

DoLS POSTDOC COMMITTEE

Thursday 11th December 2019
11:30 – 1:00pm
SAFB G69, South Kensington Campus.

Minutes

Present: Estacio Gomez, Alicia; Bradley, Rob; Farrant, Katie; Grob, Alice; Haghighat-Khah, Roya; Mas Sandoval, Alex; Witmer, Kathrin

Apologies:

	Agenda Item	Action
1	Apologies	
2	Minutes of the last meeting No issues	
3	Welcome back Alicia We welcome back A. Estacio Gomez from maternity leave and informed her that while she was away (July – December), we have been joined by A. Mas Sandoval to represent Silwood postdoc community and that we are now holding monthly coffee morning to increase the committee visibility amongst the postdoc community. R. Bradley and R. Haghighat-Khah have also made great progress in organising the Speed Networking event (to be discussed below).	
4	Silwood Park update A. Mas Sandoval reported that there are almost weekly social events with a seminar and pizzas but it is not specific to postdocs as the postdoc community there is not sufficient in itself to run such event. A. Mas Sandoval will investigate if postdocs at Silwood have specific issues that the DoLS postdoc committee could help with.	A. Mas Sandoval
5	Pizza and beer update. While attendee numbers (~10 postdocs) were still low at the restarting session in October, they had double (~10 postdocs) in the November session. The November session followed our 1 st coffee morning and it seems that the coffee morning event boosted the pizza and beer attendee numbers. R. Bradley has potential speakers for future pizza and beer event who need to be confirmed.	R. Bradley

6 **Coffee mornings**

The 1st coffee morning social held on Friday the 15th of November from 10 to 11am was a real success with ~15 attendees. It was held in SEC 7th floor common room. Beverages from Office Depot and food from M&S were provided by DoLS. It was a nice opportunity to hear about postdoc concerns like a lack of available space to eat lunch. The event was also particularly appreciated by postdocs who are parents and regularly have to give our social pizza and beer events a miss.

Next coffee morning will be held on Friday the 13th of December.

7 **Speed Networking**

R. Bradley and R. Haghighat-Khah made great progress on organising this event. R. Bradley has generated a document describing the speed-networking event as well as a form to apply for a DoLS grant to generate proof-of-concept (PoC) data supporting a collaboration project resulting from the speed-networking event. R. Haghighat-Khah has obtained support from DoLS to award 2 grants up to 2k each to generate PoC data that could potentially support application to further grant.

R. Bradley will send around DoLS postdoc committee the speed-networking and PoC competition draft document. All members are to give feed backs on it.

All members

The speed-networking aim at fostering collaboration and skills-sharing within the department. The event will also double as the launch of a funding competition for PoC projects, to be undertaken by teams of DoLS postdocs. The speed-networking event will include an icebreaker, information about networking techniques and funding applications (run by K. Hinxman), a networking session, and a project brainstorming session. This will be followed by a departmental-wide social event to allow networking to continue naturally. Attendees will then have the opportunity to submit a short proposal in their newly formed cross-departmental teams to win up to £2000 towards consumables and costs to carry out their planned PoC research.

The event will be held on Thursday the 20th of February. A. Grob needs to book SAF room 120-122. It will be advertised just before Christmas and again wright after Christmas. It will be put in DoLS and PFDC news letters. R. Haghighat-Khah will also contact advertising bodies from Imperial to spread the word about the event.

A. Grob
R. Bradley
R.
Haghighat-Khah

8 **Symposium planning**

We decided to hold the Symposium on Friday the 3rd of April. A. Grob is to book SAF 120-122 as well as G34 before Christmas. A 1sr call for abstract will be sent in January.

A Grob

9 **Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee update**

The last EDI meeting discussed ways to weight the teaching workload in the department.

R. Haghighat-Khah investigated the possibility of having a grant-writing course targeting towards life science for the DoLS postdocs. As a result all postdocs have been invited to attend a workshop run by M. Selkirk for DoLS Academic Staffs about the founding landscape available for DoLS.

R. Haghighat-Khah is now receiving emails from the DoLS postdoc committee and should cascaded down any relevant one to all Postdocs.

R.
Haghighat-Khah

10 Health and Safety Committee update.

K. Witmer attended the last meeting on the 5th of December where past incidents and mental health was discussed. Imperial appears to be on national average regarding mental health but over national average regarding bullying and harassment. This might be an effect from the many available ways to report such incidents at Imperial.

A. Mas Sandoval is taking over K. Witmer and will see with the committee whether he can skype in to attend the meeting. If he cannot, A. Estacio Gomez could attend next meeting as it will discuss if postdocs could take health and safety responsibilities in the department.

A. Mas
Sandoval

11 Research and Strategy Committee update

K. Farrant

K. Farrant has not been contacted by the committee. She will make sure that the RSC are aware that she is the new postdoc rep for this committee.

12 DoLS Undergraduate teaching committee

At this committee meeting K. Farrant discussed the possibility to run Science Fridays again this year and it was agreed.

13 PFDC update

K. Farrant attended the last PFDC meeting with lunch with the postdoc champions. PFDC are trying to organise a list of postdoc expertises to promote collaboration amongst the postdoc community. They will also organise networking events with a specific research theme.

L. Elvidge will meet with HoDs and is asking for concerns we would like her to raise. Questions to be suggested are: Understanding better what is the role of the postdoc champion; and Getting a more active mentoring system to support postdocs in their next step evolution.

K. Farrant

14 AOB

A. Grob will advertise new postdoc rep positions in the new year.

A. Grob

A. Estacio Gomez has updated DoLS postdoc handbook and is looking for help in formatting it before submitting it to the department.

A. Estacio
Gomez