Imperial Postdocs
and Fellows
Enterprise Network

2019/2020 Report
Introduction

The Imperial Postdoc and Fellows Enterprise Network (IPFEN) is a network for postdocs, fellows and clinicians who are interested in knowing more about entrepreneurship and enterprise opportunities and activities – whether it is to support your research activity or to explore a new career path.

The Network aims to support early career researchers whether you are a researcher ready to explore the commercial potential of your ideas, discoveries, technologies, and inventions or whether you are just starting out and want to learn more about what falls under the enterprise umbrella and develop entrepreneurial skills.

The initial aims of the Network are:

Support and interest

Support early career researchers at all stages of the enterprise Journey from those who know nothing about enterprise and entrepreneurship to those ready to launch their startup. Ensure the range of topics is accessible to early career researchers regardless of their background knowledge.

Increased awareness and connections

Better signpost early career researchers to current events, support, and opportunities available to them – specifically from Imperial Enterprise.

Increased knowledge, engagement, and networking

Generate additional support / a programme based on the needs of early career researchers – via providing networking events, training, guest speakers and better connections between postdocs themselves and with external parties.
Who are we?

The Network is run by a Committee of early career researchers with support from PFDC and Enterprise. The Committee is additionally supported by an Advisory Board.

The IPFEN Committee has been established to run and grow Imperial’s Postdoc and Fellows Enterprise Network.

The IPFEN Advisory Board

- Rebeca Santamaria-Fernandez, Director Industry Partnerships and Commercialisation, FoE
- Stephanie Morris, Director Industry Partnerships and Commercialisation, FoM
- Hiten Thakrar, MedTech SuperConnector Programme Manager
- Graham Hewson, Head of Incubation
- Ben Mumby-Croft, Director Entrepreneurship
- Poh-Choo Pang, Consultant Engagement Manager, ICON
- Govind Pindoria, Associate Director of Startup Formation
What have we achieved?

Created a [Webpage](#) (October 2019)

Established a presence on [Twitter](#) (January 2020)
Feb 2021 - Following 299 – 346 Followers

Created a [LinkedIn Page](#) (November 2020)
Feb 2021 – 178 Followers – 5.3K post impressions

First Advisory Board meeting in August 2020
- Raised awareness of Postdoc and Fellows needs
- First Enterprise Lab events explicitly open to Postdocs in 2020/2021

Engaged with 6 external companies and 3 enterprise sections

Established a consultancy series with 3 consulting businesses so far
Our events

From September 2019 to November 2020, the network has dynamized 11 events

3 Speaker and networking events
8 Training courses and workshops
Summary of attendees & Events

- 347 participants for 7 events (50 per event on average)
- Medicine + Engineering are the faculties with highest participation
- High participation for consultancy series events (record of 114 for GLG event)
- Participants from 28 different departments
Average of 22 first time attenders to IPFEN events (range from 8 to 40)

People attended an average of 4.5 IPFEN events (between 2 to 8 events)

90% of people know about IPFEN events via email and the PFDC Newsletter. More recently we’ve had some uptake on Twitter and LinkedIn (30%).
Summary of feedback

Feedback has been collected for 6 of the events done in 2020 and the rating average is 3.8 out of 5 stars!

Here’s what our attendees have said about past events and what they found most useful:

Ideas for Future Events raised in the Feedback forms: