



Yale
Postdoctoral
Association

Yale

Yale Postdoctoral Association Open Forum

2026.09.08



CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM SEPTEMBER 2026

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6:00PM



<https://cglink.me/2dA/c2326759821141058>

If you experience issues with
Check in, you may want to be
sure you are registered first
REGISTRATION





Yale Postdoctoral Association: from the postdocs to the postdocs

Founded in 2014



We serve **over 1,500 postdocs and Associate Research Scientist (ARS)** at Yale.

Our Missions:

- Building a supportive community
- Connecting different disciplines
- Enhancing the postdoc experience
- Supporting career transitions



Empowering Postdocs & Researchers

Connect, learn and succeed within our diverse postdoc community at Yale.

[Join the YPA](#)

Yale Postdoctoral Association: Organization Chart

Yale Postdoctoral Association

Executive Board

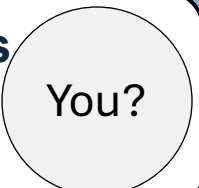


Chairs
 Peng
 Luis





Communications
 Danielle
 Vacant





Secretary
 Anne
 Nai Yang





Treasury
 Jane
 Nikita





Advocacy
 Ammara
 Ziqing





Belonging
 Tianyu
 Bingqing



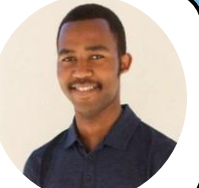


Mentorship
 Fatima
 Giulia





Community & Networking
 Devika
 Mgayya





Professional Development
 Juan
 Mahsa





Symposium
 Eunata
 Nebal



Committee members & YPA Liaisons

YPA members: All postdocs and Associate Research Scientists (ARS)

Chairs

National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW) 2026

YPA and OPA events - no more than 1 event per day and do not schedule any YPA events the week before or week after (September 14-18 and September 27 - Oct 3)								
Date	Time	Location	YPA committe/OPA	Event	Facilitator/point person(s)	Joint committee event	Yale connect link (when ready)	Next steps
September 21st	3-4pm	TAC Lobby	OPA	"Coffee Grab & Go"	OPA		https://cglink.me/2dA/r2327403	OPA finalizing custom cookie order; ordering vegan option, ordering coffee
September 21st	3-4pm	Kline Tower Mezzanine	OPA	"Coffee Grab & Go"	OPA		https://cglink.me/2dA/r2327404	OPA finalizing custom cookie order; ordering vegan option, ordering coffee
September 21st	3-4pm	West Campus - second floor lounge outside of room 216	Coordinating with YPA	"Coffee Grab & Go"	OPA		https://cglink.me/2dA/r2327405	OPA reserving space in West Campus and coordinating with YPA on who will staff this event; OPA finalizing custom cookie order; ordering vegan option, ordering coffee
September 22th	6pm	HQ 134	Belonging	Storytelling Night	Tianyu Zhu & Bingqing Yao	NA	https://cglink.me/2dA/r2328302	
September 23th	12:00 PM	virtual	Chairs	Public Speaking for Leaders	Luis Mestre & Peng Xu		https://cglink.me/2dA/r2326903	
September 24th	6pm	Science Hill Courtyard	CNC	YPA End of Summer BBQ	Devika Gireesan Sudha & Mgayya Makullah		https://cglink.me/2dA/r2326430	Event must follow https://secretary.yale.edu/student-life/use-outdoor-spaces
September 25th	lunchtime - tentative	virtual	Modern Instructor Program	"Academia and industry: career myth vs reality"	Fatema Hasan & Giulia Lorenzon		https://cglink.me/2dA/r2327188	

Link: [NPAW 2026 Calendar](#)

**NOTE: WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE COFFEE GRAB & GO
SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 FROM 2:30 TO 3:30 P.M. **WEST CAMPUS****

Chairs

Virtual Seminar hosted by the Chairs



September 23, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. EST



Virtual Seminar (Zoom will be provided to those register)

REGISTER NOW



VIRTUAL SEMINAR:
“Public Speaking
for Leaders:
Practical Tips from Leadership
Experience”

Gain practical speaking strategies from experienced Yale leaders.

