



The Postdocs of Cambridge (PdOC) Society

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NOMINATION FORM

Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Yoon Hee Choi	
Department Name: Babraham Institute	
Department Address: Babraham Hall House, Babraham, Cambridge CB22 3AT	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: President	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>I have served on the PdOC committee for the last two years as the Wellbeing, EDI officer and President and I am excited to continue my commitment to the postdoc community in the role of President for another term.</p> <p>As the President of the committee last year, I have overseen activities run and organised by PdOC including the research showcase and social activities. I have attended postdoc welcome events to provide information for newcomers, I represented PdOC and the wider postdoc community in stakeholder meetings and working groups such as the reward and recognition working group.</p> <p>Outside of PdOC, I have held numerous administrative, conference and leadership committees such as organising a postdoc symposium in Barcelona with the CRG institute and serving on the Babraham postdoc committee as the treasurer for three years and hope I can draw from these experiences to be effective in this role.</p>	
Signed [REDACTED]	Date: 4/7/2025
Proposed by*: Lena Quambusch	Telephone No:
Department: Biochemistry	
@cam email [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Hanane Hadj-Moussa	Telephone No:
Department: Babraham Institute	

@cam email

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Nino Läubli	
Department Name: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
Department Address: Philippa Fawcett Drive	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: VP	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>I have been a member of the Postdocs of Cambridge Society for roughly 4 years now, including serving as President from 2022 – 2024. I believe that, through these activities, I have been able to positively contribute to its various initiatives and actively support postdocs as well as other researchers in navigating and dealing with the University. Further, I believe my previous involvements have strengthened my understanding of this complex environment and have allowed me to make valuable contacts, both within the University of Cambridge as well as broader academia.</p> <p>Through the renewal of my VP role, I hope to continue supporting the community as well as, more directly, the committee and its president, such as with the planning of RD events like our annual research showcase, during discussions with senior leadership, or simply by providing a voice for the diverse community within university committees and working groups.</p>	
Signed:	Date: 9/7/25
[REDACTED]	
Proposed by*: Dr. Yoon Hee Choi	Telephone No:
Department: Babraham Institute	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Ana Fernandez-Villegas	Telephone No:
Department: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	

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NOMINATION FORM

Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Roberta Palmulli	
Department Name: Biochemistry	
Department Address: 80 Tennis Court Road CB2 1GA	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Treasurer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
I have been a member of the PdOC Committee since 2020, covering different roles (Communications Officer, vice-President), and supporting the Committee in different ways, including participating in different discussions and contributing to the organisation of different PdOC activities. In 2024 I assumed the role of Treasurer, keeping track of PdOC finances, making sure that the available resources were used in the better way possible to support PdOC activities. For the academic year 25-26, I would like to continue as PdOC treasurer, and contribute my organizational skills to ensure the continued financial success of the society and ensuring the smooth running of all society activities.	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 06/07/2025
Proposed by*: Nino Laubli	Telephone No:
Department: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
@cam email [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Lisa Dobson	Telephone No:
Department: Biochemistry	
@cam email [REDACTED]	

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NOMINATION FORM

Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Lena Quambusch	
Department Name: Department of Biochemistry	
Department Address: 80 Tennis Court Road, CB2 1GA Cambridge	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Secretary	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>Currently I'm a PostDoc doing Drug Discovery research at the Department of Biochemistry. I was the society's secretary for the last two years, and I would be happy to continue in this position.</p> <p>Throughout my academic path I managed to secure various personal fellowships and have gained valuable experience in writing such proposals. I feel very confident to be a representative for the PostDocs here in Cambridge and I am happy to be engaged in the community and to take over responsibilities outside research and work.</p> <p>During my 6 years of undergrad and graduate studies, I was heavily involved in the student body representation as well as the student parliament at my old University in Germany. Which gives me plenty experience in committee work and shows that I'm very keen to get involved around and beyond my academic life. My past roles in student politics do ensure I'm confident with constitutional work and will help to be an appropriate fit to the secretary position.</p>	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 30.06.2025
Proposed by*: Yoon Hee Choi	Telephone No:
Department: Babraham Institute	
@cam email [REDACTED]	
Seconded by Nino Läubli	Telephone No:
Department: Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
@cam email [REDACTED]	

