

BSD Postdoctoral Association Committee Meeting
12 noon, Thursday April 26, 2007 BSLC 004

Present: James McCracken (chair), Kolla Kristjansdottir, Rifat Hasina, Jason Ward, Harold Olivey, Judy Cannon, Ben Wolfe, Imogen Hurley, Madina Sukhanova, Melissa Lindberg and Isaac Skromne

1. National PDA Meeting, Berkeley CA

RH attended the National PDA meeting, which was held at the end of March in Berkley, CA. RH spent the first part of the meeting talking about different seminars that she attended at the meeting. Rather than try and recap this discussion here, I will refer you to her meeting notes that will be posted on the UofC PDA website.

From the meeting RH gained the following suggestions on things we could do as a post doc association to better postdoc life at UofC:

- Possibly start a mentoring award, where postdocs would nominate their mentors for the award
- Have networking meetings (2 post docs organize this meeting each month, which involves contacting 2 PIs for a dinner networking event. This would be open for ~10 other postdocs).
- IS suggesting starting a mentoring program.
- Finally, we should develop an exit survey for post docs.

2. Survey, 2007

RH and JW have been working on the 2007 postdoctoral association survey. BW has also expressed interest in the working on the survey. Last month a tentative list of survey questions was circulated with the minutes. Some suggestions were made, and the updated list of questions can be viewed at the end of these minutes.

It was also suggested that we have a small survey for only international students to take in addition to the larger survey.

3. Lab Management Course

JM has been in contact with Garth Fowler from AAAS about hosting a workshop about lab management. Possible topics for this seminar include: Landing a faculty position, Leadership skills, Project management, Getting funding, and Mentoring skills. JM is thinking this will be a 1 or 2 day event-either a Friday/Saturday, or two Saturdays.

A major challenge with hosting this workshop will be getting people from outside of the university to attend. JM suggested that we pull in other universities (limit this to universities within Chicago) to assist in the planning of the workshop—that way they are invested in it and will likely publicize at there institutions.

4. Need for volunteers

JW informed that the group that he is leaving because he has taken a position in industry. JM suggested putting an advertisement on the website for volunteers.

5. Miscellaneous

ML announced that Dr. Steven Sine from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine is coming to campus the week of May 7th and would like to give a seminar entitled: A Scientist's Roadmap “a personal reflection of the scientific path and ways to navigate it, and focuses on optimizing individual potential.” This was well received by the group and we are going to start advertising it ASAP.

IS is the only individual who has had alcohol safety training. This training is required to have alcohol at our seminar series. The training day has been set up for May 17th at noon. All those that are available should attend.

It was decided that the next PDA meeting will be May 24th.

6. Website

HO asked if the committee would be interested in seeing a report of our website usage. He said last year the website received ~7000 hits. The committee was interested in this report.

IH suggested adding the Cluster Diagram of UofC Organizations to the website.

Tentative Survey Questions

I. Basic Information

1. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

2. Age group?

- 24 or younger
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45 or older

3. What is your position title?

- Postdoctoral Research Scholar
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow (stipend only from fellowship)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow (fellowship stipend + supplemental stipend from PI)
- Research Professional Associate
- Other (please specify)

4. What is your citizenship status?

- US citizen
- Permanent resident
- H1-B visa
- J1 visa
- F1 visa
- Country of citizenship if not US
- Other

5. If you are not a U.S. citizen, how long have you been in the U.S.?

- I am a U.S. citizen
- 0-2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-8 years
- more than 8 years

6. In what year did you get your Ph.D.?

7. How many post doc positions have you held?

8. How many years have you been at University of Chicago?

9. Which department are you in?

- Anesthesia & Critical Care
- Ben May Institute for Cancer Research
- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Ecology & Evolution
- Family Medicine
- Health Studies
- Human Genetics
- Medicine
- Microbiology
- Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology
- Neurobiology, Pharmacology & Physiology
- Neurology
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Ophthalmology & Visual Science
- Organismal Biology & Anatomy
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Radiation & Cellular Oncology
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Other (please specify)

10. What are your long-term career plans?

- Academia
- Consulting
- Government
- Industrial Research
- Science publishing/Science writing
- Science policy
- Teaching
- Undecided
- Other (please specify)

II. Finances and Costs

11. What is your present gross (pre-tax) income?

- 35000 or less
- 35001 – 40000
- 40001 – 45000
- 45001 – 50000
- 50001 – 55000
- above 55001 (please specify)

12. What are your total annual taxes (federal + state + local)?

- 1000 or less
- 1000 – 2500
- 2501 – 5000
- 5001 – 7500
- 7501 – 10000
- 10001 or more (please specify)

13. Any additional family income (e.g. spouse income, stock dividends, etc.)? Please specify before tax amount?

14. Number of people in household (including yourself)?

15. What are your housing and living costs per month (rent + utilities + misc expenses):

- 500 or less
- 501 – 1000
- 1001 – 1500
- 1501 – 2000
- 2001 and more

16. Do you rent or own?

- Own
- Rent (University Housing)
- Rent (Non-university housing)
- Other (please specify)

17. What are your transportation costs per month (car insurance, gas, CTA pass etc.)?

- 0
- 1 – 50
- 51 – 100
- 101 – 150
- 151 – 200
- 201 and more

18. What are your childcare costs per month (in \$)?

III. Grants and Presentations

19. What is the source of funding that supports you (check all that apply)?

- Training grant
- Advisor's grant
- Individual fellowship (please specify)

20. Have you written a grant proposal for a fellowship or some other type of funding?

- Yes
- No
- If yes what organizations did you apply to?

