

UVM Postdoctoral Association Meeting

9.29.2025 | Waterman 427A

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. 3:30pm ET
- II. Attendance**
 - a. Jill Stockwell
 - b. Postdocs
- III. Mode of Meeting**
 - a. Hybrid (in-person + virtual)
- IV. Agenda**
 - a. Welcome & acknowledgements
 - b. Officers' updates
 - c. Fall off-campus social events
 - d. PDA fundraising opportunities
 - e. Scheduling upcoming meetings
 - f. Engagement with leadership and professional development
 - g. Adjournment
- V. Welcome & Announcements**
 - a. The Chair thanked all PDA Executive Committee members and all postdocs for their hard work and participation in the activities hosted during Postdoc Appreciation Week, held from September 15–19, 2025
 - b. Special appreciation was given to Saul (Postdoc-at-Large) for his excellent organization of the panel discussion held as part of Postdoc Appreciation Week, and to Arianne (PR of the PDA) for her great work in arranging the PDA tabling during the Graduate Resource Fair
 - c. A special thank-you was shared with Amasha (Secretary of the PDA) for preparing the write-up based on the activities hosted during Postdoc Appreciation Week
- VI. Officers' Updates**
 - a. Ariane (PDA PR)
 - i. Social media
 - 1. Instagram and WhatsApp accounts for the PDA are ready
 - 2. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uvmpostdocs/>
 - 3. WhatsApp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FEqZDMFeDISGu3eQsd3nfB>
 - ii. Newsletter update
 - 1. Currently working on the first newsletter

2. Content will include interviews with few PDA officers and publication alerts of UVM postdocs
- iii. Reflection of graduate resource fair
 1. The event was a great success
 2. Although the number of participants at the event was relatively small, many graduate students visited the PDA table and learned about opportunities available after graduation
 3. A larger turnout is expected for next year's event
- b. Stacia (Web master)
 - i. Website updates are still in progress
 - ii. The new PDA website was officially created on September 22
 - iii. Content from the previous PDA website will be gradually transferred
- c. Anila (Treasurer)
 - i. Applied for the PurCard and is waiting for approval
- d. Amasha (Secretary)
 - i. Suggested keeping an attendance sheet for every PDA-organized event to help track participation, which will be useful for future planning
- e. Saul (postdoc at large)
 - i. Suggested recording attendance of postdocs at the monthly meetings

VII. Fall Off-campus Social Events

- a. October EVENT: Planning and logistics
 - i. Where: Mount Philo hike
 - ii. When: 11th October (Saturday/ afternoon)
 - iii. Logistics:
 1. ½ hour drive from Burlington
 2. Easy hike, approximately 40 minutes
 3. If needed (for anyone with disabilities), cars can drive to the top of the mountain
 4. Participants can bring food and drinks for themselves or to share with others
 - iv. Special notes:
 1. There is a \$5 entrance fee
 2. PDA will cover the entrance fee for participants
 3. You may bring family members; however, the \$5 fee for them will not be covered
 4. If the hike has to be canceled due to bad weather, an indoor event will be organized instead, such as a BBQ or dance event with snacks

5. You all are welcome to join!

b. Other proposed social events

- i. Enjoy fall colors at Stowe (best time: late September to mid-October)
- ii. Participate in art activities at Ladybug Creative, Downtown Burlington
- iii. Meet-up at the waterfront
- iv. Rent a bike from Colchester Local Motion and go for a bike ride
- v. Movie night
- vi. Game night
- vii. Bowling
- viii. Postdoc night

VIII. PDA Fundraising Opportunities

- a. An open discussion and the highlight of this month's meeting
- b. Events/activities to raise funds:
 - i. Request funds from college deans by sending a letter highlighting the relaunch of the PDA and the planned activities, including networking, career development workshops, social events, and team-building activities
 - ii. Organize a bake sale to raise funds
 - iii. Organize a wooden arts sale, featuring items (e.g., office desk pieces) embossed with the UVM logo
 - iv. Host an event focused on graduate and undergraduate students that provides mentorship based on the expertise of postdocs. This event can be tailored to enhance students' career and professional growth. Refreshments/food may be provided, and funding can be requested from the "Student Life grant"
 - v. Apply for additional funding from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
 - vi. Liaise with foundations - such activities would need to be thoroughly discussed and approved by higher levels of university administration
 - vii. Request funding support from corporate sponsors by emphasizing the relaunch of the PDA and the events it will host. In return, sponsors' names or brands can be advertised on the PDA website, newsletter, and other platforms
- viii. In all such events and fundraising activities, it is important to emphasize that the PDA is both an independent entity and has a strong relationship with the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) in the Graduate College at UVM

IX. Scheduling Upcoming Meetings

- a. Due to upcoming holidays, including Thanksgiving, the monthly PDA meetings for November and December have been rescheduled to earlier dates (instead of the usual last Thursday of each month)
- b. November Meeting: Thursday, November 13 (3.30-4.30 pm)
- c. December Meeting: Thursday, December 11 (3.30-4.30 pm)

X. Engagement with Leadership and Professional Development

- a. Upcoming postdoc opportunities
 - i. “Catalyze Your Career”, a professional development workshop series for UVM postdoctoral scholars and doctoral students (10/15, 11/19, and 12/10, Wednesdays from 3.30-4.30pm)
- b. Potential meeting with Dean Holger
 - i. The schedule will be twice per semester
 - ii. The meeting agenda must be shared in advance with the Dean
 - iii. “Funds for the PDA” could be a main topic to discuss during the next meeting
 - iv. The next meeting is tentatively planned for October 2025

XI. Adjourn

- a. 4:30pm ET