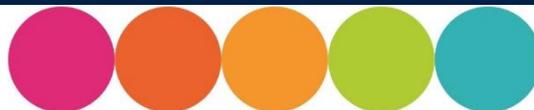


POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians



Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

January 2019



Happy New Year from the PFDC Team

Welcome to January's newsletter - Happy 2019 from the PFDC Team!

It's the season for new year resolutions, and if one of your goals is to advance your career, we have a line-up of courses and resources for you. Consider signing up for a [course](#), becoming a rep (see number 4 below), or tweaking your CV using our [Tip Sheets](#).

Whatever your resolutions may be, we are sure that we have something in our newsletter to inspire you!

For more information about the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre (PFDC) please:

- Visit our [website](#)
- Follow us on Twitter
- Contact us with any queries



Note that information about grants and fellowships are posted on our twitter feed.

If you have any information, events or surveys that you would like to advertise which are relevant to postdocs, fellows and clinicians at Imperial, please [email](#) the PFDC team. We would like to hear from you!

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PFDC in Focus: Christmas Ceilidh

On the 5 December the PFDC team held the annual Christmas Ceilidh!

There was mulled wine, festive treats and plenty of fantastic dancing.

The Ceilidh band called out the instructions and kept everyone dancing for hours on end.

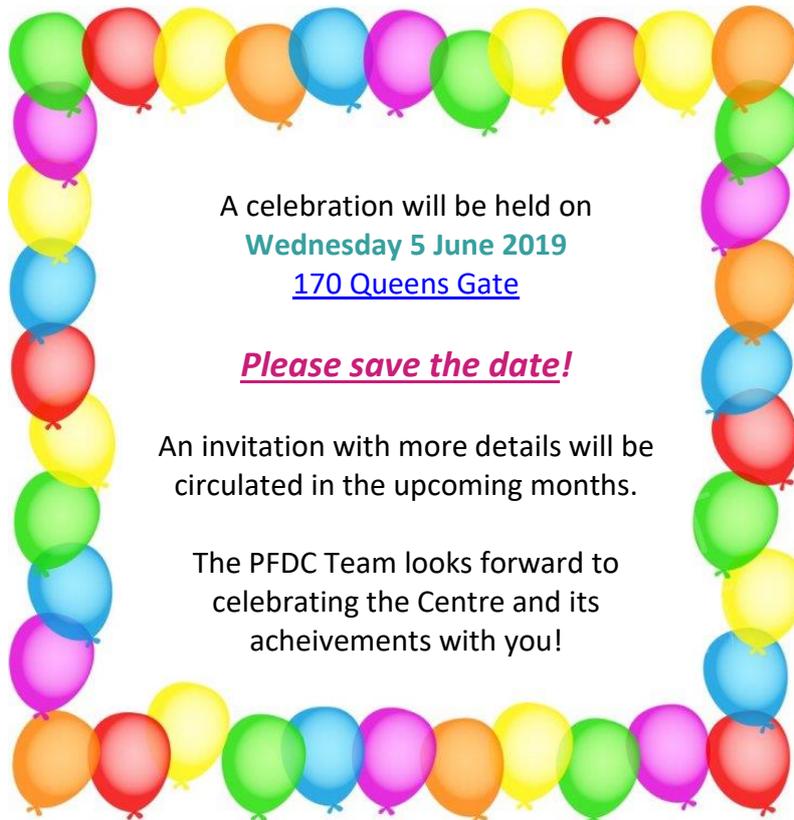
The PFDC team would like to thank everyone who came along for making the evening so enjoyable!

Pictures from the event can be found [here](#).



1. PFDC 10 Year Celebration ... Save the date!

This January the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre turns 10 years old!



2. Reps Events

*Have you met your departmental [postdoc reps](#)?
Do you know what events are being organised by the reps for your department or campus?*

If not, get involved and take a look at some of the upcoming events taking place across the College!

Surgery & Cancer – Career Morning Series

9:30, 22 January 2019, Room 122 Sir Alexander Fleming Building
South Kensington Campus

Their hugely popular breakfast career morning series is back!

Are you interested in exploring alternative career choices outside academia? If yes, come along to the next breakfast career morning talks. Dr Arun Sen, a former Imperial postdoc, who has transitioned to a career in GSK and one of her colleagues, Adam Hughes, with >10 years work experience in industry are coming along to give their perspectives of what it is like to work in big pharma. It will be a unique opportunity to hear the insights of working in industry and chat with the speakers afterwards. A full breakfast will also be provided. PhD students and staff welcome.

Reserve your place via this [Eventbrite link](#).

3. Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support

Pop Up: Starting to think about a Fellowship Application:

Tuesday 5 Feb 2019

15:00 to 17:00, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus

This Pop-Up introduces postdocs, fellows and clinicians 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. This particular pop up is specifically put on for those who are applying to attend the writing retreat on the 18-19 March as a pre-retreat session, however – everyone welcome.

[Register via Qualtrics](#) by 29 January 2019.

