



MIT Postdoctoral Association

Officer Candidate Booklet, 2016-2017

Elections will be held Friday September 16, 2016 from 12-2 pm in E25-401. Candidates are required to attend and pitch to the postdoc electorate. MIT postdocs must be present to vote at the elections.

Here is the list of candidates:

President

- Safa Jamali
- Mohamed Saad Ibn Seddik
- Augusto Tentori

Vice President

- Kathrin Graetz
- Abeer Olayan

Treasurer

- Jake Martin
- Kiel Ormerod

Corresponding Secretary

- None

Recording Secretary

- Kiel Ormerod

Alumni Committee

- Ahmed Fazly

Advocacy Committee

- Ahmed Fazly
- Thomas Matarazzo
- Augusto Tentori

Community Building and Outreach Committee

- Phalgun Lolur
- Stefan Thiele

Fundraising Committee

- Mohamed Saad Ibn Seddik

Human Affairs Committee

- Kathryn Blakey Dupont

- Meghan Huber

IT/Information Flow Committee

- Pinar Yanardag Delul
- Haomiao Zhang

Orientation Committee

- Jake Martin

Postdoc Initiative Grant (PlnG) Committee

- Elizabeth Stewart

Professional Development Committee

- Mohammad Azad
- Yogesh Dayma
- Ahmed Fazly

Sports Committee

- Jake Martin
- David Zhitomirsky

Candidate Biographies

SAFA JAMALI

Candidate for President

I am a second year postdoc in ChemE with a joint appointment at MechE and MITe as well. Being an international scholar who came here from another institution and is seeking an academic job, I am familiar with challenges that postdocs at MIT are facing in different aspects: visa status, accommodation, adapting to a very different research/work culture, job applications and etc. I believe there's a great potential in the postdoc community at MIT to work with decision-makers here through all those and to significantly enhance the postdoctoral experience for us and for future postdocs coming to MIT. I would be delighted to have your vote to pursue this goal as your representative.

MOHAMED SAAD IBN SEDDIK

Candidate for President & Fundraising Committee

Being brought up in family that values science and leadership, I am usually looking for new challenges where I can learn and grow. I lead different teams previously, working with students and people from the industry. I love interacting with people from different backgrounds and discover different point of views of the same problem. I am most likely not going to continue in Academia, but if the challenge is there, I'm on it!

AUGUSTO TENTORI

Candidate for President and Advocacy Committee

I have served in the PDA this past year as Recording Secretary and Vice President. During this time I have dedicated to both improving the inner workings of the PDA and advocacy for the

rights of Postdocs at MIT. I lead the effort to put together a formal letter to the Institute outlining specific recommendations to address current benefits discrepancies between Fellows and Associates that affect the quality of life of postdocs at MIT. I have also undergone an effort to compile and consolidate PDA resources and put together officer handbooks to ensure efficiency and smooth officer transitions.

I believe that my dedication to the PDA and causes relevant to the postdoc experience at MIT is clear from my record as officer this past year. I have become familiar with PDA structure and also key Institute contacts which will give me the capacity to get things done.

As President, I hope to continue to lobby for equity between Fellows and Associates. I also want to build on the efforts to develop partnerships with the graduate student council and broader Boston Postdoc community. Internally, I hope to develop systems to track accountability and progress of current committees. This will include brief reports which will be posted for review ahead of time to ensure more efficient and productive meetings and also a central document tracking action items.

If I am not elected president, I would like the opportunity to run for advocacy chair so that I can continue my efforts regarding Fellow and Associate benefit equality.

I should be available for the full term of the position.

KATHRIN GRAETZ

Candidate for Vice President

I am Kathrin Graetz and a second year postdoc in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. I served as the corresponding secretary for the last year, which gave me the chance to get to know the PDA, its structure, goals and projects. I started a weekly newsletter to keep the postdoc community informed about everything postdoc related that was going on at MIT and to reduce the amount of e-mails sent out. I would like to use my experience and knowledge of that past year to give the PDA continuity for the future and to advocate for the postdoc community.

ABEER OLAYAN

Candidate for Vice President

Dr. Abeer Al-Olayan is a senior scientist with the EXPEC Advanced Research Center of Saudi Aramco. Abeer has an academic and industrial background with more than 15 years of experience in various components of chemistry. She was an Assistant Professor with the Chemistry Department of Dammam University before joined Saudi Aramco since 2011.

