Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

July 2019

Welcome to July’s newsletter! This is our last newsletter for the 2018/19 academic year, and we cannot believe how the year has flown by. This month’s newsletter highlights key events that took place last month, upcoming events and opportunities over the summer and things to look forward to in Autumn.

The team would like to wish you a happy summer. We are looking forward to sending you our next newsletter in September!

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

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

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: Winners of the President’s Award for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor

A new category for 2019, the President’s Award for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor celebrates the valuable contribution that postdocs make towards the supervision of PhD students.

On 20 June the PFDC and the Graduate School hosted a celebratory lunch to recognise the work of Assistant Supervisors and to celebrate the outcome of the President’s Awards for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor.

The PFDC team would like to congratulate;
Dr David Pugh, Department of Chemistry;
Dr James Armstrong, Department of Materials;
Dr Stuart Higgins, Department of Materials;
and Dr Jemma Shipton, Department of Mathematics
on winning the Outstanding Assistant Supervisor award 2019!

You can read more from one of the Winners Dr David Pugh here.

1. PFDC 10 Year Celebration

In January 2019 the PFDC turned 10 years old! Throughout the last 10 years the Centre has continually grown, developing pre-existing provisions and creating new ones to provide a bespoke package of services for postdocs, fellows and clinicians.

To mark the occasion and share some of the Centre’s key successes, the PFDC team held a BBQ at 170 Queen’s Gate on 5 June to celebrate the Centre and its achievements.

The PFDC team would like to thank everyone who attended and for your continued support. The growth and success of the Centre would not have been possible without you!

Photos from the celebration can be found on flicker here.
2. PFDC Reps Awards 2019 – Winners announced

On 19 June the fifth PFDC Reps Awards Ceremony was held to thank and recognise the significant contribution the reps make to the PFDC Reps Network. In total there were 13 nominees for the PFDC Reps Individual Award and 5 self nominations for the PFDC Reps Team Award.

The PFDC would like to thank the Provost Professor Ian Walmsley for presenting the awards and thank all of those who made the event an enjoyable occasion. A selection of photos from the event can be found here on flickr.

If you would like to talk about becoming a rep please email k.hinxman@imperial.ac.uk

**PFDC Reps Individual Award**

Front row: Dr Nina Moderau, Surgery & Cancer - Finalist, Dr Claudia Contini, Chemistry - Winner, Dr Alicia Estacio Gomez, Life Sciences – Finalist, Dr Kiron Athwal, Mechanical Engineering – finalist. Back row: Dr Liz Elvidge (Head, PFDC), Prof Ian Walmsley (Provost), Dr Karen Hinxman (Consultant, PFDC)

**Winner**  
Dr Claudia Contini, Chemistry

**Finalists**  
Dr Kiron Athwal, Mechanical Engineering  
Dr Alicia Estacio Gomez, Life Sciences  
Dr Syed Anas Imtiaz, Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Dr Nina Moderau, Surgery & Cancer

**Nominees**  
Dr Michael Berthaume, Bioengineering, Dr Biancastella Cereser, Surgery & Cancer, Dr Nicolo Daina, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Dr Ann Go, Bioengineering, Dr Carmel Howe, Bioengineering, Dr Harsimrat Singh, Surgery & Cancer, Dr Joseph Wood, Mechanical Engineering, Dr Petr Yatsyshin, Chemical Engineering.
PFDC Reps Team Award

Department of Materials Receiving the PFDC Team Award, Department of Bioengineering with the Runners-up PFDC Team Award.

**Winner**
Department of Materials

**Runners up**
Department of Bioengineering

3. Techcelerate, Medtech SuperConnector and PFDC Networking Event

Thank you to all who attended the networking event on Wednesday 19 June – a joint venture between the PFDC, Techcelerate & MedTech SuperConnector and generously hosted by Central Working.

It was an excellent opportunity to hear from three Techcelerate & MedTech SuperConnector alumni who are progressing with their entrepreneurial ideas.

**Further details about the programmes:**

**Techcelerate** - A programme for Imperial postdocs who want to fast-track their business ideas – Techcelerate helps early career researchers hone their entrepreneurial skills and explore the commercial potential of their discoveries, ideas and inventions. The three-month programme provides participants with up to £30,000 in financial support, allowing researchers to leave their labs and travel around the world to meet potential partners and customers. This enables them to refine their ideas to better meet the needs of the real world. Participants also benefit from workshops and masterclasses as well as access to expert business advisors, coaches and entrepreneurial role models.

