

YPA OPEN FORUM

Chairs: [10 min]

- Welcoming remarks [Maikel and Sam]
 - Introductions to everyone.
 - If you want to join the YPA talk to Maikel after the meeting
- National Postdoc Appreciation week and call for events
 - This will take place in September. We have started a dedicated Slack channel for coordinators to think of ideas of events to organize and contribute. Here we can share ideas and requesting assistants at events.
 - The goal is to have one event per committee.
 - The deadline is coming up. We need to submit it to the official National Postdoc Association before the Sept newsletter so they can update the website. This only gives us a couple of weeks. Everyone can give their events to Sam who will submit them all as a group.
 - Last year we made a dedicated newsletter (it was orange) and should do the same thing this year.

Mentorship Committee: [8 min] (Summer)

- Meet a Mentor Afternoon Tea: Thursday, September 19th, 3 pm
 - This is the mentorship committee's event for the National Postdoc Appreciation week. It is a variation from last year's Meet a Mentor lunch. They are converting it into a tea to make the format more geared towards networking. They already have some "yes" from faculty members, but a lot seem to have timing conflicts. If you have any recommendations, please let them know.
 - One idea given was to ask the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs to provide the list of faculty that have been nominated for best mentor.
 - It was also noted that Nancy won't be able to attend this event so Summer will need help running it. Please get in touch with her if you are available.
- Faculty orientation
 - John Alvaro will be doing an orientation for new faculty in one week. They want to provide some input from the postdoc perspective. They will send out a targeted survey with questions such as ranking options on "what you look for in a mentor?" Please keep an eye out for this and fill it out for them.
- Jackson Lab Career Fair: Thursday, October 10th, 3-6 pm (Farmington, CT)
 - This will be the 2nd time running this event. They will invite industry individuals to come and speak. This event is geared towards postdocs who are considering non academic career paths. They will be able to get exposure to other career options.
 - Transportation to the event hasn't been organized yet. But when the details are hashed out, they will follow up with this and advertise appropriately.
 - It was suggested that we can organize some carpool options. Sam has mentioned that Postdocs cannot be reimbursed for gas, only miles.

Treasury Committee: [5 min]

- YPA swag order
 - Alex (Treasury) demonstrates how to use the link to buy swag! This link can be found on the website or in the newsletter.

- There are T-shirt and Jacket (fleece =inside and water resistant=outer) for sale that have the YPA logo on it.
- A helpful hint was given when making your purchases, is that it is easier to create a PayPal account, than trying other formats.

Community and Networking Committee: [3 min] (Victor/Peppe)

- There are many ongoing activities such as: Happy Hour and Friday Social, Creative Writing Sessions, etc.
 - The goal is to finish off summer with as many outside events as possible to enjoy the last bit of sun!
 - A concern was brought up that individuals attending the happy hours are always new postdocs. We have a hard time bringing back older postdocs. Some suggested re visiting how we advertise these events.
 - Another concern mentioned was that when new people try to go to the happy hours or other social events, they have a hard time locating the group. It was suggested that the committee members leading these events wear YPA swag to make it more obvious.
 - They will start including a voting option in the newsletter of what to host next.
 - Creative writing session.
 - This event is tomorrow at 5:15pm.
 - The format will consist of:
 - The first hour will be quiet time to write.
 - Next for 15 minutes will be open discussion / reading time. They will give the options for topics to be discuss. Or if anyone wants to share. They don't really know what to expect but they will get the vibe of what people want and see what frequencies work.
 - Attendance: for tomorrow's event, 8 people signed up and two more showed interest but had timing conflict.
 - This event is not meant to be academic based but instead is just for fun!
- They would love to get any feedback and ideas for events to have if you have suggestions.

Communications [12 min] (Lina)

- Report statistics and ask for performance feedback on newsletter, social media, website. ○ There was an increase in social media engagement. The team is doing a great job in keeping everything up to date.
 - 424 individuals open the newsletter (49%) and 5 unsubscribed.
- Change to a better designed website - customized options from Yale, request a refresh of your site (Request a Refresh Form) or go further.
 - There was a discussion on if everyone likes the website or if it feels outdated. There is a tool to refresh but our hands are a little tied and it is unclear of how much we can actually change the site.
 - It was suggested to talk to Yale IT people that work on the website and ask about what options we have. Where they are going with their websites in the future, etc. Barbara (Maikel can give email) knows a lot of individuals in the Yale media team. We can see if she can pull some strings.
 - Definitely make sure we are allowed to use things before we invest in case, they will just take it down.
 - We should also start a thread on slack channel to get feedback on what kind of changes people would want to see in our website.
- Flyer! Looks great! They will post it around different departments.
 - Suggested to add QR codes and maybe advertise YPA Open Forum date to try and boost attendance.

Advocacy Committee: [5 min]

- National Postdoc Appreciation Week
 - The advocacy committee's event proposed was providing coffee and pastry at various locations around the different campuses.
 - Initially they thought of a voucher system, but that proved to be too complicated. Instead they think it would be easier to just designate some places on each campus and have a representative just sit there in the morning with coffee and donuts during the week. If this works, then they will need help or volunteers for some campus (especially West campus).
 - Last year the committee did other events like therapy dogs and hand massages, etc. Although the committee doesn't have enough time to organize these Maikel has offered to reach out if needed. The contact information can be provided by Will.

Professional Development Committee: [2 min] (Chantal)

- Financial planning workshop
 - Earlier in the year we had a basics of investing workshop that had great attendance and feedback.
 - This time we are following it up with a portfolio building workshop. This is not academics related, but more of interest for your personal life.
 - It will be on August 22nd and 24th.
 - You can already register, and they will continue to advertise it some more in the upcoming weeks.
- New events: career café, how to start a lab (Economics focus), visiting company (job track), visual communications, etc. Keep an eye out on the newsletter!
- Someone suggested a people management workshop and if people would be interested in that topic? It has been slightly brought up before, but we could reach out to the MBA program to find a speaker. Daren David? was suggested who does a nice leadership workshop. • Another idea suggested was how to manage Budget of a Lab.

Open Forum: [15 min]

- Open the floor to ideas, questions and comments from Postdocs
- There are now form for providing Feedback in YPA in the newsletter, but we have 0 responses this week.
- Buddy Program: This program is going well. We have around 30-40 peers. The program initially started 2 years ago. The concept is to have incoming post-docs request a current post-doc as a buddy. Here they can ask them all about grocery stores, restaurants, bars, parking, etc. All the questions you might not want to ask your supervisor.
 - If anyone is interested, you can sign up on the mentorship page of the website. •
- Maikel brought up a topic of if subcommittee members/liaisons should be included in the agenda emails?
 - It was discussed that the main committee members should be circulating the information to their teams but for individuals that don't really fall under a team should be added.
 - Maikel also offered to help make a liaison list for the website
- Slack: It was asked if slack is for all YPA ☐ Yes! It isn't in the bylaws so there should be no restrictions to this. Maybe it should be publicized better in the newsletter.
- Safety and Emergencies Protocols: It was asked if we need to establish safety and emergencies protocols with our excursions and how have an established protocol on how to handle these situations.

○ Do we need a medically trained personal to come to all off campus events? ○
We should ask John about how to cover ourselves. Such as should we have our
committee member be trained so we aren't liable.