

UVM Postdoctoral Association Meeting

11.13.2025 | 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
 - b. Updates on meeting with the graduate school dean, Dr. Hoock
 - c. Deliberations on career development events to be hosted by the PDA
 - d. Friendsgiving celebration
 - e. Research week 2026
 - f. An announcement from co-chair
 - g. An agenda for future meetings
 - h. Adjournment
- V. Welcome**
 - a. The Chair welcomed all participants attending the meeting, both in person and online
- VI. Updates on meeting with the graduate school dean, Dr. Hoock**
 - a. The next meeting with Dean Holger Hoock will be in 18th December at 9.00AM
 - b. Prior to the meeting, it would be good if the executive committee could review the existing by-laws and decide what needs to be changed or updated, including the tasks and responsibilities assigned to each executive member. These points can then be discussed with the Dean
 - c. There is already a designated position for “postdocs” in the Faculty Senate
 - d. [Research, Scholarship and the Creative Arts Committee \(RSCA\), at the University of Vermont](#)
 - e. In line with this discussion, Dr. McIntosh suggested that all seven executive committee members get together to review each role and discuss what to remove and what to continue, as this will help with the by-law changes
- VII. Deliberations on career development events to be hosted by the PDA**
 - a. Two career development events will be held per semester

- b. Upcoming event idea: “Career development in AI”
 - i. Focus on how to use AI in both research and daily life
 - ii. Experts will be invited to host this event
- c. Another proposed Event: “Industry-based job workshop”
 - i. Structured like a boot camp
 - ii. Invite employees from various industries who are former postdoc alumni

VIII. Friendsgiving celebration

- a. Pedro and Saul have joined the social event committee
- b. Friendsgiving celebration arrangements
 - i. Scheduled for Thursday, November 20th, from 5:30 PM–7:30 PM at Living/Learning B-180
 - ii. Venue reservation coordinated with support from Dr. Jill
 - iii. Ariane, Saul, and Pedro collaborated to design the event flyer and attendance form for postdocs, their families, and friends
- c. All Postdocs are welcome to bring a dish representing their heritage, traditions, or comforting food memories
- d. Friendsgiving provides a wonderful opportunity for UVM postdocs to gather, share good food and drinks, and enjoy time with great company

IX. Research week 2026

- a. Poster presentations and lightning talk sessions will be included
- b. Lightning talk duration
 - i. Need to determine whether 5 minutes is adequate or if additional time is necessary
- c. A lightning talk training session will be offered, covering presentation skills and recommended content
- d. Recycled posters (previously used posters) can be utilized
- e. Location
 - i. Final venue is pending confirmation; tentative options include the Davis center or the Alumni house

A post-event social gathering is recommended following the main presentation sessions

X. An announcement from Co-Chair

- a. Our co-chair, Dr. Sima Bhowmik, will be appointed as an Assistant Professor at UVM effective January 1, 2026
- b. Therefore, from that date onward, she will no longer be able to continue her appointment as the co-chair of the PDA
- c. We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for her hard work and dedication to the PDA, and we wish her the very best in her new position at UVM
- d. This position will be filled in accordance with the PDA by-laws

XI. An agenda for future meetings

- a. Meeting preparation process
 - i. The PDA executive committee typically meets one week before the monthly meeting to prepare and prioritize the agenda
- b. New proposal
 - i. Create an online shared document (via MS Teams or Google Drive)
 - ii. Officers can add important ideas or discussion items as they arise
 - iii. Collected items will be reviewed and prioritized during the meeting
- c. Scheduling challenge
 - i. Coordinating a time for all seven officers is often difficult
 - ii. Suggested solution: Block a fixed date and time each month for the pre-meeting, ensuring full officer participation

XII. Adjourn

- a. 4:30pm ET