Register your interest in the next Techcelerate cohort
For queries, contact Dr Callum Lawrence, Techcelerate Programme Manager
**MedTech SuperConnector (MTSC)** - Create real world impact from your research and turn your idea into a commercial reality. Are you developing a technology with applications in healthcare? Get it to the people who need it faster with our startup business accelerator. The Venture Accelerator Programme offers a salary replacement to take eight months (full-time) away from the lab to develop your medical technology into a business venture. The programme offers entrepreneurship masterclasses, specialist advice, access to co-working space and an allowance for travel and consumables (up to £45,000).

The programme is open to all early career researchers, postdocs and PhD candidates with a medtech innovation in the lab at one of our partner institutions* who want to realise the commercial potential of their technology and develop entrepreneurial skills.

(*MTSC partner institutions include Imperial College London, Queen Mary University of London, Bucks New University, Francis Crick Institute, Royal College of Art, Royal College of Music, Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Veterinary College.)

MTSC Cohort Three Venture Accelerator – for further details and to apply now

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### 4. Imperial College Research Fellowships 2020

Imperial's prestigious [Imperial College Research Fellowships](#) (ICRF) 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 call for fellowships in 2020 has now been launched*  
*Please see the link above for more information*

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### 5. 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!

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**Hammersmith: Save the Date**  
Knowledge Transfer Symposium  
Friday 20 September 2019

The Hammersmith Reps are pleased to announce that the Knowledge Transfer Symposium will be taking place on Friday 20 September. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about the facilities that are available, as well as a chance for you to present your work and potentially win a prize!

There will be several keynote speakers in addition to a whole host of company sponsors for you to interact with.

For more information please contact hammersmithpdr@imperial.ac.uk
6. Blog of the Month

Academia and Motherhood – a postdoc’s experience

Parenthood: are you thinking about starting a family? Have you already become a parent and are still grasping what it all means for your career?

In this blog post Viktoria Mileva (postdoc at Stirling University) explores doubts, challenges and rewards of being a parent and an academic. She discusses part-time and working from home points of view and compromises.

The PFDC is here to provide you with support and we have an upcoming Pop Up on “Thinking about having a baby” on the 3 July – see below for more details. You can sign up to attend via this Qualtrics link.

Imperial provides a lot of support for new parents such as the Parent’s Network, My Family Care support and you can find more information on Imperial’s Children and Family Website.

7. Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support

Fellows and Clinicians Forum
Wednesday 3 July 2019, 15:00 – 17:00
Billard Room, 58 Princes Gate, South Kensington

Health and wellbeing is the theme for the summer term’s Fellows and Clinicians Forum. This theme has been chosen because we know that it is a significant issue around the College and my regular discussions with the fellows and clinicians community evidence that there is a need to provide space/time to discuss these issues and find strategies to address these.

Specifically, the fellows and clinicians forum provides you with an opportunity to:

1. Network and build cross-discipline contacts with peers across the College
2. Discuss and identify strategies to
   - look after your own health and wellbeing
   - learn to “spot the signs” to better support colleagues and most importantly your team in looking after their health and wellbeing
3. Receive expert advice from Clare O’Brien, Director of Occupational Health at Imperial Occupational Health.
4. Enjoy afternoon tea in a beautiful environment

Please register to attend via this Qualtrics link
Fellows & Clinicians [Women only event]: “In conversation with academic women: strategies for managing challenging situations”
Thursday 11 July 2019, 15:30 – 17:00
White City Campus: Room G27 at The Molecular Sciences Research Hub (MSRH)

This event forms part of the programme of support for Imperial fellows and clinicians and is aimed at women only in response to the feedback from the fellows and clinicians community across all faculties.

In particular, this event will provide opportunities to:
- Interact in an informal, confidential and supportive setting
- Discuss and practice strategies to address challenging situations/conversations
- Listen to the advice from academic women at Imperial College – clinical and non-clinical
- Learn from the experiences of academic women at different career stages/paths

Academic women who have kindly agreed to share their advice and expertise:
- Professor Liz Lightstone, PhD FRCP, Professor of Renal Medicine
- Professor Clare Lloyd, Vice-Dean (Institutional Affairs), National Heart & Lung Institute
- Dr Vicky Salem, Senior Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Medicine

Registration: sign up via qualtrics by 4 July 2019

8. Pop Ups

Funder Briefings for the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships

This pop up will cover everything you need to know about the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship Scheme.

- Details of the scheme can be found here
- Details about applying at Imperial and ‘Request for Support’ deadline (31 July 2019) can be found here

Dr Liz Elvidge (Head, PFDC) will talk through the scheme, provide a list of do’s and don’ts. She will also provide feedback from reviewers, provide an example of the reviewers assessment form and talk through the themes of the questions which are asked at interview. Basically- we will cover everything you need to know to put together an excellent application!

