About the Boston Postdoc Association

The Boston Postdoctoral Association (BPDA) is a 16-member consortium of Boston-area academic postdoctoral associations and industry postdoctoral scholars representing approximately 9,000 postdoctoral scholars. The BPDA was established in 2012 to support the professional development and advocacy needs of these early career researchers and to aid in the retention of highly trained STEM researchers in the fields of life sciences, engineering, mathematics, physics and data science.

Our members include the postdoctoral associations of Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston University, Brandeis University, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the Broad Institute, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Joslin Diabetes Center, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Massachusetts General
Hospital, MIT, Tufts University, and the Whitehead Institute and postdoctoral scholars from the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research.

Since January 2016, the BPDA has hosted monthly career development, social, and advocacy events. In the last year, we have attracted over 2,000 attendees to workshops, seminars, career panels, and other professional development events. The large number of academic research institutions as well as pharma, biotech, and high-tech companies in the Boston area provides a unique opportunity for cutting-edge multidisciplinary research and career advancement.

"Research is creating new knowledge."

-Neil Armstrong

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For postdocs, by postdocs

Our leadership, programming, and partnerships are driven by Boston area postdoctoral scholars focused on improving the training opportunities of our peers and colleagues.
Our 2016-2017 goals

1. To facilitate collaboration between postdoctoral associations from different institutions across the Boston area.
2. To provide programming on training and career development for Boston area postdocs.
3. To provide social and professional networking opportunities.
4. To identify common issues affecting postdocs in the Boston area.
Our 2016-2017 Accomplishments

1. Events:

We organized and executed over 20 individual events in 2016-2017 across the three different committees: career development, social and advocacy with 2,000 registrants and approximately 1,000 attendees.

2. Poster presentations and the NPA:

We represented the BPDA at the annual NPA meeting with 2 posters: a cross-institutional comparison of benefits for postdoctoral fellows highlighting the best benefits across Boston, and a poster discussing the BPDA as a novel model for postdoctoral trainee-led professional development activities.

3. Symposia and large scale events:

Our first postdoctoral symposium, B-SoCCS, was held at the Broad Institute and was very successful with over 300 attendees and over 100 speakers and networking guests.

We are also hosting our first multi-week course hosted at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute focused on training for careers in patent law and technology transfer.
The National Postdoctoral Association meeting is an opportunity for postdocs and postdoctoral officers to meet, networking and exchange ideas. This year’s meeting was held in San Francisco, CA in March 2017. The BPDA presented two posters on the efforts of the BPDA advocacy committee’s benefits spreadsheet (http://bostonpostdocs.org/advocacy/benefits/) and on the BPDA as whole. Additionally, two collaborations resulted from this meeting allowing Boston area postdocs to gain additional training opportunities.

Posters from NPA 2017

The BPDA Advocacy committee presented a poster on Postdoctoral benefits across the BPDA members in a poster session at NPA 2017. This collaborative effort between PDAs and PDOs resulted in the first comprehensive dataset of Boston area postdoctoral benefits.
Leaders from institutions across the BPDA worked together to compile an overview of all the events offered by the BPDA. Highlights included the number of institutions involved in planning and attending, the type of events and the benefits of collaboration at a regional level.
Symposia and large scale events

The Boston Postdoctoral Association
Symposium on Careers and Collaboration in Science (BSOCCS)

**Brief description:** On June 16-17 2017, the Boston Postdoctoral Association hosted our first annual career symposium at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, focused on strategies to nurture academia-industry collaborations.

This symposium was a unique platform for young investigators to establish new relationships and gain new perspectives. We hoped to facilitate increased collaboration between researchers in academia and industry and to provide practical tools necessary to enhance the professional development of early career researchers.
Speakers included Dr. Jay Bradner, President of Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Dr. Phil Sharp, MIT Institute Professor and Nobel Laureate and Dr. Dan Jay, Professor, Tufts University plus nearly 50 other panelists and workshop leads. For more information, please visit our symposium website at http://www.BSOCCS2017.org

Duration: 1.5 days
Format: Mixed. Scientific talks and posters, workshops, panels and networking

BPDA mini-course: Fundamentals of patent law course

Brief description: Understanding the patent process can be very beneficial for postdocs as they are often the actual innovators in the labs. Attendees will gain an understanding of Patent Law terminology, the rules of patentability, how to conduct a patent search, different components involved in writing a patent application, an overview of the patent prosecution process

Duration: 10 weeks
Format: Lecture based with discussion
Class size: 41 with participants from MIT, Children’s, MGH, HMS, Broad Institute, Tufts, Dana-Farber, HSPH and Joslin
Data by institution

Amgen
Total Registration: 7
Most popular events: R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Ice Skating (January 2017), Career Fair (December 2016), Bi-monthly networking nights

