As an end of year summer event, the National Heart and Lung Institute held an Olympic themed social event at Eastside bar in South Kensington. The aim of this event was to encourage interactions between students based in different campuses and improve the student experience in the NHLI. As the NHLI is spread across 5 campuses with a lack of common social space, some students can feel isolated. Holding cross-campus social events helps to build networks between students in different research groups and campuses and promotes an informal support network for students.

Following the success of a previous event in May and to celebrate the Olympics, we decided to hold an Olympic themed social event, where students enjoyed pizzas and Brazilian snacks while watching the Olympics. Around 45 students from across all NHLI campuses attended the social, which received good feedback. Students suggested creating a Facebook group for NHLI students to keep in touch and provide a support network for students. We are looking forward to our next Christmas social event, which the Graduate School has provided funding for.