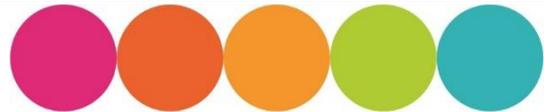


# POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians



## Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

**May 2019**

Welcome to May's newsletter! With not one, but two long weekends this month, why not use some of that extra down time to take a look and see what the PFDC can offer you over the next few months.

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!

### **In this issue:**

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## PFDC in Focus: Reps Awards

The PFDC is delighted to announce that the

### 2019 PFDC Reps Awards are now open for nominations!

*Have your postdoc reps made an impact in your department/division/section/centre over the last academic year? Created opportunities for networking? Encouraged postdocs to take advantage of the range of development opportunities available? Organised useful events, meetings, or symposium? Or have you noticed any other contribution that has made a difference?*

If the answer to any of the above is **YES!** why not nominate them for either the [PFDC Individual Award or the PFDC Team Award](#) as a way of showing your appreciation.

To nominate someone for the PFDC Individual Award – please fill out this short [Qualtrics form](#). If you would like your reps to be nominated for the PFDC Team Award, please encourage them to fill out the self-nomination form which they will receive.

### Closing date for nominations is Wednesday 13 June at 17:00

The winners will receive their award during the Reps Award Dinner on 19 June 2019

## 1. PFDC 10 Year Celebration ... An Invitation!

A dark blue poster with colorful confetti (triangles, circles, lines) scattered throughout. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'The Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre Imperial College London is proud to announce their'. In the center, a large '10' is formed by colorful segments, with 'Year Anniversary' written across it. Below that, it says 'You are invited to the 10 Year Celebration of the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre on Wednesday 5th June 2019 16:00 – 20:00'. The address '170 Queens Gate, Kensington, London, SW7 5HF' is listed. It then says 'Welcome drinks will be served from 16:00 and a BBQ will available from 17:00'. The next line reads 'The PFDC team look forward to celebrating the Centre and its achievements with you, which would not have been possible without your support!'. Below that, it says 'Please RSVP to pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk by 20th May 2019'. At the bottom, it says 'Please also send any dietary requirements.'

## 2. Reps Events

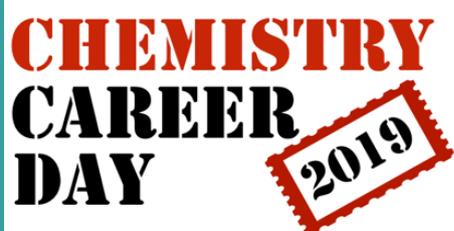
*Have you met your departmental [postdoc reps](#)?*

*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!

### Chemistry – Career Day 2019

Friday 31 May 2019 – MSRH



**CHEMISTRY  
CAREER  
DAY** 2019

The Department of Chemistry is hosting a Chemistry Career Day on the 31 May 2019 at the new Molecular Sciences Research Hub (MSRH) which is open to all the postdocs, fellows and PhDs in the Department.

The event is a great opportunity for PhDs, Postdocs and Fellows, to explore different career options and will help guide you in choosing the right career path. There will be talks from alumni now working in both academic and non-academic fields as well as a Science Art Photo Competition supported by company sponsors at the event. If you would like to attend please contact the reps - [chempostdocreps@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:chempostdocreps@imperial.ac.uk).

## 3. Blog of the Month

### How business-savvy scientists can find success in the risky start-up world

*Have you found a gap in your field that can lead to a business idea? Are you wondering if you need to leave academia to be an entrepreneur?*

In this Nature Career feature several scientists talk about their different journeys into business – from remaining in academia to becoming full time entrepreneurs! With some jargon busting and advice on how to capitalise on your technical and non-technical skills, this is a great article to get started.



Don't forget the PFDC is here to provide you with support – we provide two training courses: [The Postdoc Entrepreneur: Business Plan Basics](#) and [Innovation and Industry: Effective Project Implementation](#) - these courses go live for enrolments in September so keep an eye out for the announcement in the newsletter. Imperial's support for [enterprising staff](#) can be found through [Imperial Innovations](#) as well as through the [Entreprise Lab](#).

## 4. Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support

### Fellows and Clinicians Forum

**Eight researchers. Two experts. Thought-provoking discussions.**

The spring term fellows and clinicians forum, held on 14 March at St Mary's Campus, focussed on building collaborations – ethics, fears, misconceptions and approaches to effective collaborations. A highly enjoyable and beneficial opportunity for honest conversations with academic experts and peers that led to increased confidence and answers to worries about building collaborations.

