Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

November 2018

Welcome to November’s newsletter! Whether you are a fireworks fan or not, we are sure that this month’s newsletter will offer you something to keep you entertained during this explosive season.

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: Writing Retreat

The PFDC and the University of Surrey held a Writing Retreat on 15 and 16 October for Postdocs, Fellows and Clinicians preparing to submit fellowship applications to be held at Imperial. This two-day researcher training event was held at Roux at Parliament Square and provided early career researchers with dedicated time, space, expertise and mentoring to work on a piece of writing.

The Writing Retreat provided an opportunity to:

- Work independently in a supportive and motivating environment to achieve realistic writing targets.
- Attend plenary and optional mini-workshops to help keep focused and motivated.
- Book a one-to-one advisory sessions with academic experts to provide help with subject-specific queries and feedback.
- Leave with clear plans for the next steps and with a wealth of advice around how to continue to be productive.

This event will take place twice per annum and priority for a place at the retreat will be given to those preparing external fellowship/grant applications to be held at Imperial.

The next retreat will be advertised via our mailing lists and newsletter so keep an eye out in 2019!

1. Welcome to the new Imperial College Research Fellows

Over the last few weeks the College has been welcoming the 2018/19 Imperial College Research Fellows (ICRFs)!

The PFDC held a Welcome Dinner and an ICRF Development day on 10 and 11 October at 170 Queens Gate. The PFDC would like to thank all ICRFs, Sponsors, Provost Prof Ian Walmsley, Associate Provost Prof Maggie Dallman, Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) Prof Nick Jennings, and all speakers for making each event both enjoyable and successful.

The PFDC team looks forward to working closely with the new ICRF cohort during this academic year.
PFDC Christmas Ceilidh
Wednesday 5 December 2018, 17:30 – 21:00, Queens Tower Rooms

The PFDC are delighted to invite you and your guests, (these can be anyone from your partners to office colleagues) to attend the annual *FREE* PFDC Christmas Ceilidh which is taking place on Wednesday 5 December from 17:30 in the Queens Tower Rooms, South Kensington Campus. This is a great opportunity to meet colleagues from across the College.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be available on arrival and festive treats will be provided during a break in the dancing. **No experience of a Ceilidh is required.** There will be someone there to call out instructions, but if you would like to see what one looks like, please go to this [YouTube link](#).

**If you would like to attend please fill out this [Qualtrics form](#).**

Christmas jumpers/accessories are encouraged!
3. Fellows and Clinicians Seed Fund: Networking Event

We are delighted to announce that Prof Nick Jennings, Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) has awarded £20,000 to be put towards a new Fellows and Clinicians Seed Fund.

The fund will offer seed funding to enable newly independent researchers to establish cross-College collaborations and investigate early stage research ideas that might not otherwise be funded. The intention would be that the research findings will be used to apply for larger external grants, helping to raise the profiles of the fellows/clinicians involved.

All proposed projects would need to align with one of the College’s four global challenge themes which are: Discovery and the natural world; Engineering novel solutions; Health and well-being; Leading the data revolution. Funding will only be available to those researchers that are exploring new collaborative research, existing collaborations will not be considered. It is anticipated that 3-4 applications will be funded for six months with no application exceeding £10,000.

How to Participate

To submit an application to the fund, there must be at least two independently funded fellows or clinicians from different faculties and at least one of you must have attended the networking event. The facilitated networking event will take place at 15:30 – 17:00 on Wednesday 12 December 2018 in Room G41, Royal School of Mines. There will be lots of opportunities to meet peers, discuss research ideas and potential overlap, in the view to developing a new collaborative project.

Application and Pre-requisites

To attend the networking event you are required to fill out a short [Qualtrics form where you will provide a short (1000 characters) 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 template and guidance notes to all participants before the event. [Registration will close at 9:00 on Wednesday 5 December 2018.]

