Welcome to the July newsletter!

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:

Breakfast and Q&A with the Provost

A Q&A session was held with the Provost, Prof James Stirling in June. This was an excellent opportunity for the postdoc community to ask him questions about his vision for postdocs at the College. Postdoc Reps collated questions from their networks covering topics including: contracts, PI management, teaching for postdocs, communication and others. The Provost and the Postdoc Reps had a very informative and open conversation about the topics and questions raised. The minutes from this session will be circulated to the Postdoc Reps who can disseminate the information to their respective postdoc networks. Thank you to the Provost and the postdocs who contributed to the session through their questions and attendance.
1. Imperial College Research Fellowships

**Imperial College Research Fellowships**

If you are an outstanding early-career scientist looking for an opportunity to focus on research and establish your scientific independence on a competitive salary, then the Imperial College Research Fellowship scheme could help you consolidate your standing in the scientific community and make the leap from postdoc to permanent lecturer.

The ICRF scheme is **now open** – see the ICRF webpage for further information - [Imperial College research fellowship](#).

The deadline is **23:59 Tuesday 29 August 2017**.

All the information you need as an applicant can be found [here](#).

**How can the PDC help?**

- When you have an application draft ready – **book a one to one** with the PDC team to get critical feedback on your application.

- If you get shortlisted for an interview - **book a mock interview** with the PDC team to get tailored feedback on your interview answers and technique.

- If you’re not applying for the ICRF this year but you’re interested to see what an ICRF application or interview might look like - become a panel member on our mock interviews by contacting pdc-support@imperial.ac.uk.

2. National Postdoc Meeting

**National Postdoc Meeting: Postdocs, Policy and the Future**

The Postdocs of Cambridge (PdOC) Society is hosting the first National Postdoc Meeting on 19-20 September 2017 with support from the University of Cambridge.

The Meeting will take place at the Postdoc Centre at Eddington (North West Cambridge) and will include workshops, talks, networking opportunities, and a celebration of Postdoc Appreciation Week.

All postdocs are welcome to participate!

Registrations will open soon but please register your interest on our website in the meantime: [http://www.pdoc.cam.ac.uk/npm2017](http://www.pdoc.cam.ac.uk/npm2017)

More details and full announcement to follow. All queries welcome and can be directed to national-meeting@pdoc.cam.ac.uk.
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.

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**CV Clinics - Show your interest and we will organise more!**

At the CV Clinic a member of the PDC provides 15 minute 1-2-1 meetings to help you improve your CV. The 4 May clinic was fully booked, so if you would be interested in one of these in the future please [sign up here](#) mentioning the range of dates or times of day that would work for you.

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4. Pop-up Workshops

**Funder Showcase: Marie Curie Fellowship - 18 July 2017, 9.30-11.00, SALC 1, South Kensington Campus**

Are you thinking of applying for one of the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF)](#)? With the deadline approaching in September it is advised to have a clear understanding of the submission procedure - this pop-up will provide guidance on how to prepare an effective application and help you maximise your chances of success.

James Lloyd from the Imperial College Research Office will be delivering the session.

Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)

**Pathways to Postdocs: Teaching Careers - 18 July 2017, 13.00-14.00, SALC 1, South Kensington Campus**

Are you interested in a teaching career within a university setting? More teaching-intensive careers are opening up in universities. Come along to talks and a Q and A session with two or three teaching fellows from different Imperial Faculties to hear about these options and the developing career paths in this area of work.

This pop-up is for Imperial’s postdocs and fellows and will be run by Imperial’s Teaching Fellow Network.

Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)

**Funder Showcase: NERC – 26 July 2017, 9.30-11.00, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus**

The [NERC fellowship scheme](#) provides opportunities for outstanding early-career scientists to devote their time to:

- producing research of international importance
- developing their research careers and research groups
- developing into recognised science leaders
Are you curious to know a bit more about the process? Are you planning to submit an application? This pop-up will provide guidance on how to prepare an effective application to help you maximise your chances of success. David Roberts from NERC will be running a funder showcase to present and discuss the opportunities available to Imperial postdocs.

Please sign up for the event via this link

**Pop-up: Job Search & Non Academic CVs – 27 July 2017, SALC 1, 13.30-16.00, South Kensington Campus**

You can attend just one session, or both.

**Job Search (13.30 – 14.30)**

Do you know what career you want - but don’t know where to start with finding a 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

Please sign up for the event via this link

**Non Academic CVs (14.45-16.00)**

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

During this interactive pop-up + session, you will:

- Learn how your research skills can be translated to non academic roles
- Learn how to interpret a job description and how to draw on your current skills to give evidence of your expertise
- Look at a range of non academic jobs, discuss issues of how to give examples of leadership, client focus, customer awareness, industry, teamwork
- Look at how to write non academic CVs and how to use a personal profile as part of your CV

Bring a copy of your own CV and any non academic job descriptions that you have seen and that may be of interest.

Please note there will be a chance to get feedback on your own CV from a PDC Advisor and your peers, and have any questions answered.

Please sign up for the event via this link

**Pop-up: Assertiveness - 1 August 2017, 10.30-12.00, SALC 6, South Kensington Campus**
The aim of this pop-up 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.

Please sign up for the event via this link

**Pop-up: Networking for success - 3 August 2017, 14.00-16.00, SALC 6, South Kensington Campus**

What is networking? Why is it important in your career? How can you network effectively? The aim of this pop-up workshop is to help you understand how to network effectively and make you confident and happy about going out and networking to advance your career!

