Welcome to September’s newsletter! We hope you have enjoyed the summer, and have your fingers crossed for a late peak in the weather, come back sunshine! Since we were away we have announced the winner of our Reps Award and we are now looking forward to the next academic year with a new series of pilot fellowship courses as well as much more! See below for more details....... 

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. 2015 Reps Award Winner Announced

PDC Reps Award Finalists 2015: (From left to right) Dr Karen Hinxman (PDC Consultant), Dr Layal Hakim (Department of Computing), Dr Claire Morgan (Winner – Department of Medicine), Provost Professor James Stirling, Dr Harriet Mills (School of Public Health), Dr Liz Elvidge (Head of the PDC) and Dr Emma Bailey (Department of Bioengineering)
At the end of July the PDC hosted the **PDC Reps Award Dinner** to celebrate the amazing achievements of the [PDC Reps Network](#). This was a fantastic occasion to award the first **PDC Reps Award**, which was presented by the Provost, Professor James Stirling.

There was huge interest across the College in the PDC Reps Award, with 49 individuals nominating their departmental Reps due to the significant contributions they have made to their department. In total this resulted in 15 Reps being put forward for consideration for the award.

All of the nominations were of a very high quality. Taking into account the number of nominations and the comments made on the form, five Reps were taken forward as finalists. Each of these individuals had excelled in their role as departmental Reps and there is evidence that there is a real cultural change within their department as a result of their work. In recognition of the extraordinary work that the finalists have done they each received a £50 John Lewis voucher with the winner receiving £500 toward a conference or workshop of their choice.

**The finalist were:**

**Harriet Mills – School of Public Health (St Mary’s)**

‘Harriet works very hard to help provide opportunities and support to postdocs. As well as being good opportunities in themselves, it makes a big difference to my working environment to feel that postdocs are a community that are valued, with a structure for their support and development.’

**Maria Parkes – Department of Mechanical Engineering**

‘We didn’t have any postdoc events or interactions until the current postdoc reps took their positions. They’ve done an extraordinary amount to bring postdocs in our department together’. Maria has ‘dramatically raised the profile and increased the sense of fraternity of the postdocs in the department’.

**Layal Hakim – Department of Computing**

Layal has ‘great interpersonal and communication skills; is truly concerned with the welfare of the postdocs, understands the isolation that some postdocs in the department can suffer from and has made measurable steps to solve this issue’

**Emma Bailey – Department of Bioengineering**

‘Emma has been a very active postdoc rep..., is friendly, gets people engaged and gets things done. This is the first time this has happened in our department since I started’.

**The winner was:**

**Claire Morgan – Department of Medicine (Hammersmith)**

‘Claire has shown a unique drive and determination in transforming the PDC reps at Hammersmith into a
single unit across the different departments on campus. She has put a huge amount of time and effort into organising meetings, writing funding applications and in seeking other funding sources for postdoc networking events and workshops at Hammersmith. She had always been enthusiastic and is never discouraged. She is the driving force behind maintaining the Hammersmith reps network.’

2. Fellows project to devise a brand new programme of tailored support

Are you a current early career fellow at Imperial?
Or have you previously held a fellowship at the College?
Then the Postdoc Development Centre would like to hear from you!

The PDC is firmly committed to ensuring that fellowship holders have access to resources of the very highest quality and relevance, providing the support they need to excel. In 2015-16, we are delivering on this commitment by building a brand new programme of bespoke support and development specifically designed to meet the unique needs of early career fellows.

We are currently consulting with current and former early career fellows to elicit their experiences of holding a fellowship at Imperial and investigate what the PDC could do to further facilitate their success.

If you are a current or former fellow of Imperial we would be very interested to hear your views on what more we can do to help you.

You can share your ideas and experiences by:
- Taking part in our short online survey, if you are a current fellow
- Completing this online survey, if you were a fellow at Imperial
- Talking individually with one of our researchers during an interview
- Attending a focus group where you can share and discuss your ideas and experiences with other fellows and former fellows
- Emailing us to give us your experiences of being a fellow

This data will be used to develop a bespoke programme of training and development support for current and future fellows at Imperial. Initial findings will be presented at the next Fellows Forum event which is to be held on 10 November 2015 and a report will be published in Spring 2016. This report will outline key recommendations for the development of a fellows training and development programme.

