Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

September 2019

Welcome to September’s newsletter! We hope you have enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the next academic year. With our courses going live this month we are sure we have something to tempt you with.

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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In the 2018/19 academic year the PFDC turned 10 years old, with the tenth year being even busier and more successful than before. The centre welcomed new staff members and has a variety of new resources! Here are some of the highlights of the last academic year:

- 365 one to one meetings ... 111 more than the previous year!
- 135 mock interviews ... 41 more than the previous year
- 64 pop ups, funder showcases and pathways events for 1,061 delegates
- 51 courses for 678 attendees
- 2 Springboard Women’s Development Programme’s attended by 67 female staff members
- Termly Reps Network meetings and meetings with the Postdoc and Fellows Champions
- Three Welcome Lunches
- The PFDC 10 Year Celebration
- The PFDC Reps Awards
- The ICRF Welcome Dinner and Development Day
- The Christmas Ceilidh

The PFDC team are looking forward to the year ahead and working closely with Imperial’s postdocs, fellows and clinicians. Don’t forget that if you would like more information on the services that we will be providing in the 2019/20 academic year please visit our [website](#) or contact us via email.

**What you had to say ....**

- 99% of people strongly agreed or agreed that their one-to-one meeting was useful and informative
- 92% of people strongly agreed or agreed that they know more about a subject having attended a PFDC course
- 97% of people strongly agreed or agreed that they used the information and advice given by the PFDC to make positive changes
On 17 June, 62 Engineering Postdocs came together for the networking event which announced the start of the application process for the Faculty of Engineering Dame Julia Higgins Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund. The event was a huge success and in total 40 applications were submitted.

The Assessment Panel met to consider all the applications and after a review of the scores and much discussion, a total of nine proposals were funded. The panel considered that the successful applications showcased:

• Project proposals that were clearly structured and written for a non-specialist audience
• Detailed what each collaborator would be contributing, including how much time they would be dedicating to the project
• Outcomes that were ambitious, but appropriate to the work outlined in the proposal
• Costings were realistic and offered value for money

The proposals which were funded were:

Cartilage regeneration using electrical stimulation paired with conductive hydrogels
Michael Bruyns-Haylett – Bioengineering, Panagiotis Kassanos - Computing (Hamlyn Centre), Meysam Keshavarz - Computing (Hamlyn Centre).

Development of Biorecognition-Element Implanted 3D printed Electrodes: Towards a Cervical Cancer Screening Test
Robert Channon – Bioengineering, Binbin Chen - Mechanical Engineering, Xinhua Liu - Dyson School of Design Engineering

Development of Biorecognition-Element Implanted 3D printed Electrodes: Towards a Cervical Cancer Screening Test
Ado Farsi - Earth Science and Engineering, Enrica Papi – Bioengineering.

Metal 3D printed structures: evaluating the effect of residual stresses
Nicolas Hadjipantelis - Civil & Environmental Engineering, Ado Farsi - Earth Sciences and Engineering

Improving the reliability of low-cost brain monitoring systems for healthcare applications
Syed Anas Imtiaz – EEE, Hafiz Amin - Mechanical Engineering

Hollow core particles for non-invasive measurement of pressure
Muhsincan Sesen – Bioengineering, Wenqian Chen - Chemical Engineering, Ado Farsi - Earth Science and Engineering

Hydrodynamic Sampling and Sensing of Nucleic Acids from Biofluids
Sze-yin Tan - Chemical Engineering, Robert Channon - Bioengineering

3D-printed bioadhesive hydrogel-based patches for regenerative healing of lung tears
Dominic Wales - Computing (Hamlyn Centre), Carmel Howe – Bioengineering, Meysam Keshavarz - Computing (Hamlyn Centre)
Green suspension systems of road vehicles for improved ride comfort and fuel economy
Min Yu - Mechanical Engineering, Boli Chen – EEE, Hailing Fu – Aeronautics

Congratulations to the successful applicants, we look forward to seeing the outcomes!

2. (Inter)National Postdoc Appreciation Week: 16 - 20 Sept 19

On the other side of the pond (aka the USA) they will be celebrating National Postdoc Appreciation Week on 16 – 20 September 2019!

