

CASCA Postdoc Committee Report

14th October - 4th December 2020

Membership

1. Toby Brown (Chair)
 2. Nienke Van de Marel (Vice-Chair)
 3. Sam Lawler (voting member)
 4. Tyrone Woods (voting member)
 5. Locke Spencer (voting member)
 6. Ismaël Moumen (voting member)
 7. Gwendolyn Eadie (voting member)
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Activities

Covid-19 Impact Statement

The committee has provided a Statement on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Postdoctoral Scientists, submitted to the CASCA Board for endorsement (see statement attached). Pending this endorsement, the committee will publish this statement in English and French on the CASCA website, and distribute to relevant parties within the NRC, NSERC, CITA, and elsewhere as appropriate. We will also liaise with the Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars (CAPS/ACSP) regarding subsequent actions to advocate for additional postdoctoral financial support, as part of a wider effort within the Canadian science community and abroad to address the extraordinarily damaging and lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on postdoctoral researchers.

CANVAS Talks For Canadian ECRs

In January the committee will take over organization of the CANVAS talk series. Our goal is to have talks by Canadian astronomy early career researchers (ECRs) ranging from senior graduate students, through postdocs, to junior faculty (or equivalent). The committee is currently working with the current CANVAS talks organiser, Dennis Crabtree, in order to make sure this transition is as smooth as possible.

Postdoc Database

We are in the early stages of developing a database of astronomy postdoctoral fellows (PDFs) in Canada. The goals of this database are to:

- Provide a networking resource for new and current PDFs
- Compile information for those looking to contact current PDFs (e.g., seminar organisers)
- Track the career progression inside and outside of astronomy of PDFs in the database

The logistical details are as follows:

- PDF information to include name, position, and affiliation
 - To avoid the potential for spam/phishing communication, the database will NOT include direct contact information such email addresses or phone numbers
 - Responsibility for maintaining the database will lie with the committee while postdocs will have to opt in to have their information included
 - A request for PDFs to update the database information will be sent annually
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Updates

- The committee has been appointed by the board on an ad-hoc basis until CASCA 2021.
 - The committee meets once a month and regularly interacts via email and slack
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Questions

The committee has two questions for the CASCA board.

1. Does the board have feedback on the database as it is described above?
2. Should a public database (google doc or spreadsheet format) be hosted on the CASCA website or separate website maintained by the committee?