

Research and Teaching Workshop
10th January 2020

On January 10th, the Early Career Lecturers in Biosciences group hosted the first Research and Teaching themed workshop at University College London. This event was centred around key issues facing early career academics in their first years of appointment. The day was started by Dr Clemens Kiecker from Kings College London who focused his talk on undergraduates as active partners in research. Dr Kiecker showcased practical strategies of helping lecturers design, run and benefit from student projects by helping tip the student balance towards excitement, motivation, and success and away from fears of getting it wrong, demotivating feedback, and time waste. Next, Dr Cristina Sisu (Brunel University London) introduced the audience to the ECLBio group with members joining virtually from all across UK. Next, Dr Sisu alongside Dr Dom Henri (University of Hull) presented the open educational resources and events created by the group. The third session of the day was lead by Dr Susan Guthrie from RAND and focused on her latest research findings on mental health in higher education. Dr Guthrie highlighted common issues such as long working hours and a difficult work/life balance. However, she also identified the common trend that seems to be the key driving force for academics in general, the passion for their research. The afternoon saw the workshop change focus towards research funding. The exceptional panel formed by Dr Candace Hassall (Wellcome Trust), Dr Yulia Matskevich (European Research Council Expert) and Patricia Salinas (UCL) deconstructed the grant application, assessment, and management processes with lots of insightful and honest feedback for the early career lecturers in audience. The day closed with talks from four young academics on research funding success. Dr Alessandro Pandini (Brunel University London), Dr Samantha McClean (Nottingham Trent University), Dr Katherine Staines (University of Brighton) and De Ronan McCarthy (Brunel University London) gave insights into their successful grant development and application process, and have proven that indeed it is possible to clear this hurdle and get your funding approved.

A packed lecture theatre and enthusiastic coffee break discussions were the order of the day, sending a unifying message to the future of the ECLbio group lead events: keep them coming.

