January 2018 pepnet newsletter

Dear pepnetters,

You may have noticed days are getting longer already and hopefully the winter blues and colds have not got you in their grip. While the team is busy with Be Curious’ organisation, colleagues are preparing bids for the MRC Festival in June and meet with museum colleagues to collaborate on public engagement (PE) as part of research proposals. REF2021 is looming and as a consequence of the Stern review of the REF2014 we know that the role of PE as a way to deliver impact will be strengthened in REF2021. Next steps are to develop criteria for PE in REF impact case studies. In the meantime, the University has a system that allows you to log your PE activities on a continual basis (in Symplectic; https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/people-development/ at the end of the page), which can be linked to impact case studies in IRIS as underpinning evidence. As impact is what people do in response e.g. to a PE activity, it is important that you do give people an opportunity for feedback or invite their thoughts as part of the PE activity. This can be immediately, or later on. Having 20 people attend a workshop or focus group is one thing, but capturing what this meant to people and/or what they have done in response to the attendance is what will matter as impact. Equally important is to become aware what the engagement has done to you and your research. Have you adapted the research question, have you amended your language, are you disseminating via communication channels that you didn’t consider previously e.g.?

If you would like to discuss your PE ideas or things you could do, please give the PE team a bell. We are here to help and support you.

Best wishes,

Alexa

On Campus

Research Nights

Get a taste of some of the research being done at Leeds at our Research Nights run by the Leeds Doctoral College. The next event will be on Tuesday 6 February at the Pyramid Canteen, Leeds University Union from 6pm.

Latest News

For latest PE news at UoL: https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/latest-news/
Elsewhere

Wellcome Trust announces new strategy for PE
Read more about what they have planned for the future in their new approach to PE.

Leeds Café Scientifique Science Slam! - 20th March 2018
A chance to take part in a fast paced showcase for your research. Have you got a favourite scientific topic? Can you speak about it at Cafe Sci for 5 minutes?

For this year’s science slam, it is suggested that speakers choose a single image and speak about it for 5 minutes.

The science slam will be on 20th March. If you would like to speak at the science slam in March, please email dominic.rayner@yahoo.co.uk
Meetings start at 8pm, at Seven Arts, Harrogate Road, Leeds LS7 3PD.

Community University Partnership Initiative
The NCCPE have launched the Community University Partnership Initiative (CUPI). Funded by Power to Change and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, CUPI supports community organisations (including community businesses, charities, social enterprises, and voluntary organisations) and university researchers to create trusting and useful research collaborations which benefit all the partners involved.

Are you curious about building a new partnership? Have you got a research idea you are keen to explore? Then the current events could be a perfect opportunity to get involved.

Events are currently taking place in the following regions (further locations to be confirmed):

- Bristol – Thursday 22nd March at Knowle West Media Centre
- Manchester – Tuesday 17th April at St Thomas Centre

They are now accepting applications for places at these two match events.

Find out more and register your interest for the Bristol or Manchester match event for the opportunity to create a new partnership, access funding and explore getting a research idea off the ground.

Public and patient involvement - free workshop
This introductory workshop is designed to equip researchers and business development teams with the skills to translate research ideas into medical technology products and clinical solutions. It takes place in Leeds on 11 April 2018 in partnership with Arthritis
Research UK. Further information about the workshop can be found here: http://www.translate-medtech.ac.uk/events/translate-me-public-and-patient-involvement/

Funding opportunities

Royal Society of Chemistry - Outreach Fund
These provide financial support to members, individuals and organisations in order to enable them to run chemistry-based public and schools engagement activities.
The award is worth up to £10,000
Closing date 14 May 2018

Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies - Grants for the archaeology and art history of the Roman Empire and Roman Britain
These support research projects in the archaeology and art history of the Roman Empire and Roman Britain, as well as educational programmes such as conferences and outreach events, and publications.
Awards up to £10,000
Closing date 31 Jan 2018

British Society for Geomorphology outreach grant
This enables members to organise geomorphological outreach activities involving schools, the general public or industry. Any activity that will bring greater public understanding, engagement and discussion of geomorphology, particularly those attracting media attention are encouraged.
The award is worth up to £1000
Closing date 1 Feb 2018

Microbiology Society Education and outreach grants
These support relevant science teaching or promotion initiatives, or developments likely to lead to an improvement in the teaching of any aspect of microbiology.
The award is worth £1000
Closing date 1 Apr 2018

Science communication award
Tissue and Cell Engineering Society invites nominations for its science communication award. This acknowledges scientists for their contribution to science communication and public engagement, and to support future outreach work to continue to enthuse and engage the public.

The award is worth £250

Closing date 31 May 2018 (forecast)