PANELISTS



Dr. Benoit Mermaz
Associate Research Scientist /
Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology Department



Dr. Eman Salih
Postdoctoral Research Associate /
Yale School of Public Health



Dr. Adati Tarfa
Instructor and K99/R00 Awardee /
Department of Internal Medicine

VIRTUAL SEMINAR



WHEN:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

TIME:
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

FORMAT:
VIRTUAL SEMINAR



Chairs

Bylaws Meeting



Early October (We will be sending the invitation to the e-board soon)



Waiting for confirmation of the room reservation (NOTE: We will provide food from Atticus Market)

REMINDERS

- We **cannot host** events the week prior/after NPAW (09/13-09/20, 09/26-10/03)
- Please send receipts to the treasurers (treasury.ypa@yale.edu)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CO-CHAIR CANDIDATES!!!
(January 2027 – December 2027)
SEND US AN EMAIL ypa@yale.edu if interested!

Chairs

Resources for Postdocs

- **Counseling and Support**

- Yale offers confidential counseling services through Optum, available 24/7 at 1-866-416-6586.
- Visit the Your Well-Being website (<https://your.yale.edu/working-at-yale/benefits/your-well-being>) for additional information and resources.

- **Reach out for help**

- If you are experiencing treating situations, please look for help. YPA is happy to share resources and **won't leave you alone!**

YPA Chairs: ypa@yale.edu

(For any support please contact the Chairs, we are here for you)

(For any questions related to OPA please contact Chairs first and always have ypa@yale.edu cc'd while contacting OPA)

Secretaries

- Consistently assisting with room bookings and Open Forum food orders
- Organizing Open Forum meeting minutes and uploading them to the website (Yanrong)
- Worked on the YPA bonding-event handbook

YPA Team-Bonding Event Handbook

Case Example: Yale Outdoor Education Center

This handbook was prepared by YPA Secretaries Nai Yang Yeat and Anne-Marie Rickmann and proofread by YPA Chairs Peng Xu and Luis Mestre.

1. Event Overview

This handbook documents the planning, execution, and follow-up process for a Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA) team-bonding event. It is intended as a practical reference for future organizers planning similar off-campus group activities.

Item	Details
Event	YPA Team-Bonding Event
Organizers	Anne-Marie Rickmann, Nai Yang Yeat, Peng Xu, Luis Mestre
Date	Sunday, August 2, 2026
Time	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Location	Yale Outdoor Education Center (YOECC), 297 Upper Pattagansett Road, East Lyme, CT
Total attendance	22 participants
Drivers	Peng Xu, Lichong Yan, Pingze Zhang
Total expenses	\$648.00

The event was organized as an outdoor social and team-building opportunity for YPA members and guests. The program included a shared food arrangement, use of a reserved outdoor table area, and recreational activities at the Yale Outdoor Education Center.

2. Organizing Team

The event was coordinated by the following YPA organizers:

- Anne-Marie Rickmann
- Nai Yang Yeat
- Peng Xu
- Luis Mestre

Responsibilities were shared across planning, venue communication, budgeting, food purchasing, transportation coordination, attendance tracking, and post-event documentation.

3. Participant List

The event included 22 attendees. Participants and registered guests were as follows:

No.	Attendee	Notes
1	Luis M. Mestre	Organizer
2	Peng Xu	Organizer and driver
3	Lichong Yan	Guest of Peng Xu; driver
4	Pingze Zhang	Guest of Peng Xu; driver

Email: secretaries.ypa@yale.edu and please cc Anne: anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu & Nai Yang: naiyang.yeat@yale.edu



Treasury

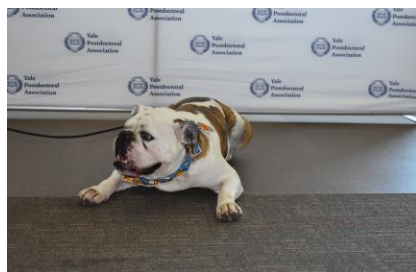
- Keeping up to date with receipts and the new Event Tracker.
- Continuing to resolve outstanding receipts and spending from the Postdoc Symposium.
- Will arrange a meeting later this month to review finances and any outstanding items.

