

FMHS Postdoctoral Society End-of Year Report 2017

COMMITTEE

Founding members:

Brie Sorrenson, Cherie Blenkiron, David Musson, Karen Bishop, Anita Muthukaruppan, Catherine Bacon, Jie Zhang, Kate Lee, Carol Greene, Jen Hollywood, Catherine Tsai, Verity Oliver (departing UoA December 2017), Martin Chopra (departed UoA to become a Journal Editor), Jimmy Dalton (departed UoA to return to Ireland to become a Patent Advisor), Sunali Metha (departed UoA to join University of Otago as a Research Fellow), Kimiora Henare (departed UoA on a Research Sabbatical in Canada).

Other members:

Andrea Kwakowsky, Raewyn Poulsen, Simon O'Carroll, Manisha Sharma, Swarna Gamage, Jesse Ashton and Sachin Thakur, Sumudu Ranasinghe, Jacelyn Loh, Clare Reynolds, Bianca Heilman (departing UoA 2018), Susann Beier (departed UoA to UNSW 2017).

Committee structure:

2 Co-Presidents (Brie Sorrenson & Kate Lee)

2 Secretaries (Anita Muthukaruppan & Verity Oliver)

1 Treasurer (Andrea Kwakowsky)

5 Subcommittees (Scientific, Professional Development, Grants Communications, Networking) and specialized events committees each with their own subcommittee leader

Committee meets once a month to strategically plan all events and subcommittees or event committees meet as required to run individual events and brainstorm. Charter established for the organization in 2015.

AGM held in July (40 attendees) and new Committee Leadership elected.

ACTIVITIES

Scientific Events:

1. Methods lunch on Super Resolution Microscopy in June.
2. Half day "Postdoc Symposium" showcasing FMHS Postdoc research in July.
3. International invited speaker Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea "Beyond the Issues: progressive national initiatives to transform the face and culture of STEMM in Australia", December 2017.

Planned Scientific events for 2018: Ethics information session (human & animal, this may also include a session on tissue banking), Half-day

Annual Postdoctoral Symposium in July – increase the scale of this to represent something more closely aligned with HealthX, International speaker (possibly Dr Elizabeth Iorns), Genetic technologies methods lunch.

Professional Development Events:

1. Early career researcher specific PBRF information and crafting workshops and weekly drop-in help sessions (February – October)
2. International invited speaker Prof Peter Torzilli "Grant writing and the art of grantmanship" in March.
3. Invited speaker Prof Gavin Martin "Grant writing: how to sell big ideas in a small amount of space" in April.
4. MPPT and AMRF grant panel session in May.
5. "How did they do that" half day event on activities that will improve your CV (e.g. getting on grant review panels, journal editorial boards, international committees).
6. Networking and career development event "Top 3 tips for having a successful career in academia or industry" at Tamaki in conjunction with PGSA in August.
7. Established Lecturing evaluation and peer review platform. Collated teaching database for future teaching development.

Planned Professional Development Events for 2018: CV/promotions workshop, alternative careers event in conjunction with Faculty of Science postdoctoral society, how to be a SMART postdoc session, grant budgeting and salaries workshop.

Grant Events:

1. Two funding rounds were held for publication and travel grants (February 2017 and August 2017). In the first round we awarded 3 publication grants from a total of 9 applications and 3 travel grants for travel to conferences and workshops from a total 13 applications. In the second round we awarded 2 publication grants from a total of 3 applications and 5 travel grants from a total of 17 applications.
2. Facilitated the ThermoFisher sponsored consumables award (\$2,500) for Research Fellows that was awarded in April.
3. Established a second Research consumables award (\$5,000) for Research Fellows sponsored by In Vitro Technologies that was awarded in August.

Planned Grant Events for 2018: Two rounds of publication grants (February and July). Two rounds of travel grants (February and July), continuation and increased exposure of grant peer review

platform, ThermoFisher and In Vitro Tech sponsored awards will be repeated. Aiming to approach additional companies to establish additional sponsored awards.

Communication Activities:

1. Fortnightly Postdoc newsletter – the Postdoc Journal.
2. Facebook group for updates on events relevant to FMHS postdocs.
3. Twitter account to raise profile of the society within the social networking arena, used to communicate details of our events and also to promote the research done by FMHS Postdocs.
4. Ongoing contact and joint events with SBS postdoc group and newly formed Faculty of Science postdoc group.
5. FMHS PDS website under development.

Planned Communication Activities for 2018:

Continuation of current communication approaches including FMHS PDS website: This will help us to advertise our events (via a calendar of events and event posters), hold surveys, and will also be a repository for useful information gathered during seminars and workshops.

Networking Events:

1. FMHS Postdoctoral Society 2nd birthday celebration held in April.
2. 10-pin bowling night in June.
3. Annual FMHS PDS vs PGSA Quiz night held at Superfino Café in August Prof Andrew Shelling as the Quiz Master (over 100 attendees, at least 6 postdoc teams).
4. Halloween BBQ to celebrate Postdocs at Outhwaite Park in October.
5. Christmas Carnival celebration for all Faculty members in December.

Planned Networking Events for 2018: PDS 3rd birthday party in April, Postdoctoberfest or celebration for Halloween in October, Postdoc vs Student Quiz night, escape room night, Postdoc Coffee Club in place of Happy hour to increase engagement, Christmas event.

Other events/activities:

1. Attendance at the Royal Society of New Zealand National Diversity Consortium Working group.
2. Sponsorship and HealthX judging for HealthX Elevator Pitch prize in September.
3. Representation on Faculty Research Committee and Equity Committee (when required).
4. Representation at Faculty Meetings.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

Budget

- Funding of \$30,000 from the Dean's Strategic Fund for 01 Jan 2017 to end Dec 2017 so as to align with the end of the financial year, \$23,158 has been spent to-date.

- Expenses have been reduced by self-catering smaller events and using professional University approved caterers only for the larger events.

Scientific Events:

- \$2,537 of the \$9,000 budget spent on events to date. Potentially some additional costs during International speaker visit.
- Attendance has been very good at all events, extremely positive feedback for the Postdoc Symposium which we intend to make an annual event.

Professional Development Events:

- \$2,832 of the \$3,000 budget spent on events to date.
- The half day “how to be a SMART Postdoc” was very popular and feedback suggests it could be run regularly, perhaps every second year

Grants:

- \$11,622 of the \$10,500 budget was spent on travel and publication grants.

Networking Events:

- \$5,189 of the \$6,750 budget spent on events to date, there are remaining costs associated with the Christmas Carnival outstanding.
- Networking events are well attended and many events have become popular annual activities (e.g. BBQ, Quiz night).

Administration/Miscellaneous:

- \$978 of the \$750 budget was spent on miscellaneous and administration items including sponsoring a prize for HealthX and travel of PDS members to the RSNZ Diversity meeting.