To honour this, the PFDC and the PFDC Reps Network, thought that we could make it (Inter)National Postdoc Appreciation Week so that we can celebrate all things Postdoc!

Follow #lovepostdocs on twitter during the week to see how others are celebrating!

Many departments will be hosting an event during this week – the list below are the events that have been finalised, but please look out for notifications from your departmental reps.

Wednesday 18 September

Chemistry
From 17:00, MSRH common room

In celebration of the Postdoc Appreciation Week, the Chemistry Reps are organising an event on 18 September. During the event, there will be an informal introduction from the new Head of Department who will present his new departmental vision and the support offered to the postdocs/fellows.

At the event, there will also be the unveiling of the first images to decorate the new department! They are the winning photos from the Chemistry Career Day!

Last but not least, at the event there will be ‘appreciable’ drinks and UNLIMITED ice cream accompanied by a selection of sauces and sprinkles.

Friday 20 September

Chemical Engineering
10:00, Departmental Common Room

ChemEng Reps for the Postdoc Appreciation Week, will be hosting a Coffee Morning event with coffee/tea/pastries on Friday 20th September.

Come and join from 10:00 in the departmental common room.
Do you know all the fantastic facilities we have available here at the Hammersmith Campus, and could they help you enhance your research even further? Have you ever wondered about the other research being done in different departments across the Faculty of Medicine? Would you like to share your latest research, with the chance to win prizes?

Then register and join us at the Imperial Knowledge Transfer Symposium on Friday 20 September!

The one-day event will provide an invaluable opportunity to hear updates from Imperial Facilities on how to maximise the state-of-the-art and core equipment and services available to you, including: Confocal Microscopy, Flow Cytometry, Clinical Imaging, Phenome centre, Genomics, Carbohydrate metabolism and Circulating DNA start-up.

The Symposium also offers a great chance to discover or catch up on the diverse research being undertaken in the Faculty of Medicine, with talks from Researchers themselves on their latest project as well as from the Keynote Speaker Professor Robert Winston.

We want to help facilitate knowledge-transfer between individuals and departments across all research areas in the Faculty of Medicine and so we encourage all researchers, from students, to postdocs, to fellows, to PIs to submit abstracts and images and participate! Registration is open now here.

Posters and Oral Presentations:
Abstracts for posters and oral presentations are invited from all departments; prizes will be awarded for best talk and best poster. Register here

Science Image Contest:
Entries for your beautiful research pictures of all forms are invited with prizes awarded for the winner and runner-up. Submit here

Abstract/photo deadline:
Monday 2nd September

3. London Postdoc Society – National Postdoc Meeting – Shaping Postdoc Culture

Friday 13 September 2019, 9:00 to 16:00
QMUL (Arts Two Building, Mile End Campus)

The London Postdoc Society welcomes all members of the research community to join them to:

*Generate 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.

**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 please go to this [webpage](#), or if you prefer to go straight to the Eventbrite page, you can find that [here](#).

If you would like to be a **volunteer for the day** please contact n.moderau@imperial.ac.uk

### 4. PFDC 10 development days survey

The College attaches great importance to personal and professional development and the need for all staff to equip themselves with key skills, not only to undertake their College responsibilities effectively but as a personal benefit in relation to their longer-term careers.

To support you, as a postdoc or fellow at Imperial College, you have 10 development days written into your contract. Please see the PFDC [Plan to succeed – 10 Development Days](#) tip sheet and [webpage](#) for further details.

The PFDC are conducting a survey with two purposes:

1. Inform/remind postdocs and fellows of your 10 development days
2. To collect information from postdocs and fellows across the College on your knowledge/uptake of the 10 days

The survey will take less than 5 minutes – the PFDC aim to always consult and work with postdocs and fellows at the College to ensure that the support you require is reflected in the PFDC resources and services – we would appreciate your input in this survey.
A summary of the results will be shared – please note that the data will be aggregated & anonymised therefore individual comments will not be shared.

