



Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

May 2018

Welcome to May's newsletter! The sun is shining, we have not one but two long weekends this month, so why not use some of that extra down time to take a look and see what the PFDC can offer you this month.

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

Launch of the Bespoke Support Programme for Fellows and Clinicians



On Monday 23rd April PFDC's Professional Development Consultant Lenne Lillepuu and the Clinical Academic Training Office's (CATO) Director Jeremy Levy held the launch of the Bespoke Support Programme for Fellows and Clinicians.

The launch began with a networking reception giving Fellows and Clinicians from across the College the opportunity to meet.



Lenne Lillepuu introduced the new Professional Development Consultant role and highlighted the proposed programme of support, which includes:

- Regular bespoke events
- Formal and informal feedback sessions
- Pop-up sessions
- Short sessions (1-2 hours)
- Two day courses
- Fellows Committee and Fellows Forum



The presentation was followed by a group discussion – giving the fellows and clinicians the opportunity to give their input, focusing on the proposed programme, other support that could be included, the Fellows Committee and Fellows Forum. The programme will evolve based on the needs of Fellows and Clinicians at Imperial thus the discussion was

an important opportunity for continued consultation and feedback.

The evening was concluded with a formal launch of the programme by the Provost, Professor James Stirling, over drinks with the PFDC team, Fellows, Clinicians and Key stakeholders.

The PFDC and CATO would like to thank all those who attended for their valuable contributions. The proposed programme of support is now ready to be launched and everyone will be receiving updates over the coming months. For more information on who is eligible for this programme of support please click [here](#) or email us at pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk .

1. Q&A with the Provost

Each year Professor James Stirling meets with the [Postdoc Representatives](#) to answer questions surrounding Imperial College and issues that affect the postdoc community. This year there were a variety of questions including:



- Pensions, pay and contracts.
- Gender pay gap.
- Disparity between departments.
- Environment and sustainability.

Meeting with the Provost allows the reps to voice the concerns of postdocs within their departments, which can then be taken into consideration by the governing bodies of the College.



Due to Professor James Stirling retiring this was the last 'Q&A with the Provost' event he will attend. The PFDC would like to thank James for everything he has done for the postdoc community at Imperial College.

2. PFDC Staff Updates

This month we send our good wishes to Victoria Ireton (Office Manager) as she starts her maternity leave. We say 'welcome back' to Karen Hinxman (Consultant) who has returned from maternity leave and 'welcome' to Shumeela Sabir (Training Administrator) who is with us for a year to cover some aspects of Bernie Babel's and Jenna Collinson's work. Both Bernie and Jenna will be doing a job share as acting Office Managers.

More information on who to contact at the PFDC can be found below:

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/postdoc-fellows-development-centre/about/pfdc-team/>

3. Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund

When applying for that coveted lectureship position, more and more advertisements call for the applicant to demonstrate the ability to secure their own funding. However, it is increasingly difficult for a postdoc to secure funding for their own projects.

The [Faculty of Engineering Research Committee](#), together with the PFDC is committed to promoting opportunities to aid postdocs. Building on the success of last year, where five highly successful collaborative projects totalling £16,075 were funded, the committee has decided to support the Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund for a second year. This is a unique opportunity for engineering postdocs as the fund aims to help postdocs to improve their record in attracting their own research funding and to become independent from the research of their PI.

There is a total of £19,500 available to fund collaborative research projects. This fund aims to promote collaboration between postdocs in the Faculty of Engineering, whereby funding applications submitted must involve a minimum of two postdocs from different departments in Engineering. You may not have an independently funded fellow or lecturer/professor on the application. To facilitate the interaction between the departments, an Engineering-wide networking event will precede the proposal deadline.

How to Participate?

To submit an application to the fund, you must be a postdoc in the Faculty of Engineering and you must attend the networking event. The facilitated networking event will take place at **15:00 on 24 May 2018 in Room G41**, Royal School of Mines. There will be lots of opportunities to discuss research ideas and potential overlap, in the view to developing a collaborative project.

Application and Pre-requisites

To attend the networking event you are required to fill out a [short form](#) where you will provide a short (200 words) summary of your research as well as a list of five keywords which can include your key skill-sets/knowledge.