YPA Treasury Email: treasury.ypa@yale.edu

Symposium Committee

- Last Symposium 2025-2026 committee meeting hold on 08/04/26.
- Finishing the handbook for next year. Folder YPA Symposium updated.
- Deciding next year's coordinators
- Looking for new members, please contact Nebal or Eunate:
Nebal.abuhussein@yale.edu, eunate.gallardo@yale.edu

*NEXT SYMPOSIUM MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR 2026-2027 WILL BE SCHEDULE IN FINAL-SEPTEMBER.





Communications Committee

- E-mail me if anyone is interested in being communications co-coordinator or member: danielle.sohai@yale.edu - Thanks!
- Welcome to Morgan, our new website manager! Yanrong is transitioning to other YPA responsibilities.



Belonging Committee

Join us for the NPAW Storytelling Night @ Sep 22!



Stories of Our Postdoc Journey

Come relax, listen, and connect as fellow postdocs share the stories behind their science, struggles, dreams, and discoveries.

Come as you are, and let's celebrate the voices that make our community feel like home.



Afsheen Nasir
Department of Surgery



Laura Meissner
Department of MBB



Sudheesh Allikka Parambil
Department of MCDB

Sept 22 (Tuesday), 2026

6:00pm~8:00pm

Humanities Quadrangle (HQ) 134

Free food and drinks will be provided



Thanks so much to our speakers!

Afsheen Nasir
Department of Surgery

Laura Meissner
Department of Molecular
Biophysics and Biochemistry

Sudheesh Allikka Parambil
Department of Molecular,
Cellular, Developmental
Biology

Committee meeting

We just had our committee meeting Aug 27, welcoming new members, discussing storytelling night, wintercare package, and call for co-coordinator candidates.

We are Recruiting!

Join us for the wonderful events!

Please reach out to:

Tianyu Zhu t.zhu@yale.edu

Bingqing Yao bingqing.yao@yale.edu



Community & Networking Committee

Past events:

YPA Board Game Night – Aug 19

YPA Happy Hour – Aug 28

Upcoming events:

YPA Book Club – Sept 9: The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

YPA NPAW BBQ – Sept 24, Science Hill Courtyard





Mentorship Committee

Past month:

- Organizing committee materials, workflow, and schedule for the semester
- Organizing Appreciation Week activity: "*Academia and Beyond: career myth vs reality*"

• This month:

- Faculty/Postdoc and industry track mentorship program kick-off event (Sep 10)
- National Postdocs Appreciation Week event (Sep 25)
- Buddy party (Oct 23)

Mentorship Committee



Yale Postdoctoral Association – Mentorship Committee

Faculty and Industry Mentoring Program Kick- Off Event

**Join us for an introductory session with
networking opportunity!**

We will provide information on the program's goals and structure and answer your questions. It is a great opportunity to ask any questions, network with other program participants, and plan your future meetings with your team. Snacks and refreshments will be provided!



Register at Yale Connect
<https://cglink.me/2dA/r2328279>

Event Details

10th September
5:30 pm
53 Wall Street, room 208



Yale Postdoctoral Association – Mentorship Committee

PANEL DISCUSSION

National Postdoc Appreciation Week



Luca Pasquini, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Radiology and
Biomedical Imaging



Sorin Fedeles, PhD, MBA
Executive Director of the Polycystic Kidney
Disease Outcomes Consortium (PKDOC) at the
Critical Path Institute

ACADEMIA AND BEYOND: CAREER MYTH VS REALITY

Join us for the honest career conversation
you wish you'd had at the start of your postdoc! (Q&A at the end)

