Candidate Manifesto for International Chair

I am writing this manifesto to nominate myself for the position of International Committee chair for the 2018-2019 UPPDA Executive Board. Let’s start by presenting myself a bit. I am a first year Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Immunology at the University of Pittsburgh. My research focuses on the impact of infectious diseases on cancer risk and I am currently trying to establish the feasibility of a preventive cancer vaccine. I have obtained my PhD in Montpellier, a beautiful city of the south of France where I am originally from, before to move to Pittsburgh in July 2018. I love learning about new cultures, I have traveled for several months in Asia, and I am now very excited about knowing more of the American way of life. In my spare time I enjoy socializing, yoga, climbing, hiking and exploring Pittsburgh, from its forests or museums to its restaurants. And above all I love to discover new secrets places! From my friend claims, I am a good at bringing people together and knowing what’s is going on in the city.

As a PhD student, I was an active member (Communication chair) of a PhD student association organizing conferences but, most of all, which was trying to create a dynamic community of student from different background and to motivate them to help one another. And I am proud to say that in 3 years, our conferences have been gathering more and more students (from 100 in 2014 to 300 attendees in 2017) but also that the number of active members in the association has been increasing to an unprecedented level. Armed with this experience, I would like to get involved in UPPDA community to help any student and especially international ones that are starting a new life, here, in Pittsburgh. As a foreign national, I can appreciate some of the challenges one might encounter when adjusting to living in a new environment as adjusting to a new position, fitting in socially or finding hobbies in a new culture.

I aimed to work with other UPPDA executive members to assist Pitt International Postdoctoral Fellows in all the concerned queries. I hope to enable supportive and relevant programming to the needs of Pitt’s international post-doc community. If I was elected International Committee Chair, I would like to continue to provide support specific to the needs of international post-docs, such as navigating Visa requirements, pursuing international research funding, and providing cultural exchange opportunities. I would like also to provide them with opportunities to gather and exchange through less formal social events, as happy hours events, that will be open to domestic postdocs as well.

I feel that my background in organization involvement, as well as my strong motivation to be invest in UPPDA will allow me to effectively perform the duties and responsibilities of this executive board position. I am excited to join the UPPDA Executive Board as International Committee Chair and I am looking to hearing from you so I/we can provide what you, as an individual or a post-doc, needs.