

WHOI Postdoctoral Association

MINUTES OF MEETING NO 1

Friday July 22, 2005

Clark 271

Committee members present:

Jed Goldstone, Nancy Grumet Prouty, Beatriz Mouriño Carballido,
Anna Nikolopoulos, Luc Rainville, and Tim Verslycke.
(Absent: Rowena Lohman)

Other representatives present:

Janet Fields (Postdoctoral Coordinator/Academic Programs)

• 1 • *Meeting opened by Janet*

• 2 • *Assignment of member positions within committee*

The first task of our newly elected committee was to select a president, vice-president, and secretary/treasurer amongst ourselves. Also, representatives for the WHOI Educational Council, and other WHOI committees were chosen:

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|-------------------------|--|
| President | Luc Rainville (PO) |
| Vice-president | Tim Verslycke (Biology) |
| Secretary | Anna Nikolopoulos (PO) |
| Educational Council | Jed Goldstone (Biology) alternative; Nancy Grumet Prouty (MC&G) |
| International Committee | Tim Verslycke |
| Gender Equity Committee | Nancy Grumet Prouty |

No treasurer was assigned since we do not have a budget of our own. (As a postdoc coordinator Janet makes a separate budget within the Academic Programs for about two-three career-development meetings, one breakfast meeting and two social events per year.)

The new members, there posts and a brief overview of our first meeting should be given at the next Education Council meeting (August 10th).

• 3 • *When to run the PDA elections*

According to the PDA charter elections should be held in September of each year (starting 2006). However, considering the arrival of many postdocs in late fall, a more suitable month for elections is believed to be November, with the new committee

members presented at the postdoc Breakfast Meeting in early December. Jed and Janet will investigate if it would be possible to move the elections to November.

• 4 • *The annual Postdoc Symposium*

Judging from last year's appreciated symposium, October seems to be a good month for this annual event. Janet will contact the National Academy for setting a date, and the specifics will be determined by email.

Jed and Bea were willing to start with the at-large organization of the symposium. If willing to, last year's organizer Burkard Baschek (MC&G) is also welcome to help out (Jed will get in touch with him). The rest of our committee will assist whenever necessary.

• 5 • *Discussion about NPA membership*

Currently the institution is a sustaining member of the National Postdoctoral Association with Janet as a contact person. At some point the committee should determine if we should become regular members with the right to vote etc. (A membership is believed to cost around \$500.) We will return to this issue in the future. Until then we should get acquainted with NPA by visiting their website

http://www.who.edu/education/postdoctoral/current_pda.html!

• 6 • *Communication with other PDAs*

It would be great to exchange ideas and experiences with more established PDAs. Brown and Harvard Universities are known for their well organized associations, perhaps they're interested in sharing their know-how? (Couldn't find any obvious Harvard link but see http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_Faculty/bupa/index.html)

• 7 • *WHOI-pda email account*

From now on the committee members should take regular looks at the PDA-dedicated email account (remember to create a personal folder). More official/formal emails to the WHOI postdoc community should be sent through Janet to postdoc@who.edu. Less formal emails can be sent to all-postdocs@who.edu, a list that Jed maintains and tries to hold updated but which also might include former postdocs/guest investigators etc that have signed up on the list.

• 8 • *Welcoming of new postdocs*

A designated 'Welcoming Committee' (a.k.a. a "mentoring" committee) will not be assigned at this moment. Instead we will try to stay updated about the arrivals of newly appointed postdocs through Janet, who will bring the most up-to-date name list to every meeting. The committee members will act as contact persons for new postdocs of their respective departments, making sure to be available for questions and guiding before as well as after the arrival.

• 9 • *Fall's first social event*

It's time for the fall social event for postdocs, their families, and advisors/sponsors! This is usually some type of cook-out-with-games-etc-event, weather permitting. People's activity calendars are probably getting crowded for the months of fall (due to WHOI's 75th Anniversary, the Symposium etc) but we still decided to keep up with this tradition and set [Thursday August 25th](#) as a preliminary date for the happening.

The Quissett ballfield was suggested as location, and Janet will check if it's available. Whether we will arrange a BBQ or serve pizzas will be discussed and decided via email when we have confirmed that the ballfield is free to use that day. The committee also discussed the option of inviting 'outside' postdocs from MBL, USGS etc and Janet volunteered to check the interest with her contacts at the different sites.

- 10 • *Next meeting*

Tuesday August 30th, 9:00am, location determined later.

On the agenda for the next meeting is to discuss how to pursue our career-developing activities. No dedicated career-development coordinator was assigned with the intention to spread this work among all committee members. Our first task is to ask Terry Schaff, WHOI's lobbyist in Washington DC, if he would be interested to meet with us postdocs and talk about his work, the situation in Washington, and the future of science! Jed will contact Terry before next meeting.

- 11 • *Meeting closed by Luc*