Imperial Postdocs and Fellows Enterprise Network

2019/2020 Report

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians

Introduction

The Imperial Postdoc and Fellows Enterprise Network (IPFEN) is a network for postdocs, fellows and clinicians who are interested in knowing more about entrepreneurship and enterprise opportunities and activities – whether it is to support your research activity or to explore a new career path.

The Network aims to support early career researchers whether you are a researcher ready to explore the commercial potential of your ideas, discoveries, technologies, and inventions or whether you are just starting out and want to learn more about what falls under the enterprise umbrella and develop entrepreneurial skills.

The initial aims of the Network are:

Support and interest

Support early career researchers at all stages of the enterprise Journey from those who know nothing about enterprise and entrepreneurship to those ready to launch their startup. Ensure the range of topics is accessible to early career researchers regardless of their background knowledge.

Increased awareness and connections

Better signpost early career researchers to current events, support, and opportunities available to them – specifically from Imperial Enterprise.

Increased knowledge, engagement, and networking

Generate additional support / a programme based on the needs of early career researchers – via providing networking events, training, guest speakers and better connections between postdocs themselves and with external parties.

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians

Who are we?

The Network is run by a Committee of early career researchers with support from PFDC and Enterprise. The Committee is additionally supported by an Advisory Board.

The IPFEN Committee has been established to run and grow Imperial's Postdoc and Fellows Enterprise Network.

Ado Farsi FoE	**Alalea Kia** FoE	**Brenan Durainayagam** FoM	**Dorian Haci** FoE	**Hakan Bagci** FoM	**Ines Perpetuo** PFDC
Kostas Paschos FoM	**Richard Kelwick** FoM	**Sarah Rouse** FoNS	**Stefano Mezzavilla** FoNS	**Yang Liu** FoE	

The IPFEN Advisory Board

- Rebeca Santamaria-Fernandez, Director Industry Partnerships and Commercialisation, FoE
- Stephanie Morris, Director Industry Partnerships and Commercialisation, FoM
- Hiten Thakrar, MedTech SuperConnector Programme Manager
- Graham Hewson, Head of Incubation
- Ben Mumby-Croft, Director Entrepreneurship
- Poh-Choo Pang, Consultant Engagement Manager, ICON
- Govind Pindoria, Associate Director of Startup Formation

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians

What have we achieved?

Created a **Webpage** (October 2019)
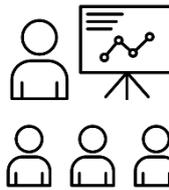
Established a presence on **Twitter** (January 2020)
Feb 2021 - Following 299 – 346 Followers

Created a **LinkedIn Page** (November 2020)
Feb 2021 – 178 Followers – 5.3K post impressions

First **Advisory Board** meeting in **August 2020**
- Raised awareness of Postdoc and Fellows needs
- First Enterprise Lab events explicitly open to Postdocs in 2020/2021

