

CONSTITUTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The organization shall be known as the ‘Massachusetts Institute of Technology Postdoctoral Association’, hereafter referred to as the MIT PDA.

ARTICLE II – GENERAL ORGANIZATION

SECTION A – Mission statement

The MIT PDA seeks to establish a self-sustaining organization that will support all MIT postdoctoral trainees during their professional research training and career development. The MIT PDA will serve as a liaison between postdoctoral trainees and the faculty and administration of MIT, and strives to engage with and improve the MIT community. The MIT PDA seeks to enhance all aspects of the postdoctoral training experience, and foster a sense of community which promotes and encourages an environment of peer support. The MIT PDA will continually aid incoming postdoctoral trainees as they integrate into the MIT community as well as continue to maintain an alumni network of past postdocs. The MIT PDA will not discriminate based on race, religion, sex, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity.

SECTION B – Membership

Subsection 1: Definition

The members of the MIT PDA include any individual with an appointment of *Postdoctoral Associate* or *Postdoctoral Fellow* at MIT or any other person classified as a *Postdoctoral Researcher* at MIT.

Subsection 2: Membership

Membership includes three categories: (a) elected Executive Board members, (b) elected Standing Committee Chairs and Co-chairs, and (c) general members. The elected Executive Board members and the elected Standing Committee Chairs and Co-chairs comprise the Officers of the MIT PDA.

- (a) Executive board, consisting of five members: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary.
- (b) Standing Committee Chairs and Co-chairs, specified in the Bylaws of the MIT PDA.
- (c) General Members, who are all the remaining members of the MIT PDA.

Subsection 3: Rights

All members of the MIT PDA have the right to nominate another member or be nominated for Officer positions. Election eligibility criteria for certain positions may be specified in the Bylaws of the MIT PDA. All members have the right to petition or propose policy initiatives to the Executive Board, get involved in Standing Committees, and vote in Officer elections. All members must observe the Bylaws of the MIT PDA.

Subsection 4: Voting, suspension, or termination of membership

Executive board members and officers in the MIT PDA may be suspended or terminated by a 3/5th vote by the Officers at an official PDA meeting.

SECTION C – Office of the Vice President for Research

The MIT PDA will act as a liaison to the postdoctoral population at large and represent postdocs' concerns and interests to the Office of the Vice President for Research. PDA leadership will communicate regularly with the Director of Postdoctoral Services in the director's capacity as advisor and liaison.

ARTICLE III – BYLAWS

The Postdoctoral Association shall adopt Bylaws that supplement, interpret, and are in accord with this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by:

1. By a 3/5th vote by all the MIT PDA Officers at any official meeting of the MIT PDA.

OR

1. By a written recommendation from no less than 20 percent of the MIT PDA membership.