

Minutes of Einstein Postdoctoral Association (EPA)- Meeting on January 31th, 2012

Total number of postdocs present: 12

**Carola Wilczek
Komal Rasaputra
Valeria Antico Arciuch
Fernando Bruno
Melissa James
Marika Russo
Zoi Tampaki
Sanal Madhusudana Girija
Ulrich Kadolsky
Sonja Schaetzlein
Christophe Lemetre
Regina Hanstein**

Missing: Jeannine Gerhardt, Brian English, Cristina Caescu, Natalie Silmon de Monerri, Deepak Jayakumar, Paul Bacchus

Topics discussed with all the reps

1. Welcome committee-

- Everyone was notified about the order placed for 200 EPA mugs for the cost of USD 350.00. The cards designed by Natalie were shown to all the reps, these cards will be placed inside the mugs with the corresponding information.
- So far we have 5 departments supporting the idea of the “Survival or Welcome Kit”. Based on every one’s feedback we will decide on the purchase of the items in the kit.
- Replenishment: Every postdoc using the Kit is supposed to replace all the items he/she used or broke.
- Now that we have access to the information on the incoming postdocs from Ms. Alexia Pakiela, the reps will be informed every month and contact the new postdocs from their department starting in February. Alexia will send out emails to the new postdocs where the EPA introduces themselves together with helpful links.
- An email asking all postdocs for donations will be sent out soon.

2. EPA Handbook- Our part of the handbook has been put together and we are now waiting to receive the official parts to be updated by Belfer.

3. Quality of Life- A brief report on the QOLC meeting from January was given. This included a discussion on the security in the Einstein community following

the recent mugging of a postdoc near the Rhinelander housing. The reps were informed about the participation at the survey (103!) and that it will be closed this week.

4. **Interdepartmental Seminar**- The monthly meetings in the evening with pizza and beer, no PIs present, has been approved by Belfer. We are waiting for confirmation by Jon of the location to conduct these seminars. Sanal and Marika are in charge of taking up the responsibility of planning which includes coming up with a catchy name for the seminars, list of possible presenters and the tentative dates. An email to all postdocs will be sent out soon to present and advertise the idea and get a feeling for the amount of people interested in presenting.
5. **NPA Meeting**- The abstract for the poster which will be presented by Carola at the NPA meeting in March in San Francisco was shared with everyone. The main ideas are to present everything the EPA has done so far as well as our future plans. Any help preparing of the poster - input from the reps or helping designing the poster - is highly encouraged. We also took a group picture of the EPA representatives which will be part of the poster. This poster will be placed at Einstein after the NPA meeting.
6. **Co-Chair-Meeting**- We plan to start a meeting with the Chairs from the other institutes in NY in order to get new ideas and have a better comparison to what others are doing. We can use this information to show Jon and Mary Anne what happens at the other institutes in order to achieve the same. Also we plan to have a joint picnic in Central Park with all the NY postdocs in summer.
7. **Senate Council** - Ulrich has been elected to be the new Chairman of the postdoc senate and the senate council representative! **Congratulations!** We want to use this opportunity to bring our concerns directly to the Dean. If there is anything - let Ulrich know! ☺
8. **General**-
 - Advertising EPA in the elevators, ID office will be done using the Flyer.
 - We are also planning on updating the EPA home page. Ulrich and Christophe will be in charge of this task. They already started contacting the people who were in charge previously.
 - We also discussed on the duties of the Reps, which are, as following: advertisement, distribution of the monthly Coffee Hour flyers, the CPD flyers in general, welcoming new postdocs...

- We also talked about the new postdoc salary and ways to make sure we get paid the NIH minimum
- Future plans: cheaper Internet at postdoc housing, health care (free gym membership)...