



**Postdoctoral Association at Western**

**Minutes from January 10th, 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	Regrets
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
Ming Wu	Secretary, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	X
Kaitlin Laidlaw	Webmaster, Brain and Mind Institute	X
Blake Butler	University Research Board (URB) Rep., Department of Physiology & Pharmacology	-
Kate Parham	Tax representative, Department of Microbiology and Immunology	X
S. Amanda Ali	Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences	-
Jiro Inoue	Robarts Research Institute	Regrets
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	-
Ian Kalman	Department of Political Science	X
Mariano Avino	Department of Pathology	X
Jean Macklaim	Department of Biochemistry	-
Nicole Novielli	Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology	X
Natalie Kozyrev	Robarts Research Institute	X

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

Passed

**2. Ratification of the Agenda**

Passed

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

Welcome to Nicole and Natalie.

**4. Selection of new VP-communications (Andrea)**

Congratulations to Nicole Novielli, who was elected at the meeting for the VP-communications role. Here is her candidature statement:

*Over the past three years, I have been a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University Health Network in Toronto and the University of Guelph. Although both are very different academic institutions, there is a common absence of interaction, communication and support available to PDFs. PAWs presence at UWO represents PDFs as a unified community, providing PDFs with resources, a support network, events and most importantly a voice across the University and externally. I completed both my undergraduate and doctoral degrees at UWO, as well as participated in SOGS, thus I am familiar the university and the needs/concerns of students/trainees. In transitioning to a Post-Doctoral position at UWO, I look forward to having the opportunity to contribute to the executive committee of PAW in the role of Vice President of Communications. In this role, I will ensure that PDFs across campus are informed of the resources offered by PAW, news/information relevant to PDFs, and events. E-mail and social media (Facebook and Twitter) will provide PDFs with various information resources that are easily accessible.*

**5. New mental health and wellness representative (Andrea)**

Congratulations to Natalie Kozyrev, who has agreed to take on this role.

**6. Social Coordinator (Andrea)**

Congratulations to Ian Kalman, who has agreed to take on this role.

The current exec or other members who fulfil these roles will need to arrange to do a handover.

Elections for the 2017-2018 exec will be conducted in late March or April – a chief returning officer will need to be elected.

Ming will finish his postdoc at the end of April and resign from the Secretary role then. The role will likely then either be filled by the incoming Secretary or another member of the exec for the remainder of the 2016-2017 period.



## **7. Postdoc Research Forum (Andrea)**

Thanks to Lauren, Kaitlin and Andrea, who volunteered to help Mihaela to coordinate. We decided to hold this in the first week of May (*since arranged for May 2*).

If you have any specific ideas for workshops, please pass them along to Mihaela. It was suggested that ethics or reproducibility of data might be a good idea. It was decided that the \$200 from PAW be put to an award for a 'Research is beautiful' (research artwork) competition at the Research Forum.

## **8. Future Postdoc Round Tables ideas and tentative dates (Andrea)**

We will have one in mid-February (winter) on turning a manuscript to a book (aimed at social sciences; Ian to contact a suitable presenter). We will also aim to have one in spring, maybe on grant writing (one for SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC, or even Mitacs), or establishing an online presence as a postdoc (e.g. LinkedIn, ResearchGate) – Ming and others to contact potential presenters.

## **9. PAW Workshop at London Health Research Day Workshop (Andrea)**

Nicole and Andrea volunteered to help organise it. It'll be a 1 hour platform presentation, possibly on advising graduate students on things they should consider when looking for a postdoc (eg, what to look for in a supervisor, etc).

## **10. CAPS meeting (Jessica)**

Jessica briefly reported on the most recent CAPS meeting she attended:

As discussed last meeting, our abstract submission for the 2017 NPA meeting was not accepted. This was the first rejection PAW experienced with NPA. There has been no response to efforts to ask for re-evaluation. Upon attending January's Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS) meeting, Jessica learned that abstract submitted by several other Canadian and international groups had also been rejected. The CAPS exec council has also had no response from NPA regarding this issue.

CAPS Chair Joe Sparrow has been in talks with Manulife to provide Canada wide health and medical coverage to postdocs who are not entitled to coverage through their institutions. There is no word when this plan will be made available or how much it will cost individuals and families.

CAPS is also currently soliciting the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to classify all Canadian postdocs as employees, regardless of how their individual institutions classify them. This precedent of the CRA mandating employment status has been set a few years ago when the CRA declared that taxi drivers were employees regardless of whether they rented or owned the car. CAPS hopes that if they can get such a declaration from CRA then all Canadian postdocs will automatically become employees of their institutions, regardless of institution policy and will therefore be eligible for health and medical insurance, deductions for CPP and EI.



**11. Winter Social Events (Andrea)**

Ian will organise a trip to the Maple Sugar Bush, and other social events.

**12. Internet and/or Listhost Communications Proposal (Ian)**

Ian raised that it is hard for a postdoc to communicate with other postdocs through the PAW Facebook or email lists.

After some discussion, it was decided we will change the facebook page to a group, so that all postdocs can post to it. We will maintain the email lists as is due to limitations on making these lists more open.

We should launch to the postdocs the new PAW Facebook group and website when ready.

**13. New Business / Open Forum**

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

Blake emailed that there was no meeting of URB in the last month so no updates.