Case Study 1: Reviving a postdoctoral association

You are a young researcher. You defended your thesis, graduated and got offered a postdoctoral position in a field that perfectly matches your skills and interests with a well-known and respected professor. Long story short, it is your dream job and you accept the position without getting too much information about the university itself.

During your first month, you have to attend an orientation session where all the university departments and offices useful for postdocs are presented: Office for Postdoctoral Affairs, International Students Office, Graduate Student Life Center, Office for Career Development and even the University Bar. The amount of information is a bit overwhelming but you are surprised to see that there is no trace of a Postdoctoral Association in the university.

The university is fostering a work-life balance, but nothing is done to help postdocs to have a social life outside of the laboratory/library/hospital. After asking a few questions, you hear that a group of postdocs used to run a postdoctoral association a few years ago but everything shut down when they left the university.

You decide that you should probably do something about it, and you talk to some of your fellow postdocs to create a small team and prepare to revive the postdoctoral association for your university.

The people sitting at your table are your partners to revive the association. Please take some time to introduce yourself to your team and share whether your real life university has a PDA.

This case study has been created to simulate the overwhelming task of creating a PDA. No information will be provided upfront. Your university is full of resources, make sure to use them. You can ask your OPA for example the breakdown of all the postdocs in your university or contact other PDAs at universities of similar size.

For this case study, the presenters will play the role of the university resources. Ask them for all the data you might need.
Case Study 2: Creating a postdoctoral association

You are a young researcher. You defended your thesis, graduated and got offered a postdoctoral position in a field that perfectly matches your skills and interests with a well-known and respected professor. Long story short, it is your dream job and you accept the position without getting too much information about the university itself.

During your first month, you have to attend an orientation session where all the university departments and offices useful for postdocs are presented: Office for Postdoctoral Affairs, International Students Office, Graduate Student Life Center, Office for Career Development and even the University Bar. The amount of information is a bit overwhelming but you are surprised to see that there is no trace of a Postdoctoral Association in the university.

The university is fostering a work-life balance, but nothing is done to help postdocs to have a social life outside of the laboratory/library/hospital. You decide that you should probably do something about it. You talk to some of your fellow postdocs to create a small team and prepare to create a postdoctoral association for your university.

The people sitting at your table are your partners to create the association. Please take some time to introduce yourself to your team and share whether your real life university has a PDA.

This case study has been created to simulate the overwhelming task of creating a PDA. No information will be provided upfront. Your university is full of resources, make sure to use them. You can ask your OPA for example the breakdown of all the postdocs in your university or contact other PDAs at universities of similar size.

For this case study, the presenters will play the role of the university resources. Ask them for all the data you might need.