The SV Postdoc Association was launched during the spring of 2012, with the following goals:

- Networking
- Organization of career events
- Inform postdocs about interesting events
- Be a gateway for prospective postdocs.

Since then, the SV Postdoc Association Committee has been meeting weekly, organizing several events and setting the roots of our association!

**Committee and general organization**

The committee has currently 12 members, listed in alphabetical order below (former committee members are *italicized*). 11 committee members are postdocs from the Life Sciences (SV) Faculty of EPFL and 1 committee member is a postdoc from the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of UNIL.

Cassano Marco  
Dieppois Guennaëlle  
*Fuerer Christophe*  
Gonneau Christèle (President)  
Kühn Juliane (Treasurer)  
*Lakkaraju Asvin Krishna Kumar*  
Maglica Zeljka  
Neves da Silva Aitana (Vice-President)  
Neyen Claudine  
Steinbusch Laura  
Van der Henst Charles  
Véron Caillier Maïa Victoire  
Wasnick Roxana  
Yazdan Panah Benyamin

The association has 113 members (including committee members), of which 9 are from UNIL, 3 from the CHUV, 2 from UniGe, 2 from companies and the rest being EPFL postdocs. The association also has 9 followers who are regularly informed of our events (but are not eligible as official members since not holding a PhD degree).

The committee meets weekly and each event is organized by a sub-group of self-assigned committee members. The webmasters of the association are Aitana Neves da Silva and Charles Van der Henst (previously, *Lakkaraju Asvin Krishna Kumar*).
Events organized

We have defined four types of series so far: (a) Career series, where 3-4 speakers from academia and/or industry present and discuss their path; (b) Get to know your neighbors series, where 4 postdocs from the four SV institutes present their lab in 5min without data; (c) Social series, to gather and network; and (d) Novartis-EPFL-Unil meetings (NEU), organized in collaboration with the BioScience Network Lausanne, where PhD students and postdocs are invited to submit an abstract and present their work to Novartis and hear about what scientists at Novartis are doing. We have organized the following events so far (names in brackets indicate the people who led the project, although more people may have contributed to its realization):

• 22nd January 2013: Dos and don'ts for candidates in faculty job interviews... A perspective from the hiring committee. With: Pierre Gönzzy, Jeffrey Hubbell, Joachim Lingner. Audience: 110 postdocs and 36 PhD students (Roxana, Aitana).
• 14th February 2013: Starting your own lab... A perspective from the tenure-track professors. With: Melanie Blokesch, Matthias Lutolf, Justine Collier, Etienne Meylan, Céline Cappe. Audience: 59 postdocs and 25 PhD students (Aitana).
• 21st March 2013: Careers in platforms: facilitating academic research. With: Keith Harshman, Arne Seitz, Xavier Warot and David Hacker. Audience: 35 postdocs and 15 PhD students (Benyamin).
• 25th April 2013: 1st Get to know your neighbors. With Charles Van der Henst, Sachin Kotak, Roxana Teisanu and Elpida Tsika. Audience: 40 postdocs and 16 PhD students (Aitana).
• 23rd May 2013: Social series: Vivapoly (Asvin, Benyamin, Claudine).
• 4th July 2013: Social series: Summer BBQ (Christèle, Roxana, Guennaëlle).
• 6th September 2013: 2nd Get to know your neighbors. With: Orbicia Riccio, Alain Kfouri, Andrew Bretscher and Nikolche Gjorevski. Audience ~40 people (Aitana, Roxana).
• 31st October 2013: Careers in Science Fundraising and management. With Iain Old, Sacha Sidjanski and Moira Cockell. Audience: 44 postdocs and 9 PhD students (Zeljka).

Useful information about these events as well as pictures can be found on our website:
http://sv-postdoc.epfl.ch/past_events/2013

Claudine, Benyamin, Aitana, Christèle and Roxana contributed summaries of these events.

Other achievements

The committee discusses and agrees on every topic related to the association. Names in brackets indicate the people who led the project, although more people may have contributed to its realization.

• Statutes of the association can be found on our website (Claudine, Christèle, Aitana): http://sv-postdoc.epfl.ch/association/statuses
• The SV Postdoc Association has become an official EPFL association on the 15th of April 2013 (Christèle).
• The SV Faculty offered us to invite 1-2 speakers/year for the Life Sciences Seminar Series (LSS).
• We have created a LinkedIn group: EPFL SV Postdocs (Christophe).
• We wrote an article in the EPFL Flash Magazine from April 2013 to advertise our association (Claudine, Juliane).
• A first wiki website was created to announce our events (Asvin; website now closed). Once we became an official EPFL association, we created a second website based on the EPFL jahia platform, which gives us access to many tools like the Memento of EPFL (Aitana, Asvin): http://sv-postdoc.epfl.ch/

• We started a monthly newsletter to announce the question of the month, up-coming events and other relevant information (Aitana).

• We have printed 100 A5 flyers of the association in the hope to reach out to newcomers of UNIL and EPFL via the HR welcome pack (Christèle, Laura, Aitana).