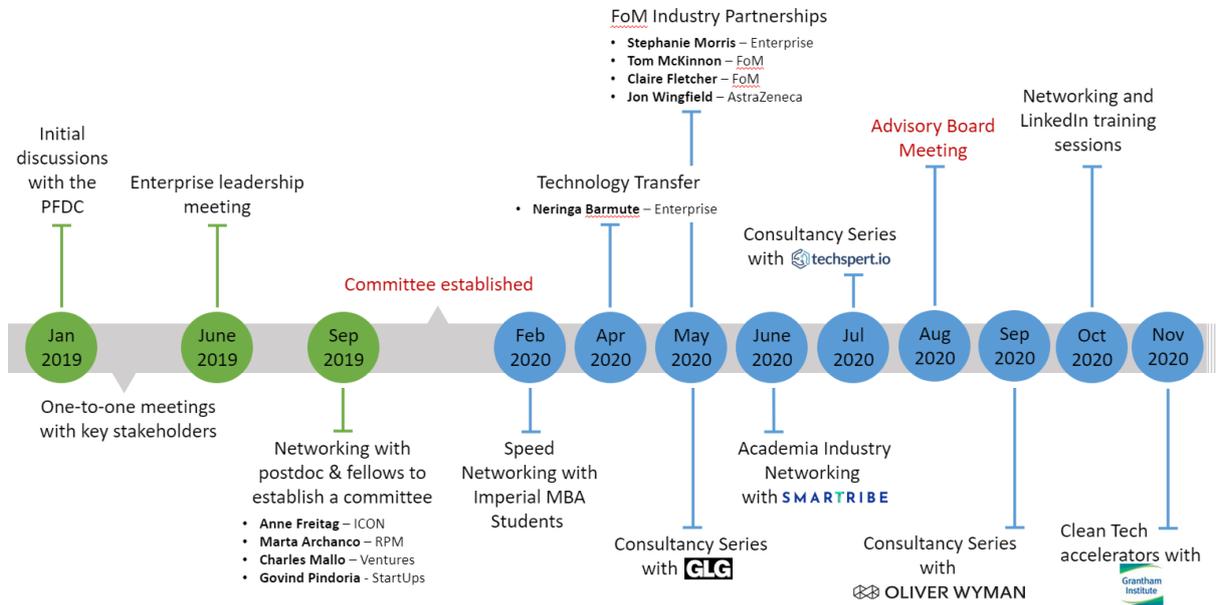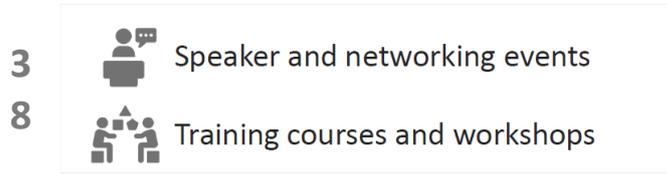Engaged with **6 external companies** and **3 enterprise sections**

Established a **consultancy series** with 3 consulting businesses so far

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians

Our events

FoM Industry Partnerships
- **Stephanie Morris** – Enterprise
- **Tom McKinnon** – FoM
- **Claire Fletcher** – FoM
- **Jon Wingfield** – AstraZeneca

Networking and LinkedIn training sessions

Initial discussions with the PFDC

Enterprise leadership meeting

Technology Transfer
- **Neringa Barmute** – Enterprise

Advisory Board Meeting

Consultancy Series with techspert.io

Committee established

| Jan 2019 | June 2019 | Sep 2019 | Feb 2020 | Apr 2020 | May 2020 | June 2020 | Jul 2020 | Aug 2020 | Sep 2020 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 |

One-to-one meetings with key stakeholders

Networking with postdoc & fellows to establish a committee
- **Anne Freitag** – ICON
- **Marta Archanco** – RPM
- **Charles Mallo** – Ventures
- **Govind Pindoria** - StartUps

Speed Networking with Imperial MBA Students

Academia Industry Networking with SMARTRIBE

Consultancy Series with GLG

Consultancy Series with OLIVER WYMAN

Clean Tech accelerators with Grantham Institute

From September 2019 to November 2020, the network has **dynamized 11 events**

3 Speaker and networking events

8 Training courses and workshops

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
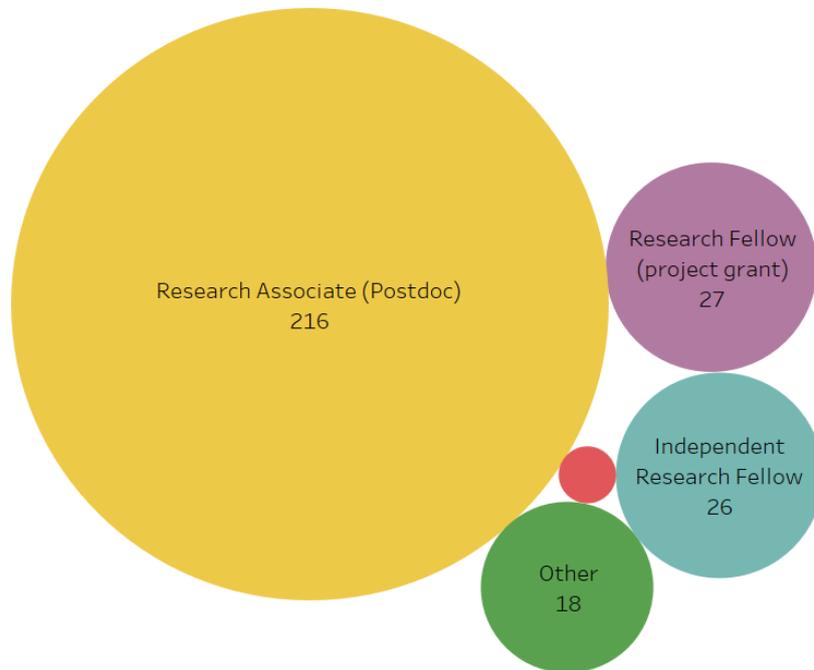Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians

Summary of attendees & Events

- 347 participants for 7 events (50 per event on average)
- Medicine + Engineering are the faculties with highest participation
- High participation for consultancy series events (record of 114 for GLG event)
- Participants from 28 different departments

Participation per Event

(c) Consultancy Series

Legend: Natural Sciences · Medicine · Engineering · Business School

Participants per Department

Legend: Enterprise Week · Smart Tribe · Grantham Institute · FoM Industry Part · Techspert (c) · GLG (c) · Oliver Wyman(c)

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians
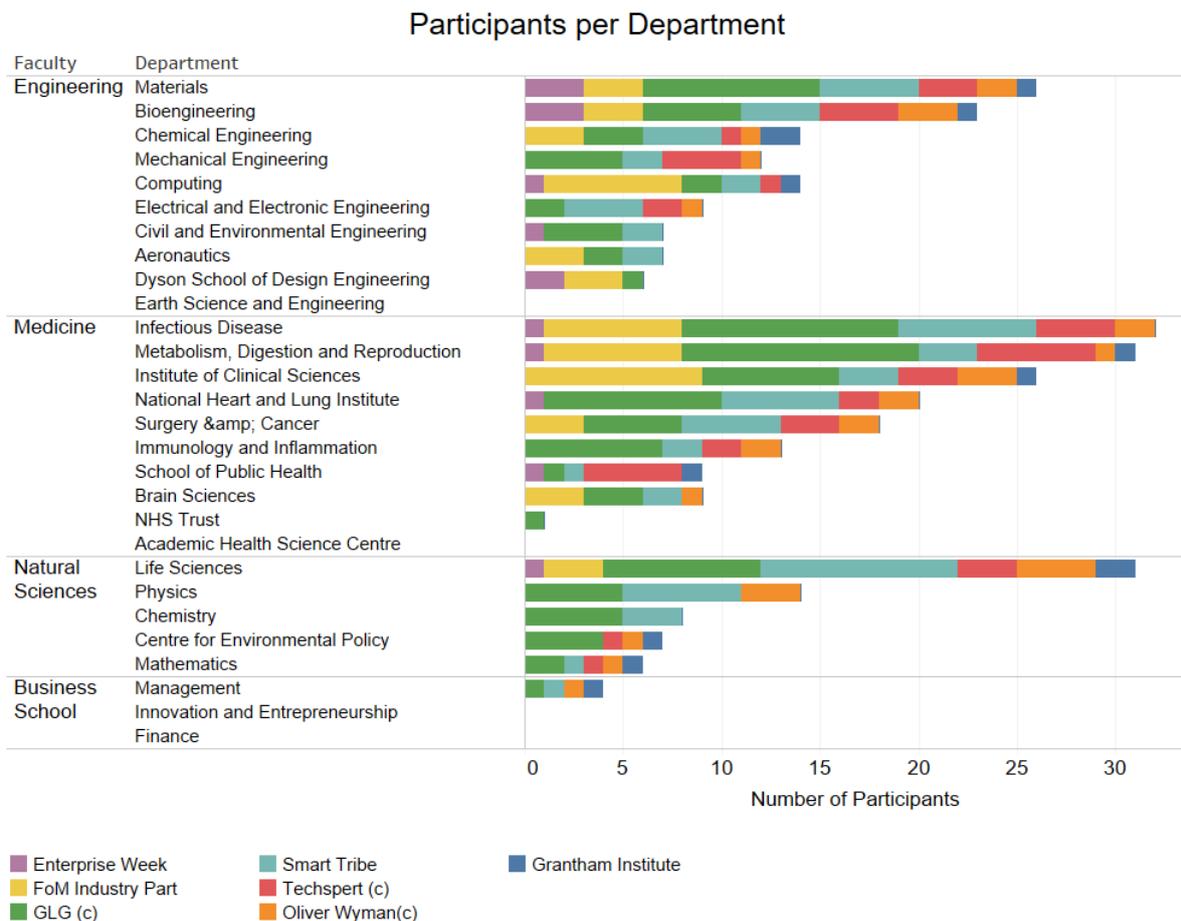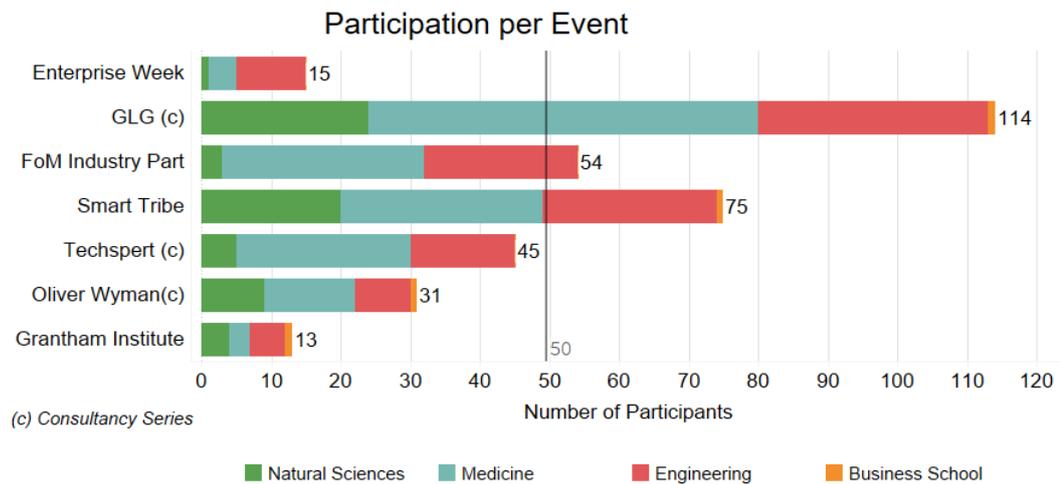
Participant by Position

