Candidate Manifesto for Communication Chair - Mariarosaria De Rosa, PhD

2nd year Postdoctoral Associate, Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health

Hello everyone! My name is Mariarosaria and I am running for the position of Communication Chair for the 2020-2021 UPPDA Executive Board. Let me first introduce myself briefly: I am a second-year postdoctoral associate at the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, and my research aims to understand how specific repair enzymes deal with oxidative damage at telomeres in normal and cancer cells, driving their decision to undergo senescence or affecting tumorigenesis.

I come from the sunny Italian city of Naples, where I obtained my MS in Medical Biotechnology and then my PhD in Molecular Medicine. As a graduate student at the University Federico II of Naples, I was a member of the Scientific Events Organization Board and I was the Representative of PhD students. Despite having few organizational possibilities, as a leading member of the PhD students committee I always sought new and engaging ways to communicate and share science and experiences, within the community of students but also with the general public, in order to create connections between scientists and “non-specialists”.

Before moving to Pittsburgh, I had the opportunity, through a travel grant, to spent some months in Long Island (NY), performing part of my PhD research at the Stony Brook University. There I came in contact for the first time with the American culture and University organization, of whom I was mostly fascinated by the endless networking opportunities.

Therefore, as a Postdoc at the University of Pittsburgh, it was a really pleasant challenge for me to join the UPPDA board as the Communication Chair for part of the year 2019. Working with the other board members, I developed solid skills in coordinating the communications with the postdoctoral community through the management of the UPPDA website, sponsoring the UPPDA events and, with great pleasure, I had the possibility to help personally with the organization of one of the Happy Hours for International postdocs - guess which one? The Italian event, of course!

Given the experience already gained, and my renewed intention to keep learning and implementing how to build solid networking connections between the UPPDA board and the postdoctoral community at Pitt, I would be honored to work again with the Board as the Communication Chair.

If I was elected, my newer and more specific aims would be getting more people involved in the UPPDA affairs and events through a constant and smart use of the social media, and to increase Postdocs feedback in order to provide a service more tailored to their needs, through email surveys and face-to-face organized sessions. I am thrilled by the opportunity of keeping my position of Communication Chair of the UPPDA Executive Board and to continue what I just started, in order to implement the new ideas with all my enthusiasm.