25
SEP

12 - 1:00PM

Zoom meeting

OPEN TO ALL POSTDOCS AND
GRADUATE STUDENTS

REGISTER THROUGH YALE CONNECT
<https://cglink.me/2dA/r2304195>





Y
P
A



Professional Development Committee

Upcoming Events:

- Pint of Postdoc has been rescheduled (New date TBD)
- Workshop – Grant writing: Identifying potential faculty workshop leader: Mahsa's PI, previous workshop leader (Dr. Eugene Shapiro)
- Career café: Finding speakers.
- Industry Career Series, Academic Career Series, Alumni Mixer
- The next Professional Development Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 30th via Zoom

Advocacy Committee

PROPOSAL 1 · GSAS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Yale Postdoctoral Association · Advocacy

An Inclusive Affiliate Participation Framework

Broaden who may participate in GSAS clubs — without changing who votes, who leads, or who is funded.

36,117

people in the Fall 2024 Yale community across student, trainee, faculty, and staff categories

2,751

postdoctoral, postgraduate, and clinical trainees — the group the current rule leaves ambiguous

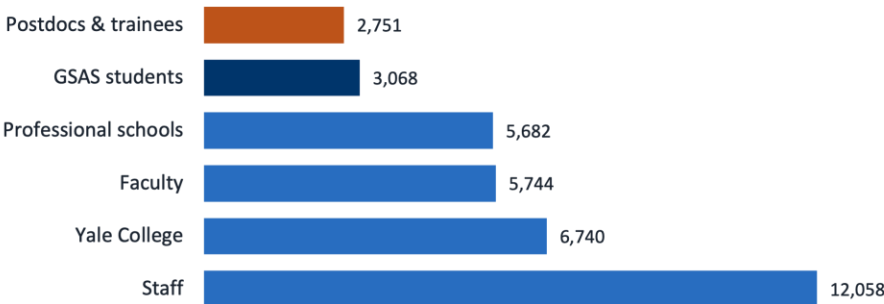
~40

registered GSAS organizations, each interpreting participation rules on its own

51%

GSAS membership majority and student-only leadership — preserved, not touched

WHO IS ACTUALLY ON CAMPUS (FALL 2024)



Only the two highlighted categories have a defined place in current GSAS club rules.

THE PROPOSED FOUR-TIER MODEL

- 1 Formal Member** Votes, holds office, funded benefits. GSAS students $\geq$ 51%.
- 2 Officer / Voting Leader** GSAS students only. Controls finances and the roster.
- 3 Affiliate Participant** Postdocs, postgrads, faculty, staff, visiting scholars, partners. No vote, no office, no automatic funding.
- 4 Guest Participant** One designated event. No continuing rights.

Capacity priority stays: GSAS students $\rightarrow$ eligible members $\rightarrow$ postdocs & postgrads $\rightarrow$ affiliates $\rightarrow$ guests.

THE ASK

Clarify postgraduate eligibility, separate “member” from “participant,” and authorize a one-semester pilot with 3–6 volunteer organizations.

Advocacy Committee

PROJECT 02 • ONLINE SAFETY

Cyberbullying & Online Harassment Response Protocol

Make YPA a safe first door: support, triage, platform stewardship, and warm referral — without becoming a parallel investigative body.



**“Safe first door,
not a parallel court.”**

The protocol separates immediate support and platform risk management from formal Yale findings or discipline.

A SIMPLE RESPONSE PATH

1 INTAKE Low-barrier contact
Clarify goals + privacy limits

2 SAFETY Check threats, doxing, stalking
Preserve evidence

3 ACT / REFER Moderate YPA spaces
Warm handoff to Yale experts

4 LEARN De-identified trends
Training + prevention

EXTERNAL BENCHMARK

Harvard and UChicago both publish university-level guidance for online abuse, doxing, cyberbullying, evidence preservation, safety, and referral.

YPA’s added value: make those principles operational for postdocs and the online spaces they actually use.

