

PdOC Society

Minutes 27 August 2015

Minutes of the meeting held at The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane at 6pm on Thursday 27 August

Present: Maya Ghousaini (President) **MG**, Adina Feldman **AF** (Vice-President) Lori Turner **LT** (Treasurer), Joy Warde **JW** (Secretary), Paul Bennett **PB**, Nicky Blanning **NB**, Paul Coxon **PC**, Alice Hutchings, Arne Jungwirth **AJ**, Stephen Kell **SK**, Susanne Leger **SL**, Tariq Masood **TM**, Severine Mollard **SM**, Aamir Mukadam **AM** (from item 6)

1. **Apologies:** Antonis Kanellopoulos **AK**, Clare Simpson **CS**, Marko Tainio **MT**
2. **Minutes** – minutes of the meeting held on 21 July (**2015_07_21 minutes**) were approved as an accurate record.
3. **‘Postdoctoral Foundation’ outline by Prof Chris Abell**

Chris Abell gave a summary of how the OPdA developed over the last 3 years and an outline of the current vision for the ‘Postdoctoral Foundation’. Chris Abell and Karina Prasad will attend the September PdOC committee meeting to continue the consultation.

Action: JW to write up a summary of this information and circulate to the committee
4. **President’s Report (MG)**
 - 4.1. The ctte discussed the Postdoctoral Foundation as outlined by Chris Abell and agreed to form a working group to consider the issues raised in more detail.

Action: JW to arrange a meeting of interested committee members (AM, SK, TM, AH, PC, AJ, AF, MG)
 - 4.2. The ctte agreed that MG and AF would represent the PdOC committee on the OPdA management committee for 2015/16. It was unclear as to the number of PdOC representatives on the OPdA steering committee.

Action: JW to confirm with the OPdA the number of PdOC representatives on the steering ctte.
 - 4.3. The ctte agreed that AF will represent PdOC at the November meeting of the ‘Voice of the Researcher’ meeting. The Voice of the Researcher is an EU wide initiative to bridge the gap between policy makers and researchers. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by VoR
5. **Treasurer’s Report (LT)**
 - 5.1. LT provided a written summary of the PdOC accounts (**PdOC_accounts_20150824.pdf**). The current effective balance currently stands at £5302.89.
6. **PdOC strategy day 26 September (afternoon only)**
 - 6.1. MG reported that the afternoon consists of 2 main sessions. Gez Wyn-Story will deliver a 2 hour team building session for the ctte followed by 2-3 hour to develop PdOC plans for rest of 2015/16. MG/AF suggested a ‘project’ format. Each member(s) of the ctte to prepare and deliver a very short presentation on their ‘project’ for the year ahead. This is likely to be a project that is already agreed e.g. the communication strategy and could be delivered either by an individual or as a small team. The project would need a clear purpose, outcome and impact. It was also suggested that the ctte could attempt to quantify the productivity of PdOC. This rough format was agreed.

It was also agreed to host the day in the Postdoc Centre with a budget of £150 for refreshments.

Action: JW to send out a call for projects and a proposed timetable for the day.

7. Vacant PdOC positions (all)

7.1. An advert was included in the newsletter to attract interest in the following positions. JW reported on the responses so far.

Action: SK to follow up on the events position

Action: PB to follow up on the marketing position

Action: AF to follow up on the 3 postdocs interested in the Policy and Representation position

8. Events report (AH / BK)

8.1. SK provided a written summary of the previous and upcoming PdOC events (**15_07_31 PdOC events minutes**). There are dinners, with agreed costs, at Churchill and Clare College. The ctte discussed the frequency of dinners as there was potential for a dinner in October (Churchill), December (TBC) and January (Clare). MG was concerned that that this could be too expensive for postdocs as the cost for each dinner is likely to be £36+ rising to almost £50 for a Christmas dinner.

Ctte agreed to push back the Churchill dinner to November and market as an 'end of year' event.

Action: JW to get November dates from Churchill

Action: MW to write to Clare College to discuss a 'Burns' dinner.

9. Postdoc induction events (JW)

9.1. JW informed the ctte that OPdA Induction events for new postdocs are now mandatory for 2015/16. PdOC will have a 5-10 min slot in each induction to explain what PdOC does and encourage postdocs to join the mailing list. The dates for this term are

AHSS 14 October (12-2pm) AH volunteered to attend on behalf of PdOC

STEMM 21 October (9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm) PC and MG agreed to attend, one for each session.

10. AOB

10.1. JW asked for further volunteers for the family event at Fitzwilliam College on 6 September.

Action: any ctte members to contact Clare Simpson if they can help.

11. Date of future meetings – Wed 23 Sept, Thur 15 Oct, Thur 12 Nov