Application timeline

- Network event registration - closes at 9:00 on Wednesday 5 December 2018
- Networking event – Wednesday 12 November 2018
- Application submission deadline - 09:00 Monday 14 January 2019
- Assessment Panel – 21 January 2019
- Successful applicants will be notified on 23 January 2019.
4. Calling all postdocs….new reps required!

Would you like to make a difference in your department? Looking for something that would make your CV stand out? Have a great idea for an event for postdocs? Want to meet new people in your department and across the College?

If you answered YES to any of the above, then why not become a departmental Rep!!

Being rep is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet new people in your department and really influence what support postdocs and fellows receive here at Imperial.

What do you get by being a rep?

- A position of responsibility within your department
- Become known to the Head of your department
- Opportunities to meet and network with new people from across the College
- A chance to influence College-wide initiatives
- The option to lead and organize events and initiatives
- Membership of committees
- Looks great on your CV!

Don’t just take our word for it! Below are some testimonials from some current reps:

“I have been part of the Life Sciences Postdoc Committee since March 2017, and Chair since July 2018. During this time I have had the opportunity to meet other fellow Postdocs, and worked together to organise events that benefit the whole Postdoc Community. I have also learnt how institutions like Imperial College function, and work along other senior members of the Department. So far I can say that it has been a very rewarding experience.” Alicia Estacio Gomez, Life Sciences

“Being a rep helps you to get to know more people, both in your department and across the College. It’s great to be able to greet people when they first arrive and make them feel at home. It’s also a way to become known in your department, and enables you to make Imperial a better place to work in concrete ways.” Adam Townsend, Maths

Volunteers are always welcome, but in particular the below departments have open vacancies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Natural Sciences</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering Computing EEE</td>
<td>Chemistry Physics Life Sciences</td>
<td>Medicine (all campuses) NHLI (Hammersmith)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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If you would like to become a rep for your department or to discuss the role further, please contact Karen Hinxman k.hinxman@imperial.ac.uk.
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!

### Chemistry – Coffee and Cake Event
**Thursday 8 November, 10:30 – 12:00, MSRH Common room**

To welcome all postdocs and fellows to the MSRH, the Chemistry reps are hosting a coffee and cake morning. All postdocs and fellows are encouraged to come and enjoy:

- Free coffee
- Delicious cakes
- The chance to meet new people at the MSRH

They look forward to seeing everybody there! To register please use this [Eventbrite link](#).

### Life sciences – Open Forum
**Wednesday 6 November, 12:00 – 13:00**

The Life Sciences Postdoc Committee are hosting their first ever Open Forum, on 6 November, 12:00-13:00. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Please come along to share your ideas and suggestions, and give them feedback about their events. Different members of the Committee will be there to answer questions, and explain what is their role within the Department.

The Postdoc Committee in Life Sciences also currently has 4 positions available. The purpose of the Committee is to support, and engage Postdocs to take advantage of the activities, and development opportunities offered by the College. If you are interested, please contact us. **The deadline to receive applications is Friday 23 November.** Please contact the [Life Sciences Reps](#) for more information.

### Bioengineering - Postdoc & Fellows Symposium
**Wednesday 21 November, 13:30 – 19:00, RSM 131**

The Bioengineering Department will be hosting their fourth annual Bioengineering Postdoc & Fellows Symposium (room RSM 131, 13:30-19:00). As in previous years, postdocs will have the opportunity to give 15-minute presentations to discuss their own research alongside research being done in their PI's lab. New this year, a panel of people who were previously department postdocs and have gone on to work in academia and the private sector will discuss their transitions from their postdocs to their roles, and be available to answer any questions current postdocs may have about making similar transitions. Please contact the [Bioengineering Reps](#) for more information.
EEE – Call for Abstracts: Postdoc and Fellow Research Symposium
Submission Deadline: 10 December 2018

The EEE Postdocs invite their departmental Research Associates and Fellows to participate in the 2nd EEE Postdoc and Fellow Research Symposium, which will be held 6 February 2019, preceding the annual Gabor lecture. This is an excellent opportunity to present your research to a broad audience of EEE staff and students, as well as industry representatives. Presentations will be 5-10 minutes long and the best presentation will receive an award from the HoD. The winner will be invited to attend the dinner with the EEE staff and the industry representatives after the Gabor Lecture.

