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.national/postdoc.org/home](http://www.national/postdoc.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.

Past workshops

### Industry Networking Panel
**January 22nd, 2009**

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

### Conflict Resolution Workshop
**February 18th, 2009**

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

### Peer Teaching: Job Negotiation Skills Movie Night
**March 20th, 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 14th, 2009**

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

New workshops

### Communicating Research
**October 9th – 14th, 2009**

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

### Beyond the Bench: Science Careers Outside of Academia
**October 16th, 2009**

Goals: Lessons about succeeding in industry, with a focus on effective networking.

### 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.

Career Development

### Transformation of an Academic CV into a Resume
**June 10th, 2009**

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

Social Events

### Kick off Reception
**24th October 2008**

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

### Winter Party
**January 18th, 2009**

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

### Spring Fiesta
**May 3rd, 2009**

A family friendly Saturday afternoon event catered for by Guanox Mexican Restaurant at the IOC house.

### First Monday

- **February 18, 2009**: 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**

Elected Officers

**Council Officers (2008-2010)**

- **President**: Melanie Rutkowski, Microbiology
- **Vice President**: Kristine Hill, Biological Sciences
- **Secretary**: Maroun Beyrouthy, Pharmacology
- **Treasurer**: Josh Gambsy, Genetics
- **Faculty Advisor**: Guido Memmi, Microbiology

**Social Chair Officers**

- **2008-09**: Louise Hughes, Chemistry
- **2008-10**: Danica Hickey, Physiology

**Career Development Chairs**

- **2008-09**: Sandeep Tamber, Microbiology
- **2008-09**: Dhana Nair, Biological Science
- **2009-2010**: Jennifer Bomberger, Physiology
- **2009-2010**: Dawoon Jung, Physiology

**Community Service Chairs**

- **2008-09**: Hao Xu, Biochemistry
- **2008-10**: Ian Street, Biological Sciences

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.

Evolutionary Development

- The DCPDA $1000 Travel Awards & Poster Session
- The Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Association (DCPDA) Travel Award is a competitive monetary award sponsored by Dartmouth postdocs 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.