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

- Networking
- Organizing career events
- Informing postdocs about interesting events in the local area
- To be a gateway for prospective postdocs and new arrivals

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 18 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 2 committee members are postdocs from the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of UNIL.

*Current committee members*
Alpern Daniil - EPFL  
Alves Meireles Filho Antonio Carlos - EPFL  
Asadzadehtabrizi Jamshid - EPFL  
Cassano Marco - EPFL  
De Luca Alba Carla - EPFL  
Dynes Nicola Jane - EPFL (vice-president)  
Feretzaki Marianna - EPFL  
Hayward Sherer Cécile - EPFL (secretary)  
Neyen Claudine - UNIL  
Reckel Sina Maren - EPFL  
Schwalie Petra Catalina - EPFL  
Solanes Paola - EPFL  
Sorrentino Vincenzo - EPFL  
Steinbusch Laura - UNIL  
Thacker Vivek Vijay - EPFL  
Thomas Courtney - EPFL  
Valdés Pamela - EPFL  
Van der Henst Charles - EPFL

*Committee members who left during the year*
Gorska Katarzyna
Martinez Yannick - UNIL
Neumann Enrique - UNIL
Neves da Silva Aitana - EPFL
Orpinell Mercade Meritxell - EPFL
Pfeiffer Verena - EPFL
Rigamonti Nicolo - EPFL
Romero Balestra Fernando - EPFL
Sancho Oltra Nuria - EPFL
Wachowicz Paulina Alina – EPFL

Former committee members

Christèle Gonneau - EPFL
Maia Caillier - EPFL
Roxana Wasnick - EPFL
Yazdan Panah Benyamin - EPFL
Kühn Juliane - EPFL
Maglica Zeljka - EPFL
Dieppois Guenñaëlle - EPFL

The association has 231 members (including committee members), of which 144 are from EPFL, and 45 of which are full (paying) members. 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 Sina Reckel, 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 career path; (b) Social series, to gather and network; (c) 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; (d) Workshops; (e) the bimonthly Faculty Seminars and monthly SV Happy Hour. Additionally, we co-organise events with other organisations and industry partners on an individual basis.

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):

- 3rd December 2014: Intellectual property careers, with Dr. Heinz Mueller, Mr. Gabriel Clerc. Audience; SV1717 ~50 people (Paulina & Verena).
- 9th December 2014: 2nd Novartis-EPFL-UNIL Meeting (Paulina, Laura); 20 people.
- 17th December 2014: 2nd SV Postdoc Christmas Party (Marianna); ~20 people.
• 15th January 2015: Communicating Science to the Public with Dr Michel Sartori, Prof. Daniel Cherix; SV1717 ~ 80 people (Aitana).
• 17th January 2015: Job search outside the university!, workshop by Verity Elston; 25 people (Paulina, Verena)
• 29-30th January 2015: Participation at LS2 Annual Meeting, Zurich
• 5th February 2015: Get to know your neighbors, with 4 postdocs from the 4 SV institutes. Audience: SV1717 ~ 40 people (Paulina).
• 23rd February 2015: Graphical abstracts course for SV 2nd edition, by Laura Symul. Co-organized with HR Staff Training Services (STS).
• 19th March 2015: Horizon 2020: overview and proposal advice. With Martin Muller (SwissCore Brussels) and Charlotte Vandenbergh (Research Office, EPFL); ~ 80 people (Charles)
• 27th April 2015: Graphical abstract course for SV – 3rd edition By Laura Symul. Co-organized with HR Staff Training Services (STS).
• 28th April 2015: Innovation through Science Hacking Co-organising with Luc Henry, Dr. Sachiko Hiroseue, Urs Gautemex & Sam Sulaimanov (Petra).
• 30th April 2015: Frontiers – for grown-ups and Young Minds. With Amanda Baker (Frontiers ) ~ 20 people (Claudine).
• 9th May 2015: Postdocs! Successfully communicate your skills to prospective employers. Workshop @ Unil Life Science Career Day. Audience: 30 people (Nicola, Pamela).
• 21st May 2015: SV Postdoc Association @VIVAPOLY. stand (Nicola, Paulina, Pamela).
• 25th June 2015: Debiopharm: Clinical Trials Workshop. 50 attendees (Paulina, Pamela, Petra).
• 26th June 2015: Postdoc BBQ, co-organised with Unil Association for Postdocs in Life Sciences: >100 (Charles, Nicola).
• 8th-10th July 2015: Eurotech Postdoc Workshop – Soft skills for global leaders – Three day workshop with attendees from the 4 Eurotech Partner Universities; 45 participants (Petra, Paulina, Antonio).
• 17th September 2015: Visit to Debiopharm Laboratories. Attendance: 10 people (Pamela).
• 07th October 2014: Career Transitioning from Academia to Industry With Melanie Blokesch, Toby Ernberg, Rolf Illum-Engsig, Frederique Pedretti, Verena Voelter. Co-organised with HBA, >100 people (Nicola, Petra, Sina).
• 7th December 2015: 3rd Novartis-EPFL-UNIL Meeting (Pamela, Sina, Alba); 20 people.

