Welcome to March’s newsletter!! With the time change just around the corner, spring must be on the way. Why not take a look at what the PDC is offering this month to help you spring forward!

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. Faculty of Engineering Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund
2. Welcome to the Team!
3. PDC Tipsheets
4. Pathways for Postdocs – Guest Speakers
5. Pop-ups
6. Postdoc Reps Network Meeting
7. NERC public engagement event
8. Deep Science Ventures
9. Imperial College Women’s Club
10. Researchers and academics wanted for lectures to school pupils
11. Imperial Festival – call for volunteers
12. Staff Survey – Now Open!
13. University of Sheffield Researchers ask ‘is your PhD of value to you post-graduation’
14. UKRSA Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Parental Leave Survey
15. Postdoc Development Centre Courses

**PDC IN FOCUS: 10 Days Training Allowance**

Did you know that all postdocs have an allowance of 10 days a year dedicated to professional development? It’s in your contracts!

These days can be used for anything that is above and beyond your day job. You could use a day to attend a training course offered through Imperial or externally. You could take part in a committee or organise an event. You could use them to do outreach, or to be a STEM Ambassador. How about becoming a Rep for your department? Or spending some time on your PRDP? The list is endless, it just needs to be something that will add to your CV.

To see what the PDC offers, visit the [PDC website](#) or scroll to the bottom of this newsletter to see course options for the spring and summer.
1. Faculty of Engineering Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund

On 15 February 69 Engineering Postdocs came together for the networking event which announced the start of the application process for the Faculty of Engineering Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund. The event was a huge success and it resulted in 34 applications being submitted.

All the applications were of a high quality and covered a whole host of different research areas. The Selection Committee met on the 5th March and reviewed each application in turn taking into consideration the following selection criteria:

- The justification for the project. Is it viable? written for a non-specialist?
- The expected outcomes (e.g. publications, patents)
- The cost breakdown (no project to exceed £19,200), are the costings realistic?
- Overall quality of the application
- Should this project be funded? (Yes/No)

In total five proposals were funded, covering a range of topics, and establishing new collaborations across departments. The successful proposals were written for a non-specialist and there were tangible outcomes that could be achieved within the project duration. It was also clear what each collaborator was contributing to the project.

The proposals which were funded were:

**Towards robot-assisted rehabilitation for Parkinson’s Disease**
Javier Andreu-Perez – Computing, Enrico Franco – Mechanical, Riccardo Secoli – Mechanical

**Biocompatible electropolishing of additive manufactured titanium bone substitute**
Andrew Ballantyne – Materials, Richard van Arkel – Mechanical

**Extractability and mobility of pharmaceutical compounds from sewage sludge recycled to agricultural soil as a sustainable source of nutrients for crop growth**
Janice Kenney – ESE, Jonathan Ritson – Civil & Environmental, Hannah Rigby - Civil & Environmental

**Additive manufacture of a spine surrogate for assessing injury risk during under vehicle explosions**
Nicolas Newell – Bioengineering, Spencer Barnes – Mechanical, Deborah Adkins – Dyson

**A biomimetic approach to design green buildings based on thermoregulation and ventilation of termite mounds**
Kamaljit Singh – ESE, Deborah Adkins – Dyson

*Congratulations to the successful candidates, we look forward to seeing the outcomes.*

2. Welcome to the Team!

This month we extend a warm welcome to three new members to the PDC team. They are:

- Lenne Lillepuu, who will be the PDC Consultant while Karen is on maternity leave.
- Victoria Ireton, who is the new PDC Office Manager
- Jenna Collinson, who is the new PDC Training Administrator

Fuller introductions will follow. We are very excited to have them all on board. Welcome to the Team!
3. PDC Tipsheets

Did you know that the PDC have a range of tipsheets on our website?

The full list of available tipsheets can be found here, which now includes the new addition Preparing for a job interview. The tipsheets are frequently being updated and added to, so please check to see what is available.

4. Pathways for Postdocs – Guest Speakers

Guest Speakers Event – Pathways for Postdocs Series
Tuesday 21 March 2017, 10:00 – 11:30, South Kensington Campus

Following on from the success of the Pathways for Postdocs launch event in January, the PDC will be hosting its next guest speaker event. The guest speakers will be:

- **Dr Lorenzo Melchor Fernandez** – International Scientific Coordinator, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology
- **Dr Sagar Jilka** – Football Data Scientist, Stratagem Technologies

During this event each speaker will give a brief presentation where they will outline their background and how they got to where they are now. There will be an opportunity to talk to each speaker in a small group setting and additional time to network over refreshments.

