

Annual Report

April 2015 - March 2016



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Founding members: Verity Oliver, Martin Chopra, Karen Bishop, Cherie Blenkiron, Anita Muthukaruppan, Catherine Bacon, Jimmy Dalton, David Musson, Brie Sorrenson (on maternity leave), Sunali Metha (departed UoA)

New members: Jie Zhang, Kate Lee, Carol Greene, Jen Hollywood, Catherine Tsai, Kimiora Henare.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

2 Co-Presidents (Verity Oliver & Martin Chopra)
1 Treasurer (Catherine Bacon)
5 Subcommittees (Communications, Professional Development & Teaching, Social, Scientific, Grants)

The committee meets once a month to strategically plan all events. The subcommittees meet as required to run individual events and brainstorm. We have established a charter for the organisation.

ACTIVITIES

Scientific Events:

1. Methods lunch on Statistics with Nicholas Knowlton and the FMHS biostatisticians in July 2015 (35 attendees).
2. Methods lunch on Bioinformatics with Cris Print in September 2015 (45 attendees).
3. Science and Innovation seminar with Kenneth Husted in October 2015 (30 attendees).

Collating a list of Research Fellows and their area of expertise to link up potential new collaborations (50 responses to date)

Upcoming scientific events: 3 minutes methods mini symposium for Research Fellows and final year PhD students scheduled for 26th February 2016; invite international speakers for seminars.

Professional Development Events:

1. AMRF Grant panel discussion with staff members from the FMHS Research Office, previous recipients and a faculty member of the grant review panel in July 2015 (35 attendees).

2. ResearchGate and Twitter workshop with Research Support Services in November 2015 (20 attendees).
3. Marsden EOI workshop with staff members from the FMHS Research Office, and previous recipients in December 2015 (40 attendees).
4. MPPT grant application workshop with a faculty member of the grant review panel in February 2016 (30 attendees).
5. Establishing a Grant Application Peer Review Platform for Research Fellows.

Upcoming professional development events: PBRF information session on 9th March 2016 (together with the CBR Early Career Researcher Group); alternative careers workshop; "How to be a Postdoc at UoA" series.

Teaching Events:

1. Teaching Peer Review Workshop together with Susan Carter from CLear in September 2015 (10 attendees).
2. Establishing a Lecturing Peer Review Platform for Research Fellows (two peer reviews in semester 2/2015)
3. Collating a spreadsheet to link Research Fellows interested in lecturing/lab teaching with open opportunities (liaising with the FMHS teaching hub).

Upcoming teaching events: Half-day teaching workshop in cooperation with CLear and the FMHS teaching hub.

Travel and Publication Grants:

Two funding rounds were held (June 2015 and Feb 2016). In our first round, we awarded 5 publication grants (totalling \$5,000) and 4 travel grants (totalling \$3,500). For the current ongoing round, we expect to award 4 publication grants (totalling \$4,000) and 6 travel grants (totalling \$5,500).

The grant applications are scored by Research Fellows and Senior Research Fellows drawn from a list of volunteers from FMHS and overseen by 2 members of the committee.

FMHS Postdoctoral Society



Communication with Postdocs:

1. Establishment of an email address for Postdocs to contact with enquiries
2. Weekly newsletter containing relevant PDS and University events
3. FaceBook group for daily updates on events relevant to Postdocs

Networking Events:

Images from our networking events are shown above.

1. Launch event held on the 22nd April 2015. 80 attendees, including faculty members.
 2. Speed networking event based on speed dating for Postdocs ran in May 2015 (30 attendees).
 3. PDS vs PGSA quiz night held at Cafe85 in August 2015. Over 100 attendees including 4 Postdoc teams. Prof Andrew Shelling as quiz master.
 4. "PostDoctoberfest" held in Outhwaite Park in October 2015. Over 50 attendees.
 5. "Christmas at the Races" event at Ellerslie Racecourse in December 2015 (15 attendees).
- Monthly networking "Happy Hour Friday" events held in Cafe85

Upcoming networking events: St Patrick's Day event in March; networking event on Tamaki Campus.

Additional Activities:

1. Panel discussion for senior PhD students about careers as postdocs in June 2015
2. Representation at the SMS career event in September 2015
3. Meeting with the UoA Vice Chancellor to discuss issues concerning the APR process in September 2015
4. Meeting with the SBS Postdoctoral Society in September 2015. Kate Lee has joined the FMHS from the SBS, and is an ongoing contact with this group.

BUDGET

Networking Events:

1. \$4355 of the \$6100 budget spent to date with 1-2 social events still to come in the financial year.
2. Attendance has been very good at the larger events.
3. Savings made by economising on catering have allowed 4 additional events to be run.
4. Tamaki events have proved more difficult to organise but something is planned within this financial year.

Professional Development:

1. \$1487 of the \$6400 budget spent to date with a speaker event with a Population Health interest planned.

FMHS Postdoctoral Society

2. Methods lunches and grant seminars have proved very popular, being well attended.
3. Another 2 Methods events and another PostDoc Professional Development event planned with \$1400 budgeted

Travel and Publication Grants:

1. Two rounds for publication and travel grants have been set up: July and January
2. \$8500 of the \$17000 was awarded in the first round (July, 2015) but \$1400 outstanding has been carried over to January.

Administration/Miscellaneous:

1. \$74 of \$1000 has been spent (on miscellaneous gifts).
2. Administration costs have been kept to a minimum and no separate bank account was needed this year.

Overall:

1. So far, \$13015 of \$30500 has been spent.
2. An additional \$9000 is to be awarded in grants.
3. An additional \$1400 expenditure is planned for upcoming networking events.
4. An additional \$1400 expenditure is planned for upcoming professional development events.
4. An additional \$2500 expenditure is planned for Tamaki speaker(s), with follow up networking event.
5. Currently, a surplus of \$3185 unspent funds is forecast.