



Yale  
Postdoctoral  
Association

Yale

# Yale Postdoctoral Association Open Forum

2026.04.14



# CHECK-IN

YPA OPEN FORUM APRIL 2026

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 AT 6:00PM



<https://cglink.me/2dA/c232248841101139>

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

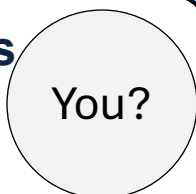
### Executive Board



**Chairs**  
Cristina  
Peng



**Communications**  
Danielle  
Vacant



You?



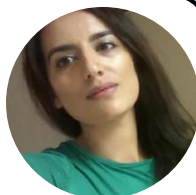
**Secretary**  
Anne  
Harshini



**Treasury**  
Jane  
Nikita



**Advocacy**  
Afsheen  
Ammara



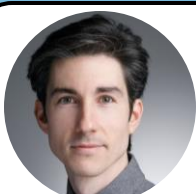
**Belonging**  
Merrill  
Tianyu



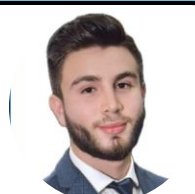
**Mentorship**  
Carolina  
Fatima



**Community & Networking**  
Devika  
Behzad



**Professional Development**  
Rafael  
Juan



**Symposium**  
Eunate  
Nebal



Committee members & YPA Liaisons

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

# Chairs

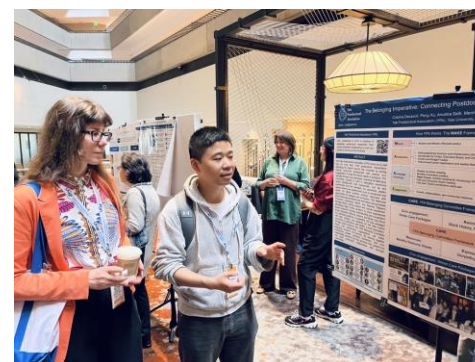
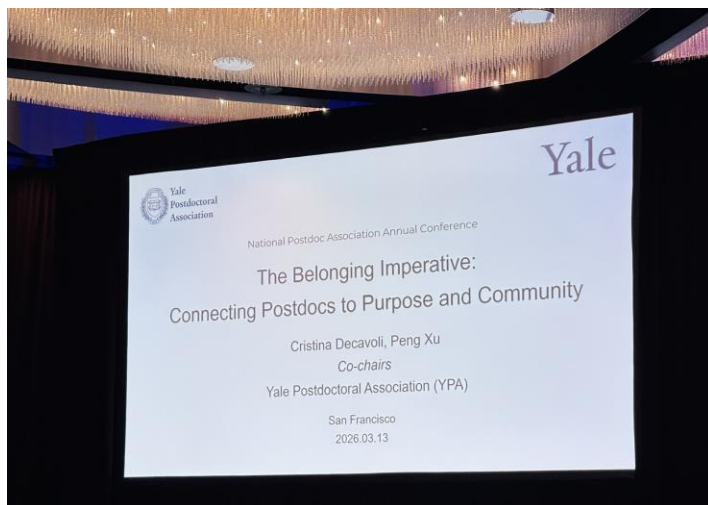
## National Postdoc Association (NPA) annual meeting

