Clemson University Postdoc Association (CUPDA) Meeting

Friday, March 17, 2017, 4pm-5pm, Room 123 in Freeman

Minutes

All postdoctoral associates are invited to attend our monthly meetings. The next meeting will be held Friday, April 21, 2017 at 4:00pm in Freeman 123. ** A call for nominations for the CUPDA exec board will take place at this meeting **

Postdocs present: Tiffany Pellizzeri (Chemistry), Steven Pellizzeri (Chem. Eng.), Sam Lukubira (Chemical Eng.), Vera Chan (Biol. Sci), S. Ramaswami (Mech. Eng.), Chandan Kr. Choudhury (MSE), Prakash Sanjeevi (Biol. Sci.), Irina Velsko (Biol. Sci.), Hafiz Ahmed (ECE), Muhammad Hassan Khalil (ECE), Suchitra Chavan (Genetics & Biochem), Satya Lagishetty (Genetics & Biochem), Dillip Kumar Panda (Chemistry), Jiapeng Wang (Bioengineering), Hao Le (Civil Eng.), Bejoy Alduse (Civil Eng.).

Vice-President Steven Pellizzeri called the meeting to order at 4:08pm. The minutes from the February 2017 meeting were approved.

Order of the day:

1. Possible Initiatives that could be sponsored by the Postdoc Office:
   a. The postdoc office has been created to serve the community of postdocs at Clemson- this includes all the postdocs at Clemson, in any department.
   b. Dr. Karanfil would like ideas from the postdoc community about ideas of events that the postdoc office can sponsor for us with their budget- the events should help to enhance your future after your postdoc is complete.
   c. The idea is for the postdoc office to sponsor an event that the CUPDA would not have the means to sponsor. Some ideas that were discussed at the meeting include:
      i. Career fair for postdocs.
      ii. Matching grants- ex. If some faculty are having financial hardship (in between grants), the faculty member/postdoc could apply for a 1-3 month stiped to keep their postdoc working in which half of their salary could be sponsored by the postdoc office and half by the faculty member.
      iii. Grant-writing workshop.
      iv. Sponsor small grants for postdocs (~$1,000) to fund them to be able to take the time to write their own grants. This would be beneficial to both Clemson and the postdoc, because Clemson would possibly be bringing in more grant money, and the postdoc gets the experiencing of writing their own grant.
      v. Once we come up with a list as a group, we will submit this list to Dr. Karanfil and he will see what resources we have at Clemson to help fund some of these career development activities.
vi. If you have additional ideas that you would like considered, please e-mail cupostdoc@g.clemson.edu

2. Postdoc office website:
   a. The postdoc office website is now up and running.
   b. Chandan has found some errors on the website, we will need to look it over carefully, please e-mail cupostdoc@g.clemson.edu if you find errors on the website so we can fix them.
   c. The website address is: http://www.clemson.edu/research/post-docs/

3. Professional Development Activities:
   a. We would like to be included in young faculty training events.
   b. Satya has attended a grant-writing workshop in his department, he is going to give the names of the workshop leaders to Tiffany so that we can work to see if we can develop a workshop like this over the summer.

4. Summer Seminar Series/ Research Symposium:
   a. The Clemson University Research Symposium has a poster session in the afternoon exclusively for postdocs. There is also a possibility of applying for an oral presentation (especially if your faculty mentor does not want to give a talk at the event- you may be able to give a talk for them). The date of the symposium is Wednesday, May 10th, 2017.
   b. We would like to encourage all postdocs to participate in the poster session- the deadline for the abstract submission is April 3 at 5pm. Submit your abstracts here: https://www.clemson.edu/research/symposium.html
   c. The CUPDA/Postdoc office will most likely have a table at this event- we want to be sure to advertise our summer seminar series at this event.
   d. Summer Seminar Series: This is a reminder that we will have our annual summer seminar series starting in late May/ early June. The seminar series is a chance for postdocs to present their research to a friendly crowd in ~25 min presentation.
      i. An idea was brought up in the meeting that we should have a seminar series once a month during the academic year, possibly instead of doing the series over the summer. This can be evaluated late summer.

5. National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD):
   a. You can register on the NCFDD website with your Clemson University e-mail for free because Clemson has an institutional membership. To register go to: https://facultydiversity.site-ym.com/general/pick_username.asp
   b. The topics are aimed at young faculty development, but many of these topics can be useful to postdocs, especially those wanting to go the academic route (when you register you can also select that you are a postdoc under the profession section).
c. If you register you are provided with access to webinars (ex. there was a recent webinar on how to engage in writing for 30 min a day) and you are provided with tips such as the “Monday Motivator” to motivate you to start your work week. The member resources overview can be found here: https://facultydiversity.sitemym.com/?page=MemberResources

6. CUPDA Travel Award:
   a. The application process will remain the same, but the travel award has increased from $250 to $300 per award. The award announcement was sent over the listerv earlier this month and will be sent out again as a reminder.

7. Elections:
   a. Per the bi-laws, the elections need to take place next month (April), and the elected positions start on July 1, 2017.
   b. As per the bio-laws, the current VP (Steven Pellizzeri) becomes the president, and then all other positions are up for vote.
   c. At the April CUPDA meeting we will have a call for nominations (you can self-nominate) for the positions of VP, Treasurer, and Secretary.
   d. Voting will take place online, and the results will be announced by the end of April.

8. Social Events:
   a. Tiffany will plan upcoming social events and send out an e-mail with the details (and post on facebook).
      i. Board game night and Bowling
      ii. We also want to see if we can do another postdoc coffee hour (Duminda).