Welcome to January’s newsletter! We hope the start of 2017 is going well for you. It’s the season for new year resolutions, and if one of your goals is to advance your career we have a line-up of courses and resources for you. Consider signing up for a course, starting your job search, or tweaking your CV using our Tip Sheets.

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.

In this issue:

1. PDC Christmas Ceilidh
2. Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund
3. Funders Showcase
4. Pop-ups
5. Postdoc Reps – Upcoming Events
6. Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture 2017 - Call for nominations
7. Call for 2017 Imperial Festival proposals
8. Venture Catalyst Challenge 2017
9. Research, Impact & Industry - Training Courses for Imperial academics
10. BME Early Career Researcher - how to stay in academia
11. LDC – Careers Boot Camp
12. Staff Supporters
13. Postdoc Development Centre Courses
1. PDC Christmas Ceilidh

On Thursday 15 December 2016 the PDC hosted the second PDC Christmas Ceilidh. Over 90 people attended, and as the photos show, there was a lot of dancing as well as a chance to network and meet new people from across the College. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Thank you to all those who attended, it was so lovely to see so many of you.

**PDC IN FOCUS: ONE-TO-ONE SESSIONS**

The Postdoc Development Centre offers one-to-one meetings with any postdoc or fellow at Imperial.

**In 2015/16, the PDC offered 277 one-to-one appointments, which brings us to a grand total of 1086 postdocs and fellows have benefited from this service in the last five years!**

One-to-one meetings are a chance to discuss CVs, job searching, fellowship applications, lectureship positions, moving out of academia, development and networking opportunities, or any other area of postdoc life.

“The PDC was extremely helpful in helping me compile my fellowship application, both in terms of specific details and overall strategy. The advice I received during my one-on-one gave me a new perspective on my own text and really allowed me to fine tune the narrative of my application.” — Successful Marie-Curie Fellow

More information, including how to book an appointment, can be found online.
2. Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund

When applying for that coveted lectureship position, more and more advertisements call for the applicant to demonstrate the ability to secure their own funding. However, it is increasingly difficult for a postdoc to secure funding for their own projects.

The Faculty of Engineering Research Committee is committed to promoting opportunities to aid postdocs and to this end they have introduced the Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund. This fund aims to help postdocs to improve their record in attracting their own research funding and to become independent from the research of their PI.

There is up to £19,200 available to fund between 1-3 projects, depending on the costs and justifications of the proposed projects. This fund aims to promote collaboration between postdocs in the Faculty of Engineering, whereby funding applications submitted must involve a minimum of two postdocs from different departments in Engineering. To facilitate the interaction between the departments, an Engineering-wide networking event will precede the proposal deadline.

How to Participate?

To submit an application to the fund, you must be a Postdoc in the Faculty of Engineering and you must attend the networking event. The facilitated networking event will take place at 15:00 on 15 February 2017 in Room G41, Royal School of Mines. There will be lots of opportunities to discuss research ideas and potential overlap, in the view to developing a collaborative project.

**Places are limited to 50 attendees across Engineering**

Application and Pre-requisites

To attend the networking event you are required to fill out a short form and where you will provide a short (200 words) summary of your research as well as a list of five keywords which can include your key skillsets/knowledge. These will be circulated to all participants before the event. Registration will close at 17:00 on Thursday 9 February 2017.

3. Funders Showcase

Wellcome Funders Showcase
Monday 23 January, 10:00- 11:30, SALC1

The event will include:
- A talk from Candy Hassall, Head of Basic Careers at Wellcome– who will give details about the fellowships they offer and the application process.
- Discussion with a current Wellcome 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 fellowship 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.
4. Pop-ups

**Leverhulme Fellowship Briefing**
Friday 27 January, 10:00 – 11:30, SALC5

*Are you thinking of applying for a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship?*
*Or maybe you’re planning to submit an application next year?*

Then this pop-up will help to 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.

---

**Cover Letters: Making a Good Impression**
Thursday 2 February, 10:00 – 12:00, SALC 2

*Don’t know where to start when it comes to writing a cover letter?*
*Not sure that your cover letter is highlighting your notable/relevant achievements?*
*Unsure of where you can show your knowledge of the job and organisation that you are applying to?*

In this interactive workshop, we will concentrate on the layout, format and content of an effective cover letter, including hints and tips on how to structure your letter. This session will also cover how you can highlight your relevant skills and communicate your enthusiasm for the role and organisation that you are applying to.

To enrol onto this pop-up, please complete this qualtrics form.

---

5. 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.

---

**Maths - Fellowships Workshop**
Wednesday 25 January 2017, 12:00 – 15:30, Room 747, 7th Floor, Huxley Building

Would you like to know more about the fellowship process? This workshop, which is based upon the course *Preparing Successful Research Fellowship Applications* will look at fellowship applications; with a focus on where to find funding, how to approach writing the application and the common mistakes identified by funders. We will also be joined by three current Research Fellows who will talk through their experiences of the application and interview process. **Lunch will be provided.** To attend, please contact the Maths Reps.

---

**St Mary’s - Assertiveness**
Wednesday 1 February 2017, 15:00 – 16:30, G65A

The aim of this workshop is to give you a better understanding of what assertiveness is and identify those situations where assertiveness skills are required. We will also explore how to behave assertively in appropriate situations.
You will get to try out being assertive using case studies as examples.

To attend this workshop, please email stmaryspdr@gmail.com or use the QR code.

