

# CPA Caltech Postdoctoral Association

**Who we are** Founded in 2001, CPA is a Caltech-based organization run by postdoc volunteers and supported by the Provost's office. The CPA is administered by an executive board made up of executive officers, the chairs of each committee, and representatives from each division.

**What we do** The CPA advocates on behalf of all Caltech postdocs and strives for the professional and personal development of the postdoc community. Over the years, we are proud to have established multiple initiatives for the postdoc community and helped increase awareness of postdoc issues.

### Division Representatives

Advocate for postdocs in their respective divisions by engaging with the division chairs and faculty representatives.

**Divisions represented**

- BBE Biology and Biological Engineering
- CCE Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
- EAS Engineering and Applied Science
- GPS Geological and Planetary Sciences
- HSS Humanities and Social Sciences
- PMA Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy
- JPL Jet Propulsion Laboratory

**Some Division Events**

- Postdoc townhalls
- Coffee and social hours
- Satisfaction surveys
- Career info sessions
- Postdoc seminars
- and many more division-specific events...

*Have a question about your division? Ask your Division Rep listed on the CPA website. Interested in advocating for postdocs in your division? Contact the CPA Chair.*

### Career Committee

The career committee organizes events to enhance the career development of postdocs and explore options within and beyond academia.

**Industry Mixer**  
Network with industry professionals.

**Faculty Application Workshops**  
Learn how to navigate the faculty application process.

**Professional Development Workshops**  
Resume development, LinkedIn professional headshots, and

**Technical Skill Development Workshops**  
Data/software carpentry

**Career Talks**  
Learn about academic and non-academic

**Other Career Events**

- Grant writing workshops
- Special inspirational speaker seminars
- Company visits and many more...

*Have an idea for a career-related event or workshop or just want to get involved? Contact the Career Chair.*

### Diversity Committee

Helps promote diversity on campus and organizes events and workshops to improve work/life balance.

**Postdoc Pods**  
Peer-mentoring groups of new and existing postdocs with similar interests matched by CPA.

**Work-Life Balance Seminars**  
Info sessions to help postdocs deal with stress and achieve work/life balance.

**Diversity Seminars**  
Seminars to learn about diversity and help prepare for interviews.

*Have an idea or want to know more about these programs? Contact the Diversity Chair.*



### Communications

Keeps postdocs informed about CPA and partner events and other opportunities through various media platforms.

**Social Media**  
Connect with other postdocs on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn groups.

**CPA Website**  
Visit the CPA website: [cpa.caltech.edu](http://cpa.caltech.edu)

**CPA Weekly Digest**  
Not getting weekly CPA announcement emails? Subscribe here.

*Want to improve the website or manage other social media platforms? Contact the Communications Chair.*

### Social Committee

Fosters a sense of community among postdocs by organizing various events to promote social and personal development.

**CPA Happy Hour**

**Salsa Dancing**  
Learn Salsa with fellow postdocs

**Social Outings**

**Postdoc Hikes**  
Group postdoc hikes to different trails around LA. More info at [hikes.caltech.edu](http://hikes.caltech.edu) or email [hikes@caltech.edu](mailto:hikes@caltech.edu)

**Wurstfest**  
CPA's take on Oktoberfest with hot dogs, beer, and music

**Thanksgiving**

**Other Social Events**

- World Cup Viewing Party
- Wine and Cheese Social
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Christmas/Winter Party and many more...

*Have an idea for a social event or want to get involved with one of these existing events? Contact the Social Chair.*

### Outreach Committee

Provides opportunities to interface with the local community and advocate for science and scientists.

**STEM For Families**  
Free public classes led by faculty, postdocs, and graduate students for kids of all ages in all STEM subjects.

**Science for March**  
Science advocacy to engage the local community and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

**National Postdoc Appreciation Week**  
A week of events to celebrate the contributions of postdocs to scientific research.

**Other Outreach Events**

- Guest lecture at PCC
- Volunteer as a Science Fair Judge
- Present at local schools and many more...

*Want to attend or help out with one of these outreach programs? Contact the Outreach Chair.*

**How to get involved** We are always looking for leaders to champion the postdoc cause and make postdoc lives a little easier. If you have an idea for an event, want to get involved with one of the CPA committees, or are just looking to make more postdoc friends contact [cpa@caltech.edu](mailto:cpa@caltech.edu). More information at: [cpa.caltech.edu](http://cpa.caltech.edu)

## A few other helpful resources

**Postdoctoral Scholars Office**  
Website: [postdoc.caltech.edu](http://postdoc.caltech.edu)  
Vice Provost Kaushik Bhattacharya

**Caltech Staff and Faculty Consultation Center**  
Website: [sfcc.caltech.edu](http://sfcc.caltech.edu)  
Email: [sfcc@caltech.edu](mailto:sfcc@caltech.edu)