

# Los Alamos Postdoctoral Association (LAPA)

Los Alamos Postdoctoral Association  
Communications Committee  
Canyon School, MS M719  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

June 16, 2006

Director Michael Anastasio  
Director's Office, MS T002  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Dear Director Anastasio:

On March 10, 2006, at your invitation, a group of postdoctoral associates and fellows met with you to share our concerns prior to the UC-LANS transition. During the meeting, the lack of a LANL postdoctoral association was brought to your attention and you expressed support for the formation of such an organization. A group of us in attendance considered the meeting to be a great success and desired to carry on the sense of community and purpose derived from it. With the support and advice of the Postdoc Program Office Leader, Mary Anne With, that group of postdocs has continued to meet resulting in the creation of a fledgling Los Alamos Postdoctoral Association (LAPA).

The detailed structure of LAPA is currently being shaped by LAPA's Policy Committee with broad postdoctoral input. We have drafted a mission statement, which was ratified by the greater postdoc community at the June 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting. The LAPA Mission Statement reads as follows:

**"The mission of this Association at Los Alamos National Laboratory shall be to foster a sense of community among the postdoctoral research staff; to advocate for and be the representative voice of the postdoctoral community; and to provide career development information to the members of the Los Alamos Postdoctoral Association."**

In line with our mission statement, LAPA is working within Laboratory guidelines on several topics of interest to the postdoc community. For example, the Social Committee has begun hosting a monthly social gathering for which there has been an excellent turnout. Additionally, the career developments needs of LANL postdocs are being addressed by the Conversion and Career Committees for LANL and external employment opportunities. In general, the main thrust of LAPA will be to enhance both the social and career networking of the postdoctoral community at Los Alamos National Laboratory, in turn enhancing the community of the Laboratory itself.

LAPA requests to be formally recognized as an organization sanctioned by the Director's office. To introduce LAPA to the LANL community, the Communication Committee would like to prepare an article for the Los Alamos Newsletter. Your comments in support of LAPA would be greatly appreciated for use in this article.

In conclusion, we would like to invite you, at your convenience, to speak to the LANL postdoc community at one of LAPA's General Assembly meetings. Your attendance will give LAPA a boost during our initial period of formation, and you will have an opportunity to meet postdocs who are actively interested in making LANL a better place for research.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Stairs

Committee Chair (Acting)  
LAPA Communications Committee  
<http://www.lanl.gov/projects/pda/>