

Postdoc Lunch Table :: Myths and Truths ::

What's a Postdoc Lunch Table

The Postdoc Lunch Table (PLT) is a recreational moment freely organized by the MIT postdocs for the MIT postdocs. It's intended to be a moment where postdocs can have lunch together, knowing each other, discussing together and share their opinions and suggestions that can be brought to the attention of the MIT's Provost and Vice President for Research via the MIT Postdoctoral Advisory Council (PAC)¹.

Who can host a PLT?

Any MIT postdoc can host a PLT. You just need to have the *sign* and to advertise it!

Where is the *sign* and how to get it?

The sign is just a display rack saying *Postdoc Lunch Table*. To host a PLT you need to have this *sign* because it'll be used by the other postdocs to recognize the place where you are hosting your PLT.

It's very easy to get it:

- just have a look to the last postdoc who advertised a PLT on the facebook group and get in touch with him to get the sign from him,
- or send an email to Debra Martin² to have more information on who is holding the sign.

Where can be hosted a PLT?

Wherever³ you want inside the campus, just try to provide some coordinates when you are advertising your PLT. We are usually hosting it in the Forbes Caffé in the Stata Center, but it's not mandatory to have it always there.

¹ More information about the MIT Postdoctoral Advisory Council can be found at the following URL: <http://web.mit.edu/mitpostdocs/advisory.html>

² Debra Martin's email: debra@mit.edu

³ Wherever with some *obvious* limits, maybe hosting a PLT in the library is not a good idea! ;)

How to advertise a PLT

You have mainly two ways to advertise a PTL:

- The **first one** is using the MIT Postdocs Group on Facebook⁴. You can add the information⁵ for the incoming PLT on the Wall of the group and you can send a message to all the members.
- The **second way** in which you can advertise the PTL consists in sending an email to Debra Martin with all the information about the PTL. She will forward this information to all the MIT Postdocs via the mailing list.

Hey, great, free food for all the postdocs!

That's a myth! There is no free food at the PTL. The PTL is not a free food moment. Well, even if this is a generally true statement, it has happened to have some free food for some special occasions, i.e. a postdoc who decides to bring a cake or a couple of pizzas for his/her birthday.

⁴ You can find the MIT Postdocs Group on Facebook at this URL:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=44093460815>

⁵ Information like: location, date and time