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POSTDOCS REACH TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH UC MANAGEMENT

Contract ratification vote scheduled for October 19th through the 27th

Berkeley, CA – After bargaining for nearly six months, postdoctoral scholars at the University of California have reached a Tentative Agreement with UC management that makes significant improvements to their current contract. UAW 5810, the union that represents UC’s 6,000 postdocs, is urging its members to vote yes to ratify the agreement.

Highlights of the one-year contract include:

Guaranteed Annual Raises: After fighting off attempts to reduce wages, postdoc minimum salaries will continue to be linked to the NIH/NRSA pay scale – which over the past five years has resulted in an average 6% raise per year for postdocs on the scale. All postdocs who are above scale, including Paid Directs and Fellows, will receive at least a 2% raise per year.

Improved Health Benefits at a Lower Cost: Medical plans will now have preventative care and contraception coverage without co-pays, dental benefits will improve and there will be a new supplemental life insurance option.

New Protections for International Postdocs: After a long fight, we won protections to ensure that international postdocs facing termination can defend themselves, including the requirement that UC assist with visas and travel costs to testify in an arbitration hearing.

Improved Family-Friendly Benefits: The union and UC will form a Family-Friendly Committee that will meet at least two times in the next year with the express purpose of designing a childcare reimbursement program for UC postdocs.

“We’re proud of this contract, which includes no concessions,” said Anke Schennink, a former postdoc who now serves as President of UAW 5810. “It proves that when we stand together, we can make positive improvements for postdocs. Other areas of the contract, including job security, are all the same or better than they were. In particular, we maintained one-year appointments and defeated UC proposals that would have severely degraded job security. We’re urging all our members to vote yes.”

You can learn more about the details on the Tentative Agreement online at www.UAW5810.org. Or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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