21. Do you intend to write a grant proposal during your time as a postdoc?

- Yes
- No

22. Are you aware of the K99 awards from NIH?

- Yes
- No

23. Are you aware that the University of Chicago Office of Research Services provides grant writing help?

- Yes
- No

24. Would you benefit from a grant-writing workshop?

- Yes
- No

25. How many publications have you co-authored while at the University of Chicago?

Total:
First author:

26. Do you have a platform to present your research work on a regular basis?

- Yes
- No

27. Have you presented your work at (please check all that apply):

- Lab meetings
- Departmental seminars
- Local conferences
- National Conferences
- International Conferences
- As an invited speaker at another institution

28. How many professional conferences did you attend in the last year?

29. Where did you get the funding to attend the meeting?

- PI
- Travel award from professional organization
- Paid for yourself
- Other (please specify)

30. In what form did you present your work?

- poster
- seminar
- did not present

IV. Mentoring

31. What is the gender of your mentor?

- Male
- Female

32. Are you happy with the mentoring you receive in your laboratory?

- Yes
- No

33. In the most recent year how often did you meet with your advisor to discuss your project?

- daily
- weekly
- 1-2 times per month
- quarterly
- less than quarterly

34. How often do you meet with your mentor to discuss career goals and your progress towards meeting them?

- quarterly
- once a year
- less than once a year
- never

35. What is the format of these meetings?

- One-on-one
- Lunch Discussions
- Email
- Lab meetings

36. How supportive is your advisor of your career goals?

- Very supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Not supportive
- My advisor doesn't know what my career goals are.

37. Please rank your mentor in the following categories:

(1=very bad, 2=poor, 3=fair, 4=good, 5=excellent)

- communication
- conflict resolution
- impartiality to all lab members
- lab resources (\$)
- looking after your professional interests
- mentoring
- teaching

38. Do you have a non-peer mentor that you trust other than your PI?

- Yes
- No

39. Are you aware of the BSD Mentoring Plan (found on BSD postdoctoral website)?

- Yes
- No

40. Have you received a performance evaluation in the most recent year?

- Yes
- No

41. Please rate the scientific/professional training received at the university in the following categories:

(1=very bad, 2=poor, 3=fair, 4=good, 5=excellent)

- article writing/publications
- experimental techniques learned
- favorable conditions for project success
- grant writing/success obtaining funding
- laboratory management
- opportunity to develop your own project
- presentation skills (poster and oral)

V. BSD Postdoctoral Association Website

42. How often do you visit the University of Chicago BSD Postdoctoral Association Website (www.bsdpostdoc.uchicago.edu)?

- Never
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- I didn't know there was a website

43. What have you visited the website for (check all that apply):

- Information about the association
- Orientation information
- Information about University of Chicago resources
- Career information
- Seminar information
- Other please specify

44. Comments or suggestions about BSD Postdoctoral Association website:

VI. BSD Postdoctoral Association Postdoc Seminars

45. Number of BSD postdoc association seminars you have attended:

- 0
- 1 – 5
- 5 – 10
- 10 – 15
- no sure

46. Please rank the following seminar subjects:

(1=very interested, 2=interested, 3=somewhat interested, 4=do not care, 5= completely indifferent).

- Career guidance (academic)
- Career guidance (industry)
- Career guidance (alternative)
- Fellow Post-doc research presentations
- University resources (facilities, i.e. microscopy, proteomics, etc.)

- Mentoring and lab management
- Funding Opportunities
- Hiring and benefit issues
- Funding opportunities
- Minorities in science
- Immigration and tax issues
- Teaching and Presentation skills
- Social event instead of seminar

47. Suggestions as to how to improve the BSD-PDA seminar series:

48. Please rank the University of Chicago's performance with respect to the following post doc concerns:

(1=very good, 2=good, 3=fair, 4=poor, 5= very poor, 6=N/A).

- Stipend
- Housing
- Health insurance and benefits
- Childcare support
- Transportation and parking
- Mentoring (quality, availability, communication)
- Professional guidance
- Future job placement
- Standard evaluation of your research performance
- Laboratory research resources
- Conflict resolution
- Handling of discrimination issues
- Prevention of social isolation/ stress
- Work environment

49. Your comments/questions: