Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

June 2019

Welcome to June’s newsletter! Summer is on it’s way (🤞 that the sun continues to shine for the rest of the month) and while you are (hopefully) enjoying the sunshine, why not have a read of this month’s event packed PFDC newsletter!

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: Assistant Supervisor Lunch
Thursday 20th June 2019, 12:00-13.30, SALC 6
South Kensington Campus

In recognition of the important and valued contribution that postdocs make towards the supervision of PhD Students, the College introduced a new process in 2018 to formally recognise them as Assistant Supervisors.

In 2019 as part of The President’s Awards for Excellence in Education (annual awards to recognise staff members who have made outstanding contributions in teaching, research supervision and supporting the student experience) the new President’s Awards for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor was established.

The Graduate School and PFDC are hosting a celebratory lunch to recognise the work of Assistant Supervisors and to celebrate the outcome of President’s Awards for Outstanding Assistant Supervisor.

All are welcome to come along to celebrate and to learn more about being / becoming an Assistant Supervisor.

Please sign up for this event via the Qualtrics link.

1. Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund

When applying for that coveted lectureship position, more and more advertisements call for the applicant to demonstrate the ability to secure their own funding. However, it is increasingly difficult for a postdoc to secure funding for their own projects.

The Faculty of Engineering Research Committee, together with the PFDC is committed to promoting opportunities to aid postdocs. Building on the success of the last two years, the committee has decided to support the Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund for a third year. Information about the previously funded projects can be found here. This is a unique opportunity for engineering postdocs as the fund aims to help postdocs to improve their record in attracting their own research funding and to become independent from the research of their PI.

There is a total of £19,500 available to fund collaborative research projects. This fund aims to promote collaboration between postdocs in the Faculty of Engineering, whereby funding applications submitted must involve a minimum of two postdocs from different departments in Engineering. You may not have an independently funded fellow or lecturer/professor on the application. To facilitate the interaction between the departments, an Engineering-wide networking event will precede the proposal deadline.

How to Participate
To submit an application to the fund, you must be a postdoc in the Faculty of Engineering and attend the networking event. The facilitated networking event will take place at 15:00 on 17 June 2019 in Room G05, Royal School of Mines. There will be lots of opportunities to discuss research ideas and potential overlap, in the view to developing a collaborative project.
Application and Pre-requisites
To attend the networking event you are required to fill out a short form where you will provide a short (200 words) summary of your research as well as a list of five keywords which can include your key skill-sets/knowledge.

These will be circulated in addition to the application form and guidelines to all participants before the event. **Registration will close at 11:00 on Monday 10 June 2019.**

Application timeline
- Networking event – 17 June 2019
- Application submission deadline - **09:00 Thursday 18 July 2019**
- Assessment Panel – 31 July 2019
- Successful applicants will be notified the week beginning 5 August 2019

2. Blog of the Month

Peer review: time to get ECRs involved

Ever wonder how to get into peer-review? How editors can find you and how can you start contributing to this important role as an academic? Read the blog from Andreas Vilhelmsen @PlosBlogs. Here you will find insights on open access, peer-review recognition, how to become a reviewer and links to other topics such as how to be credited as a reviewer.

To increase your online visibility to editors and other researchers, we advise you to register for an ORCID (a unique identification number that you can use in your publications, grant applications and even peer review). You can also register for an account with Publons – this reviewer profile is now merged with Web of Science so you can have a summary of your publications and your reviews in one place only.

Don’t forget the PFDC is here to provide you with support and we also run a training course on Peer-Review – if you can’t sign up for this one, all courses for the next academic year go live mid-September so keep an eye out for the announcement in the newsletter.

3. Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support

PFDC Writing Away Day

Are you currently working on or planning to work on a piece of writing such as a fellowship application (incl. intermediate/advanced fellowships) or a paper and need dedicated time and space to focus on just that?

If so, check out the details of the upcoming PFDC writing away day on **17 June 2019**.
A one day writing away day provides postdocs, fellows and clinicians (post-PhD and final year Clinical Research Fellows actively pursuing an academic career at Imperial) with dedicated time/space, expert advice and mentoring to work on a piece of writing and to be part of a community of writers. The writing away day will enable you to:

- Dedicate a full day out of your workplace to focus on writing
- Discuss, agree and evaluate specific goals to be achieved
- Work alongside your peers in a motivating and supportive environment
- Identify and put in place strategies to eliminate distractions (e.g. procrastination)
- Benefit from optional 20 min advisory sessions with experts in their field

**Closing date for applications: 11 June 2019.** To find out more about the writing away day and access the application form, follow this link.