Please sign up for the event via this link

**Pop-up: Pensions - 9 August 2017, 14.30-15.30, SALC 5, South Kensington Campus**

Everything you need to know about the Pension Scheme at Imperial College. The session will cover a brief introduction on the Pension Scheme and address all of your questions including on changing jobs in the UK, what will happen if you move to another country, what is the opt-out option, can you save extra money?... and much more.

Carey Southward from Imperial College will be delivering the session.

Please sign up for the event via this link

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5. The ICURe programme

Do you have a potentially commercialisable technology or idea? If you do then you may want to consider the ICURe Innovation-to-Commercialisation programme. This is a UK government backed national scheme which offers postdocs up to £50k to ‘get out of the lab’ and validate their ideas in the marketplace. This funding is intended to support three months of full-time, intense market assessment where the postdoc takes on the role of the Entrepreneurial Lead (EL), engaging with prospective customers, regulators, suppliers, partners and competitors, taking steps to validate the commercial potential of their research. At the end of the three months, participating teams present their opportunity to an options roundabout panel that offers the team expert guidance on recommended development pathways.

Applications for the funding have to be made by a team of four consisting of:

1. Postdoc
2. Senior Researcher (Principal Investigator)
3. Business Adviser
4. Technology Transfer Officer

This year applications are being accepted for both of the next two cohorts (10 and 11) concurrently and the application deadline for both of Cohorts 10 and 11 is **19 July 2017**. Application is via an online form and you will be notified of the outcome during the week commencing 21 August 2017. Full details of the process and the commitments expected of you if you are successful can be found at: [http://www.setsquared.co.uk/research-commercialisation/applications-cohort-10-and-11-are-open](http://www.setsquared.co.uk/research-commercialisation/applications-cohort-10-and-11-are-open)
Imperial Innovations play an active role in these panels so can help provide additional background information. Please contact: tony.hickson@imperialinnovations if are planning to apply to the programme and have any questions.

6. Imperial Neuroscience Research Day (INeRD)

Registration is now open for the inaugural Imperial Neuroscience Research Day (INeRD), a half-day event aimed at connecting early career neuroscientists across disciplines, departments and campuses of Imperial College London. Join us on 20 September 2017 for inspiring talks, exciting panel discussions and interactive networking! Submit your visual abstract at www.inerd2017.co.uk.

Imperial Neuroscience Research Day (INeRD)

Call for Abstracts

We are an initiative of early career researchers from Imperial College London, organising the very first Imperial Neuroscience Research Day (INeRD). Our aim is to connect all Imperial College early career neuroscientists, who are spread across disciplines, departments and campuses.

Register by the 16th of July!!

Call for Abstracts for the event

Hammersmith Campus, 20th September 2017

In this event, participants will have a stimulating environment to exchange ideas and create new networks and collaborations. We have an exciting programme comprised of talks, a discussion panel on the subject ‘Because we can! Is technology driving neuroscience?’, and space for participants to present their scientific work.

Speakers include Prof. James Stirling (Provost of Imperial College), Prof. David Nutt (Imperial), Prof. Sophie Scott (UCL), Prof. Michael Häusser (UCL), Dr. Daniel Margulies (Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences) and Dr. Christine Aicardi (King’s College London).

We hope to see many of the College-wide-spread neuroscience researchers and to establish this event as a new platform for communication among neuroscientists at Imperial College.

Please complete the Registration Form and submit your visual Abstract by July 16th 2017!
For questions please email: inerd2017@gmail.com

Your organising team,
Cornelius, Ines, Katerina, Mark, Nienke and Yann

7. Software and Data Carpentry Workshop 17 – 20 July

We are pleased to announce that Imperial College has become a member of the Software Carpentry foundation.

Software Carpentry (https://software-carpentry.org) and Data Carpentry (http://www.datacarpentry.org) are volunteer organisations whose goal is to make scientists more productive, and their work more reliable, by teaching them basic computing skills and fundamental data skills. SC and DC run short, intensive workshops that cover program design, version control, testing, task automation and data management. SC and DC instructors are scientists (students included) who completed a short training course and a project.

We kick off with a double Software and Data Carpentry workshop on 17-20 July followed by in-house instructor training in September or October. Below are the details and how to register for both activities.

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Data and Software Carpentry 17-20 July
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Registration for the first Imperial Data and Software Carpentry workshops is now open. These workshops teach basic data and computing skills that are essential for all scientists but are not formally part of many curricula.

On the program are:

Data Carpentry 17-18 July, RSM 3.38, South Kensington
- day 1 - data organisation in spreadsheets, data cleaning with OpenRefine, data analysis and visualisation in R part 1
- day 2 - data management with SQL, data analysis and visualisation in R part 2

Software Carpentry 19-20 July, RSM 3.38, South Kensington
- day 1 - unix shell, Python novice part 1
- day 2 - version control with Git, Python novice part 2

We’ll have experienced carpentry instructors and lots of helpers on hand.
You can register for Data or Software Carpentry separately or for both at http://tinyurl.com/ichpcclass.

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Software Carpentry instructor training September/October
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If you are keen to gain more teaching experience and contribute to bettering the College’s community computing skills, please register your interest in instructor training with us at http://tinyurl.com/icscteach.
We will invite you to participate in the July workshops as a helper to give you some exposure to the software carpentry ways prior to your instructor training.

8. Postdoc Development Centre Courses

The course list for the next academic year will be available on our website in September. In the meantime, feel free to contact us at PDC-Support for any queries.

9. Meet the new PDC team

From left to right: Bernie Babel PDC Coordinator, Jenna Collinson Training Administrator, Lenne Lillepuu PDC Consultant, Dr Liz Elvidge Head, PDC, Rachel Herries PDC Advisor, Victoria Ireton Office Manager

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