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 committee of the SV Postdoc Association has been meeting weekly, organizing several Career, Leadership and Social Events, as well as Workshops and Industry Visits.

**Committee and general organization**

The committee has currently 20 members, listed in alphabetical order below (former committee members are *italicized*). 14 committee members are postdocs from the Life Sciences (SV) Faculty of EPFL and 3 committee members are postdocs from the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of UNIL.

**Current committee members**
Alves Meireles Filho Antonio Carlos - EPFL  
Cassano Marco - EPFL  
De Luca Alba Carla - EPFL  
Dynes Nicola Jane - EPFL (treasurer)  
Gorska Katarzyna - EPFL  
Feretzaki Marianna - EPFL  
Hayward Sherer Cécile - EPFL (secretary)  
Martinez Yannick - UNIL  
Neumann Enrique - UNIL  
Neves da Silva Aitana - EPFL (president)  
Neyen Claudine - EPFL (vice-president)  
Orpinell Mercade Meritxell - EPFL  
Pfeiffer Verena - EPFL  
Rigamonti Nicolo - EPFL  
Romero Balestra Fernando - EPFL  
Sancho Oltra Nuria - EPFL  
Schwalie Petra Catalina - EPFL  
Steinbusch Laura - UNIL  
Valdés Pamela - EPFL  
Van der Henst Charles - EPFL  
Wachowicz Paulina Alina – EPFL

**Committee members who left during the year**
Christèle Gonneau - EPFL  
Maïa Caillier - EPFL  
Roxana Wasnick - EPFL
Yazdan Panah Benyamin - EPFL
Kühn Juliane - EPFL
Maglica Zeljka - EPFL
Dieppois Guennaëlle - EPFL

The association has 174 members (including committee members), of which 120 are from EPFL. Note that not all our members are postdocs, and our events are open to the whole community.

The committee meets weekly and each event is organized by a subgroup of self-assigned committee members. The webmasters of the association are Aitana Neves da Silva, Petra Schwalie and Charles Van der Henst.

Events organized

We currently run five types of series: (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. New format since October 2014: Speed Collaborating; (c) Social series, to gather and network; (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; (e) Workshops.

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):

- 21st November 2013: Careers in Science Communication and Outreach, with Farnaz Moser, Delphine Ducoumbier, Tabitha Innocent. Audience: >100 people (Christèle).
- 9th December 2013: 1st Novartis-EPFL-UNIL Meeting (Laura, Zoltan, Roxana). 20 people.
- 5th February 2014: Non-Academic Careers in Science, hosted by LS2, with Emmanuelle Cornali (Aurigon), Céline Lafourcade (CHUV), VentureLab. Audience: > 100 people (Christèle, Maia)
- 20th March 2014: Get to know your neighbors. Audience: 30 people (Christèle).
- 3rd April 2014: Careers in NGOs, with Gabriela Montorzi, Sylvia Generoso, Julie Torode. Audience: >120 people (Laura).
- 8th April 2014: BioTech start-ups, with David Deperthes from Debiopharm.
- 14th April 2014: Welcome Pizza Lunch. 5 newcomers (Aitana, Nicola, Christèle, Petra).
- 6th May 2014: How does the pharma/biotech work? With Jeff Behrens, Brian Hashemi and Prof. Christopher Tucci. Audience: > 100 people (Verena, Paulina).
- 22nd May 2014: SV Postdoc Association at VIVAPOLY (Nicola).
- 24th May 2014: Workshop: Job-search outside the university for a postdoc in Life Sciences. 15 attendees (Paulina, Verena, Roxana).
- 5th June 2014: Want to improve your soft skills? Get to know the Staff Training Service (STS), the Mediation Team and the Ombudsman for Research at EPFL. With Sonia Cid, Marie Ligier and Bernard Rossier. Audience: 25 people (Verena, Claudine, Aitana).
- 23rd June 2014: Welcome pizza-lunch. 1 newcomer (Christèle, Aitana, Petra, Nicola).
- 18th September 2014: Successful leadership, with Saso Kocevar and Prof. Gisou Van der Goot. Attendance: >100 (Verena, Paulina).
• 29th September 2014: Workshop: How to design good graphics for Life Sciences. With Laura Symul. 15 attendees (Verena). Co-organized with HR SFP.
• 2nd October 2014: Speed collaborating. Attendance: 10 people. (Charles, Claudine).
• 3rd October 2014: LSS Seminar: Eske Willerslev [Charles].
• 15th October 2014: Mini-symposia: Parc Scientifique EPFL. Attendance: 80 people. (Verena, Paulina)
• 23rd October 2014: Job opportunities in industry and academia. With BNF. Attendance: 80 people. (Paulina).

Useful information about these events as well as pictures can be found on our website:
http://sv-postdoc.epfl.ch/past_events/2013
http://sv-postdoc.epfl.ch/past_events/2014
Claudine 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.