Help shape the future of support for fellows at Imperial!

3. *NEW* Fellowship Workshops

With the next academic year approaching we at the PDC would like to pilot a series of workshops which cover different aspect of a fellowship application, particularly those areas which we know you as postdocs find most challenging. The aim of these workshops are to complement our ‘Preparing Successful Fellowship Applications’ course.

The following pilot workshops are:

Academic CV’s
Tuesday 15 September 2015, 10:00 – 11:00, South Kensington Campus

Maximise your chance of making the shortlist by ensuring your CV is professional, targeted and well written. This one hour workshop will address academic CV’s. It will cover a myriad of do’s and don’ts to consider when crafting your CV. Please bring your CV with you to this workshop.
Writing Lay Summaries
Tuesday 15 September 2015, 13:00 – 14:30, South Kensington Campus

Are you struggling with how to write a lay summary?
As scientists, we have all been trained in how to write scientifically but lay summaries need a very different style of writing. In this interactive workshop, you will get to grips with lay summaries: what purpose they serve and how to write them.

To enrol onto this workshop, please complete this Qualtrics form.

How to be successful at a fellowship Interview
Monday 21 September 2015, 13:00 – 16:00, South Kensington Campus

Most fellowships require you to have an interview to show how you can carry out the proposed research and why they should give you the funding. During this workshop you will look at examples of ‘invitation to interview’ letters from a variety of funders. Using these letters you will develop a checklist of the do’s and dont’s for the interviews, write interview questions and prepare answers. You will also receive hints and tips on how to shine at the interview from entering the room to what to wear.

To enrol onto this workshop, please complete this Qualtrics form.

Pathways to impact
Thursday 1 October 2015, 15:00 - 16:30, South Kensington Campus

Does the phrase “pathways to impact” leave you scratching your head in bewilderment?
If so, this is the workshop for you! During the session you will learn what ‘impact’ is and why it matters to you and your applications (particular those from RCUK), how to approach writing the ‘pathways to impact’ section and be provided with some top tips.

To enrol onto this workshop, please complete this Qualtrics form.

4. Pop-up workshop – October 2015

Non-academic CV pop-up
Wednesday 28 October 2015, 10:30 – 12:00

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 will look at different types of CV’s; discuss how to approach writing your CV and where to get job inspiration.

To enrol onto this workshop, 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:

### St Mary’s – Making Career Decisions Toolkit
24 September, 10:00 – 13:00, Praed Street Room

Do you need help with planning your career? Or would you like to feel more confident when making career decisions? This 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 and where you can start looking for new opportunities. During this session you will be provided with some practical tools to help you make effective career decisions and start planning ahead. Please email stmaryspdr@gmail.com to register for this event.

### Faculty of Engineering Pizza Lunch – Hosted by Materials
Tuesday 29 September, 12:30 – 14:00 Room G38, Ground floor, Royal School of Mines

Following on from the hugely successful BBQ hosted last month by the Centre for Environmental Policy, the Department of Materials will be hosting the next Faculty of Engineering (plus Centre for Environmental Policy) event. The event will be a networking pizza lunch on 29 September 2015. Please sign up here if you would like to attend.

We encourage you all to join us and have a slice or two of pizza and a catch up with your colleagues from across the faculty!

### Civil and Environmental Engineering – Lunchtime seminar on the Urban Environment
Beginning of October 12:00 – 13:30, Skempton Building

As part of the CEE postdoc lunchtime seminar series, a seminar on the **Urban Environment** will be held for CEE postdocs. Urban systems are complex and many of us (in the CEE Department) work on different aspects of these systems. The idea of the upcoming lunch session is to learn about what we do in relation to urban systems, including the objectives of our research and the data and methods that we use. Based on this we can identify potential interactions/collaborations between different research groups within the Department.

Lunch will be provided. In order to select a suitable date for this session, please indicate your availability using the following doodle poll

### Hammersmith – Thinking about a baby?
Thursday 8 October 14:00 – 16:00, 2nd Floor CSC Seminar Room

The Hammersmith PDC Reps have organised a “thinking about a baby” workshop where there will be an opportunity to hear from speakers about the facts concerning maternity/paternity leave, costs of having a baby in London and grants available during and after your leave.

