What's with those people standing there?

What people?

Them! Right there!

I don't see anybody.

I... I see ghosts!

Actually, we're postdocs.

Yes, postdocs are the invisible people on campus.

Without official status, we wander around like ghosts...

Trapped in this reality until we're called on to the next world!

I thought grad school was limbo.

There's another one after that.
Purdue Postdoctoral Association

PURDUE POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

Dr Valentina Trinetta, Dr Nicole Weber, Dr Charlotte Perrett

First Annual Conference for Pre-Tenure Women
Purdue University 23-24 Sept 2010
BACKGROUND:

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- Postdoc workshop @ UC Davis
- Penn State University
- ASPUL just started at Universite’ Laval (KV)

@ PURDUE

- No local association
- Some ideas

“JUST DO IT!”
Purdue Postdoctoral Association

National Postdoctoral Association

Providing a

National Voice

and seeking

Positive Change

for postdocs
WHY

- Postdocs = sparse population, largely unconnected
- Have similar issues:
  - Information
  - Publish or perish
  - Career choices
- New skills and tasks (teaching, proposal writing)
- Fast turn-over of population (1-3 years)
- Awareness
Start
- August 2009 (VT & KV): email campaign
- First event 24 Sept. 2009: CALL OUT

Communication
- E-mail list
  https://lists.purdue.edu/mailman/listinfo/postdoc
- Web site
  http://author.www.purdue.edu/research/ppda/
  e.g. info by PFF, CIE, ...
- Survey (March '10, 106 participants)

Professional development and interaction

Social interaction

Defining and promoting the PPDA
The mission of the PPDA is to improve conditions for postdoctoral researchers at Purdue University...

**Primary goals** of the PPDA Council include:

1. To strive for the **professional enrichment and development** of postdoctoral researchers at Purdue.

2. To **develop and maintain a platform for social and professional interaction** among postdoctoral researchers and between postdoctoral researchers and the body of students, staff members and faculty members at Purdue.

3. To clearly **define and communicate the postdoctoral status** at an institutional level and to **promote awareness** of the contributions of postdoctoral researchers to Purdue University and to the sciences and humanities in general.
Purdue Postdoctoral Association

PPDA council
Purdue Postdoctoral Association

PPDA today

Reached postdocs on campus (est. 300)

Deans of the Colleges

Dept heads in STEM

Assoc. Deans of Research

CIE

OVPR

PGSG

I-GRASP

National Postdoctoral Association

Grad. Sch. Admin.
Dr Nicole Weber

be a mother and a Postdoc
Dr Charlotte Perrett
be an international Postdoc
Be an International Postdoc
Be an International Postdoc

From England to Indiana in 4 easy steps!

★ BSc (Hons) Microbiology from Warwick University

★ PhD, Dept. Biochemistry, Bristol University

★ Postdoc, School of Veterinary Sciences, Bristol University

★ Postdoc in Biological Sciences, Purdue
Be an International Postdoc

How to find a Postdoc abroad

• Contacts
  - Supervisor
  - Colleagues
  - Conferences

• Job adverts
  - Journals
  - University websites
  - Society websites/conferences
  - Job finding websites

• Making enquiries directly to PIs
What to consider before accepting a Postdoc position abroad

• Research group’s history
• Research culture
• Institution
• Career development
• Funding, salary and benefits
• Visa issues
• Local area
• Culture of country
• Support
Pros and Cons of performing research abroad

**Pros**

- Experience a different research culture
- Chance to work in well-equipped, well-funded, cutting edge laboratories
- Chance to develop new research skills
- Chance to make contacts/networks
- Find out about a different culture/environment
- Make new friends
- Learn a new language
- Better weather!

Great for CV and career development
Pros and Cons of performing research abroad

Cons
- Different research culture
- May miss out on professional/funding opportunities in native country
- Different culture/values
- Different language
- Starting from scratch
- Visas!
- Expensive
- Away from family and friends