📅 Friday, March 13 and Saturday March 14, 2026

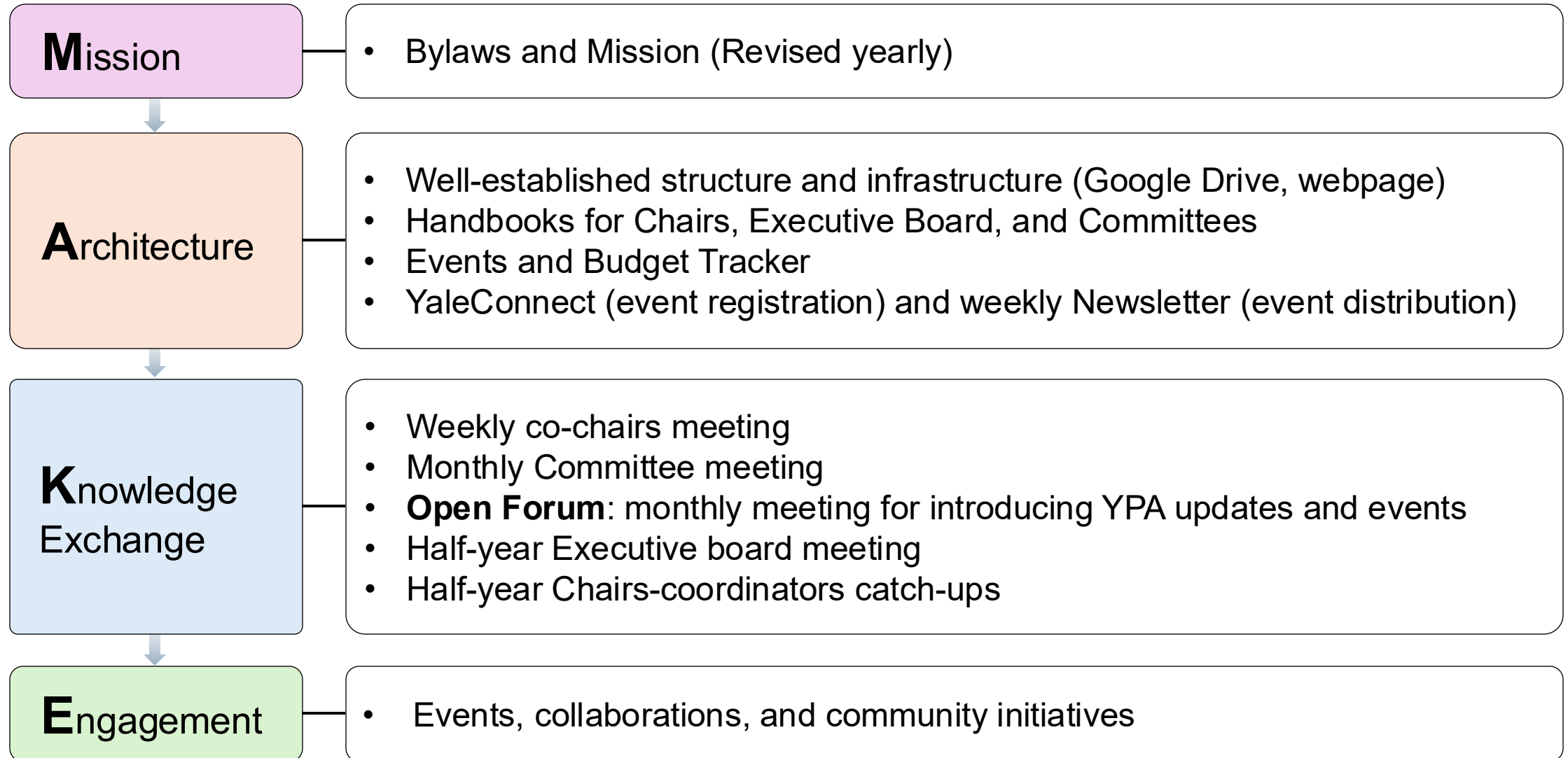
📍 San Francisco, California

### YPA presence:

- Oral presentation
- poster presentation



# How YPA Works: The **MAKE** Framework





# The Belonging Imperative: Connecting Postdocs to Purpose and Community

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**Civic engagement:**  
Winter Care Packages

**Awareness:**  
Black History, Pride Month...

**CARE:**

YPA Belonging Committee Framework

**Resources:**  
Monthly Resource Sheets

**Expression:**  
Storytelling Night

# Chairs

## Looking for candidates for **co-chair** position

- co-chair term: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026~June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027
- **Presentation of the candidates will be in May**
- Election starts at the beginning of June

*“Members eligible for the Chair position are postdocs and ARS with **greater than 50% attendance at the YPA Open Forums** in the 12 months preceding nomination and **at least one (1) year of YPA committee membership**, or at least **six (6) months of YPA executive board membership.**”*

**YPA Mission Statement and Bylaws**

**BE THE CHANGE!**



**We are also looking for committees' coordinators!**

# Chairs

## Symposium is on June 5<sup>th</sup>

- **No events From May 29 to June 12**
- **Use the YPA calendar to secure your dates**

## Track attendance to your events

- Check in people on your phone
- Print the QR Code from Yale Connect (from the check in tab)

**P-Card is back [Requests for pick up must be made 10 business days in advance]**

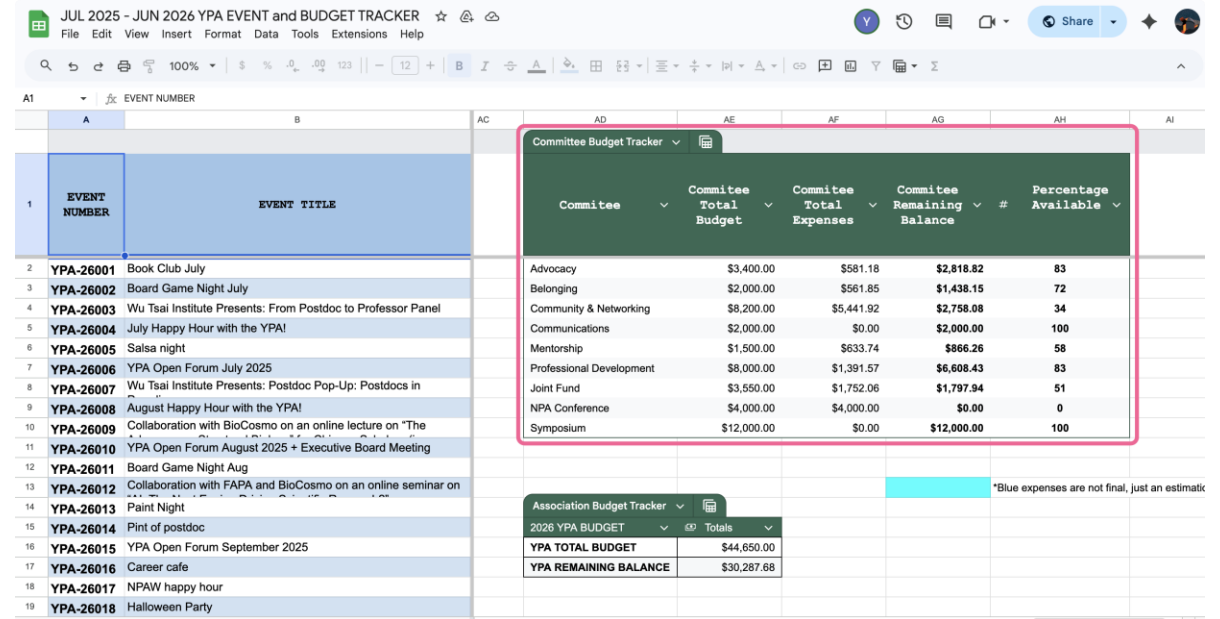
## Notes from meeting:

No events one week before and after Symposium – request by OPA – focus on symposium

- Track attendance for events: Erin suggests to have a paper sign-in sheet as back up as Yale Connect sometimes doesn't work
- Tracking committee budget:
  - An event can be (co-)sponsored by various committees, regardless of whether it falls under their usual sponsorship scope

## Tracking committee budget and plan ahead

- Treasury will update budge tracker
- **Make plans for last a few months of this fiscal year and send it to us by Apr. 25th**



EVENT NUMBER	EVENT TITLE	Committee	Committee Total Budget	Committee Total Expenses	Committee Remaining Balance	Percentage Available
YPA-26001	Book Club July	Advocacy	\$3,400.00	\$581.18	\$2,818.82	83
YPA-26002	Board Game Night July	Belonging	\$2,000.00	\$561.85	\$1,438.15	72
YPA-26003	Wu Tsai Institute Presents: From Postdoc to Professor Panel	Community & Networking	\$8,200.00	\$5,441.92	\$2,758.08	34
YPA-26004	July Happy Hour with the YPA!	Communications	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	100
YPA-26005	Salsa night	Mentorship	\$1,500.00	\$633.74	\$866.26	58
YPA-26006	YPA Open Forum July 2025	Professional Development	\$8,000.00	\$1,391.57	\$6,608.43	83
YPA-26007	Wu Tsai Institute Presents: Postdoc Pop-Up: Postdocs in	Joint Fund	\$3,550.00	\$1,752.06	\$1,797.94	51
YPA-26008	August Happy Hour with the YPA!	NPA Conference	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0
YPA-26009	Collaboration with BioCosmo on an online lecture on "The	Symposium	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	100
YPA-26010	YPA Open Forum August 2025 + Executive Board Meeting					
YPA-26011	Board Game Night Aug					
YPA-26012	Collaboration with FAPA and BioCosmo on an online seminar on					
YPA-26013	Paint Night					
YPA-26014	Paint of postdoc					
YPA-26015	YPA Open Forum September 2025					
YPA-26016	Career cafe					
YPA-26017	NPAW happy hour					
YPA-26018	Halloween Party					

2026 YPA BUDGET	Totals
YPA TOTAL BUDGET	\$44,650.00
YPA REMAINING BALANCE	\$30,287.68

# Chairs

## YPA members networking event

- Only open to YPA Chairs, coordinators, members, and their families and friends

## YPA Executive Board Official Group Photo

- Invite professional photographer (CapturingYale)
- Maybe a special guest: Handsome Dan 🐕





