

Minutes of Einstein Postdoctoral Association (EPA)- Meeting on November 30th, 2011

Total number of postdocs present: 12

**Carola Wilczek
Komal Rasaputra
Valeria Antico Arciuch
Fernando Bruno
Melissa James
Marika Russo
Natalie Silmon de Monerri
Zoi Tampaki
Sanal Madhusudana Girija
Ulrich Kadolsky
Paul Bacchus
Deepak Jayakumar**

Missing: Sonja Schaezlein, Regina Hanstein, Jeannine Gerhardt, Brian English, Cristina Caescu.

Topics discussed with all the reps

1. **Welcome committee**-From each department an EPA rep will personally or with the help of a volunteer welcome newly arriving postdocs and help them out in the beginning. They could contact Fernando Bruno (in charge of Welcome committee) for further assistance.
 - We discussed and voted on the design of the mug, which favored the tall mug with the EPA logo. Based on the budget the order for 200 mugs will be placed. Natalie offered to design the cards that will be placed inside the mugs with the corresponding information.
 - The Belfer Institute is planning to get a “survival kit” which includes basic stuff for the incoming postdocs during the first time living here. One of the suggestions was to check if there is a possibility to acquire a common place for storage. Besides that every EPA rep will be responsible to find storage place for the kit in his/her department. Also the kit will include any donation from postdocs leaving Einstein who want to support this idea.
2. **EPA Handbook**- List of people who volunteered to write in the handbook should send their part to Valeria by December 18th.
3. **Quality of Life**- A brief introduction and a report on the QOLC at Einstein were discussed by Carola Wilczek and Valeria Antico Arciuch, who are in charge of this committee for postdocs at Einstein. We decided to keep the EPA reps updated on decisions and problems discussed in the meetings.

4. **Interdepartmental Seminar-** Majority of reps wanted to revive the postdoctoral interdepartmental seminar. But we want to make it more appealing to the postdocs this time: monthly meetings in the evening with pizza and beer, no PIs present, new name for it. Sanal and Marika are in charge of taking up the responsibility of planning. We want to try it for a period of 6 months to see if we will have enough attendance or not.

5. **General-**

- Sending monthly email to the Belfers' email list and giving information about EPA along with signup procedure.
- Advertising EPA in the elevators, TV, ID office and making welcome email available to the department in charge to forward it to the incoming postdoc. Natalie will be helping with the design of the flyer for the advertisement.
- The next EPA meeting will be held in the 2nd week of January.