

UAW 5810
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****PRESS ADVISORY****

**UC POSTDOCS TO HAND DELIVER MORE THAN 3,000 SIGNATURES
DEMANDING A FAIR CONTRACT TO CHANCELLORS**

Postdocs united two weeks before contract expires, empower bargaining team to do what's necessary to improve working conditions

Berkeley, CA – A clear majority of UC's 6,000 postdocs have taken two actions to convey to UC management that they are serious about securing a fair contract: they have agreed on a set of key improvements to their working conditions and have empowered their bargaining team to do what is necessary to achieve them.

Next Monday, September 14th, postdocs across the UC system will hand deliver to chancellors over 3,000 signatures from postdocs who are demanding a fair contract. Press is welcome to attend.

TIME: 1:45pm, Monday, September 14th

UCI: Meet at 1:45 in front of Jack Langson Library

Action at 2 PM in Aldrich Hall Room 509

UCSD: Meet up at 1:45 at Price Center in front of Tapioca Express

Action at 2 PM in Administrative Complex Room 105

UCSF: Meet up at 1:45 in front of the Kalmanovitz Library (Parnassus Campus)

Action at 2 PM in the Medical Sciences Building Room S-115

UCB: Meet up at 1:45 in front of Doe Memorial Library

Action at 2 PM in California Hall

UCLA: Meet up at 1:45 at the Inverted Fountain in front of Franz Hall

Action at 2 PM in Murphy Hall Room 2147

UCD: Meet up at 1:45 on the grass northwest of the Physics building.

Action at 2 PM in Mrak Hall, 5th floor

UCSB: Meet up at 1:45 outside of Coral Tree Cafe

Action at 2 PM in Cheadle Hall Room 5105

With just two weeks to go before the contract expires between the UC and United Auto Workers Local 5810 (UAW 5810), which represents postdoctoral scholars at UC, UC has not responded to postdoc proposals on improving family-friendly policies, equal treatment for international postdocs, compensation, and more.

Postdoctoral scholars, or postdocs, have already earned their Ph.D.s and perform cutting-edge research across disciplines at UC. They work on subjects that range from new cures for cancer to clean energy to new models of the universe and beyond, and are crucial to UC's research mission. Many of them are international academics who have recently immigrated to the U.S.

Despite their high skill level and expertise, until postdocs secured their first contract in 2010 some were being paid as low as \$18,000 a year by UC, with no stable benefits. The first contract postdocs negotiated five years ago made progress by establishing steady benefits and a wage floor, but much remains to be done – including increasing postdoctoral compensation to levels that reflect the value of their contributions to UC’s research mission, improving family-friendly policies and gender equity, and giving international postdocs who are recent immigrants the same rights to challenge unjust termination.

"It is extremely difficult to combine working as a postdoc at the UC and raising children, no matter how brilliant or hard working you are," said Anna Kalashnikova, a postdoc in Molecular Biology at UC Davis. "Postdocs aren't paid enough to afford both childcare and housing in California, and while this affects both genders, it specifically forces many gifted female scientists to quit academia. We're encouraging UC to provide the necessary tools for women to be successful in our new contract - improved parental leave and support for childcare expenses - which will promote gender equity in research. So far UC has declined."

"Over two-thirds of UC postdocs are recent immigrants and UC should do more to promote an inclusive workplace," said Yijin Wang, a postdoc in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at UCSB. "We are very disappointed that UC has failed to respond to our proposals that would improve conditions for international postdocs."

The existing contract between UC and UAW 5810 is set to expire on September 30th and UC has refused to respond to postdoc proposals on key issues like family-friendly benefits, improvements to rights for international postdocs, compensation, and more. By signing onto the public statement, over 3,000 postdocs have committed to vote to support the bargaining team in a future strike authorization vote should circumstances justify it.

"We're hoping that UC makes good on its commitment to social equity and quality research," said Anke Schennink, President of UAW 5810. "But we're prepared to act if they refuse to honor that commitment."

Learn more about UAW 5810 online at www.UAW5810.org, or join us on [Facebook](#) and [twitter](#).