We have two dates for this Funder Briefing on UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships:

Tuesday 2 July 2019, 14:00-15:00, SALC 9 - Please sign up for the event via this Qualtrics link
Wednesday 3 July 2019, 15:30-16:30, SALC 2 - Please sign up for the event via this Qualtrics link
**Pop Up: Thinking about having a Baby**  
**Wednesday 3 July 2019, 14:00 – 15:30, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus**

This session will be an opportunity to hear about the facts concerning maternity/paternity/parental leave. Participants will gain an idea of the costs of having a baby in London and what grants are available after parental leave.

This will be followed by a panel discussion made up of postdocs who have already started families. Here you will be able to ask questions about what it is like to raise a family during your postdoc.

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

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**Pathways for Postdocs:**

**LinkedIn: How to build your profile and how to make the most out of it**  
**Tuesday 30 July 2019, 14.00 - 15.30, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus**

LinkedIn is a professional networking platform that can be used to increase your online visibility. A professional online presence is important as 64% of employers check future employees LinkedIn profile during the recruitment process.

During this workshop we will:
- discuss the sections of a LinkedIn profile, top tips on creating an effective profile, and what makes LinkedIn a great platform to showcase your career goals and achievements.
- practice writing some sections of your own profile and thinking about what to include in others.
- receive hints and tips on how to network with potential employers and how to take advantage of job adverts that you can find on LinkedIn.

You don’t need to have a LinkedIn profile already, but it would be helpful if you setup an account in advance.

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

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9. **Academic Strategy – staff and student consultation**

At the beginning of the year Imperial began the process of developing an Academic Strategy for the College. The strategy will outline the College’s core capabilities – those enduring characteristics which, taken together, mean that Imperial is uniquely placed to grapple with intellectual challenges and seize emerging opportunities. It will also identify common themes of intellectual endeavour where we have particular strengths and where opportunities are likely to emerge over the next few years. These are the areas in which the College will seek to accelerate its discovery and impact through strategic, College-wide investments.

Staff and student consultation sessions on the Academic Strategy are taking place this week. Please see the [Academic Strategy](#) webpages for information on these sessions and details of how to provide your feedback.
10. London Postdoc Society – National Postdoc Meeting

National Postdoc Meeting – Shaping Postdoc Culture
9:00 – 16:00, Fri 13 Sep 2019.
QMUL (Arts Two Building, Mile End Campus)

The London Postdoc Society welcomes all members of the research community to join them to: **generating solutions to current postdoc career challenges**

They will be hosting influential members from industry, funding agencies, policy makers/influencers, journal editors and research support to gain their perspectives on the existing postdoc environment and initiating constructive discussion on ways to tackle current challenges.

The themes discussed during the event will highlight primary topics wanting attention, with an aim to generate tangible solutions for improving career progression and regard for postdocs, that may be implemented by all parties concerned.

*Example discussion topics include:*

- Potential job roles/opportunities for postdocs in non-academic sectors
- The postdoc funding landscape – non traditional fellowship routes
- How can we dispel the perceived notion of an ‘institutionalised postdoc’?
- Postdoc-specific collaboration with industry
- Postdoc research as a career.

For more information about how to participate please contact Nina - n.moderau@imperial.ac.uk

11. Innovation Academy: Introduction to Intellectual Property

Innovation Academy: Introduction to Intellectual Property
Thursday 4 July 2019, 9:00 – 12:30, Imperial White City Incubator

The Imperial White City Incubator is running another of its popular Innovation Academy sessions, focusing on intellectual property and its importance to growing technology businesses.

The session is designed for any member of the Imperial College London community - staff, students and alumni - interested in gaining an understanding of intellectual property, how and why it should be used by a growing business, and how to build an IP portfolio.
**Topics covered will include:**

- IP with real life examples
- Patents and the patenting process
- How to read and search patent literature
- The importance of patent ownership
- Overview of how to plan and build an IP portfolio

**Registration:**
Participation in this session is free of charge to any member of the Imperial community, but you must register using this [Eventbrite link](#) in order to confirm attendance.

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**12. PFDC Courses**

The final PFDC course of the 2018/19 academic year is being held on 10 July. This year the PFDC has run over 50 courses and we are currently busy planning the upcoming course programme.

Course dates and enrolments will be available from mid-September. All postdocs, fellows and clinicians will receive an email advising when enrolments are live. Keep an eye out for this email and check back on our website at this time. We look forward to seeing you at our training courses in the next academic year!

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, [here](#) for qualtrics privacy statement and [here](#) for eventbrites privacy statement.