Monthly Postdoctoral Association Meeting
Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013
Light Hall Room 433, 11:30-12:30pm

The Postdoctoral Association (PDA) exists to support the postdocs at Vanderbilt University and serves to enhance and improve the postdoctoral experience. Monthly PDA meetings are an open forum to communicate ideas, identify any areas requiring advocacy, and establish the overall direction of the PDA. Our monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of each month and are open to all Vanderbilt postdocs. We encourage anyone interested to attend!

Attendance:
Barbara Natalizio
Jenny Noto
Annet Kirabo
Daniel Trott
Hana Itani
Holly Cyphert
Carl Darris
D’anne Duncan
Kristin Jernigan

Agenda:

1. Discussion on Topics: “Learning about the Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach”

   • Open discussion with Dr. Sydika McKissic
     ○ Research Fellow, Center for Science Outreach, Vanderbilt University
     ○ [http://www.scienceoutreach.org](http://www.scienceoutreach.org/)
   • She will be available to answer any questions you may have

The center is dedicated to enhance science literacy and establish partnerships with scientists, educators and students.

It provides both year round and summer programs, science summer camps for middle school students and summer research for high school students.

Scientist in the classroom is a partnership program between Univ. and schools, and is currently taking applications. It partners science teaching fellows and K-12 teachers. Fellows are grad students & postdocs. In summer workshops relationships are built between fellows and teachers- activities include experiments, developing lesson plans, hands on instruction and teaching methods. e.g. straw rockets, pH labs etc.

Benefits- enhancing communication skills, increase knowledge of scientific
concepts, gaining confidence, serve as a mentor/role model for children, partial salary support stipend.

Requirements-30 days in the classroom, 1 day/week teaching hands on lessons, 12 days of professional development-10 in the summer, 2 during the year (fellow and teachers develop plans for the year during this time), 6 evening seminars.

Application is available online, subsequent interview. Try to place the fellow close to either home or Vanderbilt. Roughly a $7000 stipend.

Interdisciplinary Science Academy and STEM magnet schools & Interdisciplianry Science and Research Program—Purpose is to elevate science learning and teaching and preparing students to solve 21st century problems. Enhance STEM understanding, transition students from textbook to applied science.

High school-Program starts in 9th grade and goes through 12th in 12th grade students design their own research program. Projects include invertebrate dissection, chicken decay, water quality tests.

Middle school-Resident scientist program. Scientists consult with classroom teachers helping develop science and math curriculum, give science in-service workshops, and co-teach. This is a full time postdoc position. Maybe adding additional schools soon.

Getting involved-
Science teaching fellow
Volunteer scientist in the classroom-twice a month to one classroom
Guest scientist-lecture, hands on activity, judge STEM projects, judge science fairs, lessons in summer camp
Family science night volunteer

Contact:
1st floor of the Sony Building
615-322-7140
cso@vanderbilt.edu

2. 2013 VUMC Postdoctoral Research and Shared Resources Symposium

- See our website for more info! https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/postdoc-symposium2013/
- When: Tuesday, April 30th
- Keynote Speaker: Janet Wolfe, President and Founder of Wolfe Laboratories
- Talk title: “Bridging basic and applied biomedical research in translational drug development”
- Abstract submission closed – 84 abstracts received
- 32 Judges recruited to help with the poster session
Still need additional judges, let Barbara know if you know a potential judge.

- Vanderbilt organizations have agreed to participate
- Still recruiting volunteers to help with Symposium

*(If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Barbara Natalizio)*
  - Mentor of the Year Review & Selection Committee
  - Abstract Review & Selection Committee
  - Abstract & Program Book Committee
  - Poster Boards, Refreshments, & Lunches Committee

Need volunteers both the day and the day before.

3. **Upcoming Seminar with Congressman Jim Cooper**

   - Scheduled for Friday, April 19th from 10-11am
   - PDA co-sponsoring event with Chemical Biology Association of Students (CBAS)
   - Location: Light Hall 208

20 min talk and then Q&A

4. **National Postdoctoral Association Meeting**

   - Feedback and new ideas from other PDA leaders
   - Facilitating good mentoring practices; qualities of good mentors, having multiple mentors

Ranking what you like about what you do, what would like to do in a job, helps you figure out what you might want to do and resources to get there.

   - Workshop on negotiation skills given by Dave Jensen
   - Keynote Address given by Paula Stephan: “The Economics of the Postdoctoral Position”

5. **Shade Tree Trot**

   - [https://shadetreeclinic.org/trot/](https://shadetreeclinic.org/trot/)
   - When: Saturday, April 20th, 2013
   - Location: Nashville - Start at Vanderbilt University Football Stadium
   - Proceeds benefit the Shade Tree Family Clinic - a medical student-run, free clinic in East Nashville
   - http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/nashville
   - When: Saturday, April 27th, 2013
   - Location: In Nashville
   - Vanderbilt PDA together with the St. Jude PDA are looking for volunteers to help
     man the stations along the marathon path

7. Sign-up sheets for PDA committees
   - Scholarly Learning/Symposium Planning
   - Postdoc Advocacy
   - Social Networking and Activities
   - Web and Communication

8. Suggestions for upcoming topics

9. Reminders:
   - Register for Kim Petrie’s Career Development List
   - Sign up to receive the BRET e-newsletter
   - Join Vanderbilt University Biomedical Research Graduate and Postdoctoral
     Trainee and Alumni Linked-In Group
   - Join the Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Association Google Group
     https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroups#!forum/VU-Postdocs
     - The webboard is designed for open communication amongst
       Vanderbilt postdocs about science, family, life and anything you feel
       would be of interest to our community!
     - Sign up today for email alerts of new postings!