Average of 22 first time attenders to IPFEN events (range from 8 to 40)

People attended an average of 4.5 IPFEN events (between 2 to 8 events)
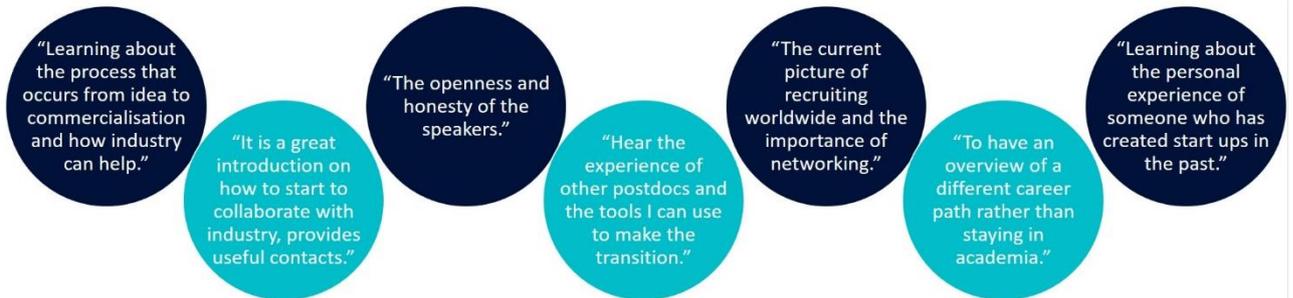
90% of people know about IPFEN events via email and the PFDC Newsletter. More recently we've had some uptake on Twitter and LinkedIn (30%).

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians

Summary of feedback

Feedback has been collected for 6 of the events done in 2020 and the rating average is 3.8 out of 5 stars!

Here's what our attendees have said about past events and what they found most useful:

"Learning about the process that occurs from idea to commercialisation and how industry can help."

"It is a great introduction on how to start to collaborate with industry, provides useful contacts."

"The openness and honesty of the speakers."

"Hear the experience of other postdocs and the tools I can use to make the transition."

"The current picture of recruiting worldwide and the importance of networking."

"To have an overview of a different career path rather than staying in academia."

"Learning about the personal experience of someone who has created start ups in the past."

Ideas for Future Events raised in the Feedback forms:

More content related to Start-ups

Consultancy opportunities

Start-up stories & Scale-up experiences

How to find funding for a start-up

Industry / Academia Interactions

Information on Venture Capitals / accelerators

More Networking

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians