



Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

June 2018

Welcome to June's newsletter. Summer seems to be on its way (well hopefully the sun will appear soon!). While you are enjoying the expected sunshine, why not have a read of this month's PFDC newsletter and see what we have to keep a smile on your face once the sun goes in!

For more information about the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre (PFDC) please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter @ImperialPFDC](#) or [contact us](#) with any queries. Note that information about grants and fellowships is posted on our Twitter feed.

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PFDC in Focus – Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund

The reports are in from last year's Dame Julia Higgins Engineering Postdoc Collaborative Research Fund!

In total [five proposals out of 34 were funded last year which totalled £16,075](#). The projects covered a range of topics and establishing new collaborations across departments.

The benefits of receiving the fund have been extensive with many of the awardees citing that the experience of writing a proposal, establishing their own independent contacts outside of their departments and having an opportunity to develop proof of concept ideas have been really beneficial for their CVs. In particular receiving the fund allowed them to evidence their research independence and ability to secure funding. In fact, three of the awardees have now secured lectureship positions!

"I talked about the Dame Julia Higgins Fund during both my application and job interview [for an external lectureship]. I believe it was a contributing factor to the award of the position to me. Many thanks once again."

2017 Dame Julia Higgins Fund Awardee

This year, there is a total of **£19,500** available to fund collaborative research projects across the Faculty of Engineering. This fund aims to promote collaboration between postdocs, whereby funding applications submitted must involve a minimum of two postdocs from different departments in Engineering. Application are now closed. The Selection Committee will meet on 13 June 2018 to review the applications with the successful applicants being notified the week beginning 18 June 2018.

For further information about the fund, please contact [Karen Hinxman](#), PFDC Consultant.

1. PFDC Reps Awards – Nominations now open

The PFDC is delighted to announce that the

2018 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 will be sent separately.

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

The winners will be chosen by the PFDC Reps and the PFDC Team, and will receive the award during the Reps Award Dinner on 21 June 2018.

1. Postdoc Reps – Upcoming Events

Department of Computing Research Associate Symposium Friday 22 June, Department of Computing, South Kensington Campus

The DoC RA Symposium is a one-day workshop to showcase the wide range of interesting computing-related research undertaken by postdocs and fellows in the College to other research staff and students of DoC and other departments. For more information please go to this [link](#) .

Please note Abstract submission is now CLOSED but you can still register to attend this FREE event by signing up via this Eventbrite [link](#).

Registration deadline: 12:00 Tuesday 12 June 2018

2. Fellows and Clinicians bespoke programme of support – upcoming events

Upcoming events

The first **Fellows and Clinicians forum, taking place on 3 July 2018, SK Campus** is a termly event that forms part of the bespoke programme of support for fellows and clinicians at Imperial. The purpose of the forum is to provide fellows and clinicians with a regular platform to interact, share expertise and build cross-discipline contacts across the College with an aim to enhance their careers.

Active Bystander and Persuasive Communication - addressing some of the key issues raised by the fellows and clinicians community. Four identical sessions

between June 2018 – Feb 2019, including a women only session on the 26 September at Hammersmith Campus.

In the pipeline

Fellows and Clinicians Writing Retreat - a collaborative two-day training event organised by the PFDC and the University of Surrey.

[Follow this link](#) for further details on the above, including how to register.

Who is eligible for this service?

- *Independent research fellows.*
- *Postdoc clinicians and final year clinical PhD students within to pursue an academic career at Imperial.*

Further details on the specific eligibility is available on the PFDC [who do we support page](#).

3. Pop Ups

Please see the ICRF section of this newsletter for details and sign up for ICRF Funder Briefings in July 2018

Pop Up: Planning a Successful Fellowship Application
Tuesday 19 June 2018, 9:30-11:30, Royal School of Mines, Room G39, South Kensington Campus

This Pop-up introduces postdocs to fellowship funding and 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.

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

Pop Up: Navigating the Lifecycle of Collaborative Research Projects
Wednesday 27 June 2018, 10:00-12:00, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus

The session will be delivered by the College's [Programme Management Office](#) (PMO) team.

In this pop-up session, they will provide an overview of the value of research collaborations and the benefits of effective project management.

They 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](#)

Pop Up: Writing a Lay Summary

Wednesday 27 June 2018, 14:30-16:30, SALC 2, 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 something many researchers dread. 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](#)

4. Imperial College Research Fellowships - 2019 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 2019 ICRF round has now been released on the [ICRF website](#). Information for applicants can be found [here](#).

It is anticipated that this call will be launched in June 2018. The application deadline is August 2018.

The Imperial College Research Fellowship scheme is supported by:



ICRF Funder Briefings

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.

