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.