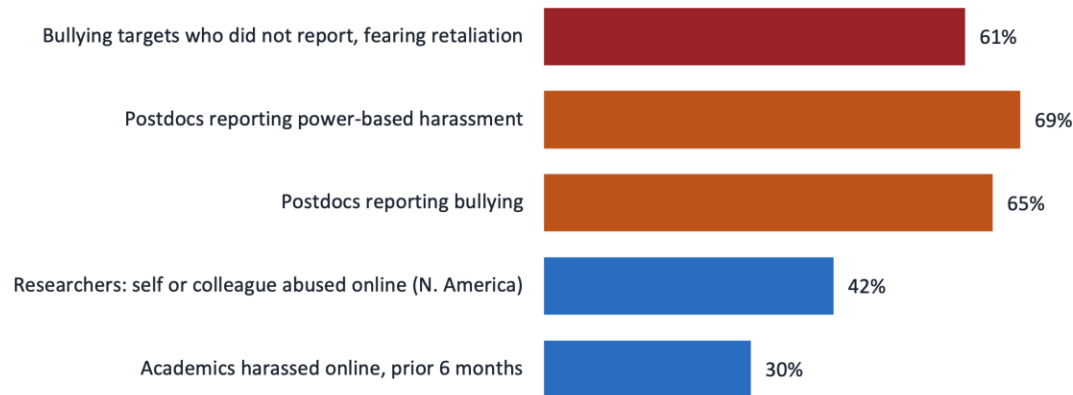
BOUNDARIES THAT REDUCE RISK

- No credibility findings or legal conclusions
- Two-person review for non-urgent restrictions
- Recusal, data minimization, anti-retaliation
- Immediate escalation for credible danger

A Cyberbullying and Online Harassment Protocol

YPA should be a safe first door — not a parallel court.

THE EVIDENCE BASE



RISK-TIERED RESPONSE

LEVEL 1 One-time incivility <i>Acknowledge ≤ 2 days</i>	LEVEL 2 Repeated targeting, impersonation <i>Review ≤ 2 days</i>	LEVEL 3 Protected-characteristic harm, retaliation <i>Same / next day</i>	LEVEL 4 Threats, stalking, doxing, image abuse <i>Immediate</i>
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YPA'S BOUNDED ROLE

- 1 Accessible intake** — One low-barrier door; no need to name the right policy or office first.
- 2 Support & safety planning** — Evidence preservation, account security, referral to care — never pressure to go quiet.
- 3 Platform stewardship** — Standards, two admins, MFA, documented and time-limited interim measures.
- 4 Affiliation verification** — A public registry of official accounts; action on impersonation.
- 5 Warm handoff & patterns** — Consent-based referral to OPA, OIEA/Title IX, OISS, Public Safety; de-identified annual reporting.

Not in scope: investigations, credibility findings, discipline, or promises of absolute confidentiality.

Scope covers official YPA accounts, officer-run channels, community WhatsApp groups, and accounts impersonating Yale or YPA.

THE ASK

Approve a six-month pilot: secure intake, named OPA liaison, an official-account registry, anti-retaliation safeguards, training, and de-identified evaluation.



Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA)

Upcoming Programming:

- Special Topics in Mentorship: Discussing Your Professional Development with Your Mentor - <https://cmlink.me/2dA/r2325648>
- Practicing Leadership - <https://cmlink.me/2dA/r2326080>

Note from OISS: Before you submit a career development or transition award (ex. NIH F99/K00 or K99/R00), [contact your OISS adviser](#). OISS needs to be aware of the submission **prior to** receiving the notice of award for any career development or other transition award or fellowship.

Upcoming [NPA Board Election](#) – YPA usually uses Yale Connect for the vote (To be discussed)

Gentle reminder: please do not schedule events the week before (September 13-20) or after (September 26-October 3) National Postdoc Appreciation Week – we appreciate your help on this!

[Link here: Meet the 2026 NPA Board Election Candidates](#)

Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA)

Empowering Postdocs & Researchers

Thank you for your attention

