Attention postdoctoral Fellows:

Monthly Postdoctoral Association Meeting
Wednesday, September 5th, 2012
Light Hall Room 437, 11:30-12:30 pm

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:
September 5th, 2012 PDA meeting
Attendees
Marla Perna
Dan Trott
Annet Kirabo
Katie Jameson
Erick Spears
Shan Wang
Liang Xiao
Lisa Marie Wands
Otito Iwuchukwu
Jeff Phillips
Hui Yu
Barbara Natalizio

Agenda:

1. Monthly Happy Hour
   - Next Happy Hour: Thursday, September 6th at 6:00 pm at Sportsman’s Grille
   - 2 for 1 drinks and appetizer specials until 7pm

   Fun networking event!

2. National Postdoc Appreciation Week: Annual Postdoc Picnic
   - Scheduled for September 20th from 5:30-7:30pm following the Discovery Lecture
   - Location: Fannie Mae Dees Park (Dragon Park), Shelter One
   - Catering provided by Famous Dave’s BBQ
   - Families are welcome
No work for PDA since it is postdoc appreciation week. Clown, Famous Dave’s BBQ. Need to send out survey monkey for headcount, Fliers?

3. Upcoming Professional Development Seminar “Preparing for the Academic Job Search”
   - Presented by Dr. Cynthia Furhmann, Assistant Dean at University of Massachusetts, formerly Program Director, Academic Career Development within the Office of Career and Professional Development, and Assistant Professor in Biochemistry & Biophysics, at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).
   - Friday, September 21st from 2:30-4:00pm
   - Location: TBD

Launching Your Academic Job Search & Preparing Your Application Materials
This workshop will present information on how to organize your academic job search, including timeline for the academic job search process, anatomy of a strong academic CV and cover letter, and fundamentals for writing a successful research and teaching statement. Throughout the workshop, we will cover basics then jump quickly into how to refine and tailor your materials for a particular department or type of institution.

The workshop will Include exercises, evaluating application packets as well as some lecture time.

4. Upcoming Seminar “Leveraging Social Media in Your Career Development and Job Search”
   - Presented by Dr. Laurence Frabotta, Director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, University of Virginia and University of Virginia School of Medicine
   - Wednesday, September 19th 1:30-2:30pm
   - Location: 419A-D Light Hall

Leveraging Social Media in Your Career Development and Job Search
Learn key tips on the use of LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter to develop and maintain a professional and consistent online persona and to use these outlets to enhance your job search efforts

Site visit to Vanderbilt, discussing LinkedIn: Dr. Frabotta will present an overview and attendees will have an opportunity to work on their own linked in profile. If interested in meeting Dr. Frabotta contact Barbara. Roger suggested lunch with PDA members

5. Vanderbilt Postdoc Networking Event Recap
   - Total of 30 people registered for event
   - Comments/Feedback from those who attended

Well attended. People rotated tables every 10 minutes 3x. Barbara suggested doing another event soon. Possibly at lunch, similar time to PDA meetings. The work life balance discussion turned into a “oneupmanship” session. Suggestion of including moderators. Asking for discussion topics beforehand possibly anon. Jr/Sr faculty might be discussion leaders. January/February time frame for the next event. Survey from PDA to postdocs asking what issues to address, including a random drawing for a prize ($100). Further brainstorming next meeting.
6. **Upcoming Events**

   - Halloween Party
   - International Potluck

_Halloween: Not October 25, student lounge not available. Oct 30 as a possible date. Claudia will attempt to reserve room. Possibly include Magician, Balloon artist, Haunted house, Face painting (Roger’s daughter?)? Mid to late afternoon time. Flier, survey monkey for Oct._

_Potluck: Thanksgivingish Nov 15. Week before thanksgiving. Pre signup to bring a dish, could split by alphabet? PDA may provide some food a main dish._

**Discussion to Review Roles and Responsibilities of Departmental Representatives**

*What does the departmental rep do? Put fliers on dept. bulletin boards. Introduce yourself to other postdocs in the dept. Making brief announcements about events. Talk to admins who send out dept wide emails find out what is ok to send out.*

*Find out how many depts not represented?*

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**

_Have had jr faculty, breaking into biotech topics. Financial planning seminars possibly._

_Roger on finance: Scott Burns on the internet has good investment advice has a weekly column in Tennessean. Tax software programs are better than a tax advisor._

10. **Reminders:**

   - Register for Kim Petrie’s Career Development List
   - Join Vanderbilt University Biomedical Research Graduate and Postdoctoral Trainee and Alumni Linked-In Group

_Fliers for LinkedIn group_

*1st PhD career connections 9/25 4 pm research development and administration in Kim Petrie’s newsletter*
Survey for best places to work ‘The Scientist’ is open. Claudia sent out a link to survey. Closes Nov 26. One postdoc tried survey and got an error message.