These will be circulated in addition to the application form template and guidance notes to all participants before the event. **Registration will close at 17:00 on Wednesday 18 May 2018.**

Application time line

- Networking event – 24 May 2018
- Application submission deadline - **09:00 Wednesday 6 June 2018**
- Assessment Panel – 13 June 2018

Successful applicants will be notified the week beginning 18 June 2018

4. UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships

****Call Open** – first round closes 3rd July 2018 (expression of interest deadline 7th June 2018)**

There will be six calls for these fellowships; two calls per year between 2018-19 and 2020-21 (financial years), typically awarding at least 100 fellowships per call across UKRI's remit

The **aim** of these fellowships are to support new career paths and encourage the movement of talented researchers and innovators between business and academia.

The **objectives** of the scheme are:

- To develop, retain, attract and sustain research and innovation talent in the UK.
- To foster new research and innovation career paths including those at the academic/business and interdisciplinary boundaries, and facilitate movement of people between sectors.
- To provide sustained funding and resources for the best early career researchers and innovators.
- To provide long-term, flexible funding to tackle difficult and novel challenges, and support adventurous, ambitious programmes.

The support:

- Long-term and flexible fellowship.
- Comprehensive package of support, including the fellow's salary and justified research, staff and training costs.
- Seven years of support available on a 4+3 model, with a review in year four
- Commitment to Fellow from host organisation - tapered salary commitment from year 3 & open-ended position during or at end of Fellowship *see '[Call Documents](#)' for further details.

Application process:

[Expression of interest](#) (Eoi) – first round deadline submit by the 7th June 2018

There is no restriction on the number of applications from an institution. However, to monitor demand and prepare accordingly, UKRI requires the College to submit Expression of Interests for any candidates who are interested in applying to this opportunity.

Within Imperial, Eoi submission will be managed through Research Services/Joint Research Office teams, therefore candidates who intend to apply should contact RS/JRO for more information.

Letter of support

Applications must include a letter of support (see [here](#) page 6) signed by both the Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) and the relevant Head of Department, confirming a commitment to supporting the tapering salary and a route to an open-ended academic appointment. We are looking into providing a template of this letter and will update again in due course.

Full Application – see '[Call Documents](#)' for further details

Full applications must be submitted via the Joint Electronic Submission system Je-S by **16:00 on 3 July 2018**

Contact UKRI - for information from UKRI see [UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship pages](#) and contact fellows@ukri.org .

5. Imperial College Research Fellowships



Imperial's prestigious Imperial College Research Fellowships sustain the brightest and best early career researchers from across the world, providing a level of commitment and support that is rare from a UK university.

The next round of fellowships will start in 2019. It is anticipated that this call will be launched in June 2018. The deadline for applications is expected to be Tuesday 28 August 2018.

For further details see - <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-fellowships/>

The PFDC host **ICRF Funder Briefings** to help you prepare your applications – the sessions will be hosted by Dr. Liz Elvidge (Head of PFDC, member of all the ICRF fellowship panels) and held at South Kensington, Hammersmith and St Mary's Campuses - dates and sign up links for the sessions will be in the June PFDC Newsletter and on the PFDC website in June 2018.

6. Postdoc Reps - Upcoming Events

Department of Computing RA Symposium: Friday 22nd June 2018

<http://wp.doc.ic.ac.uk/postdoc/ra-symposium-2018/>

We welcome contributions, theoretical and practical, from any area of computer science. We also greatly encourage contributions from any other scientific discipline

that could benefit from and build on state-of-the-art computing methodologies to define and solve new research questions.

We are open to all scientific disciplines and welcome researchers from all departments, including (but not limited to) Medicine, Natural Sciences and Engineering. We invite RAs to share their problems, solutions and ideas to foster collaborations both among groups and between departments.

If you would like to present your work in this symposium, please submit your abstract (100 to 500 words) to DoC RA reps (doc-ra-reps@imperial.ac.uk) by **Tuesday 22th May 2018**. The format of the talks (20+5 minutes) is semi-formal and there will not be formal proceedings; work-in-progress talks are especially welcome. All submissions will receive feedback from us before the symposium.

If you feel unsure about the scope of your research to the call for contributions above, please don't hesitate to contact us (doc-ra-reps@imperial.ac.uk) so that we can help you.

Hammersmith Campus

STAR follow-up workshop: Friday 11th May 2018 (3-5pm)

Hammersmith Campus, Wolfson centre, Seminar room 1

Get help directly on the Hammersmith campus from an expert of the Educational Development Unit for your application to the Higher Education Academy and get your teaching experience recognised. Please register for the workshop via: https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_br2GAP25v2ivJfD

Imperial College London Biomedical Symposium: Thursday 14th June 2018

The **Postdoc Representatives of Hammersmith Campus** are proud to announce the **Imperial College London Biomedical Symposium 2018** will take place on **14th June from 10 am till 4 pm** in the Wolfson Education Centre.

The IC Biomedical Symposium continues the successful series and is an exciting chance to exchange ideas and knowledge, form collaborations and showcase skills.

Postdocs from **all departments** in the Hammersmith campus, including LMS, who are interested in presenting should **submit an abstract** using the following link.

Abstract Submission: Deadline 1st May.

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

While places for oral and poster presentations are reserved for postdocs, **all staff and students** are encouraged and very welcome to attend the event and should register, also using the link above.

Registration: https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Sjch2RbdKFsXkN

A full program will be sent nearer the time. For any additional questions please email us at hammersmithpdr@ic.ac.uk

We look forward to seeing you there! Best wishes,

The Postdoc and Fellow Representatives of Hammersmith Campus

7. Pop-ups

Pop-up workshops are brief, informal and interactive sessions designed to deliver bite-size, timely, targeted information to postdocs on a range of themes that will be helpful for their careers.

The PFDC team continually request input from the postdoc and fellows community - if you have requests for specific pop ups or pop up themes please email r.herries@imperial.ac.uk – these will be discussed at the PFDC team meetings and with PFDC Reps Network.

Pop-up: Engagement and Impact - Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)

Thursday 10th May 2018, 14:00-15:30, SALC 2, South Kensington

Come along to this pop-up session to discover more about what public engagement is, why it is important and how it can benefit you and your work. We will focus in particular on how engaging with members of the public, schools, patients and community groups can help you to achieve research impact.

Find out tips on how to plan for impact through engagement, as well as achieve it and evidence it. **Ideal if you are thinking about research proposals or fellowship applications**, we will take a look at what the big funders think about engagement and impact, as well as having some time to consider what it all means for our own areas of research.

Pop-up: Networking for Success - Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)

Tuesday 22nd May 2018 14.00-16.00, SALC 9, 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!

Pop-up: Assertiveness - Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)

Wednesday 23rd May 2018, 14:00-15.30, SALC 1, 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.

8. Upcoming courses at the PFDC

[Time Management for Postdocs](#)

Friday 11th May, 14:00 – 17:00

Being a postdoc can be a frantic, reactive and stressful time but it doesn't need to be, this course is aimed at those who would like to take back some control over their time.

[Interviewing for an Academic Position](#)

Wednesday 30th May, 09:30 – 16:30

This course is designed for postdocs who are aiming to pursue an academic career. The Careers Service will help you to gain an insight into the academic application process and discuss how you can gain relevant experience for your CV. You will observe a mock academic interview, find out how to prepare for an academic interview and improve how you come across. The competition for academic positions is intense; get one step ahead by attending this course

[Innovation and Industry: effective Project Implementation](#)

Wednesday 6th June, 9:30 to 16:30

This workshop is for you if you are looking to develop your understanding of the priorities of industry when working in a collaboration with academia, if you are looking for a move into industry (including not for profit) or you want to improve your basic project management skills. The aim is to develop project management skills in the context of industry academia collaborations (IAC).

[How Intellectual Property Rights Can Impact Your Research](#)

Thursday 7th June 2018, 10:00 to 12:30

Lack of awareness of intellectual property (IP) can result in UK researchers missing out. Many are not commercialising their own ideas and some are failing to prevent others from unfairly exploiting their research. This course brings in experts from Imperial Innovations to help to plug this knowledge gap. It enables

postdocs to work out what type of intellectual property rights they need to protect their work and how to take the necessary steps to get it.

9. Mental Health Awareness Week



2018's national theme for Mental Health Awareness Week on 14-20 May draws attention to the relationship between stress and our mental health.

Imperial has chosen to focus its activities on helping the Imperial community sleep well! Low quality sleep is often linked to increased feelings of stress and lowered mental and physical health.

As part of this years campaign, Imperial have teamed up with Sleepio, thanks to London's NHS Digital Mental Wellbeing Service. To discover your personal Sleep Score and how to improve it, visit Imperial's Sleepio page [here](#) .

For more information on the training and events Imperial will be holding throughout Mental Health Awareness week please see the link and event timetable below:

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-awareness-week/>

To register for the events please book via My Training on ICIS.