

PDFA Executive Meeting

20 APRIL 2016 / 12H05 - 13H27 / ECHA L1-215

In Attendance

Richard, Manmeet, Nico, Megan, Ann, Neil, Mahdi

Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda

- Approved (Richard, Nico)

2) Travel Awards (Nico)

- 6 applications so far
- Judges enlisted, including Dean of Public Health
- Need to determine judging rubric
- List of applicants to Diane to double-check eligibility
- Respecting the spirit of the award: Should large award winners be eligible? (for now, okay)

3) Fundraising

- Camille should be in charge of organizing fundraising
- Priority goes here - we need to solicit for funding
- Possibility of spreading out who sends out the email; Ann and Neil handle replies
- Need to update contact list first
- **ACTION:** Emails should be sent by May exec meeting
- Potential for soliciting for things other than simple donations

4) GSA Awards Night/conversation with the Minister of Advanced Education (Richard and Manmeet)

- Great success!
- First time the Minister came to awards; new government trying to reach out / change directions
- Obvious lack of knowledge of what postdocs are, where they fit in

- Considering objective arguments for not being considered graduate students; e.g., paternal and maternal leave (fewer people will pursue postdoc if they cannot raise a family at the same time)
- Importance of emphasis on this conversation in the Letter to MLAs (sent out this week)
- Latest version of Strategic Plan includes much mention of postdocs
- Mahdi: discussion to get postdocs included on Faculty Club membership

5) Advocacy ideas – discussion about importance of postdocs (Richard)

- Definition? Importance of postdocs as first authors on major breakthroughs
- **ACTION:** Richard putting together subcommittee to research what major research has been published by postdoc authors (advocacy)
- Subcommittee includes Mahdi, Megan, Nico

6) Career Seminars (Madhi)

- Topics in finding careers

7) Interaction with Lethbridge and Calgary (Manmeet)

- e.g., Calgary raises more money, Calgary has fewer social events
- Manmeet contacting persons about professional development / Research Day crossover and joint events

8) Coffee and Cookies by Faculty

- Social events at each Faculty to get representatives, discuss faculty-specific issues
- Sarah best to coordinate this

9) OneCard Postdoc designation

- Waiting patiently to find out about LPass/UPass
- Easy to put “Postdoc” back on OneCard, which would be good for designation; no strong feelings, will push if opportunity for LPass comes up

10) Research Day – speaker ideas

- Invite someone from Neuroscience from elsewhere (Neuro money)
- Industry availability, mentorship, “The Professor Is In” webinars
- Potential for theme; could adjust length and number of talks
- Panel discussion? Theme lends itself well to several backgrounds (Neil)
- Start thinking about who to invite to give talks/panel
- **Action:** Bring ideas to discuss at May meeting

11) Website/Social Media (Neil)

- Website will be updated now that Neil has admin access
- Twitter will be left up but decommissioned until useful
- Send interesting articles to Ann or Neil to post on Facebook
- Website/social media email will go out once everything is up to date

12) Meeting Schedule

- No more monthly Doodle polls!
- **Action:** Ann will send out Doodle to determine when most people are available for same day/time every month

13) Adjournment

- Approved (Nico, Richard)