Induction and Cohort Building Afternoon for New Fellows and Clinicians

26 February, 12:00 to 17:30, South Kensington campus

All new independent research fellows and postdoctoral clinicians actively pursuing an academic career at Imperial, who start within the 2018-19 academic year, are invited to attend this comprehensive induction and cohort building afternoon that has been developed in response to feedback, and aims to help new starters settle into the College. In addition to receiving a wealth of useful information, participants will also have an opportunity to meet their peers, key stakeholders (e.g. the Faculty Deans) as well as those a few steps ahead (e.g. Lecturers, Senior Clinical Lecturers).

See [programme](#) for your information.

Please note that 100% of the feedback from the first induction held on the 30 October 2018 reported that the event, content covered and opportunities to network were beneficial and relevant to them.

- Eligible **new staff** (2018-19 academic year) should [register via Qualtrics](#) by 12 February 2019.

- **Current fellows/clinicians** who started earlier than 2018-19 academic year and find the programme useful are welcome to attend. If you would like to benefit - please just email pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk by 12 February clearly indicating whether you want to attend the full programme or just join the drinks reception that starts at approximately 16.50pm.

More information about the induction, cohort building and recommended personal and professional development events can be found via [this link](#).

Active Bystander and Persuasive Communication

➤ **27 Feb 2019** – SK Campus - [register](#) by 13 Feb.

Active Bystander: 13:30 - 14:30 (lunch will be provided at 13:00)

The aim of this short session is to empower you to challenge poor behaviours and bring about change where poor behaviours have become normalised. You benefit by learning techniques to challenge unacceptable behaviours in the workplace.

Persuasive Communication: 14:45 - 16:45 (refreshments provided)

This session is designed to equip you with skills to:

- manage/prevent conflict
- communicate assertively
- hold difficult conversations
- negotiate constructively

It will cover:

- Verbal and non-verbal persuasion devices
- Reading others - and gaining commitment
- The language of influence and collaboration
- The language of positive negotiation
- Difficult conversations

Fellows and Clinicians Forum

Save the date: Thursday 14 March 2019

St Mary's Campus, 15:30 to 17:00

Theme: Building collaborations – fears, misconceptions and approaches to effective collaborations. Stories of successes and failures shared by Imperial academics across all faculties.

PFDC Writing Retreat

Monday 18 to Tuesday 19 March 2019

The PFDC Writing Retreat aims to provide early career researchers with dedicated time, space, expertise and mentoring to work on any piece of writing. Priority will be given to those who will use this retreat to work on their fellowship application.

Please note that those who have expressed interest or have/will be put forward by their departments will be contacted with a short application on Wednesday 16 January. The deadline to submit this application is Wednesday 23 January, with shortlisting taking place on Monday 28

January. All applicants will be informed whether they have a place on the Writing Retreat on Wednesday 30 January.

If you missed the December deadline to send in your expression of interest to attend the writing retreat - we may still be able to consider you if you contact us by 15 January 2019.

Pre-Retreat Pop Up: Starting to think about a Fellowship Application

Tuesday 5 Feb 2019

15:00 to 17:00, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus.

Please find more information about this Pop Up above.

[Register via Qualtrics](#) by 29 January 2019.

4. Calling all postdocs....new reps required!

Maybe you have a New Years Resolution to try and make a difference in your department? Looking for something that would make your CV stand out? Have a great idea for an event for postdocs? Want to meet new people in your department and across the College?

If you answered [YES](#) to any of the above, then why not become a [departmental Rep](#)!!

Being a rep is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet new people in your department and really influence what support postdocs and fellows receive here at Imperial.

What do you get by being a rep?

- A position of responsibility within your department
- Become known to the Head of your department
- Opportunities to meet and network with new people from across the College
- A chance to influence College-wide initiatives
- The option to lead and organize events and initiatives
- Membership of committees
- Looks great on your CV!

Don't just take our word for it! Below are some testimonials from some current reps:

"I have been part of the Life Sciences Postdoc Committee since March 2017, and Chair since July 2018. During this time I have had the opportunity to meet other fellow Postdocs, and worked together to organise events that benefit the whole Postdoc Community. I have also learnt how institutions like Imperial College function, and work along other senior members of the Department. So far I can say that it has been a very rewarding experience." **Alicia Estacio Gomez, Life Sciences**

"Being a rep helps you to get to know more people, both in your department and across the College. It's great to be able to greet people when they first arrive and make them feel at home. It's also a way to become known in your department, and enables you to make Imperial a better place to work in concrete ways." **Adam Townsend, Maths**

Volunteers are always welcome, but in particular the below departments have open vacancies:

Engineering	Natural Sciences	Medicine
Chemical Engineering Computing EEE	Chemistry Physics Life Sciences	Medicine (all campuses) NHLI (Hammersmith)

If you would like to become a rep for your department or to discuss the role further, please contact Karen Hinxman at k.hinxman@imperial.ac.uk.

5. Pop Ups

Funders Showcase: Wellcome Trust

Thursday 10 January 2019
10:00-11:30, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

Thinking about applying for a Wellcome Trust fellowship?