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Elsa Amsellem	
Department Name: Earth Sciences	
Department Address: Downing Street, CB2 3EQ	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Social and Networking Events Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
I enjoy meeting new people and bringing communities together, and I'm always enthusiastic about organising social events. During my PhD in France, I served as president of the graduate student organisation, where I was responsible for coordinating both social and scientific events on a limited budget. During my first postdoc in Denmark, I was eager to foster a sense of community and took the initiative to organise social and sports activities for my colleagues. With an outgoing personality and a natural ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, I thrive in roles that involve community building. When I arrived in Cambridge, I was delighted to discover PdOC, which played a big role in helping me settle in socially. Since then, I've been the Social and Networking Events Officer at PdOC for the past year and a half. I've greatly enjoyed planning a wide range of events and have many fresh ideas I'd love to bring to the next committee!	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 27/06/2025
Proposed by*: Roberta Palmulli	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Biochemistry	
@cam email [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Hanane Hadj-Moussa	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Brabham	
@cam email [REDACTED]	

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Emilia Arguello	
Department Name: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (CEB)	
Department Address: Philippa Fawcett Drive, CB3 0AS	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Communications Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>I have served in this role for the last two years, helping prepare and distribute the PdOC weekly newsletters to the postdoc body at the university. I work closely with other members of the committee (e.g., Events Officers, Entrepreneurship Officer) to ensure useful information is transmitted to postdocs, and I also advertise our communication options to relevant internal and external partners. I really enjoy my role in the committee; it has helped me stay connected with university/Cambridge events, and get a sense of how important decisions at the institution are made. More importantly, I like my role as a communicator of these aspects to other postdocs. I like to be useful to this community in that way, and I'd be happy to continue doing so for another term.</p> <p>Outside Cambridge, I've had similar experience. During my Ph.D. I acted as Secretary for the Latino Grad Student Association for one year, a role like that of PdOC Communication Officer. I also got involved within my department's (Chemistry) Grad Student Organization as Social Chair for 1 year and Social Media Chair for 2 years, planning and executing social events for our students/postdocs and co-running the department's social media websites (Twitter, Instagram), respectively. [REDACTED]</p>	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 27/06/2025
Proposed by*: Dr. Lena Quambusch	Telephone No:
Department: Biochemistry	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Dr. Alfredo Smart	Telephone No:
Department: CEB	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	

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Name: Hanane Hadj-Moussa	
Department Name: Babraham Institute	
Department Address: Babraham Hall House, Babraham, Cambridge CB22 3AT	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: College Affiliation Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website. I am a postdoctoral fellow at the Babraham Institute and currently hold a College Post Doctoral Affiliate position at Jesus College. Having acted as the college affiliation officer for 2024-2025, I believe the experience I have gained in organizing college-centred events. My experience in applying to college affiliation positions has allowed me to answer the questions that postdocs have about affiliation. I also want to bring awareness of these affiliations to new postdocs that are unfamiliar with the Cambridge University system. I am keen to work with colleges to expand the rights and opportunities that postdoctoral affiliates have access to. In addition, I also have experience writing successful fellowship applications and can use this expertise to help guide potential applicants through the process.	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 04/07/2025
[REDACTED]	
Proposed by*: Yoon Hee Choi	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Babraham Institute	
@cam email [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Lena Quambusch	Telephone No:
Department: Department of Biochemistry	
@cam email [REDACTED]	

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Alvaro Lopez-Acosta
Department Name: Biochemistry Department
Department Address: Sanger Building, 80 Tennis Court Road, Cambridge CB2 1GA
Telephone No: [REDACTED]
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]
Committee role: Researcher Development Initiatives Officer
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.
<p>I've developed leadership and people skills alongside my research career, making me well-suited for supporting Cambridge postdocs. At the University of York, I was elected as VP of Wellbeing (coordinating teams for 1,000+ students), President of Latin American Society (organizing 100+ events), and YUSU Chemistry Departmental Rep. These roles taught me how personal development and group dynamics work together.</p> <p>I'm a certified public speaking coach and group dynamics specialist. I've run workshops for undergraduates and YUSU staff, and worked in University of York HR as an interview panelist and academic specialist. My 6-month experience with Raleigh International in Costa Rica focused on organizational change and improving team efficiency—skills directly relevant to postdoc community development.</p> <p>I've also worked as a mental health first aider with York City police and as a freelance interpreter for the European Parliament. Through the European Youth Event organization committee, I helped support 4,000+ attendees in youth development programs offered in EU.</p> <p>As a current postdoc in Biochemistry, I want to blend personal development with academic growth. I plan to work with Judge Business School and other departments to create innovative training opportunities for postdocs. My goal is developing comprehensive programs addressing both professional skills and personal growth through practical, inclusive approaches.</p>
Signed: Álvaro
Date: 14/07/25

