

IMPERIAL

DoLS PDC meeting minutes

Thursday 15th August 2024

13:30-15:00

SAFB 6th Floor Meeting Area/ MS Teams

Invited: Julia Sanchez Garrido (JS), Alex Cocker (AC), Satya Prakash (SP), Katie Willis (KW), Smitha Maretvadakethope (SM), Anna Bajur (AB), Valentina Carannante (VC), Hannah Jagoe (HJ), Rahwa Osman (RO), Dennis Obonyo (DO)

1. Apologies for absence: Dennis Obonyo

[Reps PWP Imperial webpages brought up to be added to the DoLS PDC webpage](#)

[All reps – make a PWP page if you want one](#)

[Julia – add links to reps pages to website](#)

2. PDC membership

- a. Departmental committee membership

3. Committee updates/new members:

- a. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (AC, HJ & VC)
 - i. Promotion guidelines/requirements (research associate to fellow)
 - ii. Mentorship: between postdocs, peer mentoring

[Department specific info on EDI stats available?](#)

- b. Health & Safety (SP)
- c. Research Strategy & Fellowships (JS & KW)
- d. Space, Infrastructure & Facilities (AC & KW)
- e. Postdoc & Fellows Development Centre (JS, AB & SM)

[White City meeting report:](#)

- [PFDC encourage more use of Teams by reps](#)
- [Masters supervision by Postdocs to hopefully become officially logged and recognised](#)
- [Bullying and Harassment issue discussed, PFDC running a media campaign on how to respond to B&H – issue raised that campaign very similar to mandatory training videos. Support and Report discussed as not ideal, clear path of what happens would be helpful, as would external to department oversight](#)

- Prof Bernadette Byrne (Associate Dean of FoNS EDI) discussed as someone to raise this issue of out of department oversight of reports + process as EDI will be doing this College-wide already

Alex – email Prof Byrne to ask about this

- ECRI (Grad centre + PFDC combined) coming soon, will offer support for non-academic paths, and are currently reviewing Postdoc Champion role
 - f. FoNS Reps Network (JS & AC)
 - g. Update website (JS)

4. New DoLS Postdoc Champion → what do we want help with

Discussed Champion selection process is unknown

Alex/Julia – email Dan Davis to ask about details (role focus, selection process, nominees/volunteers, and can PDC have input)

Increased communication with PDC by Champion would be good, PDC to invite Champion to quarterly PDC meetings

Could use Champion help with Career Support and Network for funding/job applications, also to meet DoLS Postdocs annually with meet the Champion event. Could potentially help with drafting/promoting DoLS Postdoc Seed Fund proposal

5. JS – Survey asking departmental postdocs what they would like from us – Results

25 respondents, 18 included their emails, Cordelia Roberts randomly selected as £50 prize winner!

Alex – email Pat to confirm how we can give Cordelia prize

Survey results: 1) Pizza + Drinks, 2) Outdoor events with Silwood focus, 3) Invited Postdoc/Fellow talks, and Group Events like museum/gallery visits, 4) Board games, Career events, and International Postdoc focussed socials, and 5) Movie nights

6. RO – Data Science Workshop event

Yagyansh Bagri to do a workshop in October on how Data Science applies to DoLS research and topics

Wants to cover:

- What is Data Science, Data Analytics or Data Engineering?
- Amongst the different programming languages like R, SQL & Python; which one should you use and for which kind of projects?

- Why can't I do the same using Excel and how are programming languages beneficial?
- Two Case studies on how data science is positively impacting and shaping the world we live in
- How does data science and machine learning aid in saving time and can be representative of hypothesis on large sample sets?

Rahwa – will follow up with Yagyansh about event

7. Postdoc Appreciate Week (18-22nd Sept) → event plans

- a. International postdoc focussed event – coffee + pastries for all postdocs with member of immigration team present to help give advice and resources

Discussed range of experience in visa process help from Imperial College London, issue of reliance in some cases on PI forwarding important immigration emails to Postdoc

Mentioned issues of changing institute/role and how this affects visa options and links to how this affects spouse/family visa options

Focus of event will be social + networking with Compliance member available to provide resources + get feedback in how to improve access to info and process for Postdocs

Alex – Email PFDC to confirm timing (Tuesday September 17th, 10:30 to 12:00), and get help with location and catering

Alex – reply to Compliance and give them plan for event

- b. Other events?

Discussed and think one PDC event is enough with other events going on at South Kensington, Katie will do a Silwood event

Julia and Katie – contact department to work out funding for Silwood event

Hannah – Look up museum/gallery Lates events for future plans

8. Pizza & Beer seminars → Summer pause

Restart last Thursday of October

Julia? – email department for speakers end of September

9. Departmental postdoctoral funding proposal for experiments/training (both academic and non-academic) (see next page for similar award info)

We will put together proposal at future PDC meeting. Current draft link below:

10. Next PDC meeting

Alex – send a When2meet for dates at the end of September/early October