Monthly Postdoctoral Association Meeting  
Wednesday, August 1, 2012  
Light Hall Room 306 A, 11:30AM

Meeting Minutes

List of Postdoctoral Attendees: Ebany Martinez-Finely, Dan Durkin, Barbara Natalizco, Dan Trott, Annet Kirabo, Katie Jameson, Jeri Bryant, Erick Spears, Shan Wang, Oito Iwuchukwu, Shilpa Sampathi

List of Faculty/Staff Attendees:  
Roger Chalkley, Claudia Cottingham, Kim Petrie

Topics Discussed:

1. Monthly Happy Hour
   - Next Happy Hour: Thursday, August 2nd at 6:00 pm at Sportsman's
   - Join us to cheer on your country as we watch the Olympics at Sportsman’s

2. Elections Results
   - Senior Co-Chair: Barbara Natalizio
   - Junior Co-Chair: Annet Kirabo
   - Treasurer/Secretary: Dan Trott
   - Departmental Reps
     - All confirmed
     - Two write-ins: Jennifer Newell-Caito & Ulrike Muench

3. Vanderbilt Postdoc Networking Lunch
   - To take place on August 9th at 5:00 pm in LH 419 A-D
   - Door prizes sponsored by the VMAA
   - BRET Office will provide food and drinks
   - Open networking at first, then three 10 minute rotations at tables, each with a different topic to discuss
     - Topics include: Work/Life Balance, Dealing with a Difficult Mentor, Living in Nashville, International Issues, Professional Training Options, What is the PDA?
   - Register in advance
   - Handbook including name, email, short (140 characters) research summary, and country of origin
   - Volunteers to help with planning, set-up, or clean-up needed

4. Nashville Sounds Baseball Game
   - Scheduled for August 11th at 6:35 pm (Salt Lake Bees)
Still plenty of tickets left
Tickets are $10 - Please email Claudia for tickets by August 10th

5. **PDA Bulletin Board in LH**
   - Getting printed!!
   - Will be updated soon
   - Will be more-or-less a permanent update, only need to update every few years

6. **The Annual BRET Office of Career Development Career Symposium**
   - Drs. Randy Ribaudo and Larry Petcovic (Human Workflows) will present their SciPhD workshop PhD students and postdocs, introducing participants to 24 business competencies valued in industry and helping participants relate their PhD and postdoctoral training to industry competencies.
   - Monday, August 13 from 1:00-5:00
   - Follow-up Q&A from 9:00-10:30 on Tuesday, August 14
   - Still open for sign-up

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. **Reminder: Register for Kim Petrie’s Career Development List**
   - Suggestion that we add details to next PDA announcement
   - Access through website
   - Also LinkedIn group for students, postdocs, & alumni

10. **Roger career discussion**
    - Average postdoc is 2-3 years at Vandy
    - Issues with being promoted to tenure-track faculty at Vandy after postdoc
    - “currency of leverage” is papers & grants
    - K99/R00 grants not as easy to get as used to be
    - If interested in K99/R00 contact Abby Brown

11. **Listservs**
    - Suggestion from Katie Jameson
    - Similar to what they had at Stanford
    - One positive feature is that postdocs could pick which labels/topics they would want to receive
- Would like to try to get this going within the next year
- For example, a listserv could be used to ask for a sample reagent, help with equipment, help learning a technique, etc.
- Could also facilitate informal networking
- Would a Google group serve this purpose?