Welcome to March’s newsletter! With Spring nearly upon us, the days are getting longer and there is change in the air! Why not take a look at what the PDC is offering this month to help you start a new!

For more information about the Postdoc Development Centre (PDC) please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter @ImperialPDC](#) or contact us with any queries.

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1. Writing skills - editing, reviewing and producing

   **Writing skills - editing, reviewing and producing**
   26 March 2015 - 09:30 – 16:30

   *Are you struggling to find the time and motivation to complete an article or report? Have a draft article, but don’t know how to edit it? Do you need help responding to peer reviewer’s comments?*

If so, maybe you should attend our ‘**Writing skills – editing, reviewing and producing**’ course on 26 March. This course has been specially adapted to cover the following three writing modules, conveniently within a one day course:

- Beating writer’s block and maximising productivity
- Editing and proofreading
- Dealing with peer reviewer’s comments

Please note the course will take place on our South Kensington campus and places are limited.

To enrol onto the course please email the [PDC Support Team](#). For more information on our [writing skills programme](#) please take a look at our [website](#).
2. Pop-up workshops—March 2015

**Making Career Decisions Toolkit**
16 March 2015 - 10:00 - 12:00 - South Kensington

*Do you need help with planning your career?*
*Would you like to feel more confident when making career decisions?*

This pop-up + session will introduce you to a range of tools to increase your self-awareness and help you evaluate the opportunities that are available to you.

During this session you will be provided with some practical tools to help you:
- make effective career decisions
- plan ahead and look for new opportunities

To enrol onto this pop-up, please complete the Qualtrics form

**Preparing Academic and Industry CVs**
17 March 2015 - 13:00 - 14:30 - South Kensington

*Are you considering a different career?*
*Have you ever wondered how to tailor your current postdoc skills to fit a job description?*
*Struggling to set out your academic CV?*

This pop-up workshop will provide information on how to optimise your CV for academic and non-academic audiences.

During the session you will:
- Learn how your skills can be translated to match the role you are applying for
- Interpret a job description and learn how to draw on your current skills to give evidence of your expertise
- Learn how to write an effective CV by showing you what works and what gives the greatest impact

To enrol onto this pop-up workshop, please complete the Qualtrics form

**Job Searching Toolkit**
31 March 2015 - 13:00 - 15:00 – South Kensington

*Do you know what career you want - but don’t know where to start with finding an actual job?*

This interactive pop-up + session will:
- introduce tools and tips to assist with creative job searching both within and outside of academia
- help you to create a targeted and creative job search strategy, which includes:
  - looking at suitable job listings
  - thinking about where else you might find opportunities

To enrol onto this pop-up, please complete the Qualtrics form

If you have any suggestions for future pop-up workshops on different themes or at other campuses, then please get in touch with us.
3. Postdoc reps – upcoming events

Have you met your departmental postdoc rep?
Do you know what events are being organised by postdoc reps for your department or campus?

If not, get involved and take a look at some of the upcoming events taking place across the College:

Civil and Environmental Engineering – Lunchtime seminar on Big Data
4 March, 12:00 – 13:30, 165 Skempton Building

As part of the CEE postdoc lunchtime seminar series, a seminar on ‘Big Data’ will be held for CEE postdocs. The idea is to learn about Big Data, and the work that our colleagues have conducted in this area, including hardware and software tools they use, ways in which they are using the data and challenges they have faced. David Birch, from the Data Science Institute of ICL, will be joining us for this session and will give a short talk about the Institute. Lunch will be provided. Please email Hannah Rigby to register your attendance. The subsequent lunchtime seminar for CEE postdocs will be held in early May and will focus on ‘Commercialisation of Research’.

Civil and Environmental Engineering – Head of Department meeting
9 March, 14:30, 427 Skempton Building

This meeting with the Head of Department will be a great chance to discuss the key issues relating to postdocs within the department. CEE postdoc attendance is strongly encouraged. Light refreshments will be provided. Please email Lindsey Morse with agenda items and to register your attendance.

Life Sciences – Academic CV clinic
12 March – 12:00, SAF Room 122

Maximise your chance of making the shortlist by ensuring your CV is professional, targeted and well written. This one hour clinic, presented by the PDC and organised by the Life Sciences reps, will address academic CVs. It will cover a myriad of do’s and don’ts to consider when crafting your CV.

If you would like to book a place on this clinic please contact the Life Sciences rep and remember to bring along your CV with you to this clinic.

Bioengineering – Non-academic CV workshop
12 March, 14:00 – 15:00, RSM 3.01E

Are you considering a career outside academia? Have you ever wondered how to tailor your current postdoc skills to fit a job description?

This workshop organised by your Bioengineering reps and facilitated by the PDC, will look at different types of CVs; discuss how to approach writing your CV and where to get job inspiration. Places are limited on this workshop so please contact your Bioengineering rep to book a place.

Electrical and Electronic Engineering – Non-academic CV workshop
20 March, 11:00 – 12:00, Room 611, EEE Department

Are you considering a career outside academia? Have you ever wondered how to translate your current postdoc skills to fit a job description?