• The SV Faculty offered us to invite 1-2 speakers/year for the Life Sciences Seminar Series (LSS). To choose the speakers, we set up a voting system where members could provide the names of potential speakers and then vote.
• LinkedIn group with several discussion: EPFL SV Postdocs.
• We continued the monthly newsletter to announce the question of the month, up-coming events and other relevant information (Aitana). It is appreciated from our members, as shown in this Question of the Month.
• Welcome Page: We have set up a Welcome Page on our website with plenty of useful information for newcomers and printed business cards with the URL of the welcome page to distribute at our events and to the secretaries of SV (Christèle, Petra, Nicola, Aitana).
• Problems Page: We have set up a Problems Page on our website where postdocs can find answers to their questions and look for help available on campus (Claudine, Paulina, Aitana).
• We have finalized the analysis of the Postdoc Survey that was launched 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 results are available online (Claudine, Petra, Aitana).
• Fundraising: We have written a grant proposal and submitted it to KGF. It was unfortunately rejected, but we will resubmit it to other funding bodies (Nicola, Paulina, Verena).

Annual fee

At the last General Assembly, we voted for an annual fee of CHF 10.-/member, to be paid by postdocs on a voluntary basis, giving them priority when registering to workshops. At the next General Assembly, we will propose postdocs to pay a life-long membership fee of CHF 40.-,
giving them priority to workshops and (when possible) reduced workshop registration fees (note that in this case, only people holding a PhD degree will be allowed to pay the fee and hence get priority to workshops).

Collaborations

As can be seen from the list of events organized so far, we have continued several fruitful collaborations with:
- Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research in Basel, for the 2nd edition of NEU (contact: Klaus Seuwen).
- The BioScience Network Lausanne for the 2nd edition of NEU.
- School of Life Sciences for the LSS seminar.

Financial report

Income
Donation from SV
Membership Fees
Vivapoly '14
Interest
Workshop fees
Retreat fees
Total (CHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation from SV</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivapoly '14</td>
<td>538.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop fees</td>
<td>1785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat fees</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (CHF)</strong></td>
<td><strong>9413.63</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenses
Career Events
Social Events
Vivapoly '14
Other (business cards, LS2 poster)
Bank Fees
Workshops
Retreat
Total (CHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career Events</td>
<td>1338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Events</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vivapoly '14</td>
<td>275.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (business cards, LS2 poster)</td>
<td>119.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Fees</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat</td>
<td>2237.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (CHF)</strong></td>
<td><strong>5696.83</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance
income-expenses
brought forward (from 2013)
Balance (CHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>income-expenses</td>
<td>3716.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brought forward (from 2013)</td>
<td>597.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance (CHF)</strong></td>
<td><strong>4314.25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The financial report by our Treasurer (Nicola Dynes) was audited in November by two members of the association outside the committee, Lukas Von Tobel and Alessandro De Simone, who both approved the report.

Future events/plans

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

- 8th December 2014: 2nd Novartis-EPFL-UNIL Meeting (Laura).
- 15th January 2015: Communicating science to the public (Aitana).
- 17th January 2015: Workshop on Job search outside the academia (Pamela).
- 8-9-10th July 2015: EuroTech Postdoc Workshop on soft skills (Aitana, Verena, Petra, Paulina, Antonio).
- tba: Debiopharm Series (Paulina, Verena, Nicolo, Pamela).

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to

- The School of Life Sciences, who has been supporting our events from the beginning by sponsoring our apéros (~100-120 CHF/apéro) and by providing running funds (CHF 6000 CHF).
- The School of Life Sciences for providing administrative assistance in the person of Cécile Hayward Sherer.
- Sascha Sidjanski for helping with the grant proposal.
- Prof. Gisou Van der Goot, Dean, and Harald Hirling, Deputy of Dean, who supported the Postdoc Survey.
- Roland Tormey (CAPE) for his advice on writing the report of the Postdoc Survey and for reviewing it.
- The BioScience Network Lausanne for the NEU event that we have set up together.
- All the speakers who participated to our events.
- Novartis for the collaboration on the NEU meeting, in particular to Klaus Seuwen.
- Lukas Von Tobel and Alessandro De Simone 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!

General assembly - 26th November 2014

Order of the day
- About the SV Postdoc Association
- Accomplishments of the year
- Future projects and events
- Financial report (summary of last year and provisions for next year)
- Membership fee: 40.-/person valid forever.
- Elections: new president (Petra Schwalie), new vice-president (Nicola Brown), new treasurer (Antonio Meireles), new secretary (Cécile Hayward).

Minutes

Members present: 18
Votes were held for a change of membership fee, from 10 CHF yearly to a one-off 40 CHF life-long membership fee. This motion was accepted with 17 out of 18 votes.

The following new committee members were voted unanimously:

President: Petra Schwalie
Vice-president: Nicola Brown
Treasurer: Antonio Meireles Filho

We wish them well in their new positions.

Lausanne, 26th November 2014

Altana Neves da Silva
President

Claudine Neyen
Vice-President