



**Postdoctoral Association at Western**

**Minutes from February 7th, 2017 (4:00 pm / Meeting Room, Grad Club)**

**Attendance**

Andrea Di Sebastiano	President, Senate Observer, Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences	X
Baraa Al-Khazraji	Vice-President Internal, Outreach Coordinator, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Jessica Esseltine	Vice-President External, CAPS Representative, Schulich Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
Kyle Paradis	Vice-President Finance, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences	X
Nicole Novielli	Vice-President Communications, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
Ming Wu	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	Regrets
Kaitlin Laidlaw	Webmaster, Brain and Mind Institute	Regrets
Ian Kalman	Social coordinator, Department of Political Science	-
Natalie Kozyrev	Mental health and wellness representative, Robarts Research Institute	X
Kate Parham	Tax representative, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	-
Jiro Inoue	Robarts Research Institute	-
Emma Holmes	Brain and Mind Institute	-
Lauren Solomon	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
Katherine Kasper	Department of Microbiology and Immunology	-
Valentina Taiakina	Department of Biochemistry	-
Jahirul Mazumder	Department of Chemical Engineering	-
Mariano Avino	Department of Pathology	X
Jean Macklaim	Department of Biochemistry	-

**1. Ratification of the Minutes from the previous meetings**

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

**3. Announcements/Introduction of new members/Attendance**

None.

**4. Tax information session (Kate)**

The postdoc tax information session will be held on February 21st with Famme and Co.

The session will run over lunchtime and lunch will be provided, Room TBD. Kate will attend as the PAW Tax Representative.

**5. London Health Research Day Workshop (Andrea)**

Our last meeting for the LHRD workshop was productive, we are doing a panel discussion for upper year grad students and postdocs tentatively titled "Navigating the Post-PhD Landscape: To the Postdoc and Beyond!". We are gearing it to those in pursuit of research careers in both academia and industry.

Panelists are:

- Dale Laird (senior faculty)
- Mai Elfarnawany (industry-partnered PDF)
- John Ronald (New faculty)
- And potentially one postdoc engaged in research (to be discussed).

Kyle has volunteered to be our panelist as a postdoc engaged in research and seeking out tenure track positions.

We will provide the panelists with guiding questions, including commenting on what to look for in a supervisor and how to be successful in your postdoc.

Andrea, Nicole and Natalie will follow up with the LHRD organizers with our final workshop overview and panelists.

**6. Round Tables (Andrea)**

Ian has secured his supervisor, Dr. Chris Alcantara to run a round table on publishing your first book - thinking of late March for a date.

The date for this has not been confirmed, Andrea will follow up with Ian.

I recently met Dr. Carolyn Patterson who is a Research Development Officer at Western and was thinking of a round table on writing persuasive and fundable proposals.



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Andrea will follow-up with Carolyn about setting up a round table in the late spring on persuasive writing.

### **7. Winter Social Events (Andrea)**

McLachlin Maple Syrup house opens on Feb 18, it would be great if we could organize another trip there as the last one was very successful.

This event has been book for Saturday March 4. Nicole will promote

### **8. New Business / Open Forum**

The next PAW meeting will be on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2017, 4pm, at the Grad Club meeting room.

### **Social Coordinator (Andrea)**

Ian has stepped down from the position of social coordinator. Nicole has agreed to take on the duties of the social coordinator as part of her role as VP-Comm. We will reconsider splitting the VP-Comm and Social Coordinator role during the next PAW election.

### **Collective agreement (Katherine)**

As everyone is aware the tentative collective agreement was not ratified in December. The bargaining committee is currently assessing the details of the ratification vote. There will be a bargaining team meeting in February, and we are going to request dates from the employer to go back to the bargaining table in early March. Katherine will hopefully have more to report in March.

### **Postdoc Health Benefits (Katherine)**

Katherine had a question from a PDF who has recently renewed their contract as a PDA asking about when they will receive information about their benefits etc. I posed this question to Mihaela, as she had handled this transition for me in December 2013 when I went from being a PDF to a PDA, and she said that PDAs could/should contact her directly for information about this transition.

It was agreed that Mihaela was the best point of contact for this.

### **National Postdoc Association Meeting (Andrea)**

Due to scheduling conflicts, Andrea is no longer able to attend the NPA meeting in March. Kyle may be able to attend and will look into registration/flights/hotels.

### **Columbia Store (Ming/Nicole)**

There is apparently a new rep for the Columbia store. Ming will follow-up on postdoc access to the store for the next sale.