

PdOC Society

Annual General Meeting 2015

17 June 2015

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting held in The Postdoc Centre, 16 Mill Lane
5.15pm on Wednesday 17 June 2015

Attendees: See attendance list at end of minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies (MG)

- 1.1. The PdOC President, Maya Ghousaini welcomed everyone to the 2015 AGM.
- 1.2. Apologies received from Brian Krummel, Johannes Hjorth, Jean-Francois Mercure.

2. The minutes from the 2014 AGM held on 1 July were approved as an accurate record.

3. President's report (MG)

- 3.1. The PdOC President, Maya Ghousaini, gave a brief introduction to the PdOC society outlining the motivation and mission of the society. A summary of the aims, reach, activities and financial management are found in the PdOC 2014/15 Annual report.
- 3.2. As of June 2015, the PdOC Society sends its weekly newsletter to a mailing list of over 1850 (16% increase on 2013/14), there are over 1400 likes on facebook (40% increase on 2013/14) and 750 twitter followers (300% increase on 2013/14). An analysis of the PdOC mailing list was presented, it was noted that there was a increase in subscriptions from all Schools with a marked increase in Physical Sciences and University Partner Institutes.
- 3.3. Joy Warde, PdOC Secretary, reported on Postdoc developments in the wider Cambridge context. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPdA) and the Postdoc Centre have now been operational for over one year. Induction for new postdocs will be mandatory from Oct 2015. An alumni benefits package for postdocs has been approved. Increased focus of SRD, mentoring and collection of destination data. A review of researcher development provision for postdocs is underway.

4. Summary of the Society Activities 2014/15

4.1. Treasurer's report (NdB)

Nicky de Battista provided a full financial summary of 2014/15 which is provided in the Treasurer's report. PdOC is a not for profit organisation but the Society is required to have an operating cash surplus to pass on to next committee and cover on-going costs. A £1 PdOC overhead per person is added to all PdOC ticket sales. The effective balance at the end of 2015 was £5916.72. This excludes the PdOC researcher development fund. The treasurer reported that a new paypal payment system was introduced in 2014/15 to streamline ticket sales. The Natwest account was closed and a new Society account opened with Barclays. A £3k donation was received from the OPdA to support the activities of the PdOC Society. A grant of £8k was received from the Researcher Development Committee for postdoc researcher development activities in 2014/15. The President and Secretary would like to thank Nicky for his work as treasurer over the past year.

4.2. Researcher Development

Natalia Bulgakova reported on the successful 2014/15 researcher development events. These aim to provide professional development opportunities, visibility of postdoc research and networking in an interdisciplinary setting. These included the early evening networking events and the 'Crossing the Barriers' Interdisciplinary lecture series. £8k of funding has been secured to continue Researcher Development activities for 2015/16.

4.3. Social and Networking Events

Alice Hutchings reported on the social events delivered in 2014/15 and the results of the PdOC satisfaction survey. PdOC organised 73 events at which 2098 places were taken, this is more than any other year in PdOC's history. These included the ever-popular College based events e.g. formal halls, garden party, piano recital. The new postdoc centre has provided a much-appreciated venue for an additional 20 evening events. The survey revealed that over 90% of respondents were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the cost, frequency, variety and timing of events. The top 3 benefits reported were meeting new people, attending events at Colleges, visiting new places in and around Cambridge.

Clare Simpson reported on the greater emphasis on family events. A joint PdOC/NVS Christmas and summer family event were organised and a sold out Easter Egg event at Lucy Cavendish. Clare also presented the highlights from the PdOC Family Survey. Clare hopes to continue family friendly events during the next year.

4.4. Departmental Postdoc Committee Chairs' Network (DPCCN)

Tariq Masood reported on the DPCCN which was established to provide a coherent 'voice' for postdocs, articulate and prioritise postdoc needs, share best practice and form new committees. The network has produced 4 papers and contributed to the EC HR Excellence in Research submission. The priorities for 2015/16 have been identified as 'strategic career planning and progression support', 'leadership and teaching opportunities' and 'access to personal and professional development'. The network has grown significantly in the past year and further growth and sustainability will be the keys to success and impact in the next year. The Details of the network can be found on <http://www.pdoc.cam.ac.uk/dpccn>

5. Update of PdOC Constitution (AF)

Adina Feldman, Policy and Representation Officer, presented a proposed update to the 2013 PdOC Constitution. The Committee proposes to update the constitution so that it may better reflect our activity and practice. A copy of the proposal and rationale are found on <http://www.pdoc.cam.ac.uk/what/2015AGM/proposedconstitutionjune2015>

The definition of a postdoc has not changed and non-postdocs are still welcome to attend events.

The AGM voted in favour of the proposed changes (37 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions).

6. Election of 2015/16 PdOC committee (MG/JW)

- 6.1. The roles and role descriptions of the PdOC committee positions were advertised on the PdOC website from 14 April 2015. Nominations were invited for all posts with a deadline of 9 June 2015.
- 6.2. Joy Warde, PdOC Secretary, received the following nominations to serve on the PdOC committee for 2015/2016. Each person was proposed and seconded by two other postdocs working at University of Cambridge or University Partner Institutes. The nominations plus nomination statements have been published in advance on the PdOC website and advertised to members. Voting was conducted on a basis of one person one vote by a simple majority of those voting.
- 6.3. Two nominations were received for the single position of vice president. Both vice-president candidates were given the opportunity to explain what they could offer to fulfil the role before voting commenced.
- 6.4. It should be noted that no nominations were received for a number of advertised posts. The elected committee will fill these roles but the committee will seek to co-opt additional members to meet these needs.
- 6.5. The AGM voted to elect the following nominees (in bold) to serve on the PdOC Committee for 2015/16.

