

PSA Meeting Minutes – May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Number of Attendees/Guests: 12 (8 postdocs, 4 guests)

- Introductions (5~10 min)
  - o The new PSA officers (if in attendance) were introduced to the attendees:
    - Molly Foote – Chair
    - Ygal Achmon – Vice Chair
    - Tun Nyunt – Treasurer
    - Sibongile Mafu – Secretary
  - o Jon announced that there were still openings for the Career Development Officer and Relations Officer positions, and gave a brief description of what the two descriptions entail. If anyone is interested in learning more about either position, please send an email to [psachair@ucdavis.edu](mailto:psachair@ucdavis.edu).
  
- Guests (~15 min) – Each guest had ~5 minutes to discuss their organization:
  - o Jane Mantey – FUTURE
    - Jane discussed some of the advantages of the FUTURE program, a program geared towards learning translational skills suited to careers of participant's choice. In order to participate in the program, applicants should be conducting research that is related to the advancement of health. Interested participants can go to one of the career Gear-Up sessions (the next one is in June: register using the following link: <http://bit.ly/1UjWvIm>). Participants who register by June 9<sup>th</sup> get entered into a raffle for \$500 to be used for career development purposes. This is in addition to the \$500 given to participants who are enrolled in FUTURE. Some goals for FUTURE moving forward are to set up company visits, as well as invite company representatives to meet and have discussions with FUTURE fellows.
  - o Joya Cooley – Alliance for Diversity in Science in Engineering (ADSE)
    - See following for ADSE's statement at the meeting: "We are the UC Davis Chapter of ADSE (Alliance for Diversity in Science and Engineering). If you are interested in promoting an environment where anyone who is interested in STEM is welcome in STEM, please join our efforts to strengthen diversity in STEM at UC Davis. Our current efforts focus on planning a scientific outreach event in the community this summer, and securing a speaker from STEM for our Diversity and Pathways Lecture Series in the fall. Please feel free to join us at our next meeting **on Friday, May 27th at 4pm in the Chemistry building courtyard**. If you are not able to join but would still like to help or contribute ideas, please e-mail Joya Cooley at [jacooley@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jacooley@ucdavis.edu)."
  - o Vessela Ensberg – Data Management Program
    - See following for the Data Management Program's statement at the meeting: "The Data Management Program was recently established to assist researchers with organizing, obtaining and sharing their data. It provides seminars and workshops on data management plan writing, access and overview of a number of tools, including the DMPtool, assistance with finding publicly available data, creating templates for standardized data collection, selecting and uploading data to a repository for sharing and ensuring long-term data re-use. Contact Vessela Ensberg with any questions at [vensberg@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vensberg@ucdavis.edu) or [dataserv@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dataserv@ucdavis.edu)."

- Travel Grant Update
  - o The Spring Travel Grant applications are in the process of being reviewed – Molly is waiting on a few scores still before she can determine the recipients.
  
- Restorative Justice Open Forum – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:30-6:30, led by Restorative Justice taskforce
  - o Jon announced the Open Forum for a Restorative Justice program to be worked on at UCD, and the task force’s request to have postdoc input when looking at the framework for how the mediation process might occur, and other similar thoughts. The flyer for this event was sent out in a prior email to the [postdocs] listserv.
  
- Postdoctoral Survey
  - o Jon explained the purpose of the Postdoctoral Survey (to get a feel for the general makeup of postdocs on campus, as well as what events they may be interested in having). Sibongile will be administering the survey in June/July, based on discussions covered during today’s brainstorming session.
  
