February 2018

Dear pepnetters,

We would like to send our best wishes for Chinese New Year and highlight the event taking place at Leeds City Museum on 13 February with Leeds Confucius Institute - perhaps that’s something to do for half-term.

In the meantime, colleagues have been successful with their MRC Festival bids and at a workshop for REF2021 PE guidelines in London this week the most discussed question was that of what constitutes good evidence. We were wondering if a ‘reverse engineering approach’ could be a better way of looking at this. It starts with identifying possible impacts of research followed by the listing of possible indicators that could be used to provide evidence. A case study is then the story about the route that has been chosen to get from research to impact using different methods (PE is one of these methods, dissemination another, stakeholder meetings another, etc.; the concept of PE and dissemination in particular being methods can help to clarify that they do not constitute impact in themselves). What also becomes apparent then is that different methods can lead to the same impact, which in turn helps to make engagement a more level playing field and works against compartmentalisation of engagement (public, policy, business/industry, school or third sector engagement).

The School of Physics and Astronomy has made the bold step to review the PE Symplectic data in the annual academic activity reviews of staff with the Head of School, along with research outputs, grants and publications. Hopefully this shining example will act as a template for other schools and institutes.

Best wishes,
Alexa

On Campus

Be Curious 2018: Parkinson Building, University of Leeds Saturday 17th March 2018 from 10am

Be Curious 2018: We are International. Ever wondered what happens in a University? Ever been curious what studies and research are carried out at Leeds and what relevance this has on a global scale? Now is your chance to find out and feel immersed in the vast array of exciting things that go on at the University of Leeds. All age groups are welcome at this event with many activities aimed at a family audience. There is no need to book,
just come along to the FREE event. Visit our website to find out more www.leeds.ac.uk/becurious

A poster for download is available from the website if you want to help spread the word with your local groups in your neighbourhood. A limited amount of printed posters is available from the peteam@leeds.ac.uk

Astbury Conversation 16-17 April 2018

The Astbury Conversation is designed to give an insight into life in molecular detail - whether you are a researcher wanting to know about the latest developments, or you are simply interested in learning more about the hidden - but fascinating – world of macromolecules. The aim is to bring together leading researchers from across the globe to discuss the most recent progress in the field of structural molecular biology in its broadest sense. Find out more and register your place.

Pepnet Meeting

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18 April when we will be discussing different platforms for engagement.

Alice Roberts Public Lecture

As Part of the Past Earth Network conference there will be a public lecture on 20th June 2018 with Professor Alice Roberts – Lost worlds and ancient journeys. Register here for free tickets. Alice Roberts is Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham.

Latest News

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

Elsewhere

British Science Week 9-18 March

Are you interested in engaging families and school groups about your work? EUREKA! the Children’s museum in Halifax is looking for STEM experts to talk about their work, run an activity or show off some ‘cool’ things as part of British Science Week (9 – 18 March).

If you are interested in taking part and want to apply for up to £100 to support your activity (e.g. transport, materials etc.) contact the PE team by 23 February.
Research for all

Research for All is a peer-reviewed journal focusing on research that involves universities and communities, services or industries working together. Contributors and readers are from both inside and outside of higher education. The latest issue contains two interesting articles:

Can the research impact of broadcast programming be determined? - Melissa Grant, Lucy Vernall and Kirsty Hill

A common standard for the evaluation of public engagement with research - Mark S. Reed, Sophie Duncan, Paul Manners, Diana Pound, Lucy Armitage, Lynn Frewer, Charlotte Thorley and Bryony Frost

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

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)