

Postdoc Association Notes
August 21, 2008

Attending: Judy Cannon, Kolla Kristjansdottir, Guoqing Lin, James McCracken, Harold Olivey, Madina Sukhanova, and Ben Wolfe.

Discussion:

Website: James, Harold, Melissa, and Kolla have met twice over the last month to go over the website page by page and have documented the issues they have found as well as features they might want to include in a potential redesign. Attached is a summary from Harold.

Major issues identified thus far:

1. *No obvious "Home" link on any pages*
2. *Links at the top of each page are hard to identify as links*
 - a. *Drop-down menus?*
3. *Organization of pages can make it difficult to find information*
4. *Duplication of information makes maintenance difficult*
5. *Many pages are too wordy*
 - a. *Headlines with drop-down text?*
 - b. *Important information not in large enough font*
 - c. *Wording in some sections is out-of-date or in need of editing for flow and clarity*
6. *Inconsistent use of/need for "Quick Links" on different pages*
7. *Jobs page needs to be revamped, possibly replace job listings with links to local biotech/pharma/consulting companies*
8. *The website needs to have greater visual impact*

Survey: It has been decided that this year's seminar will focus more on the new benefits for PDR's i.e. those through Garnett-Powers. There will also be a question focusing on the website to allow us to see what wanted changes that committee might miss. There were a few demographic issues with last year's survey to address in the area of salary discrepancies. Also, if possible the survey should only be about 50 questions in length. The demographic questions should be moved to the end of the survey, to more closely follow the order of typical surveys. Announcement of the coming survey should be at the September 5th picnic, with a rollout goal of late September.

Seminars: The schedule has been released and is ready for the website. Seminar Chair Kolla predicts the biggest event will be the Abbott seminar. She also says a new graduate student member has been in contact about the Seminar Committee, but despite repeated emails, has failed to come to a meeting. She will be sent a schedule of events. Judy Cannon's financial planner may be able to fill in the empty November 7th slot. Kolla also asked for volunteers for the picnic as she will be out of the country. Ben and James agreed to take cleanup. Two others unnoted here agreed to help with set-up.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.