Please follow this [Qualtrics link](#) to take the survey

5. **Blog of the month**

![Changing Expectations: Where will your career take you?](image)

In 2017 the Royal Society launched an initiative to make different career paths better known to scientists. They collected career case studies from different academics and non-academics that have non-linear careers – whether research to industry, policy to academia, research to the arts (or all of the above), they each highlight how diverse an individuals career can be. You can browse all case studies [here](#) and read advice from different participants on what makes a career successful regardless of where it takes you. Imperial also has a collection of success stories from academics and researchers which you can find [here](#).

You should plan to succeed and take advantage of all the Pop Ups and courses the PFDC provides (all courses go live for enrolments in September). Come and meet us for a 1:1 to discuss career plans and, if you are an experienced postdoc, book a place on [Planning for Success Beyond Your Postdoc](#).

6. **Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support**

**PFDC Writing Support**

*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, keep an eye out for the call for applications for upcoming PFDC writing support events:

- 6 November 2019: one day writing away day @ White City Campus
- 14 November 2019: one day writing away day @ SK Campus
- 16 - 17 January 2020: writing retreat (2 consecutive days, non-residential)

**Fellows and Clinicians Forum**

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 to enhance their careers.

**Upcoming forums:**

- 31 October 2019 (3-5pm), SK Campus
- 17 March 2020 (3-5 pm), SK Campus
- 1 July 2020 (3-6 pm), White City Campus
“In conversation with Academic Women”  
**Women Only**

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

**Upcoming forums:**
- 26 November 2019 (3-5pm), SK campus
- 25 March 2020 (3-5pm), White City Campus

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**Fellows and Clinicians Wellbeing Lunch**

Informal and safe space to enjoy lunch, chat about wellbeing and support each other. Aims to help you to look after your own health and wellbeing and learn to “spot the signs” to better support your colleagues and most importantly your teams in looking after their health and wellbeing.

**Upcoming lunches:**
- 11 December 2019 (12.30–2pm), SK Campus
- 12 May 2020 (12.30–2pm), SK Campus
- 13 May 2020 (12.30–2pm), White City/Hammersmith Campus

More information and upcoming events and feedback on previous events can be found on the PFDC fellows and clinicians webpages.

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**7. Pop Ups**

**Pop Up: Fellowship Interviews**  
** **multiple dates **

Most fellowships require you to have an interview to show how you can carry out the proposed research and why they should give you the funding.

During this session you will look at examples of ‘invitation to interview’ letters from a variety of funders. Importantly you will look at interview questions and prepare answers – developing answers that showcase your achievements.

You will also receive hints and tips on how to shine at the interview from entering the room to what to wear.

**Monday 9th September 2019, 9:30-12:00**  
Seminar Room 2, Wolfson Building Hammersmith Campus  
Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics link](#)
**Pathways for Postdocs: From Academia to Technology Consulting**

**Thursday 12 September 2019, 11:00-12:30, SALC 5, South Kensington Campus**

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

**TTP** is an independent technology company where scientists and engineers collaborate to invent, design and develop new products and technologies.

During this session TTP provides an insight into the world of ‘tech consulting’ and the opportunities it provides for individuals to put their research and technical expertise into practice on some of the world’s most cutting-edge science and engineering developments.

**Dr Stuart Lowe**, who made his own transition from academia to industry, will talk about what being a hands-on technical ‘consultant’ actually consists of day-to-day, the unique challenges it presents and how it can prove a rewarding career for those with a background in research.

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

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**Pathways for Postdocs: Non-academic CVs and Cover Letters**

**Tuesday 17 September 2019, 9:30-11:30, SALC 1, South Kensington Campus**

Are you considering a different career? Have you ever wondered how to translate your current postdoc skills to fit a job description?

During this session, you will:

- Look at how to write non-academic CVs and Cover Letters
- Learn how your research skills can be translated to non-academic roles
- Learn how to interpret a job description and how to draw on your current skills to give evidence of your expertise

Bring a copy of your own CV and any non-academic job descriptions that you have seen and that may be of interest.

Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics link](#)
Pop Up: Assertiveness
Wednesday 25 September 2019, 14:00-15:30, SALC 5
South Kensington Campus

The aim of this Pop Up 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](#).

