

UVM Postdoctoral Association Meeting

04.30.2026 | Davis Center 106E, Rosa Parks Room

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. 3:30pm ET
- II. Attendance**
 - a. Jill Stockwell
 - b. Postdocs in attendance: 7
- III. Mode of Meeting**
 - a. Hybrid (in-person + virtual)
- IV. Agenda**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Research week briefing
 - c. Bylaw review updates
 - d. Call for expressions of interest
 - e. End-of-term PDA meeting planning
 - f. PDA election timeline
 - g. Adjournment
- V. Welcome**
 - a. The Chair welcomed all participants attending both in person and online
- VI. Research week briefing**
 - a. The event was highly successful with excellent participation and engagement
 - b. Participants were welcomed by:
 - i. Dr. Holger Hock, Dean of the Graduate College and Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
 - ii. Dr. Linda Schadler, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President
 - iii. Dr. Jill Stockwell, Assistant Dean and Manager of Postdoctoral Affairs
 - c. The showcase consisted of:
 - i. 10 Lightning Talks
 - ii. 17 Poster Presentations
 - iii. A reception following the sessions
 - d. Key highlights:
 - i. Approximately 75 participants attended the event to support and cheer for their peers
 - ii. Overall, the quality of both the talks and poster presentations was very high
 - iii. Prior to the event, several practice sessions were organized, particularly for the Lightning Talks, allowing presenters to receive feedback and improve

their presentations. Participants found these sessions very supportive and helpful

- iv. Many participants described the showcase as “a very good experience.”
- e. The postdoc community is welcomed to new ideas and suggestions to make next year’s showcase even larger and more engaging
- f. Following the Postdoctoral Research Showcase, an interactive social gathering was held at Wallflower Collective, where many postdocs enjoyed an evening with food and drinks. Special thanks were extended to Ariane, the PDA Public Relations officer, for organizing the event

VII. Bylaw review updates

- a. Under the leadership of Dr. Emmanuel Abah, PDA Chairperson, the bylaw revision process has been completed by the Executive Committee
- b. Along with these meeting minutes, the revised bylaws will be shared with the postdoctoral community for additional feedback until May 15, 2026
- c. Following this feedback period, the revised bylaws will be submitted to the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) and the Graduate College for final review and approval

VIII. Call for expressions of interest

- a. The call for expressions of interest for the 2026–2027 PDA Executive Committee positions is currently ongoing
- b. Glad to see some postdocs already showing interest in these roles
- c. Several emails have been shared with the postdoctoral community encouraging participation in PDA leadership roles
- d. Interested candidates are requested to submit their expressions of interest to postdocs@uvm.edu by May 15, 2026.
- e. Serving on the Executive Committee provides an opportunity to contribute to the postdoctoral community, support programming and advocacy efforts, and build leadership experience at UVM.
- f. A complete nomination should include:
 - i. Name and department
 - ii. A short statement of purpose describing how the candidate’s skills, experience, and ideas align with the position of interestMotivation for serving on the Executive Committee

IX. End-of-term PDA meeting planning

- a. The end-of-term PDA meeting will be held either on May 28 or May 29, depending on the availability of majority of the postdocs
- b. A When2Meet poll will be shared to determine participant availability
- c. During the meeting, the current Executive Committee will formally hand over responsibilities to the newly appointed committee members
- d. Lunch or light refreshments/snacks will be provided during the meeting (under discussion)

- e. The committee looks forward to broad participation from the postdoctoral community

X. PDA election timeline

- a. Voting period: May 15 – May 28, 2026
- b. Statements of interest received during the call for expressions of interest will be shared with the postdoctoral community during the election period
- c. To ensure fair and accessible voting for all postdocs, voting options are currently being explored by the Chairperson and the OPA

XI. Adjourn

- a. 4:45pm ET