

DoLS PDC meeting minutes

Thursday 2nd May 2024

15:00-16:00

SEC 319 / MS Teams

Invited: Alice Banks (AB), Julia Sanchez Garrido (JS), Alex Cocker (AC), Satya Prakash (SP), Katie Willis (KW)

1. Apologies for absence

Katie Willis

2. Committee updates

a. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (AB)

No update.

b. Health & Safety (SP)

- A programme of Departmental Wellbeing events has been set up including running, walking, and sketching.
- Staff should be aware of safety restrictions in place regarding out of hours work, including using a buddy system where the work requires.

c. Research Strategy & Fellowships (JS)

No update.

d. Space, Infrastructure & Facilities (AC)

- Robert Endres is taking over the role of Chair.
- There is ongoing rearrangement of the lab and office space on the South Kensington campus. The goal is to group research group thematically to improve networking and collaboration, and locate shared equipment close to common users.
- 3D printing facilities are available at South Kensington.
- The purified water systems in the lab are undergoing upgrades.

e. Postdoc & Fellows Development Centre (JS)

- There was interest in holding combined postdoc events for the different campuses, to include postdocs from different Departments located on the same site.
- The PDC discussed the potential benefit of having a Temas channel for all Imperial postdocs (not just the Reps).

Action: JS to raise this at the next PFDC meeting.

f. FoNS Reps Network (AB)

- The Postdoc Research Showcase and Photography competition were discussed. There was a general agreement that these events should continue to be held even if attendance is not high.

3. Pizza & Beer seminars

- Two potential speakers have expressed an interest to present at the upcoming May and June events.
- To improve attendance/engagement, events will be advertised with posters across SAF, SEC, and Flowers. If numbers are still low, events could also be sent around the Staff mailing list.

Action: JS to contact potential speakers and settle on dates.

4. ECR Mentoring / Mental Health Awareness Week event

- The PDC will hold an initial peer mentoring session on Monday 13th May (1-2pm) as part of Mental Health Awareness Week.
- Anita Hall (Senior Teaching Fellow and Mental Health First Aider) will provide an overview of MH resources available to postdocs and lead discussions in a roundtable format.

Actions:

- AB to book a room in SALC.
- AB to email Anita to confirm time.
- AC to generate an anonymous online form and QR code to allow postdocs to submit questions or comments in advance of the event.
- JS to put together a poster to be circulated around the Department and to other Reps and the PFDC.
- ALL to put up posters in respective DoLS buildings

5. HoD meeting topics

- The PDC have a list of topics to discuss with the HoD relating to postdoc support and opportunities within the Department.
- The PDC are considering a date in late May or June and will meet in advance of this meeting to decide on topics and action points.

Action: AC to check with Dan regarding availability.

6. AOB

- The PhD Reps have been in touch with the PDC regarding combined PhD/PostDoc events, specifically seminar opportunities in the Department.
- There was the strong feeling that seminars should be regular (weekly) and run on a Departmental level, not solely coordinated by ECRs.
- This would be added to the list of topics to discuss with the HoD.

7. Next PDC meeting

- TBC