

PDA August 2021 meeting

<https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/98667515989>

Introduction from PDA executive council members

Wyatt- President, also handling Finances (no CFO this year)

Christina- VP + Engagement chair

Felipe-PDA Seminar Series Chair

Maureen- outgoing Travel Awards Chair

Daria- incoming Travel Awards Chair

Joselyn- Diversity & International Postdoc Chair

Allison- PDA Department Representative Chair

Recap of survey 2020

- Career development seminars were most popular events
- Zoom fatigue...
- Possibility of P2P, other workshops (I.e. mental health)
- Issues with salaries, lack of benefits, lack of security during COVID for postdocs

General announcements to postdocs

- Postdoc digest – once a month (?)
 - Wyatt will send out since currently Ankita is the only Chief Communications Officer
- postdocs@lists.ucdenver.edu - anyone can use, though emails will be read by a mediator before they are sent out
- PDA email account – only PDA president and chief communications officer have access.
 - Trying to compile everything in Digest to be send out 1x/month
- Social media – active: Twitter and LinkedIn; inactive: Facebook and Instagram
- Postdoc Slack AND PDA executive committee slack

Updates from council members (*No chief financial officer this year. Wyatt will help with the budgeting and finance.)

Chief financial officer (Wyatt)

- Budget- \$6k (rolled over from last year)
- Budget must be approved for all events / workshops hosted by PDA (usually will be approved if not too outrageous - I.e. ice cream truck last year)
- Contests and prizes are OK as well – should be merit based (competition) (I.e. Gong show – maximum prize is \$200 gift card)
- Survey – 5-10 amazon gift cards, \$20 per person
- Look at PDA server to see if an event has been done before – usually have an existing budget and prize structure – Easier to approve things that have been done before!

Chief communication officer

- Ankita absent

Seminar series chair

- Felipe – seminars

- Academia Industry Alliance – teaming up to hold career development / guest speakers from different fields & positions
- 2 people per session – would it be worth shortening seminar to half an hour? (20 minute per person for postdoc presentations)
- Virtual – how to get good attendance? Could it be hybrid? Could we serve food?
- Livestreaming is expensive! \$1000... can still do hybrid, think of other options – Barbara Davis Center 2nd floor room equipped for hybrid meetings

Engagement chair

- Christina Lisk – VP + Engagement Chair
- Need a centralized “vibe” - being a postdoc is hard, hard to find community – want to build Postdoc community at CU Denver
- Coffee hours to help build community (Outside of RC1S)
- Priority: meeting as many postdocs as we can as quickly as we can to guide our goals as the PDA
- Potential to collaborate with Christina (international office)
- Happy hours at cedar creek?

Departmental rep chair

- Climate Assessment Survey – 98 respondents
 - 5 \$20 amazon gift cards sent to recipients (Betty)
- Analysis of survey results – printout for coffee hour attendees
- Strategies to recruit more reps – in-person events (sign ups / ads at events)

Travel award chair - Daria / Maureen – Travel Awards

- Planning to send e-mail to graduate school about budget for travel awards (hoping for \$10,500 – same as last year)
- Plan to email Faculty volunteers to score applications – who is staying and who is leaving
- Will send out deadline announcement to postdocs – tentative end of September deadline
- Last year – virtual conferences, less applications (people not traveling, virtual not as attractive / expensive)
- Can we sponsor in-person meetings? Delta variant and travel restrictions?
- Last year – only \$5k used, can we spend money differently? Decision – only virtual conferences or workshops ... Any ideas? Note: \$ only for ATTENDING conferences, not organizing.

Denver postdoc rep

- Nicole absent

Diversity and International Officer

- Jocelyn – movie night (virtual) - taking recess (zoom fatigue)
- Fall – outdoor event? I.e. movie night on the lawn – Christina has some budget & company that sets this up
- Ideas for seminar series – immigration / visa seminar; Seminar for postdoc parents to share resources

*Anyone needs a co-chair? (~300 postdocs on campus, ~900 in email list)

- Department Rep
- Travel Awards

- Communication chair (2 – Ankita planning to leave soon)
- Diversity & international co-chair
- Outreach chair or co-chairs

*Needs an outreach chair

NPAW

- 3rd week of September (20th - 24th) - teaming up with National to do a local week
- Poor attendance last year – virtual events
- NPAW virtual events with various speakers – have a watch party (coffee or lunch) to listen to key note speaker while networking
- Last year was a rush to organize – can we come up with ideas and list of organizers right now?
- Can we do professional headshots this year? (not a PDA Sponsored event, organized by Bruce – plan is to do it this year, probably outdoors) - Bruce will take care of all the details for this
- Can we have in-person events? Happy hour @ Cedar Creek? Coffee in a conference room? - university rules are that in-person events for instructional purposes require masks, **need less than 45 people** to have a lower level of approval. Not sure about off-campus events (need to verify approval)
- Should have contingency plans in place in case in-person events are restricted
- Theme? Fostering Collaborations – Renewing Networking – Wellness Theme
 - Can help with event organization and reaching out to potential sponsors
 - Meet A Scientist – we are not who society thinks we are
 - Celebrating Scientists – what does it mean, how do we build relationships to public, how to recognize contributions of scientists to pandemic
- One of the major events PDA spends budget on – don't want to go crazy, but we do have a chunk of cash we can use for this
 - Get the pity discount if we can, but also think about how we will re-invest PDA money into postdoc community during NPAW
- Resource fair – invite people from different offices to talk about resources for postdocs (possibly outside between research buildings)
 - Contact list – Bruce will send to Tina (start at employee services website – specific benefits portal for postdocs)
- Graphical abstract competition – talk about science to others (3'x3' poster)
 - Increasing visibility and awareness of scientists on our own campus
 - In education quad space to reach out to med students or another location on campus besides research space (taking NPAW on the road around campus) / Ed1-2 bridge
- Ice cream social (with buying ice cream cups from grocery store to save \$)
- Allison will help with flyer making – save the date flyer to send out, 2nd flyer ~2-3 weeks before NPAW with details / sign up / competition sign up

Front Range Industry Postdoc Summit (Oct 27 or 28) – promotion to AMC postdocs and PDA participation. Anyone interested?

- Ok to promote to AMC postdocs, also seeking anyone to help organize if interested

Bruce's Encouragement

- How will we use our time on the PDA to create value and a difference?