For More Information please contact the EEE Reps eepostdoc@imperial.ac.uk

6. Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support

Fellows and Clinicians Forum
14 November, 15:00 to 17:00, Hammersmith Campus

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. The format will continuously evolve along with changing needs and priorities.

Please Register via Qualtrics by 7 November 2018.

*Independent Research Fellows
A member of research staff that has successfully applied for funding to include their salary (e.g. ICRFs, BBSRC Future Leaders, Sir Henry Dale, MRC NIRGs)

**Clinicians actively pursuing clinical academic careers at Imperial post PhD
- Postdoctoral clinical lecturers
- Postdoctoral clinicians who are back in clinical training but are actively pursuing a clinical academic career at Imperial. For example doctors (e.g. Registrar, Speciality Registrar) and non-medical healthcare professionals (i.e. Pharmacists, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Dieticians)
- Intermediate fellows or clinician scientists (postdoctoral)
- Postdoctoral clinicians in any other clinical academic schemes (e.g. Imperial Clinician Researcher Fellows/IPPRF) actively pursuing a clinical academic career at Imperial.

Active Bystander and Persuasive Communication

- 21 Nov 2018 - St Mary’s - register by 7 Nov.

Active Bystander: 13:30-14:30 (lunch will be provided at 13:00)
The aim of this short session is to empower you to challenge poor behaviours and bring about change where poor behaviours have become normalised. You benefit by learning techniques to challenge unacceptable behaviours in the workplace.
Persuasive Communication: 14:45 – 16:45 (refreshments provided)
This session is designed to equip you with skills to:

- manage/prevent conflict
- communicate assertively
- hold difficult conversations
- negotiate constructively

It will cover:

- Verbal and non-verbal persuasion devices
- Reading others - and gaining commitment
- The language of influence and collaboration
- The language of positive negotiation
- Difficult conversations

7. Pop Ups

Funder Showcase: Royal Commission of 1851
Thursday 8 November 2018, 15:00 – 16:00, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus

Did you know that the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 have a series of fellowships?

To highlight this great opportunity to receive fellowship funding, we will be joined by Nigel Williams from 1851 who will tell you about the fellowships that are on offer.

Please sign up for the event via this Qualtrics link

Pop Up: ‘Navigating the Lifecycle of Collaborative Research Projects’
Friday 14 December 2018, 10:00-12:00, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

The session will be delivered by the College’s Programme Management Office (PMO) 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
The PFDC courses for the 2018/19 academic year are filling up quickly! Below are courses in the upcoming months which still have spaces available:

**Wednesday 21 November 2018**

**How Intellectual Property Rights Can Impact Your Research**

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.

**Monday 3 December 2018**

**Voice Projection for Effective Lecturing**

This is a participatory course developed from vocal techniques practised by actors. It will enable you to discover your true voice, work on exercises to enhance its range, clarity, power, tone and colour, allowing you to lecture or deliver an engaging presentation with ease. The aim of this course is to introduce postdocs and fellows to the opportunities of improved vocal projection and the benefits that this brings. We will work as a group on various physical and vocal exercises in a relaxed atmosphere. So be prepared to relax, kick off your shoes and maybe even lie on the floor.

**Thursday 10 January 2019**

**Great Presentations for Great Results**

Presenting scientific work in an effective and engaging way is not difficult; it just needs preparation and inspiration. In this course we will consider how to communicate research findings or outcomes in a fascinating and exciting way. You will have an opportunity to put into practice all that you learn in the course and then receive feedback on your presentation.

