

ECR Committee Meeting: 20th April 2015

Present: Claire Vincent (Co-Chair: Melbourne), Sophie Lewis (Co-Chair; ANU), Kate Snow (ANU), Laura O'Brien (Monash), Andrea Dittus (Melbourne), Stefan Contractor (UNSW), Viviane Vasconcellos de Menezes (UTAS).

Apologies: Sugata Narsey (Monash), Ruth Lorenz (UNSW), Max Nikurashin (UTAS).

Minutes: Kate Snow

Meeting led by: Claire Vincent.

Update from Chairs

Outline of new committee structure and communication

- Apply co-chair structure (co-chairs: Claire + Sophie) with rotational basis for chairing/attending exec meetings.
- Node update reports will be given at the end of each meeting.
- Every node should have a mailing list (currently as excel spreadsheet) to improve communication/updates. Each node is responsible for maintaining that list. Can also add associate investigators to the list as we see fit.

ARCCSS Exec meeting report (Sophie)

- Reported on our current state: structure, development plans and how we plan to organize our ECR events. Focus over the next year will be on leadership/ funding initiatives.
- Ideas for involvement in national science week; contact Alvin.
- No new updates on rebid status since the annual workshop.
- Annual workshop plan to change, potentially becoming program based rather than center wide. Workshops will then be initiative motivated, and possibly attendable only through invitations.
- We could organize an ECR workshop to allow increased communication/networking among the nodes as this may no longer be available at the annual workshop.

ECR days in 2015

AMOS ECR Day/Event

- Only 25 CoE ECR responded as attending AMOS this year.
- Ideas for event collected from students: 1. three pillars of academic research: teaching, research and community involvement. 2. session about publications (specifically managing the publication process rather than writing). 3. Workshop on conferences e.g. how to best present, develop a poster, network, efficiently use time available, etc.
- Suggestion by Sophie: talk about how to develop best academic career path e.g. how to balance publication output with committee meetings/other commitments. What are good roles for future career development compared to those that will take up too much time without much return?
- Agree time frame of event 1-2 hrs. Hence, need tightly focused agenda.

- All agree conference idea (labeled 3 in first bullet) is suitable and interesting for this case.
- Decide on 3 speakers: a graphic designer to talk about poster design (both technical tools available and how to present it); someone who organizes 3MT to give overview on good presenting methods and is someone not necessarily involved in the conference; someone at the conference who is good at 'conferencing', i.e. has good communication skills, enthusiasm etc.
- Assign Laura, Sophie and Andrea to follow up finding the respective speakers. Need at least one woman on the panel.
- Need to talk to Melissa more about what times are flexible and when to have the event. Previously suggested by Melissa to have it as a sub-events during the ice-breaker.
- Structure: decide 10-15 min talks by each of the speakers followed by question time.

Funding of ECR initiatives

- Agree to put together a formal application form (Sophie will draft this) which we can distribute (via email list and website) to let people know that funding is available.
- Structure: 1 page application that the ECR will assess before forwarding it to Andy Pitman if it proves suitable.
- Also need to clarify and communicate what funding is already available within the CoE (e.g. travel money) so there are no overlaps in funding distribution.
- Main objective of funding: encourage leadership roles within the CoE ECRs.

Update from each node

- Each node sent an email asking for student/ECR suggestions/comments: no responses from any node.
- Stefan: UNSW student meeting provided some ideas such as a training/workshop meeting about transitioning from PhD to ECR, talking about funding, training, etc and the potential for more post-grad course work.
- Melissa is organizing CoE certificate for those who have undertaken suitable coursework. Potentially won't be available for 2-3 years though. Would be good for ECR Committee to have input on this in the future.
- In terms of training, could be good to remind people of ECR day website with links to funding available to researchers in our field, especially as new students/post-docs come through who may not be aware of this.

Other Business

- For agenda next meeting: making minutes available online?
- Next meeting: Monday 1st of June (earlier than usual to allow more time to organize AMOS ECR day) 3.00pm.