

THE YALE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH 2018 | 6 PM | TAC N203



Chairs: [5 min]

- Welcoming remarks (Daniel and Nadia)
- Introduced new members of Executive Board
 - Sam Dundon is new YPA Chair;
 - Coordinators:
 - Erin Borchardt-Advocacy Committee
 - Sheng-Nan Qiao-Communication Committee
 - Elizabeth Acorn-Community and Networking Committee
 - Chantal Vogels-Professional Development Committee
 - Formal vote for Alexander Abrams taking the treasury position; vote passed.

Special Guests [10 min]

- Kevin Zhen, '20- "Homecooked"
 - YPA will collaborate with "Homecooked"
 - cooking events, participate in the symposium

Advocacy Committee: [8 min]

- Health insurance update (Will)
 - Advocacy Committee sent out the survey about Health Benefit Change to the postdoc community (discussed during the earlier meeting).
 - 329 responses received
 - Most people are currently happy with the healthcare offerings
 - 90% of postdocs said that the proposed changes would negatively change their access to healthcare
 - The committee will be working on a summary to send to general postdoc community
- Summary of mental health workshop (Erin)
 - Mindfulness in collaboration with Being Well at Yale
 - Jan 14th on how people can include this.
 - 12 people attended, and responses were positive.
 - Another event in March
 - Provide more mental health events
 - Idea: we will maybe run a pilot; make a group of people who will scout places

Community and Networking Committee: [8 min]

- February Happy hour sponsored by BenchSci (Rado)
- Volunteering at Columbus House (Le)
- Hockey game in February
- Salsa Classes (Jesse)
 - The professional salsa teacher will move out soon. The salsa group will teach themselves.
 - New schedule will be sent to Communications committee who will send it out to the broader postdoc community
- Events spotlight: Happy hour at Barcade on Jan 18, Last Saturday at the Museum

- We have the budget for 3 trips, OISS only has the funding for 2. The YPA specific trip will likely be a brewery tour
- Happy hour will likely be packed (at the Barcade)
- Still looking for confirmation from the Yale Art Gallery
- Idea: 2 social events per month. Call the happy hour “postdoc social”. Do another real happy hour Wednesday or Thursday where postdocs can approach the bar for deals

Professional Development Committee: [7 min]

- Call for support (Individual Development Plan-IDP) (Anne and Chantal)
 - The committee is looking for people to join
 - They want to host an event series for individual development plan.
 - Greater adherence to the individual development plan.
 - Idea: Have it be that the PI will discuss with postdocs about IDP when postdocs join in the lab
 - About the training portal: the committee could put in a few YPA seminars or other things to help bring people to events. Formalization of this would be important; they want someone to be a champion of this initiative

Mentorship Committee: [6 min]

- Update-Mentorship Workshop with John Alvaro (24th and 31st January) (Katya and Mancy)
 - 20 spots filled up on the first day and 16 people are on the waiting list. The committee will try to organize this workshop again because of the very high demand
- Postdoc Peer Mentoring Groups (Feb-June): recruiting people for this program
 - The committee will have a meeting with OISS to show the poster that they will be presenting at the NPA.

Communications: [4 min]

- Mailchimp newsletter and website statistics (Sheng-Nan and Maikel)
 - Only had 400 users and 474 sessions. Had some updates on the website, which has been cleaned up a bit more. People who are on the website are on the website for longer, which is a good sign.
 - Updating website to improve traffic
 - Half of the people who received the newsletter opened it, which is a record
 - Any ideas for the newsletter would be greatly appreciated
 - We got feedback that the link on the bar which says subscribe is apparently difficult to find because it is blue. It is a little bit hard to customize

Treasury [5 min]:

- FY 2020 Budget Proposal (Susree, Alex and Kelson)
 - They are currently working on the budget for next year. This will inform our discussion with the provost; the proposal will determine how much money we will make.

AFTER MEETING ACTION [5 min]

- Proposal: Committee fair? Maybe have it during the bar events? Do the first event in March. Have the committees chip in with the snacks.