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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