

## PdOC Society

Minutes 21 April 2016

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Minutes of the meeting held at The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane at 6pm on Thursday 21 April

**Present:** Maya Ghossaini (President) **MG**, Adina Feldman **AF** (Vice-President), Nicky Blanning **NB**, Paul Bennett **PB**, Paul Coxon **PC**, Arne Jungwirth **AJ**, Alice Hutchings **AH**, Ghina Halabi **GH**, Stephen Kell **SK**, Severine Mollard **SM**, Clare Simpson **CS**, Lori Turner **LT** (Treasurer), Joy Warde **JW** (Secretary)

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**1. Apologies:** Marta Costa **MC**, Susanne Lager **SL**, Antonis Kanellopoulos **AK**, Aamir Mukadam **AM**, Ewa Marek **EM**, Tariq Masood, **TM** Hannah West **HW**

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March (**2015\_03\_22 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February (**2015\_02\_25 minutes**) were also approved with a small alteration in item 4 from Chad Allan, GU President.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None

**4. President's Report (MG)**

4.1. MG and JW provided copies of the plans for the Postdoc Centre at Addenbrookes (ground level of the old LMB building). These were well received. It was reported that there is an active postdoc committee at the Clinical school and they have been invited to view the site. The committee seeks clarification on the naming of the new space, evening access and room booking procedures.

**Action: JW to ask for clarification on the naming, access and booking for the new space.**

4.2. There was no new update on collaboration and communication between PdOC and the GU.

**5. Postdoc Representation Vacancies (JW)**

5.1. JW reported that there had been no applications for the vacant postdoc representative position on the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Committee. A fresh call will be made at the start of the new academic year.

5.2. There is an open call for 4 postdoc reps to join the Researcher Development Committee. JW has received 2 expressions of interest.

**Action: All expressions of interest to JW as soon as possible.**

**6. Treasurer's Report (LT)**

6.1. LT provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**2016\_04\_20 PdOC Accounts Statement.pdf**). The current effective balance currently stands at £6352.47.

There are 5 outstanding payments due for the Hike in May.

105 people attended the dinner at Clare College. Final invoice has now been received.

## 7. 2016 AGM planning (SK)

The 2016 PdOC AGM is confirmed on 14 June, 6.30pm at King's College. There will be an opportunity to meet the nominees from 6pm. PdOC is able to self-cater in the King's College room. The summer PdOC garden party has been decoupled from the AGM. It was also suggested that the May pub night could also be used as an opportunity to meet the nominees.

**Action: SK/HW to advertise 'meet the nominees' for the pub night in May.**

The committee has agreed to a paper ballot, a draft copy was circulated.

The committee discussed the potential vacancies on the committee and identified that new committee members are required to fill the following areas, Vice-President, Communications, Marketing, Events\*, College affiliations\*.

\* Identified after the committee meeting.

**Action: JW to circulate the draft AGM webpage for comments by Monday 25 April. The page will be published and advertised on Tuesday 26 April.**

It was agreed to invite Director of Postdoctoral Affairs, Head of OPdA, representatives from Careers, PPD and NVS to the AGM

**Action: JW to send email invitation to guests.**

The method for appointment of the chair of the DPCCN (currently TM) was discussed. There was a general agreement that the DPCCN and PdOC Society need to be linked and there needs to be good collaboration and communication. Currently, the chair is "appointed by the members of the DPCCN and the PdOC Society Committee". It was concluded that the chair of the DPCCN is not going to be elected at the 2016 AGM and that the DPCCN chair would be co-opted on to the PdOC committee. PdOC will revisit the terms of reference for the DPCCN for the new academic year with the aim of providing a longer-term solution for the 2017 AGM. PdOC committee members are encouraged to attend the next meeting on 18 May. An invitation has already been circulated.

**Action: all committee members who wish to attend the next DPCCN should email JW by 11 May**

## 8. Events Report

8.1. SK reported on a number of recent successful PdOC events, including the Bletchley Park trip, Duxford trip, restaurant night and pub walk. Over 30 people attended the most recent pub night.

The lecture and dinner at Clare was successful with 105 guests. CS is working on the date of the next lecture. Dates in September (at Christ's College) are being investigated.

**Action: SK to contact Christ's College for dates**

**Action: CS to send potential dates to the next speaker**

**Action: NB to investigate the potential of using Sidney Sussex.**

8.2. SK led a discussion around the nature of PdOC events and how/if PdOC should enable other postdocs to run informal events. More opportunities for postdocs to self-organise community events is welcome. However, questions were raised about how PdOC could facilitate this and how the PdOC Society and members would distinguish between a PdOC Society event and an informal event. A question was also raised about potential dilution of events provided by PdOC.

**Action: SK to put a proposal together on how informal, non-PdOC events could be advertised and moderated.**

## 9. Europe themed event (PC)

PC is aiming to organise an event to celebrate the influence of Europe on the research culture in Cambridge before the EU referendum in June. PC is in contact with President of CUSPE and 'Cambridge for Europe'. 'Scientists for Europe' was also suggested as a source of speakers.

## 10. Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs' Network

The next DPCCN meeting is on 18 May from 6-8pm in the postdoc centre. The theme is 'leadership'. All members of the PdOC committee are welcome to attend.

There is also a DPCCN committee training workshop on 18 May 2.30-5.30pm. All PdOC committee are welcome to attend.

Email invitations to both have been circulated.

## 11. AOB

11.1. The committee discussed how PdOC engages with ARU postdocs. It is believed that there are a small number of postdocs at ARU who might want to join some PdOC events. It was clarified that anyone who shares the aims of the PdOC Society is welcome to attend events but that membership, voting at AGM, nomination for committee positions is only for postdocs at University of Cambridge or University Partner Institutes. Given PdOC's limited resources, there is no special marketing to ARU postdocs.

11.2. GH reported that the Astronomy postdoc group was investigating a mechanism of how postdocs could report incidents affecting postdocs. JW strongly recommended that they should consult with the School of Physical Sciences HR advisors and that University HR processes should be used.

**Action: JW to send GH the HR contacts for the school.**

12. **Date of future meetings** – The scheduled meetings on 18 May and 15 June are being rearranged.

Date of next meeting is 25 May, 6-7.30pm at the Postdoc Centre. This is the last full meeting before the AGM.