- Brainstorming of new ideas for the future of the PSA (remainder of time – possible ideas to follow)
  - o Fellowship Panels: The PSA would like to hold two Fellowship Related Panels over the course of the academic year. The following were suggested as activities to fit in with this:
    - NIH-Focused (K99/R00, F-Series, K-Series, Diversity Supplement)
    - External Fellowships (Not covered last year with the possible exception of PFPF)
      - Some suggested Fellowships from the audience was the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Komen Grants, and looking at PIVOT for other suggestions)
    - Instead of a fellowship panel, it was also suggested to have a grant-writing panel
    - Potential mentorship of graduate students applying for graduate fellowships
      - Have postdocs who received graduate fellowships be on a panel, and act as mentors to help graduate students prepare application packages for their fellowships.
  - o Career Development Workshops – the PSA has support for one Career Development Workshop each quarter funding-wise, but can help collaborate with other organizations on campus to joint-develop workshops. Some suggestions at the meeting included:
    - Collaboration/Working on a team: Pamela Reynolds has previously offered to give a talk on this matter. The Data Management Program could also have some resources to offer related to this subject matter.
    - Translational Skills (how do my skills in academia translate to other forms of employment?) – this would be a good potential collab with the FUTURE program.
    - Elevator Pitches/Presenting to a general audience:
      - Talk with the facilitators of GradSlam about a similar type of competition for postdocs (PostSlam?)
      - This could be included as part of the Research Symposium or as its own thing.
    - A Teaching Workshop for Postdocs

- Something separate from what is offered from CEE, as that is more geared towards graduate students.
    - A Journal Club where postdocs got to present a general talk about their field of research to other postdocs
      - As a monthly brown-bag event, or with food? Would depend on event frequency.
    - Scientific Writing/Editing
      - Potential good resource: Ben Landis of CapSciComm
    - PhDs/Postdocs teaching at a K-12 location
      - Collab with either ADSE or ESTEME
- Discussion of the creation of a quarterly PSA newsletter
  - The audience was very supportive of creating a quarterly newsletter. This newsletter would be interdisciplinary, allowing for postdocs to write short articles about their research, awards received, and other advice useful to the postdoc community (such as living outside of Davis, postdoc with children, etc). The goal is to try and use the newsletter to build a more supportive postdoctoral community.
    - It was noted that this would be especially useful for postdocs attempting to apply for green cards, as it gave them recognition by the campus as a whole.
    - There was also discussion of doing this as a blog, but it was decided that having discrete deadlines for submissions would be better than a rolling deadline.
    - This would fall under the purview of the Relations Officer.
- Motion to Increase the number of emails sent from the PSA through the [ucdpostdocs] listserv
  - Jon and Molly discussed the differences between the two postdoc listservs on campus:
    - [postdocs] is the opt-in listserv, that has significantly more traffic related to career development-related events on campus. [ucdpostdocs] is a mandatory listserv for any postdocs on the UCD campus, and is used sparingly.
    - The reason why the PSA did not use the [ucdpostdocs] listserv in the past is because postdocs were complaining about receiving unsolicited emails.
    - The PSA had gotten approval from the Dean of Graduate Studies to start sending 1~2 emails per quarter through the [ucdpostdocs] listserv to ensure that the word got out for important events and deadlines.
  - It was mentioned that many postdocs are not on the opt-in listserv, and thus do not get notifications about many events that are occurring, or awards to apply for (such as the Travel Grants and the Excellence in Postdoctoral Research).
    - Example – when sending these awards through the [postdocs] listserv last year, there were ~10 applicants (avg) for each Travel Grant cycle and 4 nominations for the Excellence award. This year, sending through the [ucdpostdocs] listserv increased the number of applicants for the Spring Travel Grant and the Excellence award to ~20.
  - The PSA was petitioning to have ~5 emails per quarter through the [ucdpostdocs] listserv. These would include:
    - Notification of Travel Grant Cycles
    - Dissemination of Chair’s Report/Quarterly Newsletter
    - Notification of PSA General Meeting and major PSA event for the quarter (Fellowship Panel, CDW, PRS, etc).
    - One extra in case of necessity.
  - 8 postdocs were present to vote (quorum reached). The vote was unanimous (8-0) to allow the PSA to send out additional emails through the [ucdpostdocs] listserv.