**Please email suggestions for themes for the next forum, to be held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 (3-5 pm) at SK Campus to PFDC Consultant [Lenne Lillepuu](#)**

*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. It provides an opportunity to interact and learn from senior colleagues – senior fellows, Deans, HoDs and diverse experts within the College and outside. The **format** will continuously evolve along with changing needs and priorities.*

More information about the bespoke programme of support that is offered can be found [here](#).

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## 5. Pop Ups

**Pop Up: Metrics as evidence of research impact**  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, 10.00-11.30, SALC 2, South Kensington

Sometimes metrics are used to evaluate research publications. The aim of this pop up workshop is to introduce you to the most commonly used metrics, debunk the mysteries surrounding them and provide practical advice to help you use appropriate metrics to demonstrate the impact of your research.

This session will be delivered by Robyn Price, Bibliometrics and Indicators Manager, Library Services, Imperial.

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

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**Pop Up: Engagement and Impact**  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 14.00-16.00, SALC 1, South Kensington

This session is being delivered by [Dr Amy Seakins](#), Engagement Manager (Capacity Building and Evaluation) and Amanda Mathieson, Engagement Assistant (Capacity Building), Office of the Provost.

Come along to this pop up session to discover more about what public engagement is, why it is important and how it can benefit you and your work. We will focus in particular on how engaging with members of the public, schools, patients and community groups can help you to achieve research impact.

Find out tips on how to plan for impact through engagement, as well as achieve it and evidence it. **Ideal if you are thinking about research proposals or fellowship applications**, we will take a look at what the big funders think about engagement and impact, as well as having some time to consider what it all means for our own areas of research.

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

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**Pop Up: Getting media coverage**  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 10.00-11.30, SALC 6, South Kensington

Sharing the results of your research and gaining media coverage is an excellent way to show impact, as well as potentially bringing you new opportunities for collaboration and funding. During this workshop you will learn how the press office can help you promote your research to the media, what we consider when promoting stories, and how news stories and press releases are put together. You will have a chance to try it out for yourself by summarizing your research and pitching it for a press release.

In addition, if you've ever considered science communication as a career we'll talk a little about the different roles we've had in our careers, with plenty of time for Q&A at the end of the session.

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

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**Funder Showcase: British Heart Foundation**  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019, White City and South Kensington

*Thinking about applying for a British Heart Foundation fellowship?*

**Ross King**, Research Advisor from British Heart Foundation will be highlighting the opportunities available from the British Heart Foundation, including details about the fellowships they offer and the application process. Come along to find out more.

- **White City Campus** – 10.00-11.00 [Molecular Sciences Research Hub](#) room G23/G24  
Please sign up for the event at White City via this [Qualtrics link](#)
  - **South Kensington Campus** – 14.00-15.00 Sherfield Building, SALC 2  
Please sign up for the event at South Kensington via this [Qualtrics link](#)
- 

**Pathways for Postdocs:**  
**Postdoc to Senior Systems Assurance Engineer at WSP**  
**- transition from academia to industry**  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 10.00-11.30, SALC 1, South Kensington

Dr Mikela Chatzimichailidou is currently a Senior Systems Assurance Engineer at WSP and a Visiting Fellow at Cranfield University. Between 2016 and 2018 she was a Postdoctoral Research Associate and a Postdoc Rep at Imperial.

Mikela will give a talk on her recent professional transition from academia to industry, the timing and reasons for this shift, her dual role, the pros and cons of the corporate world and the recruiters' perspective.

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

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### **Pop Up: Navigating the Lifecycle of Collaborative Research Project** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, 10.00-12.00, SALC 1, South Kensington

The session will be delivered by the College's [Research Project Management team](#).

In this pop up session, we will provide an overview of the value of research collaborations and the benefits of effective project management. We will introduce you to the lifecycle of a research project with the added complexity of working with multiple collaborators from academia as well as industry. Specific project management areas such as dissemination, exploitation and communication, data management and stakeholder engagement will be explored.

#### **Key areas:**

- To gain insights into the strategic benefits of collaborations in research.
- To understand how to manage the lifecycle of collaborative research projects (from application to project closure and beyond).
- To understand current funders' requirements and associated terminology.
- To explore specific project management skills to lead and participate in research collaborations.