A panel of postdocs will discuss what it is really like to raise a family during your postdoc and there will be group breakout sessions to enable asking of the nitty gritty questions.

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


The 2015 PhD to Consulting Conference will be held on 18 September 2015 at Imperial College London in South Kensington. The conference packs an exciting programme with speakers and representatives from leading global consulting firms such as Deloitte, EY, Strategy& and McKinsey. There will also be two networking opportunities over lunch and evening drinks.

Early bird tickets are just £25 and include a chance to be selected for a CV clinic conducted by a professional job applications consultant.

Don’t miss this opportunity (tickets are limited!) to meet and connect with senior professionals from the consulting industry and learn more about the key skills required to transition from science to a career in consulting!

For more information on the conference and to book your place, please go to this website

7. Workshops for New Parents and Parents-To-Be

The College is pleased to announce the launch of three new workshops to support parents and parents-
Imperial recognises that the transition into the life changing event of parenthood can be both difficult and stressful for some and so these sessions will look at both the practical and emotional aspects to enable staff to develop in their careers post maternity/paternity through effective planning and communication.

The three workshops are:

1. Preparing For Maternity Leave - 08 September 11:00 – 14:00
2. Maternity Coaching - Working Parents - 15 September 11:00 – 14:00
3. New and Expectant Dads at Work - 22 September 11:00 – 13:00

To book on the course please contact Gabriella Kerr-Gordon or book directly on-line.


Joliot-Curie Conference 16-17 September 2015, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge
Shape your future career in chemistry research

This annual event is dedicated to supporting the aspirations of early career chemists, particularly those who are underrepresented in research careers in academia or industry.

With an exciting programme of workshops, one-to-one consultations, and keynote speeches from world-renowned experts, the Joliot-Curie Conference will enable you to:

- Find out more about research careers and the different ways you can access them.
- Get information and support on issues affecting your career and progression in research, either in academia or industry.
- Develop your communication skills and gain confidence when talking about and presenting your research.
- Access support during the event through targeted group discussions and one-to-one sessions

For more information and to register for this event, please go to this [webpage](#).

9. Terms and conditions for booking onto PDC courses

It’s the start of the new academic year and soon many of you will be enrolling onto PDC courses but before you do, please remember to familiarise yourself with our [terms and conditions](#) before submitting a booking request.

Our terms and conditions are available to read when you submit a new booking using [ICIS My Training](#) and are also included in your booking confirmation email.

Instructions on what to do if you are no longer able to attend a course are included in your booking confirmation and joining instruction emails.

For more information, please contact the [PDC Support Team](#).

10. 20 new permanent positions soon to be available at Liverpool John Moores University

20 new permanent posts will soon be advertised at the Engineering and Technology Research Institute, Liverpool John Moores University. These will include Lectureships that are ideally suited to those looking to step up from a postdoc position, as well as a range of roles including academic marketing, outreach and enterprise. The academic posts will cover areas of materials, fluid dynamics, photonics, modelling.
and instrumentation.

If you would like to know more about the opportunities that are available please contact Duncan Casey, Senior Lecturer in Advanced Sensor Technologies, Founder, anywhere HPLC Ltd, Engineering and Technology Research Institute, and Imperial Alumni.

11. Updated information on the Personal Review and Development Plan process

The College has just launched a new webpage, guidance notes and forms for the Personal Review and Development Plan process, please see the following webpage for more information. Creating a supportive, inclusive and highly motivated staff community across all disciplines, functions and activities is a key goal of the College’s new Strategy 2015-2020 and PRDP’s are one method that the College is using to support this aim. Another is the Imperial Expectations framework which, through good leadership and management, guides the behaviour of all staff.

The Learning and Development Centre will be announcing new dates for the next set of open PRDP briefings in September.

12. Courses run by the Postdoc Development Centre

The team have been busy over the summer scheduling new course dates for 2015-16. Please take a look at our website on 15 September for new course dates and your opportunity to enrol onto one of our courses.

pdc-support@imperial.ac.uk • www.imperial.ac.uk/staffdevelopment/postdocs