

UVM Postdoctoral Association Meeting

12.11.2025 | 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. PDA representation at the Faculty Senate meeting
 - c. Appointment of the New Co-chair and Treasurer
 - d. Upcoming meeting with Dean Dr. Hooock on Dec. 18, 2025
 - e. Updates from the executive committee members
 - f. Updates from Dr. Jill
 - g. Next Semester's PDA Calendar
 - h. Adjournment
- V. **Welcome**
 - a. The Chair welcomed all participants attending both in person and online
 - b. New postdoctoral members who joined this month's meeting introduced themselves to the group
- VI. **PDA representation at the Faculty Senate Meeting**
 - a. The Faculty Senate meeting was held on December 11, 2025. On behalf of the postdoctoral community, Dr. E. Abah, Chair of the PDA, attended the meeting
 - b. The Faculty Senate expressed strong interest in supporting the postdoctoral community
 - c. The PDA is now in discussion with the Faculty Senate to brainstorm mutually beneficial initiatives, including but not limited to:
 - i. **Postdoc-Undergraduate mentorship:** Postdocs mentoring undergraduate students and receiving formal documentation of mentorship, strengthening postdoc CVs for the job market
 - ii. **Research introduction videos:** Postdocs creating 3–5 minute videos introducing their research fields, to be shared as resources for undergraduates. This initiative supports undergraduate research exploration while increasing the visibility of postdoctoral research

- iii. **FOUR Fellowship reviewers:** Opportunities for postdocs to serve as reviewers for UVM FOUR undergraduate fellowship applications. For more info, visit the [Fellowships, Opportunities, and Undergraduate Research website](#).

- d. These initiatives are in the discussion phase. Members were encouraged to engage with the PDA to support collective professional development goals

VII. Appointment of the new Co-chair and Treasurer

- a. Dr. Anila Ajayan, who has served as PDA Treasurer, will conclude her role at the University of Vermont as of January 2026. We sincerely thank her for her service
- b. A transparent process for new officer appointments was outlined:
 - i. A call for expressions of interest has been sent via the postdoctoral listserv. Responses are being collected through the official PDA email (postdocs@uvm.edu)
 - ii. Deadline: January 15, 2026
 - iii. Following the deadline, a voting process will be initiated among postdoctoral members
 - iv. Details regarding voting will be announced shortly after January 15, 2026

VIII. Upcoming meeting with Dean Dr. Hooch on Dec. 18, 2025

- a. Topics for discussion include:
 - i. Introduction of the Bylaw change committee
 - ii. Request for any available bylaw revision templates or guidance
 - iii. Updates or follow-up items from the previous meeting with the Dean

IX. Updates from the executive committee members

- a. Dr. Rodrigues – PDA Needs Assessment Survey
 - i. As of December 11, 39 postdocs had responded to the survey
 - ii. A raffle drawing was held among survey respondents, with a \$25 UVM Bookstore gift card awarded
 - iii. A detailed review of the survey results will be presented at an upcoming PDA meeting
- b. Dr. Pedro Llorens – Friendsgiving celebration
 - i. >17 members attended, and participants shared a variety of foods representing different countries and cultures
 - ii. It was encouraging to see new postdoctoral members participating in the celebration

X. Updates from Dr. Jill

- a. The PDA previously did not have a PurCard. The PDA Treasurer, Dr. Ajayan, submitted an application, which has now been approved. The PDA will receive a PurCard shortly
- b. 2026 Career Development Event Series: Members were encouraged to register for upcoming events:

- i. January 21: Communicating Your Research: Engaging Public and Professional Audiences
- ii. February 18: Prioritizing Wellbeing: The Productivity Secret You're Missing
- iii. March 18: Preparing for Lightning Rounds, 3MT, and Other Short-Format Presentations
- iv. April 20: Funding Your Future: Fellowships and Grant Writing for Postdocs and Doctoral Students
- v. May 20: Charting Your Career Path: Exploration and Decision-Making Strategies

XI. Next Semester's PDA meeting Calendar

- a. Discussion items for next semester include:
 - i. Whether PDA meetings will continue on the last Thursday of each month (3:30–4:30 PM) or shift to a lunch-hour time slot
 - ii. Meeting venue options, including the possibility of hosting monthly meetings at the Davis Center. Dr. Stockwell will check space availability
- b. PDA Annual Meeting:
 - i. A proposal was made to hold the PDA Annual Meeting during April 2026 Research Week, including the call for nominations for the next PDA Executive Committee

XII. Adjourn

- a. 4:30pm ET