Future writing away days will take place on following dates:

- Mon 9 - Tue 10 Sept 2019: Writing Retreat (two consecutive days off campus, no overnight stay, must attend both days)
- Wed 6 Nov 2019: Writing Day @ White City Campus
- Wed 13 Nov 2019: Writing Day @ SK Campus
- Thu 16 – Fri 17th January 2020: Writing Retreat ((two consecutive days off campus, no overnight stay, must attend both days)

Calls for application to follow - stay tuned!

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**Fellows and Clinicians Forum**

The summer term Fellows and Clinicians Forum will take place on **Wed 3 July 2019 at 3 – 5 pm** at 58 Princes Gate, South Kensington.

The purpose of the forum is to provide our fellows and clinicians with a regular platform to interact, share expertise and build cross-discipline contacts across the College with the aim to enhance their careers. The format will continuously evolve along with changing needs and priorities. Previous forums focussed on building collaborations – ethics, fears, misconceptions and approaches to effective collaborations, advancing your career through networking with peers and career advice from academics few steps ahead. Further info and feedback on previous forums can be found on the past events and gallery page on our website.

**Register via Qualtrics** by Wed 19 June.

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**Fellows & Clinicians [Women only event]: “In conversation with academic women: strategies for managing challenging situations”**

**Thursday, 11 July 2019, 15:30 – 17:00, at 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.

4. Pop Ups

**Funder Briefing: UKRI Stephen Hawking Fellowships**  
Monday 10th June 2019, 11:30-13.00, SALC 10, South Kensington Campus

This session will cover everything you need to know about the UKRI Stephen Hawking Fellowships Scheme.

The Stephen Hawking Prize fellowships will support and develop the next generation of visionary scientists in theoretical physics at the beginning of their career. UKRI are providing funding for five annual calls delivered jointly by EPSRC and STFC.

Round one is now open and intentions to submit must be received by 20 June 2019.

Details of the scheme can be found via this link.

Dr Liz Elvidge (Head, PFDC) will talk through the scheme and provide a list of do’s and don’ts.

Please sign up for the event via this Qualtrics link

**Pop Up: Data Protection – what you need to know about General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**  
Tuesday 18th June 2019, 15:00-16:00, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus

This session will be an introduction to GDPR and how the College has been implementing the required changes. It will explain the law in brief, the relevance to postdocs and fellows, and what the College is doing to assist staff to ensure their compliance.

Robert Scott, Data Protection Officer within the Legal Services Office will be delivering this presentation and Q&A.
Please note there is a GDPR webpage and training package (see this [link](#)) for further information.

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

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**Pop Up: Assertiveness**  
**Thursday 20th June 2019, 10:00-11.30, SALC 6, South Kensington Campus**

The aim of this pop-up workshop is to give you a better understanding of what assertiveness is and identify those situations where assertiveness skills are required. We will also explore how to behave assertively in appropriate situations.

You will get to try out being assertive using case studies as examples.

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

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**Imperial College Research Fellowships - 2020 ICRF competition**

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.

Advanced notice of the 2020 ICRF round has now been released on the ICRF website. It is anticipated that this call will be launched in June 2019.

The PFDC are running fellowship briefings for the ICRF to help you prepare your applications - please see dates and sign up to one of the sessions using the link below.

**ICRF Funder Briefings**

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<th>Campus</th>
<th>Qualtrics Link</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 26 Jun</td>
<td>9.30-11.00</td>
<td>Peart Room</td>
<td>St Marys</td>
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<td>Thurs 27 Jun</td>
<td>9.30-11.00</td>
<td>SALC 2</td>
<td>South Ken (women only)</td>
<td><a href="#">Sign up SK Women Only</a></td>
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<td>Thurs 27 Jun</td>
<td>11.00-12.30</td>
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<td>15.00-16.30</td>
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<td>White City or Hammersmith (TBC)</td>
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5. **Careers@Imperial 2019**

As part of the Careers@Imperial week the PFDC team are holding the following events on **Wednesday 19th June 2019**
Pop Up: Career Goals - Plan to Succeed
Wednesday 19 June, 10:30 to 12:00, SALC 6, South Kensington

Plan to Succeed - explore career goal setting – an essential tool for time management, personal and professional progression. During this session you will reflect on your career and set individual career goals.