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

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### **Pop Up: Communication, Respect and Culture** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, 13.30-16.00, SALC 1, South Kensington

This workshop will give you some vital tools to influence others and get the best possible result out of any given situation. Whether you would like to communicate more effectively with your line manager, understand the reactions of fellow postdocs from other backgrounds better, or have greater influence in your group, this workshop is for you.

#### **You will learn:**

- how to persuade others with words and body language
- how to read others and gain their commitment
- how to have greater influence, collaborate effectively and gain respect
- how different cultural backgrounds can lead to misunderstandings and how to avoid them
- how to deal with inappropriate behaviour, such as harassment or bullying

The course is facilitated by Scott Solder, a highly experienced language and communication specialist. Scott is a former Editor and Executive Producer at BBC News and Current Affairs, The One Show, BBC Radio 5 Live and LBC Radio. He is co-author of "You Need This Book To Get What You

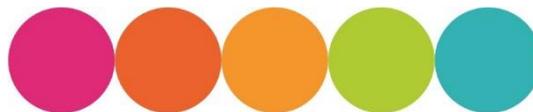
Want". Scott has facilitated a number of courses at Imperial, including the highly successful Active Bystander training.

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

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## 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 May and June.



### Monday 13 May 2019, 9:30 to 16:30 [Interviewing for a Position outside Academia](#)

Preparation is a key element of the job application process, especially for interviews. This course is designed for postdocs who are looking to move into a non-academic environment and will help you to understand and prepare specifically for the interview process. Run by the Careers Service, there will be an opportunity to practise and develop your interviewing skills.

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### Friday 17 May 2019, 14:00 to 17:00 [Time Management for Postdocs](#)

"I don't have time to get it all done." "I don't have time to write that paper." "My PI/students/family keep asking me to do things". 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.

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### Thursday 6 to Friday 7 June 2019 (priority for this course will be given to fellows) [Leadership in Research: Vision, Strategy and Team Culture](#)

Working with early career research leaders from across Imperial we will explore leadership and management using a mixture of case studies, advice from senior academics and theory. We will cover topics such as leadership styles, creating a group culture, raising the visibility of yourself and your group, conflict resolution and strategic thinking. An overarching theme will be your own personal career development. The course will be highly participative with group work and the opportunity to benefit from one-to-one coaching. Participants will have the opportunity to generate their personal [Belbin Team Roles](#) report. There will be a small amount (<1hr) of preparatory work before the course.

This two day residential course for fellows and senior postdocs will build on the materials covered in "[Managing your first research group.](#)" Attendance on the previous course is not a prerequisite, but delegates must have experience of research management, preferably with their own research groups.

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**Thursday 13 June 2019, 9:30 to 16:30**  
**[Preparing Successful Fellowship Applications](#)**

This course introduces postdocs to fellowship funding and the process of making a fellowship application. During the course you will learn where to look for appropriate fellowship funding, how to apply and how to prepare a written application. Additionally you will take part in a practice exercise providing insight into the writing and peer review processes. Successful applicants and panel members from Imperial will share their experience of applying for fellowships in a question and answer session.

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**Tuesday 18 June 2019, 9:00 to 11:00**  
**[Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career](#)**

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.

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**Friday 18 June 2019, 11:30 to 14:00**  
**[How to Peer Review Research Papers](#)**

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.

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**Monday 24 June 2019, 10:00 to 16:00**  
**[Science Communication: Reaching a Wider Audience](#)**

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.

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**Friday 28 June 2019, 9:30 to 16:30**  
**[Writing Tools for Research Publication Success](#)**

This workshop will improve your chances of being published in top quality refereed journals. The course will deal with each subsection of a research article: Introduction, Methods, Results,

Discussion/Conclusion, Title and Abstract. You will be given the tools to analyse research articles in your own specialised discipline to then be able to create conventional, effective texts. Through detailed, guided text analysis and exercises, you will be shown how to develop a model for research writing in your field and will also gain knowledge of the language features specific to each section of a research article.

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

## 7. Mental Health Awareness Week



Mental Health Awareness Week is taking place from **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019**. At Imperial the focus will be **self-care**.

Self-care is the action we take to maintain, develop and improve our own health and wellbeing. What do we need to look after ourselves? What works for us? And, what else could we do?

A week of activities focusing on how we can take care of our bodies and minds has been developed in addition to the existing resources for both staff and students. You can sign up for sessions ranging from meditation workshops to a lunchtime walk.

**For the full programme and to register for sessions [please click here](#).**

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To subscribe or unsubscribe from our mailing lists and newsletter please email us at [pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk](mailto: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.