ICS (Hammersmith) – Making Career Decisions Workshop
Monday 6 February 2017, 14:00 – 16:00, CSC Seminar Room

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

This workshop 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

If you would like to attend, please contact your Hammersmith Rep.

Please contact your departmental rep if you have any suggestions or issues you would like them to raise at the next Postdoc Reps Network Meeting which will take place on 22 February 2016.

6. Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture 2017 - Call for nominations

The Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture, call for nominations for the 2017 Award have now opened.

The annual Award is made to support and promote women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the winner will receive a grant of £30,000 to implement a project to raise the profile of women in STEM.

This Award is particularly for early and mid-career researchers (less than 20 years post-PhD, career breaks are taken into account). Nominees should have been ordinarily resident in the UK for three years and be actively engaged in research in a university, research institute or in industry.

More information about the Award, including terms and conditions and nomination forms can be found on their website.

If you have any questions about the Award then please do not hesitate to contact awards@royalsociety.org or 020 7451 2609.

The PDC are happy to review any applications during a one-to-one meeting.

The closing date for nominations is 30 January 2017 at 18.00 GMT.

7. Call for 2017 Imperial Festival proposals

Would you like to take part in the 2017 Imperial Festival?

Staff are invited to submit proposals for interactive research exhibits, creative installations, tours of facilities, talks or performances (music, dance, art) for the next Imperial Festival which takes place on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May 2017.
The Festival is the College’s flagship annual event for celebrating our work, with opportunities to engage with over 15,000 visitors, including members of the general public, alumni and other College stakeholders.

Submissions should be made by completing the proposal form by 12:00 on Monday 6 February 2017. Some guidance information and suggestions can be found here.

Please contact the Festival team to discuss the development of your ideas.

8. Venture Catalyst Challenge 2017

Teams are invited to apply for the Venture Catalyst Challenge (VCC).

The programme puts participants through an intensive programme to prove their ideas have commercial viability. The VCC offers a £10,000 top prize and the programme lasts 6 weeks including workshops, business coaching, expert advice, and culminates in a showcase. Staff are asked to encourage eligible students to apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Nikita Thakrar. Applications deadline: Wednesday 25 January 2017. More information can be found here.

9. Research, Impact & Industry - Training Courses for Imperial academics

A new series of courses free for Imperial College London’s researchers called “Bridging the Gap” are now open for registration. These courses are jointly presented by Imperial Innovations, Imperial Consultants, and Imperial Enterprise and aim to equip researchers with the skills to identify and explore the commercial potential of their work. This includes an introduction to the support systems available to Imperial scientists and a panel session where participants can ask questions.

Registration and more information is available via this link.

10. BME Early Career Researcher - how to stay in academia

*SAVE THE DATE* BME Early Career Researcher - How to Stay in Academia Conference
Hosted by Kings College London, Wednesday 19 April 2017

Imperial has 10 spaces for our Early Career researchers to attend the BME Early Career Researcher - How to Stay in Academia Conference. If you would like to attend, please register via this link by Monday 23rd January 2017.

Places are limited so it will be on a first come, first served basis.
11. LDC – Careers Boot Camp

Careers Boot Camp
31 January 2017, South Kensington Campus.

To mark the launch of the new Learning and Development Centre (LDC) Career Development Support webpages they will be hosting a Careers Boot Camp. The programme is as follows:

09:30- 11:00 - Career Planning
11:30- 12:30 - LinkedIn
12:30-13:30 - Lunch
13:30-14:30 - Bootcamp
14:30-14:45 - Break
14:45-15:30 - Bootcamp
15:30-16:00 - Questions and closing

This event takes place at South Kensington and is open to all staff. Please book your place via My Training.

12. Staff Supporters

Making a Difference to the Staff Community

The Staff Supporters Scheme is a brand new initiative that will help all staff, including postdocs and fellows, to access the support and guidance they need.

A Staff Supporter is an existing member of staff who is part of a trained network of volunteers which provide confidential and positive assistance to all Imperial staff when they need information, guidance and
Staff Supporters have received bespoke training and are able to provide confidential assistance on a range of issues, from queries about career advice or flexible working, to concerns about the behaviour of a colleague.

To take part in the scheme or to become a staff supporter, please see this webpage for more details.

### 13. Postdoc Development Centre Courses

Below is a list of courses with available places over the next few months. Please follow the links to sign up or email PDC-Support with any queries. Additionally, details about all of our courses are available on our website, including a calendar of courses for 2016-17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08 February</td>
<td>Making the Most of Your Postdoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Lectureship CVs: What You Need to be Working Towards Now to Succeed in 5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>Time Management for Postdocs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>Innovation and Industry: Effective Project Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 March</td>
<td>So You’ve Got Your Fellowship, Now What?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 March</td>
<td>The Postdoc Entrepreneur: Business Plan Basics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 March</td>
<td>Designing and Delivering Research Projects in Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 March</td>
<td>Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 March</td>
<td>How Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Can Impact Your Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 March</td>
<td>How to Peer Review Research Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Lectureship Applications: What You Need to Know to be Successful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Getting Your Next Job (Postdocs in Physical Sciences and Engineering)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Leadership in Research Part I: Managing Your First Research Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Writing Tools for Research Publication Success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Interviewing for a Position outside Academia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>One to One Voice Coaching Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>Pronunciation for Non-English Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 April</td>
<td>Preparing Successful Fellowship Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Stand and Deliver: Presenting with Confidence and Flair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Getting Your Next Job (Postdocs in Life Sciences &amp; Medicine)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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