8. Upcoming Courses

The PFDC courses for the 2019/20 academic year will be open for enrolments on Tuesday 10 September!

You can find more information about our programme of courses in the [PFDC course directory](#).

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

9. GRANTfinder training session

Idox GRANTfinder 4 Education is the College’s provider of information on research funding.

To help you get started using the service the College has organised two training sessions on Wednesday 18 September 2019.

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<tr>
<th>Session 1: Wednesday 18 September, 10:30-12:00</th>
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<td>Room SAF 122, South Kensington campus</td>
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<th>Session 2: Wednesday 18 September, 14:00-15:30</th>
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<td>Room 4, Wolfson Centre, Hammersmith campus</td>
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Please [register](#) for the session you would like to attend.

What will be covered:
The training sessions will allow you to find out more about the GRANTfinder 4 Education product suite, which includes RESEARCHconnect, GRANTfinder and POLICYfinder.

The sessions will include:

- Homepage navigation and personalisation based on your research discipline and interests.
- News content, news alerts and bulletins – getting the right funding and policy news to your inbox.
• Searching for funding in RESEARCHconnect, creating and sharing a report and creating a portfolio.
• Creating a saved search and email alerts for you, colleagues or a workgroup.
• Using and searching POLICYfinder to support your role and interests.
• Creating workgroups and bespoke bulletins

The last 30 minutes of each session will be a chance for you to get hands on support (optional).

Please bring your smartphone/tablet/laptop so you can access GRANTfinder during the training.

10. Staff benefits fair

Thursday 26 September 2019
Queens Tower Rooms, South Kensington Campus

On 26 September, a one-day benefits' fair is taking place so all staff can find out more about the wide variety of staff benefits the College offers. Staff will have an opportunity to meet with providers and get their questions answered.

Alongside internal providers, there’ll be stands from external providers (such as SAUL, USS and the new voluntary private healthcare scheme launching from October), interactive sessions, prizes via our employee discount platform Perks at Work, and much more.

The PFDC will be hosting a stand – come along and here more about the provisions available to you!

11. New PFDC Tipsheets

The PFDC has created and added 7 new tip sheets to the website:

**Personal and professional development**
- [Plan to succeed – 10 Development Days](#)
- [Future Career Goals](#)

**Fellowship applications**
- [What’s your Research Vision](#)
- [The 3 Ps – Person, Project, Place](#)
- [Work Packages](#)
- [Research Impact](#)

**Pathways for Postdocs**
- [LinkedIn](#)

Please find all our tip sheets [here](#)
12. Babies and Bumps: 2019 dates

The following Babies and Bumps sessions will be taking place in the College Café (next to the Business School, South Kensington) between 10:30-11:30am on the following dates for anyone who is interested in coming along:

**Babies & Bumps**

- Tuesday 6th August 2019
- Tuesday 3rd September 2019
- Tuesday 1 October 2019
- Tuesday 5 November 2019
- Tuesday 3 December 2019

10.30am—11.30am  
College Café (next to the Business School)

New parents and parents-to-be are invited to meet other Imperial Colleagues in a similar situation for informal networking and mutual support. HR will be present to answer any questions in relation to maternity, paternity and shared parental leave.

For further information please contact  
Emily Michael  
emily.michael@imperial.ac.uk  
Extension : 41175

Refreshments will be provided

13. Imperial Lates

The **Imperial Lates** series is run by the College’s **Public Engagement team**, and represents one way in which Imperial is committed to **sharing the wonder** of what we do with the wider society.

After the success of the 2018/19 Lates events, which attracted over 3,000 members of the public onto campus to enjoy an adult-focused programme of interactive stands, workshops, tours, talks and performances, the team are now seeking proposals for next year’s evening events.

**The themes and dates for 2019/20 Lates programme have just been announced:**
• 9th October - Global science, international partnership and Imperial's impact on local communities around the world
• 7th November - Infectious diseases, vaccination and antimicrobial resistance
• 5th December - Cold science and research at low temperatures
• 13th February - Future transport and sustainable mobility
• 19th March - Data science

Submit your ideas for an activity, workshop, talk or performance and get involved!

Proposals form here

Contact the Public Engagement team with any queries.

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.