Welcome to February’s newsletter! With Valentine’s day approaching you never know when cupid might strike! So why not attend one of this month’s events, or better yet bring your Valentine.

For more information about the Postdoc Development Centre (PDC) please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) @ImperialPDC or [contact us](#) with any queries. Note that information about grants and fellowships is posted on our twitter feed.

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**PDC IN FOCUS: PATHWAYS FOR POSTDOCS**

On 18 January 2017, over 60 people attended the PDC launch event for the *Pathways for Postdocs Series*, which included talks from 7 former Postdocs, 2 workshops and was attended by the Provost, Professor James Stirling. The day was a huge success and received very positive feedback. Thanks to all who attended!

Upcoming events and initiatives from the *Pathways for Postdocs Series* include:
- A repeat of the launch event’s workshops – Skills Analysis and Where to get inspiration for your job search in March 2017
- Bi-monthly guest speaker events with former postdocs who have moved into new careers, providing an opportunity to talk to each speaker in a small group setting
- The launch of new online resources to help postdocs reflect on, and plan for, a new career in Spring 2017

*Look out for further details in our upcoming newsletters!*
1. PDC Welcome Lunch, 14 March

The Postdoc Development Centre would like to invite all new postdocs and fellows who have started at Imperial in the last six months to join us on **Tuesday 14 March at 12:30 for lunch**.

We will give you valuable information about the support and opportunities available to you at Imperial, as well as a chance to meet other recent joiners from across the College. The meeting will take place on the South Kensington campus.

Please complete this [Qualtics form](#) if you would like to attend.

2. Funders Showcase – BBSRC & Royal Society

**BBSRC Funders Showcase**
**Wednesday 15 February, 15:00 – 16:30, SALC 5**

The Postdoc Development Centre has organised an event which will highlight the [fellowships](#) that are available from the BBSRC.

The event will include:

- A talk from **Dr James Donald**, a representative from BBSRC – who will give details about the fellowships they offer and the application process
- Discussion with a current BBSRC fellow – who will give a personal perspective of the application process
- A panel Q&A which is composed of the above. The panel will be able to answer your questions and provide hints and tips on successful applications.

To register for this Funders Showcase, please complete the [Qualtrics form](#).

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**Royal Society Funders Showcase**
**Wednesday 8 March, 14:00 – 15:30, SALC 5**

This funders showcase will highlight the funding opportunities that are available to Early Career Researchers from the Royal Society.

The event will include:

- A talk from **Debbie Shields, Impact & Promotion Officer, Grants** – who will give details about the fellowships and funding they offer
- Discussion with a current Royal Society fellow – who will give a personal perspective of the
application process

- A panel Q&A which is composed of the above as well as a member of a funding committee.

Come along to find out about the available fellowship schemes and to get tips and advice on how to make your application successful.

To register for this Funders Showcase, please complete this Qualtrics form.

3. Pop-ups

**Wellcome Fellowship Briefing**  
**Tuesday 21 February, 14:00 – 15:00, SALC 1**

*Are you thinking of applying for one of the Wellcome Fellowships?  
Or curious to know a bit more about the process?*

If you are planning to submit an application for a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship or a Research Career Development Fellowships, or are interested in applying in the future to any of the Wellcome Fellowships, then this pop-up will provide guidance on how to prepare an effective application to help you maximise your chances of success.

To register for this pop-up, please complete the Qualtrics form.

4. Reps Network Meeting

The next Postdoc Reps Network Meeting which will take place on **22 February 2017**. If you have any suggestions or issues you would like them to raise at this meeting, please contact your departmental rep.

5. Researcher Futures – A one-day career workshop for mid/senior bioscience postdocs

**Researcher Futures**  
**23 February 2017**  
Hodgkin Huxley House, London

Organised by the Physiological Society and Society for Experimental Biology, this one-day workshop aims to help bioscience postdocs (4 years or more beyond their PhD) to review their careers and consider future options, whether that’s within or outside of academia.

Dr Liz Elvidge, Head of the PDC, who chairs the BBSRC postdoctoral skills sub-committee, will open the day. This will be followed by a range of career management exercises which will help you to reveal your strengths and preferred ways of working. You will have an opportunity to think about your possible career future, whilst considering your personal situations, as well as gaining hints and tips on practical ways to connect with potential employers.

Finally, a panel of speakers will fuel discussion and help answer any outstanding questions before finishing with the opportunity to make a personal plan of action. Participants are then welcome to stay on a bit longer for an optional informal networking reception at the end of the day.

The event is free and places are limited due to the interactive nature of the workshop. More information about how to register can be found here.
6. BBSRC – Innovator of the Year

The BBSRC Innovator of the Year competition recognises and rewards individuals and small teams who have harnessed the potential of their excellent research. For 2017 there is now a dedicated Early Career category, to recognize all that you as postdocs and fellows have achieved.

The award is designed to recognise the full breadth of impacts that BBSRC investments in research have, from creation of spinout companies, to working in collaboration with business, to social enterprise and NGOs, to working with policy makers, both in the UK and abroad.

Winners in each category will receive a £10,000 award, with a further £10,000 for the overall winner, the BBSRC Innovator of the Year.

The awards will be presented at a high-profile event in London on 24 May 2017 in front of an invited audience of leading figures from the worlds of investment, industry, government, charity and academia.

The call for applications is open until 16:00, 15 February 2017.

Further details can be found at www.bbsrc.ac.uk/innovator or from impact.awards@bbsrc.ac.uk.

7. ECR session with BBSRC CEO

On 27 February the College is hosting a visit from BBSRC’s interim Chief Executive, Professor Melanie Welham. This presents an excellent opportunity to showcase the work that Imperial does in the bioscience and biotechnology space. An afternoon session has been arranged (15:00 – 16:00) for her to meet early career researchers in a poster and networking session over refreshments.

This session will take place in the SAF 1st floor concourse area (top of the main staircase). If you would like to attend please register by emailing researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk and say whether you would like to bring a poster to display.

There is also an open session in the morning that you are welcome to attend, please email researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk to register.

8. Coaching at Imperial

Coaching is available to all College staff on a 1:1 basis, to help address specific work-related challenges around people or projects, or issues relating to career development. Essentially, the coach helps the coachee to resolve, prevent or forecast challenging workplace situations.

The Imperial Coaching Academy was set up in 2009, and is now able to offer coaching widely as an additional support to development for many College staff. There are now around 40 trained coaches who have a range of ‘day jobs’, and are able to offer up to four confidential one-hour coaching meetings to members of staff on request, helping the coachee by:
• Listening and asking great questions
• Supporting another person’s thinking to help them address challenges they are facing in the workplace and feel empowered to address work-based challenges.
• Helping managers to focus on ways of enhancing their ability to lead and communicate with others.

Please have a look at this [webpage](#) for further details.

### 9. Postdoc Development Centre Courses

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pdc-support@imperial.ac.uk  www.imperial.ac.uk/pdc/