



## FMHS Postdoctoral Society

### End-of-Year Report

2018

---

#### COMMITTEE

##### Committee as of July 2018:

Co-Presidents: Brya Matthews (SRF, MMP) & Catherine Tsai (RF, MMP)

Secretaries: Shikha Pundir (RF, Liggins) & Jacelyn Loh (SRF, MMP)

Treasurer: Erika Freemantle (RF, Anatomy)

Committee: Cherie Blenkiron (SRF, MMP), Lorna Daniels (RF, Physiology), Ben Dickson (RF, ACSRC), Carol Greene (RF, Ophthalmology), Jennifer Hollywood (RF, MMP), Rashika Karunasinghe (RF Physiology), Andrea Kwakowsky (RF, Anatomy), Kate Lee (RF, MMP), Bobbi Laing (RF, Nursing), Reuben McGregor (RF, MMP), Jordan McIntyre (RF, Paediatrics), Anita Muthukaruppan (RF, O&G), Mitchell Nye-Wood (RF, Optometry), Simon O'Carroll (SL, Anatomy), Zhenzhen Peng (RF, MMP), Raewyn Poulsen (RF, Medicine), Sumudu Ranasinghe, Clare Reynolds (SRF, Liggins), William Schierding (RF, Liggins), Manisha Sharma (L, Pharmacy), Samantha Simkin (RF, Ophthalmology), Sachin Thakur (RF, Ophthalmology), Jie Zhang (RF, Ophthalmology).

Brie Sorrenson (departed UoA for industry job, June 2018), David Musson (stepped down Feb 2018)

##### Subcommittees

Professional Development (led by Kate Lee)

Grants (led by Cherie Blenkiron and Jie Zhang)

Events/networking (led by Jennifer Hollywood)

Communications/website

SUMMIT organising committee (led by Anita Muthukaruppan)

Committee meets once a month to strategically plan all events. 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 in 2018

##### Scientific Events:

1. Inaugural "SUMMIT Postdoc Symposium" showcasing FMHS Postdoc research in July.

The scale of this year's annual symposium was increased to a half-day event. The program included guest speaker David Cameron (2018 Young New Zealander of the Year) who gave a fascinating talk about his experience developing online educational tools, and enthusiastically participated in the remainder of the meeting, including as a judge for the elevator pitch section. The programme also included two invited speakers from the faculty (Dr Troy Merry and Dr Katie Burns), 7 short presentations, and 7 elevator pitch presentations. We were fortunate to receive sponsorship of a \$3000 travel award for the winning talk from AMRF (awarded to Marie-Claire Smith, Medicine), and a \$1000 consumables grant from ThermoFisher Scientific for the winning elevator pitch (awarded to Mitchell Nye-Wood, Optometry). The event was well attended, with at least 100 attendees during the event, and feedback from attendees was extremely positive. The event concluded with a networking session involving drinks and nibbles that was also well attended.

2. International invited speaker Dr Jenny Van Eyk

Dr Van Eyk gave two talks, one about science "Medicine and Me: role of proteomics in personalised health", and one about developing her successful research career, "Lesson I've Learned", August 2018.

##### Professional Development Events:

1. "How to Postdoc" half day event summarising essential knowhow for all levels of research career, from "planning on doing a postdoc" to "heading for promotion". The programme included tips for general career planning, grant application and management, publishing and overseas career opportunities, ADPR and the promotion process. This session proved popular, with around 70-80 attendees.
2. "Un-alternative Careers for Postdocs" event presenting a panel of ex-postdocs (Dr Verity Todd, Clinical Research Fellow at St Johns NZ; and Dr Jonathan Robson, Senior Clinical Research Scientist at Fisher and Paykel Healthcare) as well as Julie Cressey, Career Consultant from OCG, talking about how to utilise the skills acquired during PhD and postdoc training to embark on a non-academic career path. We had over 50 people attend the session, including a number of PhD students.
3. Summary documents of the past Professional Development Events ("How did they do that" in 2017, "SMART Postdoc" in 2016) have been compiled and uploaded on the PDS website.

Grant Awards:

1. Two funding rounds were held for travel grants (in February 2018 and July 2018). Round one had 12 applications, and four \$1,000 awards were made, all for international travel (only 3 were claimed due to movement of one awardee to AUT). Round two had 5 domestic and 14 international applications. Three domestic (\$500) and four international (\$1,000) were awarded. In total \$8,554 was awarded for travel grants to support 10 people.
2. The publication grants moved onto a rolling system, first come first served and judged against the applications for prior funded awards. In 2018, 5 grants were awarded at up to \$1,000 each (total \$4295).

