

## 'SPOTLIGHT ON...' The Faculty of Medicine – Postdoctoral Association

### The Postdoctoral Association in the Faculty of Medicine was formed in 2003 to:

- 1) Support the career development of postdoctoral research staff/Early Career Researchers (ECRs)
- 2) Promote collaboration and networking
- 3) Promote the profile of FoM ECRs within the Faculty and University
- 4) Liaise with other faculties and external bodies to enhance support for ECRs

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### Annual FoMPGR Conference

- Opportunity for ECRs to show work within the Faculty
- Around 150 attendees each year
- Prizes for best talk, poster and published research
- Best chance for "networking" across the Faculty



June 2014  
Nobel Prize winner: Prof Barre-Sinoussi  
Discovery of HIV

June 2015  
Prof Cyrus Cooper, OBE

June 2016:  
Speaker: TBA

The Postdoctoral Association initially provided this support via an annual faculty research conference, an introduction for new ECRs within the Faculty of Medicine, a career tracking award and a small transferable skills programme for ECRs.

### Since 2011, we have in addition implemented the following:

- 1) An ECR mentoring scheme that has proven to be highly successful and has now been implemented across the faculty to include all students and staff
- 2) Research Clubs in the individual Academic Units within the faculty. The individual clubs has now started to implement small peer-driven focus groups based around themes chosen by the ECRs

- 3) A Career Seminar across the Faculty of Medicine

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### Careers Seminars

- Provide information on career options
  - Both academic and non-academic
- Writing successful fellowship proposals
- Changes in employment law
- Use of personal development plans
- Working as a postdoc abroad
- How to become a Lecturer



- Scientists in the civil service (DSTL)
- Publishing careers (Nature)
- Working in a small biotech company (Capsant)
- Working for grant funding agencies (CRUK)
- Research in the pharma industry (Eli Lilly)

## Transferable Skills Programme

- Scientific Writing
- Teaching Skills
- Presenting at Conferences
- Career Management
- Writing & Managing a Grant
- Enterprise and Intellectual Property
- Communicating research to a non-specialist audience
- Time & Project Management
- Personal Effectiveness
- Peer mentoring



4) A comprehensive transferable skills programme with more than 20 different sessions during the academic year

- 5) A “one stop” Sharepoint site for ECRs within the faculty
- 6) An annual refresher and Q&A session for ECRs about the work the Postdoctoral Association is doing and feedback on what can be improved
- 7) Implementing the Concordat across the University of Southampton by joining the Career Development of Researchers Working Group.
- 8) An annual Christmas Lecture with an inspirational speaker about the lifelong journey of a scientist and general career advice.

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## Postdoctoral Association Christmas Lecture 2015

Wednesday 9 December, 3.15 – 4.30pm,  
Lecture Theatre 2, South Academic Block, SGH  
to be followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Guest speaker: Professor Alison McConnell,  
Entrepreneur, writer and Professor in Sport/Health Sciences,  
University of Bournemouth

*“Respiratory muscle training: it’s not about the lungs”*

Following the lecture Professor Iain Cameron will present the winners of the ‘Dean’s awards for Postdoctoral Researchers’.

All University / NHS staff and students are welcome  
To register go to - <http://pdaxmas2015.eventbrite.co.uk>

- 9) Dean’s Awards for ECRs with four categories: Citizenship, education, enterprise and public engagement.