Dear Pepnetters,

As part of my Engagement Excellence Fellowship last year I stepped way out from my comfort zone for engagement. I’ve had quite a bit of previous experience in what I’d generally consider public engagement – I’ve done some school workshops, designed and presented some science fair stalls and even had a talk at Otley Science Café (despite a few years’ experience of lecturing – knowing that my audience had all paid actual money for a ticket to see me talk really made me nervous!) Anyone who knows me will recognise I love my research and I will talk about it to anyone. However, this year was something entirely new.

My research focusses on medical engineering – specifically looking at different interventions in the ankle joint – whether joint replacement for arthritis, or materials for ligament repair – but very much from the ‘engineering side’. For my fellowship, I wanted to get a patient perspective on my research. Initially, I went to an ’Ask the Researcher’ event with one of our PhD students, at Chapel Allerton Hospital. I gave a short talk to a small patient group and got a lot of interest – but then came a series of questions (from me) that showed I need to do more work – would you like to be involved with my research, what do you think, what should I be doing? The audience was more used to participating in clinical trials, and so wasn’t sure how to help – and I wasn’t sure what to ask... so came the idea for a visit.

One day last year 35 members of the Patient and Public Involvement group from Chapel Allerton Hospital arrived in the foyer of Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University for some lunch, some talks and tours of the labs. Researchers from across our research institute gave brief introductory talks about what we are up to, before having opportunity for an informal chat over lunch. Then we split into smaller groups and ten PhD students acted as tour guides to showcase the engineering research going on in our labs, before coming back together for another opportunity to chat over tea and cake.

Our guests loved the visit and are keen to come back – now that they’ve seen what we do and can picture our research, they’ve got much more to say about what they think is important and I’m able to talk to them a bit more about what we are doing. Everyone who got involved from our group loved the experience, even though the prospect of talking to expert patients was a little scary for some of the PhD students to start with.

Logistical things I learnt for the future – our labs are far more interesting than I expected – I didn’t give our visitors long enough in each section. Make sure you have a walk around the tour you’ve planned to check for accessibility – and think about the route to minimise walking required. Order more cake! The noise from all the chatting going on was also very loud – and so again, a bigger room that allowed people to spread out and hear each other more easily would have been helpful.
For me it was a really helpful experience, and has led to some follow up work with the patients who were most interested in what I’m doing. If the prospect of something new scares you – just go for it. This was probably one of the best engagement activities I’ve been involved with, and going forwards I’m hoping to arrange some more visits with specific research focus.

Claire Brockett
University Academic Fellow and Engagement Champion, Medical & Biological Engineering

**On Campus**

**PE as part of your research proposal – drop-in surgeries**

The PE team is teaming up with colleagues from OD&PL, RIS and the Library to provide advice on your research proposal.

6 February 2019, 10:00-12:00 - Seminar room 1 (1.34) accessed via Parkinson Building; for other dates, please see [here](#). No need to book, just come along, or if the dates don’t suit drop us a line [peteam@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:peteam@leeds.ac.uk) and we’ll meet at a mutually convenient time with you.

**Evaluation – your best friend in Public Engagement**

Our next pepnet meeting will see the return of Sarah Jenkins of Jenesys Associates with tips on evaluating your public engagement. It runs from 12 to 2pm on Wednesday 27 February 2019 in room SR1.09 of the Liberty Building. The session will cover:

- How evaluation can improve your planning and delivery of public engagement
- Evaluating outcome and impacts from public engagement
- Practical tools and tips for:
  - Obtaining meaningful evaluation feedback
  - Evaluating different types of activities, events and locations
  - Making evaluation accessible and engaging for different audience groups and communities
- Evaluation FAQs

Please sign up [here](#)!

**More evaluation resources**
We have included some links on our website to Queen Mary University of London’s toolkit for evaluation, including a quick start guide, basic evaluation plan and selection of evaluation tools to try. https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/pe-impact-evaluation/

Delivering Creative Workshops – The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery

As part of their professional practice seminar series, the Gallery’s Learning Coordinator will be offering an introduction into how to plan, prepare and deliver creative workshops, on Thursday 7 February from 10.30 to 12.30. To book your place https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/professional-practice-seminar-series-delivering-creative-workshops-tickets-54756062858

Art and Science: Another Way of Looking

Former Engagement Excellence Fellow Anke Brüning-Richardson is a cancer researcher and is now based at the University of Huddersfield investigating new ways to diagnose and treat aggressive cancers, such as brain tumours. Anke and met and collaborated with Deborah Gardner through the Soapbox: Science & Art platform during Leeds Light Night 2017. Deborah made sculptures with neon helium balloons as a means of testing to what extent art works can operate as working tools, which may cultivate insight into Anke’s discussion with members of the public on her most recent research activity and ideas of nuclei and migration. The sculptures and a large quilt co-produced with the public are now on show in the School of Design: https://www.leeds.ac.uk/events/event/5392/art_and_science_another_way_of_looking

