

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians



Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

July 2018

Welcome to July's newsletter! This is our last newsletter for 2017/18, and we cannot believe how the year has flown by. The team would like to wish you a happy summer and we are looking forward to sending you our next newsletter in September!

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.



Liz's Race for Life

The Head of the PFDC Dr Liz Elvidge is raising money for Cancer Research. Liz has taken part in Race for Life since 1998 and to celebrate the 20th year of fund raising has set an ambitious target of £2,000!

To help Liz reach this target please donate via the link below:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/lizs-race-for-life-321>

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PFDC in Focus – Reps Awards 2018

On 21 June the PFDC Reps Awards Dinner was held to thank and recognise the significant contribution the reps make to the [PFDC Reps Network](#). Specifically, in fostering a sense of community amongst Imperial early career researchers, acting as a link between the PFDC, early career researchers and their departments and helping the PFDC keep abreast of the challenges facing early career researchers.

Winners of the Reps Awards

Dr Alex Brogan, Chemical Engineering – Winner of the PFDC Individual Award

Department of Mathematics – Winner of the PFDC Team Award



Dr Alex Brogan receiving the 2018 PFDC Individual Award.



Department of Mathematics receiving the 2018 PFDC Team Award

Finalists of the Reps Award

Drs Ceyda Oksel, Rochelle Aw and Zoe Harris
Finalists for the PFDC Individual Award

Department of Chemistry – Runner-up for the PFDC Team Award

The PFDC would like to thank the Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) Professor Nick Jennings for presenting the awards and thank all of those who made the event an enjoyable occasion. A selection of photos from the event can be found [here](#). The PFDC team look forward to working closely with the Reps network in the next academic year.

Further information about the Reps Network can be found [here](#) or if you would like to talk about becoming a rep please email k.hinxman@imperial.ac.uk

1. New Postdoc and Fellows Welcome Lunch

The Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre would like to invite all new postdocs who have started at Imperial in the last six months to join us on **Friday 27 July 2018 at 12:30 for lunch**.

We will give you valuable information about the support and opportunities available to you at Imperial. The meeting will take place on the South Kensington campus. Please register [here](#) if you would like to attend.

2. Awardees: Faculty of Engineering Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund

On 23 May, 52 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 in total 39 applications were submitted.

The Assessment Panel has now met to consider all the applications and after a review of the scores and much discussion, a total of eight proposals were funded. The successful applications were written for a non-specialist audience 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:

MINI - Multiscale Investigation of Nucleate-boiling and Interfaces

Mirco Magnini – Chemical, Edward Smith- Mechanical, Victor Voulgaropoulos - Chemical

Closed-Loop Antibiotic Dosing

David Freeman – Bioengineering, Sally Gowers – Bioengineering, Pau Herrero – EEE

Democratizing access to water resources usage through a high-performance approach to efficient modelling using cloud-based custom hardware

Matei Istean – EEE, Jimmy O’Keeffe – Civil, James Davis – EEE, Shane Fleming – Chemical

Development of low cost orthotic device for foot and ankle trauma patients in landmine affected countries

Grigorios Grigoriadis – Bioengineering, Chris Natt – Bioengineering, Geoffrey Ng - Mechanical

Novel High-Performance Graphene Nanocomposites for Industrial CO₂ Capture

Diana Iruretagoyena – Chemical, Debashis Puhon – Mechanical, Sarah Hedberg – Chemical, Di Zhang - Chemical

Feasibility study combining an activity-based urban transport model with air turbulence flow simulation to analyse the impact of traffic on air quality in London

Koen H. van Dam – Chemical, Dunhui Xiao - Earth Science and Engineering

Novel microphone array structures for high resolution spatial audio processing

Alastair Moore – EEE, Lluís Guasch - Earth Science and Engineering

High-accuracy ultra-sonic monitoring of corrosion on metallic substrates

Franky Bedoya-Lora - Chemical, Bo Lan - Mechanical

Congratulations to the successful candidates, we look forward to seeing the outcomes!

3. Postdoc Reps

Career Progression Survey – Faculty of Medicine

The postdoc reps from the Department of Surgery and Cancer, together with the other reps from Hammersmith Campus, are distributing a career progression survey. The aim of this survey is to tackle issues for postdocs and fellows which came up during the Faculty staff survey.

In particular, we would like to find out more about:

1. Why postdocs, and in particular women, do not progress to higher careers in academia, and which steps they would like their departments to take to reverse this trend.
2. How many postdocs are involved in teaching.
3. How many postdocs are involved in grant writing (for their PIs or/and fellowships for their own career), and how many of these grants were successful.
4. How can childcare be improved to facilitate career progression for postdocs or fellow who have a family.

The survey can be undertaken by all in the Faculty of Medicine:

https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8iybzrGEPVOzTO5

The data from the survey, totally anonymised, will be analysed by the People and Culture/Athena Swan committee of the Department of Surgery and Cancer.

4. Fellows and Clinicians bespoke programme of support – upcoming events

Upcoming events

The first **Fellows and Clinicians forum, taking place on 3 July 2018, SK Campus** is a termly event that forms part of the bespoke programme of support for fellows and clinicians at Imperial. The purpose of the forum is to provide fellows and clinicians with a regular platform to interact, share expertise and build cross-discipline contacts across the College with an aim to enhance their careers. The biographies of the diverse line up of speakers (Imperial lecturers and senior lecturers) who will share expert career advice can be accessed [here](#).

Active Bystander and Persuasive Communication - addressing some of the key issues raised by the fellows and clinicians community. Four identical sessions between June 2018 – Feb 2019, including a women's only session on the 26 September at Hammersmith Campus.

In the pipeline

Fellows and Clinicians Writing Retreat - a collaborative two-day training event organised by the PFDC and the University of Surrey will take place in 15 and 16 October 2018. Watch out for the call for applications.

[Follow this link](#) for further details on the above events, including how to register.

Gallery of previous events

[Launch of the bespoke programme of support for fellows and clinicians at Imperial](#)

Who is eligible for this service?

- *Independent research fellows.*
- *Postdoc clinicians and final year clinical PhD students wishing to pursue an academic career at Imperial.*

Further details on the specific eligibility is available on the PFDC [who do we support page](#).

5. Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)

Imperial receives funding from a number of Research Councils to support the development of research to economic and societal impact through activities that:

- Widen participation in business engagement and knowledge exchange
- Broaden and enhance the skills of the researchers
- Accelerate the commercialisation and impact of research

While the PI on IAA projects must be an academic, Imperial staff that do not fall into this category can still be involved in IAA bids and activities, including receiving

support from the grant. If you have identified an opportunity to explore the potential for impact from a previous or existing Research Council research or training grant, do highlight this source of funding for your proposal to your mentor/supervisor.

See the [Impact acceleration accounts](#) (IAA) webpage for specific details of BBSRC, EPSRC and STFC IAAs – including when calls are open.

6. The Royal Society, University Research Fellowship

The 2019 round of [University Research Fellowships](#) will open Tuesday 17 July 2018.

This scheme is for outstanding scientists who are in the early stages of their research career and have the potential to become leaders in their field. This Fellowship provides the opportunity to build an independent research career. Those appointed are expected to be strong candidates for permanent posts in universities at the end of their fellowships.



7. Pop Ups

Pop Up: Non Academic CVs
Friday 20 July 2018, 9:30-11:00
SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

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.

Sign up via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop Up: Data Protection – what you need to know about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Friday 20 July 2018, 13:00-14:00
SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

This session will be an introduction to GDPR and how the College has been implementing the required changes. It will explain the law in brief, the relevance to postdocs and fellows, and what the College is doing to assist staff to ensure their compliance.

[Robert Scott](#), Data Protection Officer within the Legal Services Office will be delivering this presentation and Q&A.

Please note there is a new webpage and training package (see this [link](#) for further information).

Sign up via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop-Up: Starting to think about a Fellowship Application

7 August 2018, 14:30-16:30
SALC 6, South Kensington Campus

This Pop-up introduces postdocs to the process of making a fellowship application. During the session you will learn where to look for appropriate fellowship funding, how to apply and how to prepare a written application.

Sign up via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop Up: Fellowship Interviews

9 August 2018, 9:30-11:30
SALC 6, 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 don't's for the interviews. Importantly you will write interview questions and prepare answers – developing answers that showcase your achievements.

You will also receive hints and tips on how to shine at the interview from entering the room to what to wear.

Sign up via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop Up: Pensions
16 August 2018, 11:00-12:30
SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

Everything you need to know about the Pension Scheme at Imperial. The session will cover a brief introduction on the Pension Scheme and address all of your questions including 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, Senior Pensions Specialist from Imperial College London will be delivering the session.

Sign up via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Funder Showcase: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
16 August 2018 – see below for times and locations

NIHR Fellowships will support individuals with the potential and on a trajectory to become future leaders in NIHR research. The Fellowships have been designed to support people at various points of their development to become leading researchers.

Colleagues from NIHR will highlight the funding opportunities that are available from the NIHR.

Come along to the session to find out more – sign up using the links below:

- **16 August 2018 - South Kensington campus - 14.00-15.00 - SALC 7** – Sign up via [Qualtrics Link](#)
 - **16 August 2018 - Hammersmith campus - 16.00-17.00 – Room TBC** - Sign up via [Qualtrics Link](#)
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8. Upcoming Courses

We are currently planning our 2018/19 programme. The dates will be finalised and published on our [website](#) in mid-September. We cannot reserve places or take advance bookings before the course programme goes live so please check back on our website in September to submit a booking form.

To subscribe or unsubscribe from our mailing lists and newsletter please email us at pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk. Click [here](#) for information on Imperial College's privacy notice for staff and click [here](#) for qualtrics privacy statement.