• We have started a Postdoc Survey with the support of the SV School of Life Sciences to determine the obvious needs in the community and implement measures to cover them. The survey will close on November 15, 2013 and results will be analyzed shortly after (Roxana, Claudine, Maïa, Aitana).

Collaborations

As can be seen from the list of events organized so far, we have started several fruitful collaborations with:

• BioScience Network Lausanne (contact: Zoltan Spiro)
• Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Basel, for the events mentioned above (contact: Klaus Seuwen).
• SV School of Life Sciences: 1-2 speakers/year for the LSS seminar.
• LS² annual meeting (contact: Julie Deuquet).

Financial report

Incomes

• Donations: 335.50 CHF
• Vivapoly: 210.45 CHF

Expenses

• Bank account should be 76 CHF per year (so far we paid 8.10 CHF)
• Invited speaker for career seminar: 187.29 CHF
• Flyers: 22.50 CHF

The financial report by our Treasurer (Juliane) was audited in September by two members of the association outside the committee, Fernando Romero Balestra and Dietrich Reinhard, who both approved the report:

Dear Juliane,

This e-mail is to confirm that I have checked the postdoc association treasure balance from the beginning of the year and everything is correct.

Best, Fernando

Dear Juliane and Christèle,

As agreed with Juliane, with whom I have gone over the books today (Sept. 27, 2013), I am herewith contributing my report as treasure auditor in the SV postdoc association’s treasure (initial) inspection.

Juliane, the Association’s Treasurer, has shown me an Excel worksheet detailing accounting entries pertaining to the Association’s Credit Suisse account since January, 2013. I was given access to the online banking statements with which I was able to check conformity. Based on this verification I hereby confirm that the Treasurer’s Excel table, a copy of which I have also been sent by email, is complete and accurate. The account’s balance to date (Sept. 27, 2013) is CHF 550.55 (total income: CHF 813.00; total expenses: CHF 262.45).

Two items are listed in the Excel table that are not yet showing on the account:

- “shopping for Vivapoly 2013 (Maia); CHF 35.20”: pending reimbursement, said to be awaiting delivery of relevant receipts);
- “travel costs for speaker communication event (21.11.2013)”; CHF 135.29: to be reimbursed to the
invited speaker. When asked questions about specific entries the Treasurer was able to provide all relevant details and explanations, which fully convinced me that the Association’s treasury is well-kept and in good hands.

For sake of better readability, I might suggest listing income and expense items in separate columns.

In view of the Association’s General Assembly, to be held November 7, 2013, I have recommended to explicitly make apparent sponsorship received from SV (event apéros paid for by SV) that does not appear in the accounting books, both as a way of acknowledgement and for the purpose of exhaustiveness.

I am happy to herewith recommend to the General Assembly accepting the Treasurer’s financial report.

With kind regards, Dietrich

Future events/plans

The committee discusses and agrees on every topic related to the association (names in brackets indicate the people who will lead the project):

- 7th November 2013: General Assembly and 1st anniversary party (Christèle, Aitana, Claudine).
- 21st November 2013: Careers in Science Communication and Outreach, with Farnaz Moser, Delphine Ducoulombier, Tabitha Innocent (Christèle).
- 5th February 2014: We are hosting the session “Non academic careers in science” held at the LS² annual meeting in Lausanne (Maïa, Christèle).
- 11th April 2014: Andrew Read (Penn State University) will give a talk at the LSS series (Zeljka).
- 2nd October 2014: Eske Willersev (University of Copenhagen) will give a talk at the LSS series (Zeljka).
- tba: Careers in scientific sales (Marco).
- tba: Careers in NGOs in Science (Zeljka).
- tba: On-site meeting at the Swiss Integrative Center for Human Health (Laura)
- tba: Careers as a lab manager.
- tba: Careers in a patent office.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to

- The SV School of Life Sciences, who has been supporting our events from the beginning by sponsoring our apéros (~100-120 CHF/apéro).
- RISCOMP GmbH and all our anonymous donors for their generosity.
- Prof. Gisou Van der Goot and Harald Hirling, Deputy of Dean, who supported and encouraged the creation of this association as well as the Postdoc Survey.
- All the speakers who participated to our events.
- The BioScience Network Lausanne for the events that we have set up together.
- Novartis for the collaboration on the NEU meeting, in particular to Klaus Seuwen.
- Fernando Romero Balestra and Dietrich Reinhard for being our independent treasure auditors.
- All the members of the committee for their time and commitment!
- All the members of the association for their interest!
Minutes from the general assembly

Member attendees (22):

The president chaired the session and presented the achievements and events organized by the association, as well as the future events and plans. She explained that the committee wanted to establish a CHF 10.-/year/person fee. The fee was accepted with 21 votes in favor and 1 against. The new president (Aitana Neves da Silva), vice-president (Claudine Neyen) and treasure (Juliane Kühn) were also elected with 22 votes in favor.

Lausanne, 7th November 2013.

Christèle Gonneau  
President  

Aitana Neves da Silva  
Vice-President