Proposed by*:	Paula Milan Rois	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Department of Biochemistry		
@cam email [REDACTED]		
Seconded by*:	Tanguy Rieu	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Department of Biochemistry		
@cam email - [REDACTED]		

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Dr Marie Spreckley	
Department Name: MRC Epidemiology Unit	
Department Address: Level 3 Institute of Metabolic Science, University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge CB2 0SL	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Researcher Development Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>I am a postdoctoral researcher and research programme manager at the MRC Epidemiology Unit, where I lead day-to-day operations for a large NIHR-funded programme evaluating a behavioural weight management intervention. My role includes coordinating multiple work packages, overseeing reporting and stakeholder engagement, and working closely with a multi-disciplinary team of researchers. I also co-lead a separate study focused on early-life nutrition, and I'm part of the supervision team for a postdoc.</p> <p>Previously, I was Director of Business Operations and Partnerships at Genes & Health, where I chaired the Executive Committee, Industry Consortium Steering Committee and Scientific Subcommittee, and oversaw over 125 research projects using our data, from application through to completion. This gave me deep insight into research governance, collaborative research environments, and capacity-building.</p> <p>I currently serve on the MPhil Admissions Committee and am a postdoctoral affiliate at Clare Hall. I am committed to fostering a supportive and ambitious research culture, and I value the opportunity to help shape the postdoc experience at Cambridge.</p> <p>The Researcher Development Officer role strongly aligns with my experience and interests, and I would bring an organised, research-focused approach to planning and delivering initiatives that strengthen postdoc skills, collaboration, and career development.</p>	
Signed: M. Spreckley	Date: 11 th July 2025
[REDACTED]	
Proposed by*: Dr Yoon Hee Choi	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: The Babraham Institute	

@cam email [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Dr Cara Ruggiero	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: MRC Epidemiology Unit	
@cam email [REDACTED]	

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Soujanya Mantravadi		
Department Name: Engineering		
Department Address: Engineering Dept, Trumpington St, Cambridge CB2 1PZ		
Telephone No: [REDACTED]		
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]		
Committee role: Department Officer		
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.		
<p>I'm a Postdoc at Engineering department of Cambridge University and a current PdOC's department officer for 2 years. Before that, I have been a member of PdOC subcommittee for 1 year and have experience as a PhD representative at a national level network in Denmark (PhD Association Network of Denmark). I have experience working with university bodies and collaborations across departments. My work involves interdisciplinary research projects, where I get to collaborate outside my department within the University. This has also equipped me with skills suitable for the Department officer and believe I can efficiently liaise with different departments and its reps and exchange information.</p>		
Signed:	[REDACTED]	Date: 3-7-2025
Proposed by*: Yoon Hee Choi Telephone No:		
Department: The Babraham Institute		
@cam email [REDACTED]		
Seconded by*:	Lena Quambusch	Telephone No:
Department: Biochemistry		
@cam email [REDACTED]		

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NOMINATION FORM

Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Maria Lopez Cavestany	
Department Name: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
Department Address: Philippa Fawcett Drive, Cambridge, CB3 0AS	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Welfare, Equality and Diversity Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>As the current Wellbeing and EDI Officer for the PdOC Society, I've been involved in a range of activities aimed at supporting an inclusive and welcoming postdoc community. Over the past year, I've regularly represented PdOC at University-level EDI Committee meetings to ensure that postdoc voices are included in broader institutional discussions. As part of my role, I organized a Mental Health Picnic, which created a relaxed and social space to talk about wellbeing and helped strengthen community connections.</p> <p>If elected again, I would like to continue building on these activities. I plan to keep the resource guide up to date and continue representing PdOC in EDI discussions at the University level. In addition, I'd like to expand our event offerings by organizing a movie night to mark International Women's Day—something the society has done in the past with good feedback—and to introduce a few low-pressure, physically active social events like walks or indoor climbing sessions or ice skating. Overall, I've really valued the opportunity to support the PdOC community this year and would look forward to continuing this work by taking on the EDI Chair role.</p>	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 4 July 2025
Proposed by*: Yoon Hee Choi	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
Department: Babraham Institute	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Emilia Arguello	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
Department: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	