# Chairs

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ypa@yale.edu) cc'd while contacting OPA)*



# Secretaries

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## Contact secretaries for Yale venue booking

- Contact us as early as possible with minimum of 10 business days in advance
- Please 'cc' our personal email address for quicker response: [anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu](mailto:anne-marie.rickmann@yale.edu)  
[harshini.sureshkumar@yale.edu](mailto:harshini.sureshkumar@yale.edu)

Please include:

- Event Name
- Event type (meeting, presentation, workshop, etc)
- Expected Attendance
- Event Description
- Will you be providing food/Alcohol?

*Looking for new co-coordinator will be advertising in newsletter soon*

# Treasury

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A summary of Treasury activities from the past month:

- Clarifying expectations regarding orders placed, and have **updated the Guide tab** of the Event Tracker:
  - *"After submitting the order request form, no follow-up email is needed."*
  - *"If no confirmation is received 2 days before the event, you may follow up with YPA Treasurers."*
  - *"If online purchasing is not available, you may schedule use of the pcard."*
  - Added link to book YPA pcard
- Followed up on missing documentation (receipts and meeting agendas)
- Met with Yahaira to check in, she is on top of everything today :)
- P-cards need to be requested via the new form and please return to treasurers or Yahaira within 5 days of purchase. --> **sending order request to Yahaira is still preferred**

Upcoming plans for next month:

- Continue to update committee budgets, as receipts and documentation are submitted

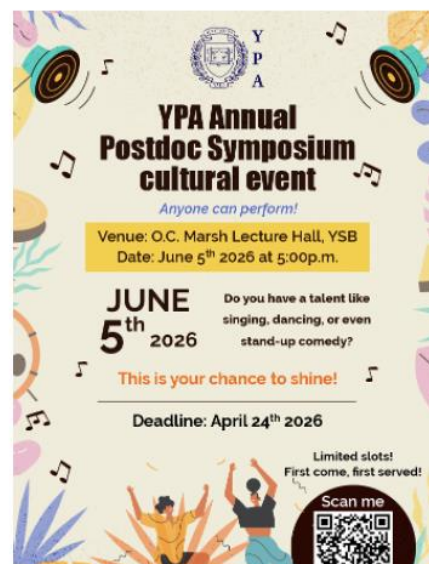
## *Meeting Notes:*

- *Reminder to submit receipts! If you don't have a receipt (e.g. because order wasn't delivered yet) – send order confirmation – so treasury can have an overview of what budget still remains*

# Symposium Committee

- **Symposium:** Date announced **June 5th**. Spread the word! **Register and submit your abstract!**
- **Advertisement with help of Danielle (Communication Committee)**
- **Keynote Speaker confirmed.** Waiting for Yale approval.
- Planning a **Career panel** with networking after it.
- Looking for Volunteers for the **cultural performance**.
- Looking for a **headshot photographer**. If someone has suggestions, please contact us!
- **YPA subcommittees: poster space** available to showcase your work and recruit new members!

\*Our next **monthly committee meeting** will be in Person, **Tuesday 21st April**.



# Belonging Committee

## 1. **May Day Social** (May 1, 100 College St, 5pm-8:30pm)

Celebrate the arrival of spring! Collaboration with Wu Tsai

- Social gathering with food & drinks
- Group photo at sunset (11th floor, ~7:30 PM)

## 2. **Mental Health Awareness Event** (May 13 or 14)

Proposed collaboration with YBPA and YPGA

- 2 speakers (postgrad + postdoc)
- Open discussion / Q&A
- Overview of Yale mental health resources

## 3. **Self-Defense Course** (Date/location TBA)

- The 6-week course returns!
- **We're looking for volunteers to help coordinate!**
- **Please contact [merrill.asp@yale.edu](mailto:merrill.asp@yale.edu)**



*No need to attend every class. Each class will have it's own Yale Connect Event*



# Communications Committee

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- **Activities:** updated socials/communications, more active on LinkedIn, YPA merch TBD in collaboration with YPA Symposium
- Communications needs a co-coordinator. Let us know if you or someone you know is interested in the role. E-mail: [danielle.sohai@yale.edu](mailto:danielle.sohai@yale.edu)
- Ziwei Zhang joined the committee in February & will conduct a "YPA Spotlight" segment in the newsletter. The Chairs would like interviews to start with the e-board. Keep an eye on e-mails.
- Please note that website requests should also be sent to Yanrong Xiao, our YPA website manager. s/o to her, she has been awesome with the updates! ✨
- Camila Aparicio Llorente will leave YPA Communications in May to start residency! CONGRATS 🎉
- Like, comment, and engage with our socials :D (and respond to my IG polls 🙏)