AstraZeneca
Total Registered: 11
Most popular events: R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Career Fair (December 2016), Career Fair (September 2017), Quiz bowl at Aeronaut Brewing (September 2016), Trivia Night (March 2017)

Biogen
Total Registered: 2
Most popular events: Career Fair (December 2016)

BIDMC
Total Registered: 52
Five most popular events: R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Ice Skating (January 2017), Career Fair (December 2016), Data Science Career Panel and Networking Night (February 2017), Bi-monthly networking nights

Boston Children’s Hospital
Total Registered: 243
Five most popular events: Bi-monthly networking nights, Ice Skating (January 2017), Career Fair (December 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Data Science Career Panel and Networking Night (February 2017),
Brandeis University

Total Registered: 14

Most popular events: Quiz bowl at Aeronaut Brewing (September 2016), Career Fair (December 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), American Chemical Society Career Development Workshop at Harvard University (August 2017), Data Science Career Panel and Networking Night (February 2017)

Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Total Registered: 97

Most popular events: Bi-monthly networking nights, Ice Skating (January 2017), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Career Fair (2016)

The Broad Institute

Total Registered: 135

Most popular events: Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Career Fair (2016), Bi-monthly networking nights, Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017)

Boston Children’s Hospital

Total Registered: 191

Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017)

Boston University

Total Registered: 110

Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Career Fair (2016)
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
**Total Registered:** 159
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Career Fair (2016), Ice Skating (January 2017), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017)

Harvard University
**Total Registered:** 109
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017), American Chemical Society Career Development Workshop at Harvard University (August 2017)

Harvard Chan School of Public Health
**Total Registered:** 36
Most popular events: Ice Skating (January 2017), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), Career Fair (2016), Data Science Panel @ MIT (February 2017), Bi-Monthly Networking Nights

Harvard Medical School
**Total Registered:** 154
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Ice Skating (January 2017), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Trivia Night at Aeronaut Brewing (March 2017), Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017)

Joslin Diabetes Center
**Total Registered:** 34
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Ice Skating (January 2017), Trivia Night at Aeronaut Brewing (March 2017), Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute

**Total Registered:** 54

Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Ice Skating (January 2017), Trivia Night at Aeronaut Brewing (March 2017), Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), American Chemical Society Career Development Workshop at Harvard University (August 2017)

Merck

**Total Registered:** 34


Massachusetts General Hospital

**Total Registered:** 139

Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Ice Skating (January 2017), Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), Ice Skating (January 2017)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Total Registered:** 400

Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Data Science Career Panel and Networking Night (February 2017), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), Ice Skating (January 2017)

Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research

**Total Registered:** 64

Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Career Fair (2016), Trivia Night at Aeronaut Brewing (March 2017)
Pfizer
Total Registered: 20
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Trivia Night at Aeronaut Brewing (March 2017), Career Fair (2016), Ice Skating (January 2017)

Tufts University
Total Registered: 180
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights, Career Fair (2016), Secrets from a Recruiter Panel (October 2016), R&D Career Panel at Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (October 2016), Data Science Panel at MIT (February 2017), Trivia Night at Aeronaut Brewing (March 2017)

UMASS Medical Center
Total Registered: 1
Most popular events: Bi-Monthly Networking Nights

Whitehead Institute
Total Registered: 1
Most popular event: NIH Loan Repayment Program Seminar
## BPDA Sponsored Events (August 2016 - September 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finding Funding: Locating fellowships and research grants as a postdoc</td>
<td>9/21/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night at Lansdowne Pub</td>
<td>9/20/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Financial Management with Harvard University Employees Credit Union</td>
<td>9/19/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPDA Careers Career Fair at the Broad Institute</td>
<td>9/18/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPDA &quot;Fundamentals of Patent Law&quot; course</td>
<td>8/18/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Chemical Society Career Development Workshop @ Harvard University</td>
<td>8/3/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Meadhall</td>
<td>8/2/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH Loan Repayment Program Seminar @ HMS</td>
<td>7/27/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH Loan Repayment Program Seminar @ MIT</td>
<td>7/27/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-SoCCS Symposium</td>
<td>6/16/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Lansdowne Pub</td>
<td>5/10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The BPDA presents: Science Pint Night with the Cambridge Science Festival</td>
<td>4/18/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The BPDA presents: Sci-Art Exhibition @ LabCentral with the Cambridge Science Festival</td>
<td>4/14/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Career Panel and Speed Networking @ Broad Institute</td>
<td>4/5/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Meadhall</td>
<td>3/22/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trivia night at Aeronaut Brewing Company - Friday March 10th</td>
<td>3/10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Science, Informatics and Computer Science Career Panel @ MIT</td>
<td>2/15/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating at Community Ice Skating @ Kendall with</td>
<td>1/29/17</td>
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</tbody>
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the BPDA

BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night at Lansdowne Pub 1/18/17
BPDA Careers Career Fair at the Broad Institute 12/6/16
BPDA Trivia Night 12/2/16
BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Meadhall 11/16/16
BPDA Careers R&D Career Panel and Speed Networking Event @ Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research 10/19/16
Quiz bowl at Aeronaut Brewing 9/23/16
BPDA Careers Secrets from a Recruiter: An Insiders Guide to Getting Your Dream Job 9/21/16
BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Lansdowne Pub 9/7/16
BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Asgard 6/29/16
BPDA Careers Academic Career Panel and Speed Networking 6/1/16
BPDA Careers Networking Pub Night @ Rattlesnake 4/27/16
Committee specific data

Advocacy Committee
Number of events (August 2016-August 2017): 2
Posters presented: 2’ (NPDA 2017, ’1 co-presented with CD committee)
Documents and white papers prepared: 3
Budget: $0

Career Development Committee
Number of events (August 2016-August 2017): 22
Posters presented: 1 (NPA 2017)
Documents and white papers prepared: 0
Number of registrants: 2,312
Budget: ~$6,000

Career Development - Symposium Subcommittee (BSOCCS)
Number of events (Summer 2017): 1
Number of postdoctoral attendees: 300
Number of industry attendees: 50
Number of panelists and speakers: 50
Total posters presented: 77
Total trainee talks: 4
Budget: $13,000

Social Committee
Number of events (August 2016-August 2017): 8’
(3 co-organized with CD committee)
Number of Attendees: 339
Budget: ~$2,000
Budget

FY2016-17

Total 2016-17 expenditures (including external sponsorship)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$8965</td>
<td>($11,940)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDA funded</td>
<td>$6378</td>
<td>($8,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>$2,587</td>
<td>($3,440)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2016-17 expenditures by committee (NOT including external sponsorship)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocations</th>
<th>Percent budget (PDA funded only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advocacy Committee</strong> (events and overhead)</td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Development Committee</strong> (monthly shared events and overhead)</td>
<td>83%, $5,293 ($7,056)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Committee</strong> (events and overhead)</td>
<td>17%, $1,085 ($1,443)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional revenue and expenses include the costs of the BPDA BSOCCS Symposium. As of July 31, 2017 we received $16,106.01 in sponsorship and thus far have $11,855.93 in expenses. We expect to net approximately $2,800 following final expenses.
**FY2017-18**

Minimal budget: $9,250

*Projected FY2017-18 expenditures by committee (NOT including external sponsorship)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allocations</th>
<th>Percent budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>8%, $750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(food for bi-monthly meetings, overhead – website, etc.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy Committee</td>
<td>5%, $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(information sessions, events and speaker fees)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Development Committee</td>
<td>65%, $6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(panels, workshops, networking nights and courses)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Committee</td>
<td>22%, $2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Halloween party, trivia nights, other events)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Future plans

Symposia

Scientific Reproducibility Symposium

Motivated by the ongoing challenges in data reproducibility in both STEM and the Social Sciences, this half day symposium will bring together leaders from the fields of statistics, antibody validation, publishing and experimental methodology to discuss and find solutions for issues facing many postdoctoral scholars. Tentatively scheduled for Winter 2018.

BSOCCS 2018

BPDA Symposium on Careers and Collaboration in Science 2018

Follow the success of BSOCCS 2017, we plan to hold our second annual career development symposium in June 2018. Plans include additional workshops on building transferable skills, increased networking opportunities and the inclusion of additional members of the postdoctoral community including industry postdoctoral scholars, postdocs from the physical sciences and thanks to funding for travel grants postdocs from outside Boston as well.

Upcoming Courses

Entrepreneurship (Expected Winter 2018)

The BPDA Entrepreneurship Course is a 5-week course which will introduce postdoctoral researchers to fundamental concepts of entrepreneurship. It will provide information on resources and avenues available to researchers to start their own life science venture. This course will also provide networking opportunities with a diverse range of professionals in life science entrepreneurship.
**Drug Development (Expected Spring 2018)**

This course will provide an introductory understanding of the drug development process including early stage discovery research (target identification and validation, HTS/HCS and hit to lead optimization, pre-clinical models, ADME, and PKDM, IND filing, FIH studies and clinical study design. This interactive case-based course will be five 2-hour sessions led by experienced industry researchers with time for group discussion and project based learning.
BSOCCS Grant Writing Panel: Susan Gomes (Harvard), Roz Orkin (BCH), Qiaobing Xu (Tufts), Sarah McAleerin (Boston College), Micah Altman (MIT)

Postdocs reviewing their grant writing materials during the BSOCCS grant writing panel

NIBR President Jay Bradner answers questions following his keynote address during BSOCCS 2017

Postdocs listening to young professors discussing their experiences during academic interviews