Dr. Olayan was assigned to handle a new focus research area related to chemical products development for Saudi Aramco, directing and managing a number of research initiatives related to the development of new chemical materials/components applicable to reservoir engineering and drilling best practices.

Dr. Olayan is a Co-founder of Network of Arab Women for Science and Technology in Bahrain in 2005 and the first SPE International Professionals in Energy Conference (IPEC) in Kuwait in

2012. She is a member of the steering committee and chairperson of many conferences and workshops, such as Chemindex, Labtech and SPE Specialty Oilfield Chemicals. She served on the Board of Directors at the American Chemical Society - Saudi Arabia section as a first female member in 2010. Abeer is the author of a number of publications and has 5 patents pending approval.

JAKE MARTIN

Candidate for Treasurer, Orientation Committee & Sports Committee

I have been at MIT since August 2015, working in the Koch Institute. I have been serving as the Orientation committee chair since September 2015, during which time we established the postdoc orientation as a regularly-occurring, postdoc-specific orientation that is separate from the general HR orientation. In addition, since June 2016 I have taken over the duties of Treasurer of the PDA. Since then, I have been working to consolidate the expenses of the past few years of the PDA into one easily-accessible document, which will hopefully support and inform the budgeting process for all committees within the PDA. I would like to continue working as the Treasurer for 2016-17 in order to continue the work that I started. However, I would also consider returning to the Orientation committee chair or taking over as the Sports committee chair (I have been an active participant in volleyball on Thursdays and on the intramural soccer team).

KIEL ORMEROD

Candidate for Recording Secretary & Treasurer

Hi, my name is Kiel, I'm a postdoctoral Fellow at the Picower Institute. During my time as a graduate student in Canada I was considerably invested in student politics and governance. I sat as a director for the Graduate Students Association (GSA), from 2010-12, then was voted President from 2012-13, and voted vice-president Finance from 2013-14. During that time I sat on over 20 university committees and advisory groups to the University's President. I have a strong passion for advocating for students rights, as well as promoting mental health and awareness. Our GSA also ran our University's health and dental plan, so I was responsible for a considerably large yearly budget. I am applying for a position as either Recording secretary or Treasurer. I feel I can make a valuable contribution to the PDA in either of these roles, while also finding a way to give back to the MIT and local community.

AHMED FAZLY

Candidate for Advocacy Committee, Alumni Committee & Professional Development Committee

I have been a postdoctoral associate in the Biological engineering department since Aug 2015. I have also had an eclectic background which includes teaching science in a Boston area charter high school, teaching math to children with learning disabilities and working for aid agencies during Sri Lanka's civil war. It would be a distinct honor to serve the postdoc community at MIT.

THOMAS MATARAZZO

Candidate for Advocacy Committee

My name is Tom and as an American, I understand that the US can be a strange and sometimes difficult place to live for foreigners - but I want to help you get your fair shot, make the most out of your time here, and have fun doing so! I've learned that clear communication and awareness are key to problem-solving.

I was born in central New Jersey, USA and studied Civil Engineering at Manhattan College in New York. During that time, I participated in many extracurricular programs and I was the president for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter, in addition to student networking events and field trips, we organized a dodgeball fundraiser event that was highly successful.

While working towards my PhD in Structural Engineering at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, I participated in graduate student senate meetings, I was the president of the Fritz Engineering Research Society (FERS), and an active committee member in other engineering graduate student clubs. FERS duties included regular committee meetings, group promotion, organizing seminars, member initiations/ceremonies, and planning member events/activities (e.g., happy hours, ski-trips, etc.).

I enjoy baseball, cooking, playing music, and listening to music.

PHALGUN LOLUR

Candidate for Community Building & Outreach Committee

I am Phalgun Lolur, a postdoctoral associate from the Green group in Chemical Engineering. I am interested in contesting as the community building and outreach committee chair for the year 2016-2017. I believe I would be a good candidate for the role as it's something I really care about. As postdocs, it's pretty easy to forget about outside world and get lost in research. I think it's important that there would be events where we can go socialize and hangout with fellow postdocs and researchers. I believe I would be able to facilitate such avenues. I come with a background of successfully organizing events on a large scale right from my undergrad days. I am currently serving as the co-chair for the same position as well. I would like to continue building on what we have done so far and keep the activities rolling so that postdocs are more involved with not just their fellow postdocs but the community on a whole.

