

BSD Postdoctoral Association Committee Meeting
12 noon June 7, 2006 BSLC 313

Present: Imogen Hurley, Andie Ward, Nilesh Banavali, Isaac Skromne, Ayaz Sayeed, Yuanxin Hu, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Rifat Hasina, Steven Crone.
Imogen-chair

1. Introductions

New member YH is interested in joining the seminar committee (see below). Steven Crone from the NPP Postdoc Association also attended to increase dialogue between our groups.

2. Summer Picnic

AW is organizing the picnic and asked for volunteers to help set up (IS, IH, KK) and pull down (RH, YH, AS). The food arrives 3.30pm and the BSLC lobby is booked for bad weather. Food ordered for 75 people. Last time 100 people came and more may come this time. There will be a table to greet people. IH to ask Melissa for name badges, print association handouts, feedback box. AW on drinks duty to pick up and stand by drinks. Friends and family welcome. Event finishes at 6pm.

3. Survey

NB provided a handout of the current survey and asked for feedback. Few additions: Parking to transportation costs (RH); time to fill in survey 5-10 min not 10 min (IH); Raffle should only be open to UofC postdocs and only one entry per postdoc. AS suggested a login but NB wants to keep anonymity. Cannot limit entry by UofC email address as not used by all postdocs. NB suggested asking for UofC ID when claiming the prize. IH to chase Melissa to see if prizes will be funded. AW to advertise the survey by email with a subject line including "Win a nano iPod" and "BSD Postdoc Association" so it is not thought to be spam. AW to advertise more than once with different subject lines. NB to release survey once prizes guaranteed and to stop on June 30.

4. Seminars

a) Ideas

IH explained the structure of the seminar committee: IS, AS, KK, YH would organize the seminars in 2006/7 and meet separately to do this. IS was thanked for organizing the seminars 2005/6. Suggestions were invited from the committee in addition to the list of seminar topics provided as a handout.

- Office of Research Services to talk about who they are, how you get on their list and funding opportunities for postdocs including grants (IS).
- Panel discussion with senior postdocs giving advice to junior postdocs including the 5 year rule (XH).
- Benefits seminar including parking benefits (RH).
- Paper writing from a member of the English department (KK).

- Start up packages from a department chair, new PI and department administrator (AW).
- Explanation of Individual Development Plans perhaps by CAPS or Nancy Schwartz (NB).

b) Practicalities

- Time. IS said the seminar room needs to be booked by the end of the week. He suggested 1pm rather than 4pm so graduate students could attend and to improve attendance as it would be over lunch. It is likely to be too hard to get a room at 12 noon. 1pm was agreed and IS will inform Melissa Lindberg. If this does not work we could change it during the year (IH). If the majority of survey respondents wanted 4pm we would also change (AW).
- Socials. IS suggested socials once every 6 weeks as 2005/6. The number of attendees varied but it was agreed that they should be around twice per quarter. Beer would be provided for socials but not seminars.
- Organizers on the day. IS suggested that two people would be needed for each seminar: one to meet the speaker, one to get the food. The time to clear up was minimal. AW suggested that the person in charge of food should arrive 30 minutes beforehand.
- Food. AW will be stepping down as social chair this week and the seminar committee will take over. AW suggested ordering according to the speaker and the expected audience size. AW explained that she orders via Melissa Lindberg.
- Postdoc presentations. IS suggested removing postdoc presentations as they were the hardest to organize and the least well attended. SC said that the NPP Postdoc Association could continue this role. IH thought that within department seminars were a better forum for postdoc talks and that the NPP is an excellent model of this. SC asked the association to send potential speakers to the NPP association.
- Regularity. IS asked how often seminars should be. It was agreed that once a week was good to provide consistency. IH suggested that the quarters could be shortened if the number of seminars was unmanageable.
- Start date. IS proposed Friday September 8 as the 2005/6 started around this time.
- Speakers. IS described speakers already partly setup for next year:
 - Career Advising and Planning Services (CAPS)
 - Office of International Affairs – perhaps lead by Zhenwei as foreign postdoc representative
 - Rights and Benefits – IH has liaised with HR in the past
 - Nancy Schwartz and NIH
 - Core Facilities – IH has already contacted them. They could give a general talk and then individual facilities could come. RH and KK have contacts too.
 - Pharmaceutical – IH made a local contact at the UofC Science Fair
 - Law – AS spoke to a company at the UofC Science Fair
 - BioRad – KK has a contact.
 - Scientific Equipment Companies – XH suggested companies such as

Applied Biosciences. IS to ask the Office of the Controller.

- NCBI / NIH – RH attended a good talk this year. KK suggested contacting them to see if they are visiting campus anyway.

5. Other Ideas

General ideas for the association were also discussed:

- **Combined seminar list of all BSD seminars** (SC). NB said that Chem list is like this. While a good idea, it was agreed that this was beyond the scope of the association. IH suggested that the UofC events calendars could perform this role and that there was a list of seminars on the association website. IH to send link to committee and ask for missing entries.
- **Postdoc Day**. KK and RH suggested organizing a day of postdoc research presentations.
- **Postdoc representation**. In the last postdoc survey postdocs asked the association to represent them to faculty and the administration. IH suggested that we were not doing this yet and that at the next meeting the association should ask Nancy Schwartz how we could do this effectively.
- **Academic speakers**. SC suggested that the association could help postdocs interact with invited speakers by asking for postdoc lunches or ensuring that postdocs were welcome at such events. KK and IH had both had negative experiences and another postdoc had contacted the association about this issue. SC said that this was a particular issue for Research Faculty. IH suggested that better postdoc representation could help fix this issue.
- **NPP Postdoctoral Association**. SC said that the NPP association would meet this month to discuss their future and that he would update the BSD association after this. The BSD association committee currently has no Research Faculty representation. IH asked SC to invite Research Faculty in the NPP association to join the BSD association.