Graduate School Report

**EVENT: KEEPING YOUR HAND IN ACADEMIA, 1ST FEBRUARY 2017**

Aim: The event was hosted by post-graduate students from Imperial College London who came from a medical background, but were currently pursuing research that would be awarded a higher degree (PhD or MD) from Imperial College. There were three main objectives for the evening:

1) To discuss career options and opportunities (research, teaching, management) at Imperial for early career researchers and doctors who were interested in clinical academia.

2) To showcase research groups based within the Department of Cancer & Surgery and at the Institute of Reproductive and Developmental Biology (IRDB, Hammersmith Campus).

3) To allow opportunities for academic networking

The event took place in the function room of the Chapel Pub (Marylebone) and in total 31 people attended the evening. There were 7 talks in total, and topics covered included academic pathways which clinicians who were currently pursuing a higher degree could take to retain their interest in research, such as academic clinical lectureships or research fellowships. There were also talks on attaining teaching qualifications such as the Post-graduate Certificate in University Learning & Teaching, and research projects that involve teaching such as simulation. Other talks encompassed project management and being involved with healthcare policy design, as well as pursuing qualifications in other subject areas such as law and ethics.

The event lasted 3 hours in total and the talks were followed by a very productive Q&A session. Feedback was collated from the attendees, and overall the feedback was very positive, with all attendees stating that they found the event very useful and relevant, and that they would recommend a colleague to attend similar events in the futures. In addition, the event organizer has received further email enquiries after the event by attendees who were interested in the post-grad opportunities being showcased.

The night ended with a brief summary of the work currently being undertaken by research groups within the Department of Cancer & Surgery, and a few posts for clinical fellowships at Imperial College London were also promoted for those that were interested in applying.
The total cost for the event was £80.00 for the venue hire. Drinks and food were covered by the event organizers. A few pictures of the event are attached below.

We would like to thank the Graduate School for supporting our event, which was the first of its kind, and due to the very positive response from attendees, is likely to be a recurring annual event.

Maya Al-Memar (3rd year PhD student) explaining post-graduate academic pathway options

Holly Lewis (2nd year PhD student) explaining post-graduate collaborative opportunities abroad

Lin Foo (3rd year PhD student)’s talk on the process of taking time out of clinical practice to obtain a post-graduate degree

Dr Ed Mullins (former ICL PhD student) talking about post-PhD opportunities