



# The Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Association (DCPDA)



## Mission Statement

"For and governed by postdoctoral scholars, the Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Association aims to aid in the professional development of its members, foster a sense of community and identity among them, and enhance their overall experience at Dartmouth College."

## What is a Postdoc?

A postdoctoral scholar ("postdoc") is an individual holding a doctoral degree who is engaged in a temporary period of mentored research and/or scholarly training for the purpose of acquiring the professional skills needed to pursue a career path of his or her choosing.

### The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)

DCPDA is a sustaining member of the NPA, giving Dartmouth postdocs free affiliate membership: <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/home>

## History

In 2008 Melanie Rutkowski set out to establish an institutionally recognized society where postdocs could network, share professional experiences, and receive professional training and counseling for academic and non-academic career options. With the assistance of Elizabeth Bankert, from the Provost Office, and Cindy Tobery, from DCAL, the DCPDA was created.

The newly established organization elected officers who pledged to work hard, increasing the College's awareness of postdocs and their individual needs. With a main focus on career and professional development workshops, the DCPDA hopes to equip postdocs with the tools needed to find and obtain satisfying and fulfilling careers within or outside of academia.

## Elected Officers

### Council Officers (2008-2010)

<b>President</b>	Melanie Rutkowski, Microbiology
<b>Vice President</b>	Kristine Hill, Biological Sciences
<b>Secretary</b>	Maroun Beyrouthy, Pharmacology
<b>Treasurer</b>	Josh Gamsby, Genetics
<b>Faculty Advisor</b>	Guido Memmi, Microbiology

### Social Chair Heads

2008-2009	Louise Hughes, Chemistry
2008-2010	Danica Hickey, Physiology

### Career Development Heads

2008-2009	Sandeep Tamber, Microbiology
2008-2009	Dhana Nair, Biological Science
2009-2010	Jennifer Bomberger, Physiology
2009-2010	Dawoon Jung, Physiology

### Community Service Heads

2008-2009	Hao Xu, Biochemistry
2008-2010	Ian Street, Biological Sciences

## Career Development

### Past workshops

#### Industry Networking Panel (January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
To educate attendees about what it takes to find fulfilling careers outside of academia. A Panelist led discussion.

#### Conflict Resolution Workshop (February 18<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
To help postdocs realize various communication techniques to deal with conflict in the workplace.

#### Peer Teaching: Job Negotiation Skills Movie Night (March 20<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
To educate attendees about various strategies to utilize when negotiating job offers. Peer discussion of recorded presentation, followed by pizza, beer, and the movie "Office Space".

#### Faculty Panel (April 14<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
To provide a "no holds barred" conversation with younger faculty at Dartmouth about what it takes to succeed within academia.

#### Myers Briggs Personality Profile (May 11<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
An intensive and interactive workshop designed to provide postdocs with an in-depth look at their personality types, followed by discussion of adapting their innate skills to current and future job situations.

#### Transformation of an Academic CV into a Resume (June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
Workshop detailing how postdocs can convert their academic CV into resumes that result in a job offer.

### New workshops

#### Communicating Research (October 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
A 3-part hands-on workshop in which postdocs are required to bring a writing sample to the workshop followed by instruction, peer review of writing samples, providing feedback, rewriting and presentation of research description.

#### Beyond the Bench: Science Careers Outside of Academia (October 16<sup>th</sup> 2009)

**Goals**  
Lessons about succeeding in industry, with a focus on effective networking.  
Nicole Hobbs, the Senior Operations Manager at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR), Inc. discussed the path to her current position.

#### Mock Chalk Talk (11/19/09 12-1pm Vail 202)

**Goals**  
Educational session about the ins and outs of chalk-talk presentation for faculty interviewing for tenure-track academic positions.

### More to come

**Grant Writing Workshops**  
**Industry Networking Events**  
**Career development for academia**  
**Speed Science Networking**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU....SUGGESTIONS?**

To be added to the DCPDA mailing list blitz [DCPDA@dartmouth.edu](mailto:DCPDA@dartmouth.edu)  
For upcoming events please visit our website:  
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~provost/postdoc/index.htm>

## Social Events

#### Kick off Reception (24<sup>th</sup> October 2008)

The newly established association held its kick-off reception in DCAL.

#### Winter Party (January 16<sup>th</sup> 2009)

An evening event held in the HOP Faculty Lounge with food and drinks provided.

#### Spring Fiesta (May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009)

A family friendly Saturday afternoon event catered for by Gusanoz Mexican Restaurant at the DOC house.

#### National Postdoc Appreciation Day (September 24<sup>th</sup> 2009)

In honor of the first National Postdoc Appreciation Day, DCAL invited postdocs to a wine and cheese reception.

#### Fall Foliage Hike (October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009)

Dartmouth postdocs and their families and friends hiked to the top of Mount Cardigan, and enjoyed by a BBQ upon their return.

### First Monday

Each month, join us at Salt Hill Pub in Lebanon from 6:30pm on the first Monday of the month for cheap pints and good company.

### Future Events

- ❖ Winter party 2010
- ❖ Spring Fiesta 2010
- ❖ Postdoc Appreciation Day
- ❖ Fall Foliage Hike 2010

## Community Service

### Cover Project

DCPDA is involved with the Cover Project, whose mission is to build community and foster hope through cooperation and fellowship among all home repair and reuse participants.

### Science Café Junior

DCPDA members are involved in Science Café Junior, encouraging middle school students to think and talk about science via informal discussions with a scientist.

### The DCPDA \$1000 Travel Awards & Poster Session

The Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Association (DCPDA) Travel Award is a competitive monetary award sponsoring a Dartmouth postdoc to present their research at a professional conference of their choosing.

## Postdocs Wanted

**The continued success of DCPDA depends on its members willingness to take an active role in its future.**

DCPDA membership is free and open to all postdocs at Dartmouth, who are eligible to vote and run for office. If you have any questions, suggestion, or would like to become involved in the running of the DCPDA please blitz DCPDA or contact one of its officers.