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions
President	Maya Ghossaini	Fjola Johannesdottir	Laura Fachal	37	0	0
Vice President	Adina Feldman Tariq Masood Abstentions	Barbora Silarova Alena Puchkova	Matt Hollocks Robyn Veal	21 7 4		
Treasurer	Lorinda Turner	Seth Scanlon	Alice Hutchings	31	0	0
Membership	Paul Coxon	Ali Reza Kamali	Jessica Gwynne	35	0	0
Social and Networking events 1	Stephen Kell	Alice Hutchings	Paul Bennett	36	0	1
Social and Networking events 2	no nomination received					
Communications Officer 1	Paul Bennet	Stephen Millmore	Alice Hutchings	37	0	0
Communications Officer 2	Severine Mollard	Vanessa Pellegrinelli	Adina Feldman	37	0	0
College Affiliations	Antonis Kanellopoulos	Pieter Desnerck	Fei Jin	37	0	0
Marketing	No nomination received					
Researcher Development	Aamir Mukadam	Lewis Bell	Amy Macqueen	35	0	1
Representation and Policy	No nomination received					
Welfare Officer	Susanne Lager	Marko Tainio	Ana Pires	36	0	0
Committee Officers (without portfolio)	Alice Hutchings	Stephen Kell	Jeunese Payne	35	0	1
	Clare Simpson	Caia Duncan	Rebekka Weissbach	36	0	0
	Arne Jungwirth	Markys Zotti	Dominic Cram	35	0	1
	Marko Tainio	Felix Day	Sara Willems	35	0	1

7. Postdocs and the Roll of Regent House

- 7.1. Adina Feldman provided a summary of the role, remit and membership of the Regent House. Further details can be found at <http://www.pdoc.cam.ac.uk/what/2015AGM/pdoc-regenthouse-factsheet-june2015/view> . Senior Research Associates and Research Associates can be members of Regent House provided that they are also a member of a Faculty or hold a position in a Department or other University Institution which is independent of a Faculty (Statute A III 10 (E)). In summary, postdocs in departments which belong to a Faculty are much less likely to be on the Roll of Regent House compared to postdocs in Institutes and departments that do not belong to a Faculty. The relationship between the University and its postdocs may be considered inequitable.

8. Outlook for 2015/2016 (MG)

- 8.1. The PdOC president congratulated the new Committee
- 8.2. The President outlined the upcoming events and activities of the PdOC society. These included the Garden Party, increased college postdoc affiliations, further college dinners, interdisciplinary lecture series 'Crossing the barriers', early evening 'pizza and beer' networking / training, and support and training for Departmental Postdoc Committees
- 8.3. The president also welcomed the development of a dedicated space for postdocs on the new NW Cambridge site.

9. AOB – none received

10. Closing Remarks

- 10.1. The President closed the meeting thanked all for attending and thanked the outgoing committee members for their work in creating a community for postdocs. The president also thanked Joy Warde for supporting the committee and Nicky Blanning, PdOC Senior Treasurer, for her support and accommodation of the PdOC society and Postdoc coordinator position.

11. Close of Meeting

The Postdocs of Cambridge (PdOC) Society

2015 AGM, 17 June 2015

Attendance list

First Name	Surname	Department or UPI
Lauren	Bellaera	Faculty of Education
Paul	Bennett	Physics
Natalia	Bulgakova	Gurdon Institute
Paul	Coxon	Materials
Pieter	Desnerck	Engineering Department and Peterhouse
Adina	Feldman	MRC Epidemiology Unit and Churchill College
Katrin	Geisler	Plant Sciences
Maya	Ghousaini	Oncology
Alessandra	Granata	Medicine
Alice	Hutchings	Computer Lab
Sonia	Ilie	Faculty of Education
Arne	Jungwirth	Zoology
Antonis	Kanellopoulos	Engineering
Stephen	Kell	Computer Laboratory
Susanne	Lager	Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Andrew	Maloney	Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
Claire	Michel	Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
Jacek	Mokrosinski	Institute of Metabolic Science and Trinity Hall
S�everine	MOLLARD	CRUK
Aamir	Mukadam	Cambridge Institute of Medical Research
Loes	Rutten-Jacobs	Clinical Neurosciences
Guy	Shefer	MRC-Epid
Clare	Simpson	Biochemistry
Tessa	Sinnige	Chemistry
James	Smith*	St John's and MRC
Przemyslaw	Stempor	Gurdon Institute
Marko	Tainio	MRC Epidemiology unit

Lorinda	Turner	Medicine
Nicky	Blanning*	Head of Accommodation Service and PdOC Senior Treasurer
Tariq	Masood	Engineering
Michael	Lush	Clinical School
Giogio	Divitini	Materials Science and Metallurgy
Nicky	De Battista	Engineering
Sara	Willems	MRC Epidemiology
Sebastian	Muller	Plant Sciences
Ananay	Aguilar	Music Faculty
Krishnaa	Mahbubani	Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology
Dardora	Silarova	MRC Epidemiology
Joy	Warde*	PdOC Secretary

* Non voting attendees