

PIPS CONFERENCE 2016 NEWSLETTER

The 4th annual SWBio DTP PIPS conference was held at the University of Bath on the 9th and 10th June 2016. DTP students from all years attended the two day conference although Day One was focussed towards PIPS preparation with Day Two focussing around PIPS and beyond.

Professor Robert Kelsh welcomed the students and introduced our keynote speaker Pernille Hammelsoe, Associate Director at IOP Publishing. Her speech 'From Humanities to Physics- A career in Publishing' set off the conference perfectly, introducing the theme of interdisciplinary careers.

First Year students were then introduced to the PIPS team and process before attending a session run by the Careers Service called 'Marketing yourself on paper'. At the same time the rest of the students had the opportunity of an informal careers discussion with Pernille Hammelsoe in an interactive session. Lastly 'Alternative Careers for Scientists' explored the non-academic paths PhD students can pursue.

Day One was rounded off with an conspicuously popular cheese and wine reception before students ventured into town for a pub quiz organised by the students in a local pub or end of programme celebration for final year students and academics.

Dr Chris Bailey welcomed students to the second day of the conference. The day started with further development sessions, targeting students' needs at the different stages of their studies. First years had a talk about 'Networking with Confidence' while second year students learned about 'How to Market their Research Skills' and attract the employer's attention.

The Career Service talked to the third years about 'How to Influence Employers' and final years attended 'Skills to Manage Your Career'.

The biggest part of this day consisted of PIPS presentations by students who had completed their PIPS to share experiences with those at the conference. Thirteen presentations were given in total, which illustrated the range of internships available for those forming ideas of where they would like their internship to occur. Their experiences varied a lot, students had worked from genetics' start-ups in San Francisco to Film production companies in Bristol.

During the 2-hour lunch break invited employers joined the students for lunch. The students got the opportunity to discuss with the organisation representatives offering internships and understand more about the positions available.

The last activity led by the Careers Service was 'Approaching Employers Speculatively'.

Professor Bernie Morley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, who has himself studied Biosciences, closed the conference.

Hopefully students gained a lot by listening to their peers' experience and also learned more about how to showcase the skills they've acquired from their PhD to catch the eye of the employer they want.

We encourage you to use the feedback form attached to help us better organise next year's conference.

