



# Welcome to the Christmas PFDC newsletter



December 2017

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

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## PFDC in Focus

As an end of year celebration, we are delighted to announce that Dr Rachel Herries (née Donnachie), Consultant in the PFDC team graduated last week from Brunel University London. Rachel's PhD project was funded by DEFRA and was a collaboration between Brunel University London and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Her project developed a risk-ranking methodology for chemicals in the UK aquatic environment – investigating which chemical/s are of the greatest threat to aquatic organisms. Rachel was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Doctoral Research – which is awarded for exceptional academic performance. She was commended for being an excellent research student and having superb interpersonal skills thus enabling her to meet the demands of her project to a high standard. Many congratulations, Rachel!

### ***1. EPSRC visit - Wednesday 10 January***

We are pleased to announce that Professor Phil Nelson and his team from EPSRC will be visiting Imperial College London on Wednesday 10 January 2018. The agenda for this visit is being finalized, however we'd like to take this opportunity to announce three key sessions that will be hosted, for your interest.

1. Early Career Researchers session (Duration: 60 mins. Time: tbc). This session is intended for EPSRC-funded PhDs, RAs, First Grant Holders, CAFs, Postdoc Fellows and will be an opportunity to have a small group discussion with Professor Nelson and others on the challenges and opportunities of being an ECR. Please register your interest in attending this session via return email to [researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk) by Tuesday 12 December, making it clear which session(s) you are interested in attending. Invitations to attend will follow in due course, with the intention to ensure a broad representation of the College ECR community. Talking points will be requested in advance and shared with EPSRC, to allow time to collect information and provide a fully informed response at this discussion. The timing of this session will most likely be confirmed by end of this week.
2. EPSRC Grant Holders session (Duration: 60 mins. Time: tbc). This session is intended for EPSRC-funded Fellows, Programme and Platform Grant Holders and will be an opportunity to have a small group discussion with Professor Nelson and others on challenges and opportunities. As with the ECR session, please register your interest in attending via return email to [researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk) by Tuesday 12 December, making it clear which session(s) you are interested in attending. Invitations to attend will follow in due course, with the intention to ensure a broad representation of the College grant holder community. Talking points will be

requested in advance and shared with EPSRC, to allow time to collect information and provide a fully informed response at this session. The timing of this session will most likely be confirmed by end of this week.

3. EPSRC presentation and Q&A (Duration: 60-90 mins. Time: tbc). EPSRC will present updates on relevant topics and developments. It is expected that this will include the upcoming CDT call. This is an open session. For planning purposes, please register your interest in attending this session via return email to [researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk) by Tuesday 12 December, making it clear which session(s) you are interested in attending.

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## ***2. Postdoc reps - upcoming events***

The Postdoc Reps at the Mathematics Department are organising the first Mathematics Postdocs and Fellows Day, on the 17 of January.

There will be an Interviews Workshop organised in collaboration with the PFDC with interview tips by recent Fellows and Lecturers, research talks by postdocs and fellows, and a careers panel with Mathematics staff members and former postdocs working in industry. Please see the link for further details:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mathematics/for-staff/post-docs/>

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## ***3. Pop-ups and workshops***

**Pop-up: Writing a lay summary – 10 January 2018, 10:00-12:00, SALC6, South Kensington Campus**

Turning your carefully thought-out research programme into simple, concise English in order to be accountable to the general public – it's become a standard part of funding and fellowship applications, and it's the stuff of many a researcher's nightmares. But the lay summary matters. It demonstrates neatly how clear your ideas are; the funders need it to evidence which projects they have invested in; and on a practical level, your lay summary may be the only part of your application which is read by the entire panel.

This bite-sized, interactive session will look at what goes in a lay summary, which bits to leave out, and how to pitch your language.

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

**Pop-up: Pathways into the bioscience industry – 18 January 2018, 9:30-11:00, SALC2, South Kensington Campus**

This session is part of the PFDC's 'pathways' series, looking at career options for postdocs beyond academia.

This short briefing will provide an overview of the bioscience industry and key factors to keep in mind when evaluating where you might find your place in the sector. The briefing will also include top tips on how to search for companies and vacancies, and how to present yourself effectively to bioscience recruiters. The idea of the briefing is to give you a starting point for further investigation.

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

**Pop-up: Research Impact, REF & TEF: what are they and why should you care about them? - 18 January 2018, 12:00-13:30, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus**

Presented by [Professor Stephen Curry](#)

Publicly funded research and researchers are subject to assessment as never before. Increasingly the processes of evaluation are metricised, but is that good thing?

The 'impact agenda' is also on the rise. Funding applicants are commonly asked to formulate impact plans, while every university department in the country has to provide retrospective evidence of impact in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) – what are the impacts on early career researchers of these forms of evaluation.

To the mix has now been added the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) - where did this come from and where is it taking universities and their staff?

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

**Pop-up: Rules of the Game – from B to C – 24 January 2018, 14:00-16:00, SALC 1, South Kensington Campus**

Would you like to know more about the re-grading review process?

Are you interested in finding out what criteria is used when considering whether a post should be re-graded?

Find out more about the application and review process for the re-grading of posts from Level B to Level C in the Academic and Research job family. This pop-up will clarify the differences between a promotion and a re-grading, and also address any misconceptions.

A panel made up of HR professionals that are involved in the application and review process will be there to answer any questions you may have.

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

**Funders Showcase: Wellcome – 30 January 2018, 14:00-15:30, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus**

Thinking about applying for a Wellcome fellowship?

This event will highlight the opportunities available to postdocs from Wellcome, including details about the fellowships they offer and the application process.

Come along to find out more - Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)

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#### **4. Upcoming courses at the PFDC**

[Science Communication: Reaching a Wider Audience](#) – 11 January

[Interviewing for Lectureships](#) – 15 January

[Planning for Success Beyond Your Postdoc](#) – 25 and 26 January

[Interviewing for an Academic Position](#) – 31 January

[Interviewing for a Position outside Academia](#) - 12 February

[Lectureship CVs: What You Need to be Working Towards Now to Succeed in 5 Years](#) – 16 February

[Time Management for Postdocs](#) – 16 February

[Innovation and Industry: Effective Project Implementation](#) – 27 February

[Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career](#) – 28 February

[How to Peer Review Research Papers](#) – 28 February

[How Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\) Can Impact your Research](#) - 28 February

***Finally, best wishes for the festive period and the New Year, from all at the PFDC.***

