

**Postdoc Association Notes**  
**March 26, 2008**

**Attending:** Judy Cannon, Rifat Hasina, Cheng Huang, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Guoqing Lin, James McCracken, Harold Olivey, Ayaz Sayeed, Isaac Skromne, Madina Sukhanova, Ben Wolfe, Nancy Schwartz, Melissa Lindberg, and Parag Shah.

**Discussion:**

**Postdoc Orientation Meeting Topics:** Imogen had forwarded a list of possible topics for the PD Orientation meeting her HR administrator group is putting together. A representative from the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs and a representative from the PDA will attend these meetings, along with a rotating HR administrator from one of the Basic Sciences. There was discussion on topics to add – such as CTA buses/public transportation around and to/from Hyde Park, Life issues – gym membership, childcare, housing. Some of these topics would be better addressed by pointing them to the website, rather than taking time up in the meeting – give them the resources to find out the information. Another issue is who receives tuition benefits for taking classes at the University and who does not – which is another difference between scholars/fellows.

**Ombudsman:** It was suggested the Steering Committee write a letter stressing the need for an avenue to resolve grievances between postdocs and PI's – such as an ombudsman. A letter to Nancy will be drafted: she can then forward it on to the appropriate people in the Provost's Office.

**Seminar Series:** Though both Isaac and Ayaz will be leaving to take new jobs, Kolla and Madina will continue on. Guoqing will be joining the committee. The Spring seminar series is planned now.

**NPA:** Ben and Rifat will go to NPA and present the survey responses in a poster. They'll feature the demographics, and professional development – since that is the goal of the survey. There will be section on career plans, relations with mentor, contributing to your own development plan, having a non-peer mentor, utility of resources, lab management. They may have a pdf of the poster to show at the next meeting in April (NPA is April 25-26).

**Survey:** James will schedule a meeting with Pat Shymanski, Nancy, Ben, & Rifat to take place before NPA. Then results can be posted on the website. Nancy will do the analysis on payroll data from Academic Affairs to see how accurate the perceived disparity between male/female salaries truly is.

**Website:** One idea for the website is to provide a clearing house for listhosts/journal clubs/seminars – so people can find the contact to be added to the list if they want to receive information about those events. We would like the FAQ to have links to other pages with the correct answers on them where possible.

**Steering Committee:** Kolla suggested another Happy Hour for Steering Committee members, to celebrate Isaac's and Ayaz's new jobs. A date will be arranged. It was suggested at the next meeting we review old minutes, and check on accomplishments.