Education and coordinated training working group

11 April 2019

Discussion notes

Update on professional development:

- Started planning this in order to support the development of soft skills.
- This time we had a week to address this and a few key areas were highlighted such as CV writing, abstract writing, etc.
- Fellows were more integrated into this meeting this time around which was great and was successful as it helped them gain much more exposure.
- Fellowship development was started one day before the start of the meeting and was kicked off at pasteur institute. Started with how to write a research paper and how to increase visibility of research. Then continued on to talk about resumes and CV's.
- There were also three types of presentations. Poster, oral and speed to allow more fellows to be involved and present their research. Fellows struggled quite a bit with the speed presentations but the oral and poster presentations went quote well.
- It all culminated in a feedback session in order for them to improve
- We are also now moving toward an online series for continued development.
- Leadership skills workshop was also delivered today which was really engaging and the fellows really enjoyed. Many discussion were held and all communication was very two-way.

Training topics for fellow's workshops:

- General communication skills. Email writing, body language, facial expressions, tone, etc.
- Another area is learning how to network for growing careers. Would work as a webinar.
- Basic rules for structuring a good poster
- Licensing must also be discussed. Many images were not accredited or licensed incorrectly.
- Plagiarism is still something many fellows struggle with so perhaps a talk on that.
- Stress management and coping mechanisms
- Some talks showcasing fellows and researchers who are able to overcome their challenges and publish in great journals, etc.
- Webinars about open science topics particularly research ethics
- Career guidance. What options are there outside of academics
- Google launched an AI centre in Ghana and we could get someone from there to come and speak at the next meeting.
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Potential training topics for ECTWG Workshop:

a) Leadership Skills for mid-career stage

Group feels it is needed. Particularly how to deal with conflict and how to be a supervisor

b) How to be a mentor and supervise students
c) How to write a good reference letter for supervisors

d) Is there perhaps project specific needs and is there a mechanism for suggesting or requesting project specific training.

e) Research administration – reporting and budgeting, managing projects

Training database:

- How do we know training is available in advance and be able to reach fellows and members.
- It is important for the consortium to know what training is being done and how is has gone.
- Would like to collect information from this group perhaps twice a year of all the upcoming trainings at each institution that can be circulated to the consortium.
- Goal is to have a year long calendar of all trainings expected to occur.
- Skillset of the consortium members needs to be collected

Fellow's Database:

- Fellows are still not known and the database is not updated. This really needs to be done.
- PI's need to update the CC often or they could actually lose out in future.