# Community & Networking Committee

## Past events

- ❖ March 11: Board game night (Coco!)
- ❖ March 25: Book Club: Wuthering Heights
- ❖ March 27: YPA Spring Happy Hour



**Abigail Ayers**

## Upcoming events

- ❖ April 29: Book club
- ❖ May 7: Board game night
- ❖ May 22: YPA BBQ!

**Welcome Mgayya!**  
New  
CNC co-coordinator  
candidate





# Mentorship Committee

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- Relaunching Building A Mentoring Network Framework in collaboration with Advocacy Committee
- Relaunching Modern instructor program in May- will be uploaded in Yale Connect by this week *May 5 + May 12: workshops about academic writing. Stay tuned*

# Mentorship Committee

YPA Mentorship Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT

## CALL FOR LEADERS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Are you passionate about **mentorship** and eager to **make a difference**?

We are looking for leaders for our **Modern Instructor Program**

✉ To learn more contact:  
caroline.muiler@yale.edu  
and  
fatema.hasan@yale.edu



## YPA mentorship committee

# CALL FOR LEADERS

Do you love helping others feel welcome? Want to make a real impact in just a few hours a month?

Join our Buddy Program as a leader and become the friendly face that helps incoming postdocs.

To learn more contact:  
caroline.muiler@yale.edu  
fatema.hasan@yale.edu



# Professional Development Committee

## New members

- Jiaying Qian. Let's welcome her with open arms!

## Past events

- Grant writing workshop with Dr. Eugene Shapiro
- Job trek to Novartis with OCS (April 8th)



Jiaying Qian



Speaker Eugene Shapiro



The Grant Writing workshop was very well received



#Yanrong, our own designer!

## Upcoming events

- Job trek to Jackson Labs and Alexion with OCS (April 28th). 8 sponsored seats available!
- Pint of Postdoc (May 14th at East Rock Brewery). Register as a speaker below!
- Last Pint of Postdoc (June 18th)

## Looking for a new co-coordinator

Please reach out to [juan.velasco@yale.edu](mailto:juan.velasco@yale.edu) or [rafael.bayarri.olmos@yale.edu](mailto:rafael.bayarri.olmos@yale.edu)





# Advocacy Committee

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## **Benefits Expansion**

- Mental Health Benefits (surveying postdocs AND increasing therapists/networks covered by the insurance)
- YPA mental health survey almost ready to be sent out; aim to complete data collection before May
- Potential discussion with Magellan in May regarding network expansion

## **Collaboration with Graduate Students:**

- Improving Yale Shuttle routes, reliability, and service coverage (survey and feedback collection)

## **Ongoing coordination with the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) on:**

- Follow-up on annual PTO policy discussions within the current fiscal year



# Advocacy Committee

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## **Ongoing coordination with the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) on:**

- Grievance policy - draft with OPA (draft expected to be shared with Advocacy for review; follow-up planned in May)
- Childcare subsidy (initial contact made with Yale WorkLife)

## **Collaboration with the Professional Development OPA:**

- Revised IDP (Two-page IDP proposal drafted with NIH/NPA guidance; feedback received from OPA),
- Protected professional development time (Initial conversations with faculty/deans ongoing, endorsement for IDP by Faculty Kristen Brennand)



# Advocacy Committee

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## Advocacy Priorities for 2026

- Stronger and more accessible mental health benefits
- Revision of the postdoc grievance procedure, Improved childcare subsidy structure
- Development of a stable postdoc mentorship framework (IDP revision and protected professional development time)

## Future Community Initiatives

- Reading circles and facilitated discussions on workplace climate, bullying, and microaggressions in Academia. Potential collaboration with Yale Office of Restorative Practices
- Development Advisory Team: Exploring a postdoc mentoring network to complement PI mentorship; initial information gathering on existing Yale mentoring programs and models.
- Tennis access, Cullman-Heyman Tennis Center; Postdocs are classified as staff and not eligible for student rates, so YPA is exploring possible subsidy options.



# Office for Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA)

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*Meeting notes: No updates from OPA*

# Yale Postdoctoral Association (YPA) **Empowering** Postdocs & Researchers

*Thank you for your attention*

