WHOI Postdoctoral Association Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2021

1) Social event recap:

* Seemed successful with decent turnout besides a couple of technical difficulties.
* We all agreed playing virtual games was a good way to hang out instead of awkward zoom small talk.
* Will plan another social event for after the meeting with Dr. Peter de Menocal (February 19th, social will start at 4), likely on zoom with some sort of virtual game.
  + Nina W. will organize this to the extent that it needs to be organized.

2) Meeting with Peter de Menocal:

* Planned for February 19th at 3:00pm
* Will last for 1 hour – Dr. de Menocal will talk for ~20 minutes, with time for question afterwards
* Scott L. will send out a reminder to submit questions for Dr. de Menocal to the google form, due Tuesday, February 16th.
* PDA will compile questions and come up with additional questions.
* Will be hosted on zoom (Scott L. will send out link), no need to register

3) Interview Panel:

* February 11th 2:30-4:00pm
* Scott L. and Anya B. will send out a reminder to submit questions to google form. Anya B. and Scott will compile questions into 3-4 general questions for the panel, leaving time at the end for further questions.
* Anya B. will send out a link to register for this event. Will be hosted on Zoom.

4) Potential Negotiating Panel

* The PDA will gauge interest in a panel on negotiating to be held in March.
* If sufficient interest, Nina W. and Simon P. will start to organize this.

5) Benefits

* Tentatively planning to host an information-gathering meeting with someone from HR, as well as with Meg Tivey (Vice President for Academic Programs & Dean) to learn more about the benefits different postdocs receive (scholar versus fellow versus investigator) and ask any questions.
  + - The PDA will host an informal discussion amongst postdocs after the meeting with HR to share experiences and any advice for new postdocs just navigating WHOI benefits.
* In preparation for this meeting, Erin M. and others from the PDA will work to compile a table outlining the benefits available to each type of postdoc. This will help identify any specific questions we have for HR before the meeting. This document will be revised after the meeting and eventually posted on the PDA website for postdoc reference
  + - Melina K. will also work with Erin to put together a section of the document specifically geared towards helping international postdocs navigating benefits when they first arrive at WHOI

6) Other

* Scott L. mentioned that some in AOP&E wanted an announcement made when the WHOI scholars were chosen
  + We’re generally ambivalent about whether this should be common practice as we want to both acknowledge the significance of being awarded a WHOI scholar award but also don’t want to single WHOI scholars out over investigators or fellows.
* For now, the PDA will work to encourage the various department admins to make sure that new postdocs joining the department are announced in WHOI Headlines – this is supposed to happen but is often forgotten, leading to confusion about when new postdocs join a department.