This session is for postdocs, fellows and clinicians. Please sign up for the event via this Qualtrics link

PFDC Networking Lunch
Wednesday 19 June, 12:30 to 13:30, SALC 6, South Kensington

The PFDC provides training and development opportunities to launch and assist postdocs, fellows and clinicians careers and development. Whatever pathway you choose, we’ll support you to succeed. Come along to hear about the support available to postdocs, fellows and clinicians at Imperial. This is also a great opportunity to network with postdocs, fellows and clinicians from across the College and PFDC staff.

All welcome: postdocs, fellows, clinicians, colleagues that work with early career researchers and colleagues interested in what the PFDC do. Please sign up for the event via this Qualtrics link

6. Giving our Girls Role Models Beyond the “Science Guys”

Role models play an incredibly important role in developing a STEM identity for students, yet there still seems to be an overwhelming tendency to default toward the “science guys” when trying to drum up classroom excitement for sciences.

Dr Jeanne Garbarino who works for RockEDU Science Outreach, sent out a tweet asking ‘science twitter’ for examples of female scientists.

A group of female scientists at a Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre event got involved and sent in a photograph of themselves to help with compiling a list of role models!

The article can be accessed here.

7. The Life of P.I. Transitions to Independence in Academia

Earlier in 2018 @SophieActon (UCL), @AndrewJDBell (Sheffield), @ChrisToseland (Kent) and Ali @TwelvetreesLab (Sheffield) published a paper in BioRxiv based on a survey they conducted for new PIs in the UK in the past 6 years. They decided to launch this survey based on their own experiences and to try to understand the challenges that new PIs face when they get started as independent researchers in the UK.
The authors have many great tips for postdocs and fellows applying for independent positions, all of them you have probably heard when attending any event related to Lectureships by the PFDC.

Although it is based on a survey and has (obviously) limited reach we would like to remind all postdocs and fellows at Imperial that the PFDC provides support for people transitioning to independent positions in Academia, but also provides specific resources for Research Fellows. You can find them all here (note – all courses for the 2019/20 academic year go live in September, so keep an eye out for the announcement that enrolments are available).

You can also join wider networks for support such as the Slack Channel for UK_NewPI – email or tweet one of the authors and they will add you.

The article can be accessed here.

8. Startup Marketing Workshop

**Startup Marketing Workshop**

*With G.Sancho - Sales and Marketing for Startups Industry Expert*

**When?** Every Thursday evening from 6 June – 27 June, 17:00 – 20:00

**What?** During this series you will learn the basics of startup marketing and the fundamentals of how to prepare an initial pitch deck for future investment. We will be looking at practical examples and what steps to take when building a digital roadmap and marketing strategy.

**Sessions will cover topics including:**

- Marketing fundamentals & strategy
- Competitive analysis
- Audience personas
- Product marketing
- Marketing channels (social, emails...)
- Pitch deck fundamentals

**Who?** This workshop is available to all at Imperial; whether you are looking to start a business, already run a business, or are looking to join a startup in a marketing role.

**Where?** Imperial College Advanced Hackspace, Stadium House, 68 Wood Lane, White City, London, W12 7TA. Room: Enter from Door A and meet in the Challenge Room

*If you’re looking to attend, please take the time to fill in this short survey which will enable us to tailor this workshop accordingly.* Limited spaces available!

9. Career Destinations and Pathway Information

Griffith University initiated a project to gather career destination and pathway information from doctoral and research masters (HDR) graduates, of which there have been ~4,000 since the late 1970s.
Results were gathered in 2017 and 2018 from 1,416 PhD, doctoral and research masters graduates—and outcomes are presented interactively in the article. The article can be accessed here.

10. X-College AMR Conference: 9 July 2019

On 9 July 2019, the NIHR Health Protection Unit in Healthcare Associated Infections and AMR and the Antimicrobial Research Collaborative @Imperial will be hosting a summit on ‘Technical Solutions to Support Infection Management & Address AMR’.

The conference will be held at Translation & Innovation Hub (I-HUB) on the White City Campus, and will bring together experts from academia, government, funding bodies and industry to discuss how recent technological advances can be applied to tackling antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases.

The event will feature talks from participants across the College (Medicine, Natural Sciences and Engineering) in addition to external speakers.

Please register via this Eventbrite link.

11. Researcher Wellbeing Calendar

June is Researcher Wellbeing Month! The University of Sheffield have created a wellbeing calendar with a thought/action of the day to make you feel good and hopefully those around you too.
To subscribe or unsubscribe from our mailing lists and newsletter please email us at pfds-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.