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Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Markus Hellenbrand	
Department Name: Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy	
Department Address: 27 Charles Babbage Rd	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Wellbeing and Mental Health	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>I have served on a number of committees either as chair or supporting member, and thus have a wealth of experience in committee work. In Cambridge, I have been on the Trinity College postdoc society committee as Secretary and President, as well as on department Safety, Postdoc, and Mental Health & Wellbeing committee. In the latter two, I initiated and carried out a wellbeing survey among department postdocs, which led me to seek contact with the PdOC committee to look into extended similar surveys across the university. I have now gathered the support for this project by the University Research Culture Team, the University Action Research on Research Culture Team, the University Wellbeing Team, the Postdoc Academy, and the Pro-vice Chancellor Prof Kamal Munir. I am currently working on getting approval by the Ethics Board and hope to roll out the survey in the 2025/26 academic year.</p>	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 3/7/2025
[REDACTED]	
Proposed by*: Lena Quambusch	Telephone No:
Department:	
@cam email	
Seconded by*: Yoon Hee Choi	Telephone No:
Department:	
@cam email	

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NOMINATION FORM

Election to PdOC Society Committee

Name: Dr. Rajbir Batra	
Department Name: Early Cancer Institute, Department of Oncology	
Department Address: Adrian Way, Cambridge CB2 0XZ, United Kingdom	
Telephone No:	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address:	
Committee role: Entrepreneurial Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>I was a core team member of a precision diagnostics startup developing a blood-based test for early, non-invasive detection of Alzheimer's disease using AI and (epi)genomic profiling. In this role, I helped shape the vision, build the product and tech team, and play a key role in securing funding from the pre-seed stage onwards, as well as developing the business model and commercial strategy. That experience has sparked a real interest in being more involved with the entrepreneurial community across the university, both to share what I've learned and to stay close to other researchers going through similar journeys.</p> <p>As Entrepreneurial Officer, I'd love to support postdocs who are curious about entrepreneurship whether it's offering advice or connecting them with the fantastic support structures existing within Cambridge. I'd be keen to start by representing PdOC at Cambridge Enterprise and local accelerators and feeding back to PdOC. And once I'm more familiar with the role and landscape, I'd like to gradually begin shaping our own events - maybe panel discussions or networking evenings with funders and spinout mentors. The idea would be to build a forum where postdocs could ask questions, build confidence, and take the first step toward building something real from their research.</p>	
Signed:	Date: 08/07/25
Proposed by*: Dr. Yoon Hee Choi	Telephone No:
Department: The Babraham Institute	
@cam email:	
Seconded by*: Nino Läubli	Telephone No:
Department: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	

@cam email: [REDACTED]

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Name: Theodoros Papalas	
Department Name: Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
Department Address: Philippa Fawcett Drive, CB3 0AS, Cambridge	
Telephone No: [REDACTED]	
@cam (or Partner Institution) email address: [REDACTED]	
Committee role: Marketing and Social Media Officer	
Brief Summary of Skills/Experience you could offer the PdOC society: (200 words max) The information provided in this section will be published on the PdOC website.	
<p>Dear members of the PdOC Society,</p> <p>I am a Postdoctoral researcher working on sustainable energy vectors and technologies, with the dream of becoming an academic and building a supportive environment where researchers will feel happy and confident to share ideas. To lead a research group, I recognise the importance of soft skills, which I am developing through various volunteering activities.</p> <p>As PhD student in Greece, I organised annual induction tours for incoming undergraduates and, during the COVID-19 pandemic, produced a well-received virtual tour video. I also acted as volunteer student in organising two international conferences. Since June 2024, I have been a general member of the Early Career Chemical Engineers of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering and among initiatives, organised a webinar on diverse research and industry career pathways. Based on my contributions, I have been nominated to chair the committee for the next two years. Finally, as Treasurer of the Cambridge University Hellenic Society, I helped increase our budget fivefold, expand our social media presence, and secure two sponsorships through my external collaborations.</p> <p>Based on these skills, I would be delighted to join the PdOC, which I believe will greatly support my personal and professional development.</p>	
Signed: [REDACTED]	Date: 04/07/2025
Proposed by*: Nino Läubli	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	
Seconded by*: Maria Lopez Cavestany	Telephone No: [REDACTED]
Department: Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology	
@cam email: [REDACTED]	