Date & time	Room	Campus	Qualtrics Link
Tuesday 3 July 9.30 -11.00	SALC 2	South Kensington	Sign up South Kensington
Tuesday 3 July 11.00 -12.30	SALC 2	South Kensington (women only)	Sign up SK Women Only
Tuesday 3 July 15.00 -16.30	TBC	St Marys	Sign up St Marys
Thursday 5 July 9.30 -11.00	TBC	Hammersmith	Sign up Hammersmith

5. Returner Fellowship - Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge

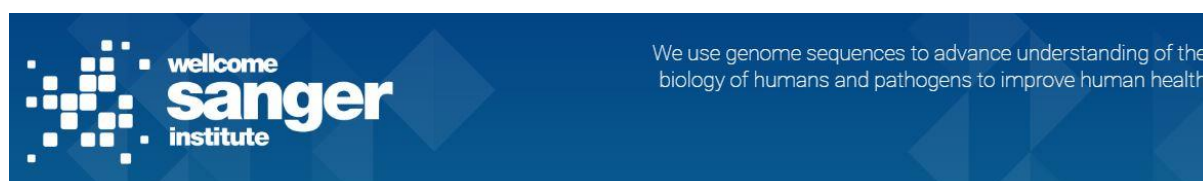
The Sanger Institute's Janet Thornton Fellowship is a three year postdoc level fellowship, aimed at those who have taken a minimum of 12 months out of research science.

The Fellowship can be worked full time, part time or flexibly at the Sanger Institute on the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus in Hinxton near Cambridge and includes:

- Salary £31,115 - £39,004
- Research expenses, including consumables and travel costs for conferences and training courses
- Access to training and support resources at the Institute
- Access to the University of Cambridge Careers Service
- Generous benefits

One Janet Thornton Fellowship will be awarded each year. The deadline is ***Friday 29 June 2018***. Further information about the projects and how to apply can be found [here](#).

For further information, contact saher.ahmed@sanger.ac.uk



6. Public Engagement, Impact and Evaluation - masterclasses

Imperial delivers a range of societal engagement-related training opportunities, which are designed to support our staff and students in developing high quality engagement work.

What is public engagement, why is it important, and how do you know if your public engagement activities are successful? These masterclasses will help you build on your public engagement goals to deliver enjoyable and meaningful activities for you and your participants.

- [Exploring Public Engagement](#) – This interactive session will provide an opportunity to reflect on your own public engagement experiences, find out why engagement is so important for major funders, explore approaches and discover opportunities for public engagement at Imperial and beyond.
- [Evaluating Engagement](#) – This lively masterclass will highlight the value of evaluation, enabling you to assess your public engagement activities and revealing the areas that may need fine-tuning. You will develop aims and objectives, explore the principles of high-quality evaluation and choose your own methods.
- [Engagement Ideas](#) – If you would like to develop your ideas for a public engagement event or activity, come along to our masterclass and get inspired!

Wellcome Research Enrichment (Public Engagement) Funding: Advice Clinic Thursday 7 June, 10.00 – 11.30

Advice clinic to help potential applicants find out more about the [funding available from Wellcome to support public engagement alongside research grants](#).

This will cover more detail about the scheme, how to put together a proposal, and provide space for you to ask questions about your own ideas. Come along if you'd like to find out more about what is eligible, what might be suitable for this funding, and projects that have been successful.

To be able to apply for the scheme you must be an existing Wellcome grantholder or be applying to an eligible scheme for research funding. [Check the details here](#). If you would like to attend this session [please register here](#).

7. Upcoming courses at the PFDC

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

Thursday 7 June 2018

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.

Leadership in Research: Vision, Strategy and Team Culture (Residential)

Thursday 14 to Friday 15 June 2018

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.

Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career

Friday 29 June 2018

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

Friday 29 June 2018

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.

** To enrol onto the courses above please use my training via ICIS.

8. How to be Your Child's First Science Teacher



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**Alom Shaha: How to be
your child's first science
teacher**

by The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
Centre at Imperial College London

Free

How to be your Childs First Science Teacher
Tuesday 3 July 2018, Read Lecture Theatre, Level 5 Sherfield Building

Doing hands-on activities with children is the best way to get them exploring the world around them and thinking like future scientists and engineers. However, many parents lack confidence in doing science with their children, compared with reading, writing or drawing – even sometimes when they are scientists or engineers themselves! Teacher and author of 'Mr Shaha's Recipes for Wonder' Alom Shaha will talk about his own introduction to science and show how any parent can help their children to really learn from their curiosity about the world – so they can take the step from "wow!" to "how?".

For more information and to register via Eventbrite please click [here](#).

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