings be helpful with committee members that have specific ideas be helpful?
    1. Yes, good idea
4. Plan on attending Postdoc orientation
  1. Contact Roozbeh or Gita if interested in attending
  2. Anderson might also be there

### **Community and Networking Committee [10 min]**

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1. The Arts subcommittee
  - Feedback on YPA/Peabody Sketching Workshop
1. Put together by art sub committee and the Peabody
  - Base on natural science illustration courses Peabody already holds
2. Set up
  - Consisted for three sessions of 1.5 hours
  - Covered basic techniques and concepts
  - Idea was to get people to a place where they are comfortable putting pencil to paper in their normal work
  - Instructor was Armand Morgan
    1. He is offering dinosaur drawing workshop this summer
3. Feedback
  - 10 total participants, 6 gave feedback
  - 100% said they enjoyed it
  - 100% said they would recommend it to other postdocs and ARSs
  - 100% said they would attend a more advanced workshop
  - Qualitative
    1. Many positive comments on Armand
    2. Participants wanted more sessions
    3. People really seemed to love it, provided a break from everything, helped me gain skills
4. Changes
  - Peabody agreed to increasing to 18 students
  - Increasing session length to 2 hours
  - Adding 1-2 more sessions for a total of 4 to 5 sessions
5. Given feedback to set up another session this spring
6. Peabody has a whole host of natural science illustration sessions
  - Website: <https://peabody.yale.edu/education/natural-science-illustration-courses>
  - Not free, since not hosted by YPA

### **Open Forum - Questions/Comments [10 min]**

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1. Budget for next year
    - Send ideas to David
    - Assume everything is normal, will cut if needed later
    - Will prepare budget to present possibly in March
  2. End date of current fiscal year in June 30
    - Spend earlier than that because a lot of time expenses from June end up on next year's budget due to paperwork processing at Yale
    - Try by June 17<sup>th</sup> at the latest
  3. Do we have any info about COVID-19 vaccines or re-openings?
    - No info in addition to what has been sent out in emails
  4. Animated posters for summer postdoc meetings
    - For undergraduate, graduate, and postdocs
    - Perhaps for the symposium?
    - Interactive pictures to enrich learning especially when we are not in person
    - Is there a software to use?
      1. Not certain
  5. Postdoc symposium
    - Poster session can be expanded
    - Rushed last year due to COVID-19
      1. Break out rooms were very nice last year
    - People can email Anna York with ideas, and she can start trying to implement those ideas
    - Posters could be improved with pre-recorded presentations
      1. Mentioned last year, but push it this year
    - Could invite a few to present live, like at a regular poster session
    - Movies as a poster
      1. Could include this in the registration process
    - Anna will think more on this before next open forum and will get together a committee

**Next meeting is February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- can keep discussing slack channel, if you are not there please join!