Elsewhere

The Biochemical Society’s Science Communication Competition

The call is now open for the annual Science Communication Competition for all undergraduate and postgraduate students it’s an opportunity to showcase SciComm talents, and to build a SciComm portfolio with potential print and online publication in The Biochemist magazine and The Biochemist blog, as well as receiving a mentoring session with a professional science communicator (in addition to a cash prize). The submission deadline for the current competition is 15th April 2019. All the details can be found here http://www.biochemistry.org/GetInvolved/ScienceCommunicationCompetition.aspx
Curiosity - funding available from Wellcome and BBC Children in Need

Wellcome and BBC Children in Need are collaborating on Curiosity – a programme that uses science activities to make a positive difference in the lives of children and young people affected by disadvantage.

Curiosity funding is intended for youth organisations in the UK whose main remit is supporting children and young people affected by disadvantage. The funding is disbursed by BBC Children in Need and applying organisations must meet their eligibility criteria.

This is an opportunity for informal science learning (ISL) providers to partner with youth organisations to help shape or support the science content that they deliver. Based on the 32 projects that we’ve already funded, such partnerships gave ISL providers valuable insights into good practice when engaging this important audience.

If you’re interested in finding a potential partner, you can:

1. attend one of the events listed on the BBC Children in Need web pages, above
2. join the Facebook Group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/252243725252331/) where you can connected with others.

Wellcome Engagement Fellowships

A reminder that Wellcome are interested in developing emerging leaders from a range of backgrounds to engage the public with health research. The application deadline is 7 February 2019 and further details are available on their website https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/engagement-fellowships

Science in Public Conference 2019

The call for contributions is now open with a closing date of Friday 29 March 2019. The conference will be taking place at Manchester Metropolitan University from 10th - 12th July 2019.

More details here https://sip2019.com/
Bradford Science Festival 2019, 20-21 July

In its third year run by the Science and Media Museum the Bradford Science Festival is establishing itself as an early summer event. There are plans to create a Space Zone to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing and also a Chemistry Zone to align with the 150th anniversary of the periodic table. Other zones will also be up and running. If you are interested in running a stall at the Festival, find information, guidance and proposal forms on our website.

New books on participatory and co-produced research

Participatory Research for Health and Social Well-Being

A comprehensive guide for students interested in using participatory research to improve people’s health and well-being. It is especially designed for those working in the fields of health and social welfare who are embarking on participatory research for the first time.


Co-producing research: a community development approach

This book draws on experiences from an innovative project, Imagine – connecting communities through research. It outlines a community development approach, involving collaboration between diverse people/groups to develop communities of place, interest and identity. Contributors discuss the contribution of co-produced research to social justice outcomes in policy and practice settings - from art galleries to prisons. The book will be valuable for practitioners and academics interested in researching with communities, activists, and artists.

Available at the discounted price of £20 by quoting the discount code ‘POBANKS18’, valid until 31 Jan 2019.  https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/co-producing-research

Ethics in participatory research for health and social well-being: Cases and commentaries

This book introduces the key ethical issues in participatory research, drawing on ethical theory and relevant literature before presenting 7 substantive chapters, each on a different theme, such as power, ownership, confidentiality and boundaries.

Further details can be found on this website. 20% discount is available if you order via this website, please enter the code FLR40 at checkout:
Latest News
For latest PE news at UoL: https://comms.leeds.ac.uk/public-engagement/latest-news/

Funding opportunities

Geomorphological 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
Awards up to £1000
Closing date 01 February 2019

Classical Association Grants
These support classical projects and conferences mainly in the UK. Applications for the following will be considered; funding for school teaching and outreach, support for Greek and Latin reading competitions, regional Greek and Roman days, school conferences and wider range of outreach events towards the promotion of public awareness of the importance of classics;
Awards up to £2000
Closing date 01 March 2019

Society for Endocrinology Public Engagement Grants
These support the organisation and delivery of outreach activities, aimed at school children or the general public, that engage audiences with hormones and the impact of endocrinology.
Awards up to £1000
Closing date 27 March 2019

Biochemical Society Outreach Grants
The Biochemical Society’s Scientific Outreach Grants offer funding for projects that communicate the excitement of molecular bioscience. The aim is to increase participation in the molecular biosciences at school level and beyond through engagement activities.

Awards of up to £1000

Closing date 9th April 2019