**Thursday 24 to Friday 25 January 2019**

**Planning for Success Beyond Your Postdoc**

Planning for success beyond your postdoc is designed to help experienced postdocs (usually with two to four years of postdoc experience) to take their next career step, academic or otherwise. During the course you will be encouraged to explore your career options and develop an action plan to achieve the next step whilst enhancing your job application and interview skills.

**Please book onto training with ICIS: Sign in and click ‘My Training’ — Search for the course — Click: Enrol.**
Increasing Visibility of Underrepresented Groups in Energy Research

*Take Control of your Career: Networking and Training*

*Thursday 29 November, 9:30 - 17:00, 170 Queens Gate, South Kensington Campus*

[Register Here]

**Deadline for registration:** 17.00 Thursday 22 November 2018

This event will establish the first network of diverse women working on heat decarbonisation research. You will meet and be mentored by diverse experienced females from academia, industry and policy making. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend a second event which builds on the networks gained in this event, and have an opportunity to prepare a proposal for seed funding which will be awarded (up to £12,000) during a two-day residential writing retreat in March 2019.

**The objectives of the day are to:**
- Extend your professional network
- Develop your skills in career assertiveness and persuasive communication
- Meet mentors and writing partners

We aim to work with you to extend your network, to foster a Whole Systems approach to heat decarbonisation research, and develop relationships which foster genuine collaboration in a structured way. Given the in-depth nature of the support on offer in this unique initiative, numbers are limited, and the event is likely to be oversubscribed. Following this event, participants will receive support and resources to raise their influence on UK energy policy and strategy.

(Travel bursaries will be made available to attend this event)

IVUGER is supported by the UKERC Whole Systems Networking fund.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[Dr Gbemi Olueye](mailto:gbemi.olueye@imperial.ac.uk) and Dr Zoe M Harris.

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**10. Travel grants 2018-19: Erasmus Staff Mobility for Training**

Are you keen to develop your knowledge of the sector, to transfer/share knowledge, consider good practice? Perhaps broaden your awareness of relevant roles in a wider context? Are there skills training opportunities to take advantage of? If so, does a short job-shadow, networking, training or study visit to a relevant higher education institution or commercial organisation within Europe appeal? Crucially do you have the initiative and perhaps contacts to further this goal?

**Still Interested? Download the information sheet** [here](#).

For proposed visits which will last 2-5 days from April to September 2019 the application deadline is Monday 11 February 2019.
11. Affordable accommodation for staff at White City

The College’s flagship residential tower at the White City Campus will be ready for occupation in February 2019. It will provide 192 apartments to rent, 59 of which will be available exclusively to Imperial staff and key workers at up to 40% below market rates. The remaining apartments will be available to rent privately. There are a range of studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments, which will be let furnished. All Imperial College and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust staff with a total household income of less than £77,200 will be eligible to apply.

The initial staff application process for the launch will open on Monday 19 November and will run until Monday 31 December 2018.

For information about the apartments available and the eligibility and allocation criteria, please visit the staff accommodation website. You can also meet the accommodation team during the campus roadshow in November – please check the website for dates.

12. Hammersmith and White City Distinguished Christmas Lecture

Professor Sir Paul Nurse will be presenting the Hammersmith and White City Campus Distinguished Christmas Lecture on Monday 10 December at 17:30. This will be followed by a drinks and canapé reception to celebrate the festive season!
The Health and Wellbeing team would like to let you know about this year’s National Stress Awareness Day on 7 November 2018. The theme is ‘Does high-tech cause high-stress?’ Through resources and workshops, the risks of the hyperconnected 24/7 lifestyle driven by technology will be explored.

*Is it all bad? Can new habits or tools help us learn to manage tech-driven overload? How can technology positively contribute to our wellbeing?*

**Sign up to a workshop or join the conversation on [Yammer](https://yammer.imperial.ac.uk) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com).**

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](https://imperial.ac.uk/health-and-wellbeing/privacy-notice) for information on Imperial College’s privacy notice for staff and click [here](https://qualtrics.com/privacy) for qualtrics privacy statement.