

UVM Postdoctoral Association Meeting

03.26.2026 | Davis Center 106E, Rosa Parks Room

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. 3:30pm ET
- II. Attendance**
 - a. Jill Stockwell
 - b. Postdocs in attendance: 10
- III. Mode of Meeting**
 - a. Hybrid (in-person + virtual)
- IV. Agenda**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) annual conference briefing
 - c. Budget proposal update
 - d. Research Week preparation
 - e. Spring Swap
 - f. Postdoc professional development activities and collaboration with UVM offices
 - g. Bylaw review updates briefing
- V. Welcome**
 - a. The Chair welcomed all participants attending both in person and online
- VI. National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) annual conference briefing**
 - a. Dr. Jill Stockwell (Assistant Dean and Manager for Postdoctoral Affairs) and the PDA Chair (Dr. Emmanuel Abah) attended the annual conference representing UVM
 - b. Purpose of the annual conference
 - i. To appreciate and celebrate postdocs
 - ii. To provide networking opportunities
 - iii. Improve leadership
 - c. Events during the conference
 - i. Training sessions
 - ii. Seminar on generative AI in research and AI-assisted tools
 - iii. Professional development events led by postdocs (e.g., teaching strategies)
 - d. Keynote speech
 - i. Delivered by the former Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF)
 - ii. Key advice for postdocs: be resilient, network, collaborate, and focus on grant writing
 - e. Message for UVM postdocs

- i. Look beyond research and teaching; seek opportunities to develop soft skills and professional growth
 - ii. Be leaders in your field
 - iii. Explore leadership opportunities through NPA
 - iv. Visit the [NPA website](#) more often
 - v. There are seven NPA committees where you can become a member or a leader
- f. The PDA Chair and Dr. Jill requested materials, including presentation files from the sessions they attended. Once received, these materials will be shared with the postdoc community via email.

VII. Budget proposal update

- a. Based on feedback from the needs assessment survey, the budget was prepared
 - b. During the March 5 meeting with Dean Holger, the budget was discussed; his comments will be incorporated, and the budget will be submitted through the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
- Furthermore, since the bylaws allow the PDA to raise funds, this will be discussed in the coming months.

VIII. Research week preparations

- a. Postdoc research showcase 2026
 - i. Date: Thursday, April 16th
 - ii. Time: 9:00 AM–12:00 PM
 - iii. Venue: Davis Center 414
- b. Lightning talk and poster presentation sessions
- c. Lightning talks
 - i. Davis Center 414: Jost Foundation Room
 - ii. 3- to 5-minute oral presentations with no more than five slides
 - iii. The lightning talk winner will receive a \$750 award from the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs
- d. Poster presentation session
 - i. Davis Center 414: Livak Fireplace Lounge
 - ii. Posters may be new or previously presented at other conferences or forums
- e. All postdoc supervisors will be invited
- f. The postdoc community is encouraged to help spread the word about the showcase among labs and colleagues to increase participation. She will get in touch with us about this.
- g. A reception will be held during the poster session to provide an opportunity for networking and mingling among postdocs

IX. Spring Swap

- a. When and where
 - i. Date: Friday, April 3rd
 - ii. Time: 2:00 PM–4:00 PM

- iii. Venue: Davis Center, Williams Family Room 403
- b. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided
- c. Bring items that may be useful to others (e.g., books, clothes, kitchenware, shoes)
- d. Fourteen participants have already expressed interest

X. Postdoc professional development activities and collaboration with UVM offices

- a. Graduate writing center
 - i. Only one postdoc has expressed interest in joining the writing group
 - ii. Dr. Jill will re-advertise to assess additional interest
 - iii. More information about the summer writing group will be shared

XI. Bylaw review updates and deadline

- a. The PDA Executive Committee has provided input for bylaw revisions. The PDA Chair has compiled and revised the bylaws accordingly
- b. The revised bylaws will be shared along with the March PDA meeting minutes. Postdocs are encouraged to review and submit comments to Dr. Jill or via email (postdocs@uvm.edu) by April 15
Finalization of the revisions is planned for May

XII. Adjourn

- a. 4:45pm ET