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
http://sv-postdoc.epfl.ch/past_events/2015
Several members 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 up-coming events and relevant information (Petra).
• Welcome Page: We continue updating the Welcome Page on our website with plenty of useful information for newcomers. We also e-mail the postdocs that newly join SV directly (we receive their e-mail addresses 4 times a year through Cecile) to draw their attention to the welcome page as well as upcoming welcoming events (Vincenzo).
• Problems Page: We have continue updating the Problems Page on our website where postdocs can find answers to their questions and look for help available on campus.

Annual fee

At the last General Assembly, we voted for 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 and acquired novel 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 3rd edition of NEU.
• School of Life Sciences for the LSS seminar.
• HBA (Health Business Women’s Association)
Financial report (as of end November 2014)

Credits
Donation from SV 6000
Membership Fees 240
Vivapoly ’14 538.5
Interest 0.13
Workshop fees 1785
Retreat fees 850
Total (CHF) 9413.63

Debits
Career Events 1338
Social Events 123
Vivapoly ’14 275.38
Other (business cards, LS2 poster) 119.1
Bank Fees 104
Workshops 1500
Retreat 2237.35
Total (CHF) 5696.83

Balance
income-expenses 3716.8
brought forward (from 2013) 597.45
Balance (CHF) 4314.25

The financial report by our Treasurer (Antonio Meireles) was audited in December by two members of the association outside the committee, 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):

* 11th Feb 2016: Career Series: At the interface of industry and academia: the best of two worlds with Prof. Florian Wurm (Petra, Alba, Vincenzo)
* Spring 2016: Debiopharm Academy (Pamela)
* May 2016: Workshop: Postdocs! Successfully communicate your skills to prospective employees (Life Science Career Day) (Nicola, Pamela, Courtney)
* April 2016: EuroTech EU research funding workshop in Brussels (Petra, Daniel, Antonio)
* July 2016: EuroTech Postdoc Workshop @TUM, Munich Soft skills for global leaders
* Sep 2016: Joint EPFL/UNIL Alumni Event (Petra, Claudine, Vincenzo)
* Oct 2016: Postdoc Retreat!
* Dec 2016: Novartis-EPFL-Unil Meeting

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to

- The School of Life Sciences, who have been supporting our events from the beginning by sponsoring our apéros (~100 CHF/apéro) and more recently by providing running funds (CHF 6000 CHF p.a. for 2014 and 2015).
- The School of Life Sciences for providing administrative assistance in the person of Cécile Hayward Scherer.
- Prof. Gisou Van der Goot, Dean, and Harald Hirling, Deputy of Dean, who supported the Postdoc Survey.
- The BioScience Network Lausanne for the NEU event that we have set up together.
- HBA & the organizing team
- Innartis foundation, in particular Ksenia Tugay
- All the speakers who participated to our events.
- Novartis for the collaboration on the NEU meeting, in particular to Klaus Seuwen.
- All the members of the committee for their time and commitment!
- All the members of the association for their interest!

General assembly - 10th November 2015

Order of the day
- New logo
- About the SV Postdoc Association
- Accomplishments of the year
- Future projects and events
- Financial report (summary of last year and provisions for next year)
- Elections: new president (Pamela Valdes), new vice-president (Antonio Meireles), new treasurer (Charles van der Henst)

Minutes

6
Members present: 17
The following new committee members were voted unanimously:
President: Pamela Valdés Solange
Vice-president: Antonio Meireles Filho
Treasurer: Charles Van der Henst
We wish them well in their new positions.

Lausanne, 15th December 2015

Petra Schwalie  
President

Nicola Dynes  
Vice-President