Monthly Postdoctoral Association Meeting
Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011
Light Hall Room 306, 11:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

List of Postdoc Attendees:
Jenny Noto, Greg Digby, Tara Schwetz, Daniel Durkin, Ebony Martinez-Finley, Gina Kavanaugh, Yumie Takata, Amy Arnold, Barbara Natalizio

List of Faculty/Staff Attendees:
Trish Labosky, Claudia Cottingham, Kim Petrie

Topics Discussed:
- Halloween party
  - General consensus that it went well
  - Greg Digby said “best since 2009” – last year not enough people attended
  - Tara said some folks let her know that they didn’t come because children were there
  - Discussion about having some events with children and some without
- Upcoming activities:
  - PDA Happy Hour
    - Discussion about meeting regularly at a bar
    - Possibly the same day every month?
    - Will discuss further
  - Life Science Tennessee networking event Nov.2
    - Get biotech together with industry in middle TN
    - Would like to set it up quarterly
    - Opportunity for PIs as well
    - Understand more about commercialization
    - Considered a kick-off for the annual meeting Thurs & Fri
  - LST Annual Meeting
    - There is a discount for grad students and postdocs
    - Info about new patent law
    - Good opportunity to “learn language” and understand how industry works
  - Holiday party
    - Tentative date of Thursday, Dec 15, 5:00 after Discovery lecture
    - Wednesday considered for alternative date if problematic
    - Claudia will book room and get food from Calypso Café
    - We don’t need to purchase beer, but will need wine
    - Need to contact Ann Price (and Rachel Helms) once date is established
  - November 9 2:00 202 Light Hall - International Student Visa Information Workshop
    - Trish wanted to know if we had any idea how many would attend
    - Last time about ½ - ¾ full in 202
    - ISS supposed to advertise and listed as co-sponsor
    - May need to post signs in elevators, etc.
    - Ask department reps to seek out international colleagues and let them know
  - Symposium
    - Number 1 choice is Shirley, 2 Greg
    - Need to be sure to check about honorarium
    - Trish knows the second choice
    - Core can’t participate during Metro spring break
    - May would be better
    - Once we pick a date need to have a symposium committee meeting
• Ideas for special topics for PDA meetings
  o Retirement
    ▪ Tara still working with Owen
    ▪ MBA friend suggested folks that did internships in financial firms since they are no longer employed for firms and, thus, wouldn’t have a conflict
    ▪ A friend of Jud Schneider’s is no longer employed at a company so could serve as backup
  o Last special topic on transition to academia
    ▪ General consensus that it was helpful
    ▪ Especially the business side of it
  o Taxes
    ▪ Will try to do in March
    ▪ Claudia – people with training grants need info
    ▪ Jud will find out if Vandy has people dedicated to providing advice
• Kim’s career development list
  o See career development tab on website – there is a link to sign up for web newsletter
  o Academic search from a dean’s perspective Monday Nov. 7 at Peabody
  o Suggestion that it would be good to do something like this in medical school as well
• Susan Wente
  o Discussion about when to invite her to group – Tara will follow-up