To register for this event, please complete this Qualtrics form.

5. Pop-ups

Skills Analysis
20 March 2017, 14:00 - 15:30, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

Not sure how to identify the skills you need for a job?
Want to find out how you can demonstrate and/or develop the skills required?
Need help in recognising your existing skill set?

In this interactive workshop, you will work in groups to identify the skills employers most commonly ask for. You will discuss what evidence you have that demonstrates that you have these skills and how you can develop them further. This session will also include time to get feedback on your plan on how you will build and develop your skills, to help you get the job you’ve always wanted!

To register for this workshop, please complete this Qualtrics form.

Where to get inspiration for your job search
20 March 2017, 15:30 - 17:00, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

Would you like to look for a new job but don’t know where to start?
What websites could you use to aid your job search?
As a postdoc, what could you apply for?

During this workshop you will work as a group to brainstorm ideas as to where you can find information about current vacancies. You will then individually each find an open position based in the UK that a
postdoc could apply for which you will then pitch to the other participants.

To register for this workshop, please complete this Qualtrics form.

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**Pop-up with the Educational Development Unit (EDU)**
**Tuesday 28 March, 10:00 – 11:30, SALC 6, South Kensington Campus**

*Would you like to know more about teaching and learning opportunities at Imperial?*
*Thinking about a teaching qualification, but unsure how to start?*
*Want to know more about the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)?*

We will be joined by Dr Martyn Kingsbury, Head of the Educational Development Unit (EDU), who will be able to answer your questions about teaching and learning at Imperial. During this session, Martyn will briefly introduce the range of EDU workshops designed to help support teaching and talk about the STAR Framework and how you can start working toward a Higher Education Academy fellowship.

He will also discuss the TEF and Imperial’s new learning and teaching strategy and how they may affect future employment prospects and academic trajectories.

*This is a great opportunity for any budding academic to see how they can diversify their skillset.*

If you would like to attend this Pop-up, please fill out this Qualtrics form.

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6. **Postdoc Reps Network Meeting**

The Winter Term Reps Network meeting took place on Wednesday 22 February 2017.

During the meeting the PDC shared updates from the autumn months and discussed upcoming development opportunities including workshops and residential courses. There was also a presentation by Dominic Falcao from Deep Science Ventures who talked about how postdocs can get involved with this innovative entrepreneurial scheme.

The Postdoc Reps then gave a summary of the events that had taken place in their departments since the last meeting. Highlights include:

- The Department of Mathematics who held a pizza postdoc seminar and a talk from Dr Diego Orazun who conducts interdisciplinary research and talked about his transition from postdoc to PI.
- The Department of Bioengineering had their annual Postdoc Symposium in December which was well attended by both postdocs and academics.
- Hammersmith campus will be working on a ‘Proof reading workshop’ with the Centre for Academic English to help postdocs who supervise undergrad and MSc students.
- The Department of Chemistry will be hosting a talk from Imperial Innovations later this year.

If would like to see the full notes for the meeting, please contact your departmental PDC Rep.

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7. **NERC public engagement event**

NERC are currently planning the second call for its Public Engagement Strategy, through which they will make an ambitious, large-scale investment (of up to £1.3m over 3 years) to achieve national impact in public engagement with one or more contemporary issues of environmental science.

At the core of this flagship programme will be a co-production approach - external link to public
engagement with environmental science research and researchers. This will challenge the status quo and will require collaboration on a national scale, across academic disciplines (including those outside NERC remit, such as the social sciences, arts and humanities) and partnerships with organisations and the public.

They are inviting applications to attend a community consultation event on 6 April 2017 in Manchester, the outputs of which will challenge NERC to be bold and ambitious, directly informing the call, which they plan to launch shortly after.

8. Deep Science Ventures

Deep Science Ventures present the Deep Science Ventures Opportunity Series, every Thursday. These events bring together academics, investors, industry and successful founders looking to discover new science based opportunities. The events are small and interactive, each features an expert led panel talk, discussion groups, networking and drinks. The aim is to help people connect, find hidden opportunities and create impact in the field. Each week will focus on a new topic, see the full list and sign up for one of our limited spaces here.

