

## **Minutes of Einstein Postdoctoral Association (EPA) - Meeting on January 24th, 2013**

### **Total number of postdocs present:**

**Carola Wilczek  
Valeria Antico Arciuch  
Komal S. Rasaputra  
Adrian Santos  
Melissa James  
Ulrich Kadolsky  
Christophe Lemetre  
Katie Stiles  
Regina Hanstein  
Thomas Jandl  
Esther Arwert  
Jeannine Gerhardt**

**Guest: Joerg Schlatterer**

**Missing: Eloy Bejarano Fernandez; Sonja Schaetzlein; Fernando Pereira Bruno; Zoi Tampaki; Natalie Silmon De Monerri; Deepak Jayakumar; Sanal Madhusudana Girija; Anne-Laure F Surena; Sayani Dasgupta; Christina Caescu**

### **Topics discussed with all the Reps:**

1. NPA meeting from March 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in South Carolina. Volunteers for this meeting were requested. Regina and Melissa would like to participate. The Co-Chairs will ask Jon if the Belfer Institute can afford to let both go since in a previous year also 2 representatives were sent to the meeting.
2. Postdoc orientation. Previously the Belfer Institute agreed in having 3 orientations per year so February would be a good choice to make the first one in 2013. Carola will contact Mary Anne and Jon for this request. Adrian Santos volunteered to help presenting the EPA in the orientations.
3. Quality of life survey. Everybody agreed that an effort must be made to increase the number of participants (which already has been increased from 10% participation in 2011 to 30% in 2012).
4. EPA budget. The deadline for this year's budget is March. We discussed several ideas that could be included (the budget for the Interdepartmental seminars, NPA meeting, and the summer BBQ are already fixed and are independent):
  - More mugs for new Postdocs and speakers in the Interdepartmental seminars. Also money for cards and candies should be included.

- Komal reminded of Carolas plan from last year regarding a meeting with other Postdoctoral Associations of the New York area for a picnic in Central Park including families, estimated costs around 600\$.
  - A postdoc mixer in Manhattan. This event might cost 300\$.
5. The interdepartmental seminars were discussed. They are working well and many people are attending. Even though more effort should be made to advertise it. More flyers in the department boards, coffee hour and elevators.
  6. Problem with heating in 1579 Rhinelander apartments. Many postdocs are complaining about the cold in Rhinelander. The problem is worse in the top flats. Several reports have been submitted to the Rhinelander staff but, so far, the problem has not been solved. Katie sent the website with the law requirements for temperature in the apartments. This link will be sent to all the Postdocs so they can properly check.
  7. The Meeting finished with a card and flowers for Komal after her 1-year and a half as a co-chair. **Thank you so much for all your work, Komal!** Adrian Santos is the new co-chair starting January 2013.

#### **General-**

- Make an effort to increase the number of participants in the surveys about the quality of the Postdoc life at Einstein.
- Planning of the activities for the next year in order to give an approximate budget to Belfer.
- We need more advertisement for the EPA and its activities! Each rep is supposed to put the flyers that Jeannine will send out each month in his/her department. We will also try to put the advertisement in the elevators and during the coffee hour, also we would like to use the flatscreens for advertisement as well.
- Encouraged all the reps to reply to the email about new incoming postdocs to let the Co-Chairs know if the postdoc will be taken care of. It is okay to say you don't have time for it or the lab/office will take care of the postdoc, as long as the Co-Chairs are informed. That way we will have a better overview and know who still needs to be welcomed.