



Texas A&M University Postdoctoral Association

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About the PDA

Generous support from the Division of Research through
the Office of Vice President of Research

Serves ALL postdocs at Texas A&M

Other Postdoc Associations also serve:

Health Science Center (HSC-PDA)

College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM-PDA)

Chemistry (PAC)

Executive committee plus four sub-committees (Events,
Professional Development, Communications, Advocacy)

Mission of the TAMU PDA:

Foster a sense of community among postdocs

Advocate for postdocs

Improve the quality of the postdoc experience

TAMU PDA Activities

Seminars and workshops:

Etiquette Series (Dinner on **February 27**) – *professionalism*
myIDP (**April 23-24**) – *career planning, goal setting*
Bullet Journal Workshop – *time and project management*
BioScience Writers, POWER Workshop – *writing skills, grant/fellowship applications*
SciPhD – *mentorship, management, interview skills*
PhD Comics – *science communication*

Networking events:

Every month: 3rd Wednesday - evenings
Every semester: family-oriented weekend picnic

Postdoc Appreciation Week and Postdoc Symposium (every September)

Opportunities for leadership: Executive committee, committee chairs

Time away from bench is minimal

Obvious benefits to postdocs:

Looks good on CVs and fellowship applications

Travel awards (service-based awards for PDA participation)

Get training in grant writing, communication, leadership, project management, etc.

Great way to meet people and make friends

Time away from bench is minimal

Less obvious benefits to postdocs:

Being part of a community is good for overall well-being

Practice networking, making small talk, and communicating with broad audiences

Discover new collaborators

Explore passions; discover priorities as a scientist/future leader

Gives unique value to stand out from the field

For committee members / PDA leaders:

Real-life, hands-on experience working on a team and managing others

Learn to transition from **doing all the work** to **helping others do their best work** (delegating tasks, motivating others, giving feedback)

Benefits to PIs:

Time away from bench is minimal

Postdocs get non-technical, non-discipline-specific training:

PIs teaching “soft” skills is time-consuming and generally difficult

Developing postdocs with better “soft” skills helps everyone:

Lab gets a better postdoc (good leaders, good mentors, good communicators, more efficient)

Better candidates on the job market (reflects well on PI/lab)

Building a community of postdocs:

Good for postdoc well-being (promotes self-care, avoids burnout, prevents loneliness)

Fosters unexpected collaborations

Can bring resources/knowledge back to the lab

A strong PDA will help recruit and retain great postdocs

Connect with us!

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