This workshop, organised by your EEE Reps and facilitated by the PDC, will look at the different types of
CVs, discuss how to approach writing your CV and where to get job inspiration. Places are limited on this workshop so please contact your EEE Rep to book a place.

Hammersmith – Academic CV clinic and social
26 March, 16:00, 2nd floor CSC Seminar Room

Maximise your chance of making the shortlist by ensuring your CV is professional, targeted and well written. This one hour clinic presented by the PDC and organised by the Hammersmith reps will address academic CVs. It will cover a myriad of do’s and don’ts to consider when crafting your CV. After the clinic this will be followed by a social. So why not bring your CV along and network with postdocs from around the campus over a slice of pizza.

If you would like to book a place on this clinic please contact a Hammersmith rep and remember to bring along a copy of your CV to the clinic.

Please contact your departmental rep if there are any issues you would like them to raise at the next termly postdoc reps meeting.

4. Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Project – March update

19 March 2015: “In the den: Preparing and delivering a pitch for business”
Are you interested in creating a start-up or spin-out? Then at some point you will need to deliver a pitch for business – to investors and/or to potential customers.

Come along to this course to:
• Learn what you need to think about when preparing your pitch
• Practice preparing and delivering a pitch to your peers
• Hear about the common pitfalls and get top tips from guest speakers that have been on the giving and receiving end of business pitches:
  • Dr Ali Salehi-Reyhani – Imperial postdoc; Founder of anywhere HPLC; Founder of PerpeTrak
  • Kelsey Lynn Skinner – Director Tech Ventures at Imperial Innovations

For more information and to register for this course, please sign up via the course webpage.

*NEW* 23 March 2015 - 12:30 - 14:30: Sociable study & networking – online course “Sourcing funding: Turning your idea into reality”
Following on from the group workshop last month, we have arranged a sociable self-study area to help you carve out time to make a start on, or continue working through the Sourcing funding online course. Bring along your laptops and lunch, and spend some time on the course in an informal environment in the company of your peers. Work through at your own pace, chatting and discussing the exercises and any ideas or issues you might have with the Project Manager Dr Hayley Cordingley and your colleagues. Network as much or as little as you’d like – the venue and time is there for you! Tea and coffee will be provided – please sign up using the qualtrics form for catering purposes.

16 April 2015: “Strategically marketing your research: Pitching for academics”
Do you want to pursue an academic career? Then you need to understand that attracting funding is crucial to your career development – and industry and business are an increasingly important source of this (the so-called “3rd stream”). Understanding the business person’s mind-set and timelines, and being able to communicate clearly will help you to “sell” your research effectively and hopefully lead to fruitful collaborations. Come along to this course to:
• Learn lessons from the world of sales and communication theory
• Practice preparing and delivering a “pitch” aimed at getting industry interested in your research
Hear from guest speakers involved in generating proposals to attract business funding.
For more information and to register for this course, please sign up via the course web page.

5. From Postdoc to PI – Mentoring briefing at ICR

Would you like to know more about Peer Mentoring?
Or maybe you attended the “From Postdoc to PI” event in February and would like to meet your mentor again or perhaps someone new?

The Institute of Cancer Research is hosting a Peer Mentoring briefing session and social on Thursday 19 March 2015 at Chester Beatty Labs, Institute of Cancer Research, 237 Fulham Road, SW3 6JB. The session will start at 15:00 – 16:30, followed by a social in a room that has one of the best views of London!

If you would like to attend, please email Karen Hinxman.

6. Imperial College Advanced Hackspace

Imperial College Advanced Hackspace is a College initiative that gives you the free opportunity to prototype your ideas whatever they might be.

As a member you will gain access to various workshops and labs across South Kensington. Each space is tailored to a different discipline allowing members to make their idea using woodworking to electronics facilities, from 3D printers to BioHacking. Please note membership and printing are free.

In addition the team also run talks, community events and competitions throughout the year to allow members to quickly up skill, and engage with people from other departments and the wider community. For more information and to sign up for membership, please take a look at the website.

7. Courses run by the Postdoc Development Centre

Below is a list of courses with available places over the next three months. Please follow the links to sign up or email PDC-Support with any queries. Additionally, details about all our courses are available on our website.

March 2015
One-to-one voice coaching sessions (St Mary's Campus) 11 March 2015
How to get published 19 March 2015
Writing for non-native English speakers 19 March 2015
Writing skills – editing, reviewing and producing 26 March 2015

May 2015
Preparing for an interview outside academia 13 May 2015
Effective voice projection 21 May 2015

8. Courses run by the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Project

The Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Project have a range of new courses available for this academic
year, for more information take a look at the following courses taking place over the next few months:

19 March 2015
In the den: Preparing and delivering a pitch for business

16 April 2015
Strategically marketing your research: Pitching for academics

7 May 2015
Enterprising women: Developing enterprise and entrepreneurs

4 June 2015
Social Enterprise

Online course
Sourcing funding: turning your idea into reality

Please register onto these courses via "My Learning"

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