This event will highlight the opportunities available to postdocs from the Wellcome Trust, including details about the fellowships they offer and the application process.

Come along to find out more.

Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop Up: Writing a lay summary

Thursday 10 January 2019
14:00-16:00, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

Turning your carefully thought-out research programme into simple, concise English in order to be accountable to the general public – it's become a standard part of funding and fellowship applications, and it's the stuff of many a researcher's nightmares. But the lay summary matters. It demonstrates neatly how clear your ideas are; the funders need it to evidence which projects they have invested in; and on a practical level, your lay summary may be the only part of your application which is read by the entire panel.

This bite-sized, interactive session will look at what goes in a lay summary, which bits to leave out, and how to pitch your language.

Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop Up: Active Bystander & Influence and Persuasion

Thursday 17 January 2019
9:30-12:00, SALC 1, South Kensington Campus

This session is split into two halves – the first being Active Bystander training followed by a session on Influence and Persuasion – sign up is for the whole session.

The session will be delivered by Scott Solder <http://www.scottsolder.com/>

Active Bystander:

The aim of this session is to empower you to challenge poor behaviours and bring about change where poor behaviours have become normalised, including bringing about cultural change through the reinforcement of messages defining the boundaries of unacceptable behaviour.

Influence and Persuasion:

This session will introduce delegates to influence and persuasion principles to build trust, gain commitment and maximise buy-in among colleagues and other stakeholders.

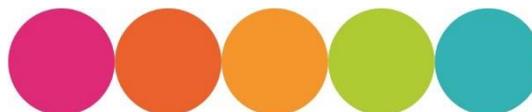
It will cover:

- Verbal and non-verbal persuasion devices (including physical gestures, body language and verbal assertiveness)
- Reading others - and gaining commitment (including interpretation of eye movements)
- The language of influence and collaboration (including language and persuasive intonation)

If you would like to attend this event, please register via this [Qualtrics link](#)

6. Upcoming Courses

The PFDC courses for the 2018/19 academic year are filling up quickly! Below are courses which still have spaces available in January and February:



[Science Communication: Reaching a Wider Audience](#)

Friday 11 January 2019

10:00 – 16:00

Science communication is an increasingly important part of a scientist's professional identity. Promoting your work and being able to debate its significance or its controversial aspects to a range of audiences is an essential skill and will enhance your job prospects.

This enjoyable workshop, led by an experienced journalist, will prepare you to talk about your work with scientists outside your specialism, media professionals, and members of the public. Through a hands-on activity with professional audio equipment, you will have the opportunity to explore some new skills by participating in the recording and editing of a short radio feature.

[Interviewing for an Academic Position](#)

Wednesday 30 January 2019

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.

[Time Management for Postdocs](#)

Friday 15 February 2019

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.

[Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career](#)

Monday 25 February 2019

09:00 – 11:00

This course, run by staff from Imperial Consultants, is for any postdoc interested in applying their knowledge to problems in industry, commerce and government. The course will introduce you to the world of academic consultancy, from acting as an expert witness to providing specialist advice. It will also introduce you to the support Imperial Consultants, a College-owned company, can offer you when consulting.

[How to Peer Review Research Papers](#)

Monday 25th February 2019

11:30 – 14:00

The ability to review papers should be a core skill of every research scientist. With the growing number of manuscripts being submitted to scientific journals, editors are increasingly reliant on independent experts who can deliver good-quality reviews in a timely fashion. This course is designed for postdocs and researchers at the early stage of their career who have little or no experience of peer-reviewing.

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

Monday 25th February 2019

14:30 – 17:00

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.

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

Tuesday 26 February 2019

09:30 – 16:30

Are you working on projects in collaboration with industry? Would you like to improve your creative thinking skills and the tools to manage the projects they create? 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).

Please book onto training with ICIS: Sign in and click 'My Training' – Search for the course – Click: Enrol.

7. INVaR Early Career Researchers Seminar – 23 January 2019

The [Imperial Network for Vaccine Research \(INVaR\)](#) Early Career Researchers Committee are proud to announce their first

INVaR Early Career Researchers Seminar

23 January 2019, 16:00 – 18:00

Room G65A and G65B, Medical School Building, Mary's Campus

This seminar series is an informal way for ECRs to gain experience presenting their research as well as exposure to what other ECRs are working on in the vaccine field that may lead to potential future collaborations.

This first seminar will include presentations from Krystal Lau (PhD Candidate in Health Economics, Imperial College Business School) and Megan Cole (Research Technician, Department of Medicine, Imperial College London) and will be followed by a networking reception with drinks and light refreshments from 17:00.

For further information, including registration, please use this [Eventbrite link](#).



8. Safety Leadership Training

This training is delivered by a lawyer specializing in the defence and prosecution of health and safety offences, and focuses on individual health and safety duties and responsibilities for those working at Imperial College. The training includes:

- A safety incident
- An interview under caution
- A courtroom scenario

The session will demonstrate why things have gone wrong and the importance of knowing what is actually happening in the areas you control.

For more information on this course please click [here](#).

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.