Every Thursday from 6pm at FORA Space, London EC1V 3AR.

9. Imperial College Women’s Club

Did you know there is an Imperial College Women’s Club, that hosts regular book club meeting and lunches?

Why not continue the celebrates for International Women’s Day by learning more about the club? Termly working lunches bring women together from all across the College, and the book club meets monthly at 170 Queen’s Gate—new members are always welcome!

10. Researchers and academics wanted for lectures to school pupils

The Outreach team are looking for engaging volunteer speakers to give demo lectures to primary or secondary aged pupils as part of the free Outreach Demo Lecture Series.

Delivered to hundreds of school pupils every year, the lecture series offers a taste of some of the research and activities happening at Imperial, and can help ignite an early interest in STEM subjects. Past lecture topics include rocket science, cosmic disasters, artificial cells and tractor beams.

For more information, including suggestions for lecture dates, please contact Bhav Jessani

11. Imperial Festival – call for volunteers

Staff are encouraged to register to volunteer at the 2017 Imperial Festival which will take place on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 May 2017. A variety of front-of-house and behind-the-scenes roles are available, including
opportunities to assist with the Alumni Weekend and Reach Out Lab activities.

Volunteers will receive a Festival volunteer t-shirt, food and drink vouchers for those volunteering for more than four hours, and time off in lieu subject to agreement with their line manager. Find out more about volunteering or browse volunteer roles and register.

12. Staff Survey – Now Open!

*We would like to remind all early career researchers that the Imperial Staff Survey 2017 is now open!*

All eligible staff will have received an email with a personal link inviting them to take part. The survey is accessible from mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. More information on the survey is available online

13. University of Sheffield Researchers ask ‘is your PhD of value to you post-graduation’

*Is your PhD of value to you post-graduation?*

The University of Sheffield are trying to answer this questions through recruiting people who can tell them how valuable their doctorate has been to them, in the years since they graduated. This ongoing research aims to address the underexplored concept of how doctoral graduates perceive the value of their doctoral study post-graduation.

If you would like to take part, please click here to read the study information sheet for participants and, if you are happy to proceed, the 10-15min survey can be found here.

The survey closes on Wednesday 31 May 2017 at 17:00.

14. UKRSA Maternity, Paternity, Adoption and Parental Leave Survey

The UK Research Staff Association (UKRSA), in association with Vitae, is conducting a study investigating the experiences of researchers taking maternity, paternity, adoption, and/or parental leave.

They would like to invite you to take part in a survey. It will be administered via a secure site, and no personal information will be collected. Please read the information sheet before deciding whether to participate, which can also be found here. To take part in the survey, please follow this link.

The survey will be open until the 31 March 2017.

15. 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.

20 March  Getting Your Next Job (Postdocs in Physical Sciences and Engineering)
23 March  Writing Tools for Research Publication Success
24 March  Interviewing for a Position outside Academia
30 March  One to One Voice Coaching Sessions

24 April  Stand and Deliver: Presenting with Confidence and Flair
25 April  Getting Your Next Job (Postdocs in Life Sciences & Medicine)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td><strong>Making the Most of Your Postdoc</strong></td>
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<td>15 May</td>
<td><strong>Interviewing for a Position outside Academia</strong></td>
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<td>16 May</td>
<td><strong>Lectureship CVs: What You Need to be Working Towards Now to Succeed in 5 Years</strong></td>
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<td>18 May</td>
<td><strong>Preparing Successful Fellowship Applications</strong> <em>(IN HAMMERSMITH)</em></td>
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<td>24 May</td>
<td><strong>Interviewing for an Academic Position</strong></td>
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<td>30 May</td>
<td><strong>Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career</strong></td>
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<td>02 June</td>
<td><strong>Time Management for Postdocs</strong></td>
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<td>09 June</td>
<td><strong>Innovation and Industry: Effective Project Implementation</strong></td>
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<td>16 June</td>
<td><strong>Science Communication: Reaching a Wider Audience</strong></td>
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<td>27 June</td>
<td><strong>One to One Voice Coaching Sessions</strong></td>
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<td>27 June</td>
<td><strong>Voice Projection for Effective Lecturing</strong></td>
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<td>05 July</td>
<td><strong>Great Presentations for Great Results</strong></td>
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