

# Meeting minutes 19 Sept 2022

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## PDA meeting 19 September

In attendance: Yaamini, Tzu-Ting, Mike, Maggi, Hannah, Janet

Called to order ~10:05

### Agenda:

None to speak of - winging it today

- Academic jobs workshop?
- Postdoc symposium?
- National postdoc appreciation week

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## Academic jobs workshop - has started

~21 signups, ~18 showed up for first session last week

Format most sessions is panel presenters, and then breakout groups

In-person social gatherings afterward will alternate between quisset and the village, for fairness. The workshop itself is all on zoom.

Maybe we can gather people for the social part of the AVAST birthday party as the post-workshop social event this week, to piggyback off the food etc that they will have there

AVAST social time starts at 4, workshop will be done at 4:30

The first 4 sessions are slightly more senior people giving advice on the different kinds of statements, but for the cover letter session and the final reviewing-documents session, people who are either about to leave for a new job or just left for a new job will do informal Q&A on anything

Maggi and Svenja would take recs/referrals for people who have very recently transitioned from postdocs to faculty (ie in the last year or two?) if we have any

They have a list of people that they are planning to ask, but more suggestions are welcome (by the end of this week)

There are notes on this and all of the workshop planning in the PDA google drive somewhere

## Job interview practice event - Mike

This is on the schedule for October

Mike's preliminary thoughts: make this more sociable, practice informally talking to people a la speed dating ("speed-interviewing"), maybe at Aquatic or something? (Aquatic acoustics are not good, unsuitable for an event where we need to hear each other talk)

Maggi has done a similar speed-dating share-your-research event before. Note that structure really

helps people, e.g. having timers and a set rotation.

We could build in some repetition because first answers to questions are almost always bad, and it is all about practice

Suggestion to start with someone giving a tips-and-tricks presentation, either someone more senior-sci or someone from communications. Talk to Katherine Joyce (graphics) about who would be good to ask, or just email someone from development/communications to ask for their thoughts. Court Clayton is the chief development officer, Ken Kostel is the guy to talk to about written comms. Idea would be to have someone give some tips on elevator pitches.

thing: with a partner, take turns explaining your research in 1 minute, then 30 seconds, then 15 seconds

Mike has lots of thoughts and notes now!

- start with elevator pitch tips from someone
- do the warmup exercise of 1min/30sec/15sec
- do structured rotation of phone-screen/zoom question speed interviewing
  - one question per table, people rotate on a timer?
- socialize afterwards?

We will schedule for Clark 507, Nov 2 at 2pm (room is available!)

Mike will reach out to someone in development (Court Clayton, Danielle Fino) about the elevator pitch stuff, and make general plans

Note that several of us have lists of interview questions that we've been asked, material to draw from. For preliminary academic interviews it now seems to be fairly standard to share questions ahead of time; we could do that too.

## **postdoc appreciation week**

Apparently that's this week? Who knew.

Janet will send out an email later today - there are lots of virtual events from the National Postdoc Association

Janet is planning to do a randomly selected postdoc of the day drawing and give gift cards to the WHOI exhibit center so people can get WHOI swag

Suggestion: coffee o gift cards are maybe more likely to be used than exhibit center? postdocs really do love coffee. Either way, we do appreciate it/it makes us feel appreciated :) French bakery would also be pretty sweet but getting gift cards from them is more difficult.

On Wednesday@4:30, a pizza/cookies/etc social event outside, particularly since Wednesday is not supposed to rain and Thursday is the AVAST birthday party

Need to be sensitive to dietary restrictions (gluten free, vegan, dairy free) hence getting salads as well as pizza - most pizza places don't do gluten free pizza and Janet doesn't see people eating the gluten free pizza anyway at these events usually

## **Postdoc symposium - scheduled for Nov 10**

We probably want a very far in advance save-the-date so that people actually do save this date and have plenty of time to think about presenting

Doesn't have to be tomorrow but should be sooner rather than later

We will need to decide: how long will talks be? Do we want a poster session this year? In general what will the structure be for the symposium

The thought is a full day, in person/hybrid in 507 so not as nice as going someplace off-campus but not too bad. Would have lots of opportunities for catering (snacks, lunch, wine/cheese reception) and Janet is open to putting in enough funding that we don't have to cater from the buttery

To start figuring out:

- what we want for catering (especially for lunch/reception)
- save the date for all postdocs (Hannah will send this, with a brief survey on talks?)
- work on day schedule (length of talks, presentation formats)
- soliciting talk signups

We need to think of a good way to have people give and receive feedback for these short talks - some kind of short survey people can do on their phones (or on laptops, though we'd rather not have people with laptops out) (or on paper, not everyone will have a phone) with maybe 3 questions max (takeaway point, positive comment, constructive critique comment)

Could have little paper forms and an envelope for each speaker which they then pick up at the end

### **Other assorted topics**

The 8.5% COL raise that WHOI just announced is likely going to impact postdoc investigators because people on grant funding have a fixed amount of money so if they are paid more, they have less time than they were perhaps initially promised unless supervisors find other funds for them

This is something to bring to dept chairs, maybe, to ask if they have thought about it/if there are solutions ie pots of money that could be tapped to make up shortfalls