STEFAN THIELE

Candidate for Community Building & Outreach Committee

I've just started as a co-chair of the Community Building and Outreach Committee recently. We so far organized the BBQ, but there are many more ideas and many more events to come. Hence, I run for another year, so that the CBC can manage to establish a monthly event to build up a more vibrant postdoc community, increase communication and interaction possibilities, and make the MIT campus a welcoming place for new postdocs.

KATHRYN BLAKEY DUPONT

Candidate for Human Affairs Committee

I am a Postdoctoral Fellow in BE. I have served as Chair of Human Affairs since March, and wish to continue serving the MIT community in this capacity through the upcoming year.

As HA Chair, I established the monthly Postdoc Coffee Hour event, which typically draws 50-70 attendees each month. It has been a pleasure to host this event, because it builds connections between Postdocs from all over MIT. I listen to concerns and ideas that Postdocs share with me, and try to connect them with resources and information. I promote events and services available through Human Resources and the Work-Life Center to help postdocs have a positive and enriching experience at MIT.

I have also served as an advocate for MIT postdocs in two ways. First, I serve as a member of the Committee on Race and Diversity, which promotes fair treatment for all members of the community. Second, I have advocated for improving the quality of life for all postdocs by working with Augusto Tentori and the Administration to achieve parity in benefits between Associates and Fellows.

MEGHAN HUBER

Candidate for Human Affairs Committee

My name is Meghan Huber, and I am a new postdoc in Mechanical Engineering. In the past, I've been involved with a Graduate Women in Science and Engineering group, where I helped and led the organization of inclusive events for graduate students and postdocs, such as writing days, panel discussions, and even a "science of cocktails" night. I've also been a part of an NSF-funded program aimed at retaining underrepresented undergraduate students in STEM. As the Human Affairs Chair, I would advocate for everyone to have an equal opportunity to succeed and help ensure that together, we enjoy our time here as postdocs.

PINAR YANARDAG DELUL

Candidate for Information Flow & IT Support Committee

I got my PhD in Computer Science from Purdue, and currently working as a Post-doc at MIT Media Lab.

HAOMIAO ZHANG

Candidate for Information Flow & IT Support Committee

I have served as the IT support committee chair since July 2016 and have put a lot of efforts on maintaining PDA's website server (update certificate, respond to server alerts, etc.) and major social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter). As experienced, I would like to make more contributions to the MIT postdocs' community for the next year.

ELIZABETH STEWART

Candidate for Postdoc Initiative Grant (PlnG) Committee

I served as the PlnG Committee Chair this past year. It was the first year it was a committee of the PDA. As chair, I supported ongoing initiatives and led the efforts to select new initiatives. In the next year, I would propose to get the call for new initiatives out earlier as well as to have a portion of the PlnG budget go towards internal initiatives within the PDA as

many committees come up with ideas during their term and may or may not have funds allocated to initiate their new ideas.

MOHAMMAD AZAD

Candidate for Professional Development Committee

Mohammad Azad is a postdoctoral associate in prof. Allan Myerson's research group in Chemical Engineering at MIT. He is working on the development of solid dosage in an innovative miniaturized, automated, and self-contained pharmaceutical drug manufacturing unit as part of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Pharmacy on Demand (PoD) project. He received PhD (August, 2013) in Chemical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) focused on nanotechnology for pharmaceutical drug's bioavailability enhancement. Before joining at MIT, he worked as postdoctoral researcher in New Jersey Center for Engineered Particulates (NJCEP) and NSF-Engineering Research Center (ERC).

Currently Azad is a member of ChemE postdoc advisory board in MIT. Azad and other board members organized three events (academic job preparation; faculty-industry-postdoc social; grant writing) to benefit ChemE postdocs. Azad worked as Graduate Students Association (GSA) department representative, treasurer of the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE) NJIT student chapter. Outside of the research, he enjoys traveling, driving, swimming and cooking.

YOGESH DAYMA

Candidate for Professional Development Committee

My name is Yogesh Dayma, and I enjoy meeting new people and finding new ways/opportunities to develop professional needs and goals. I am dedicated, outgoing, and a team player.

People find me to be an upbeat, self-motivated, with excellent communication skills.

DAVID ZHITOMIRSKY

Candidate Sports Committee

- Have served on numerous committees during my PhD for various sports activities for graduate students
- Excellent organizational skills
- Understand the importance of pizza and beer, and subsidy thereof
- A real "people person"