Communication Activities:

1. The FMHS PDS [website](#) had been revamped and restructured, and is now an active platform for promoting our events and providing useful resources aimed at postdoctoral researchers. It now appears in Google searches.
2. Monthly newsletter – distributed to the FMHS Research list.
3. Facebook group for updates on events relevant to FMHS postdocs.
4. Twitter account to raise profile of the society within the social networking arena.

Networking Events:

1. Coffee Mondays at Superfino Cafe have become a popular monthly event for FMHS postdocs to mix and mingle. These have consistently attracted about 25-30 people, with people from all over the faculty represented, and different people attending each month. This event was expanded to cover 10 months of the year (up from the originally proposed 8 events) because of its success.
2. FMHS Postdoctoral Society 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration held in April in conjunction with a coffee function.
3. Annual FMHS PDS vs PGSA Quiz night held at Superfino Café in September (over 100 attendees, 5 postdoc teams). Postdoc teams took out 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and retained the trophy.
4. Halloween BBQ for Postdocs and their families at Outhwaite Park in October. This event attracted at least 30 postdocs, some with children and family members.
5. A Christmas celebration for all Faculty members is planned for 12 December.

Other events/activities:

1. Sponsorship and HealthX judging for HealthX Elevator Pitch prize in September.
2. Representation on Faculty Research Committee.
3. Representation at Faculty Meetings.

## BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

### Budget

- Funding of \$30,000 received from the Dean's Strategic Fund for 01 Jan 2018 to end Dec 2018, actual and projected spending is documented in the table below.
- Expenses have been carefully planned by self-catering smaller events and using the more costly University approved caterers only for the larger events.

<b>Event Description</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pending</b>
<b>Networking Events</b>			
Coffee club	\$400	\$1,010	\$200
Birthday Party	\$300	\$257	
Postdoc vs Student Quiz	\$1,500	\$1,384	
Halloween event	\$1,400	\$1,425	
Christmas Party	\$1,200		\$1,300
<b>Scientific Events</b>			
SUMMIT symposium	\$4,500	\$5,756	
International speaker	\$5,000	\$2,928	
<b>Professional Development</b>			
Careers event	\$2,000	\$372	
How to postdoc	\$1,000	\$1,288	
<b>Grants</b>			
Publication grants	\$4,000	\$4,295	
Travel Grants			
- 2 rounds of \$3,500	\$7,000	\$8,554	
<b>Admin/ Other</b>			
Printing, gifts, prizes, miscellaneous	\$700	\$424	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$27,691</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>

There was variance from the proposed budget in a few areas. Most notably, Coffee Mondays, which were a new initiative, proved popular, and demand was much greater than what we had budgeted for. We also increased the proposed 8 events to 10 monthly events. We will increase the budget for these next year. The SUMMIT symposium incurred higher than expected costs, primarily due to catering expenses. Given the great attendance, we will increase the proposed budget for next year. We also awarded more travel grant funding than originally planned, due to the high quality and volume of applications.

### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2019**

*Scientific events:* We will repeat our flagship event, SUMMIT, in a similar format to 2018 in July. We hope to receive continued support from AMRF and ThermoFisher as sponsors of awards. We will approach additional companies to establish additional sponsorship.

We will invite an international speaker to present and meet with interested staff members. We also plan to organise at least two lunchtime method-focused sessions/Meet the Expert sessions.

*Professional development:* Given the popularity and positive feedback received from the events this year, we plan to run another 'How to Postdoc' workshop with a slightly different focus (e.g. grant writing, research project management), as well as another career-focused event. In addition, we plan to organise an IP seminar or seminars in association with Uniservices, grant writing workshop, and an ethics information session (human & animal, may also include a session on tissue banking). We will engage the PGSA in the organisation of some of these events – in particular, 'How to postdoc' sessions aimed at early career investigators will be useful to late stage graduate students, to ensure that students know they are also encouraged to attend.

*Grants:* Publication grants will be awarded on a rolling basis with advertising throughout the year. We will also run two rounds of travel grants (February and July). We have refined our selection criteria and application forms to streamline applications as much as possible.

*Communication activities:* Given we now have a website that is functional, appears on search engines, and is regularly maintained, we can use this as a platform for providing useful resources to researchers. We also hope to engage with faculty management to improve the training resources provided to new staff members. In addition, we will continue our current newsletter, and social media presence to advertise upcoming events and other information relevant to our members. We will also continue using online surveys to gather feedback and comments about our events.

*Networking events:* We expect to retain our current schedule of social/networking events, which continue to prove popular. Postdoc Coffee Mondays will continue on a monthly basis. We will combine some with 'Meet an Expert' sessions where we invite staff members with specific expertise that will be of interest to some of our members. Our 4<sup>th</sup> birthday party celebrations will be held in April, Postdoctoberfest/Halloween in October, Postdoc vs Student Quiz night during August/September and a Christmas event in December.