



National Science Centre (NCN), Vitae POLONEZ Programme

‘Networking with Purpose’



The National Science Centre (NCN) and Vitae invite you to attend our ‘Networking with Purpose’ event at 6.15 – 8.15pm on Saturday 16 June 2018 at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Warsaw Centre

Networking – the development, maintenance and leadership of networks of individuals who can offer advice and access to opportunities – is an important and valuable skill for researchers. Individuals who have large numbers of friends and contacts and maintain relationships with colleagues and former colleagues are likely to succeed in their careers. Establishing and maintaining a wide professional network can prove helpful in your current role and may also provide the opening for your next collaboration, funding opportunity, contract post, or change of career direction.

The Vitae POLONEZ ‘Networking with Purpose’ event will set the foundations for a POLONEZ peer to peer alumni network as well as giving participants the opportunity to meet researchers from other programmes.



The evening will begin with a talk on Research Leadership and Management by **Indi Seehra**, Director of Human Resources at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and Chair of the CRAC Board of Trustees.



The event will be managed by **Dr Katie Wheat**, Higher Education Senior Manager at Vitae, and facilitated by an expert team of Vitae Associate Trainers, with contributions from **Dr Kevin Byron, Theresa Mellon and Frances Scott**.

Full biographies of the event speakers and facilitators are provided on the following pages.



Biographies

Indi Sehra is Director of Human Resources at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Until May 2014, he headed up Human Resources at the University of Cambridge. He was a Fellow of the Judge Business School at Cambridge until March 2016 and is a visiting lecturer at two Institutions in India, as well as being the coordinator of the “SGPC/Cambridge” Scholarship, which facilitates students to achieve postgraduate qualifications at the University of Cambridge. Indi has held a number of significant private- and public- sector appointments including HR Director of the Crown Prosecution Service and subsequently the National Crime Agency (previously known as SOCA).

Indi is a non-Executive Director with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (England) and remains involved with respective European Union Task Groups looking to overcome the barriers to mobility for Researchers. He is the Chair of the Careers Research and Advisory Council (CRAC) which runs the international Vitae programme for Researchers, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, and an Independent Director for RESAVER, a multi-employer, multi-currency and multi-country Pension Scheme for organisations who are engaged in Research activity across Europe. He is a regular speaker on Leadership and Organisational Behaviour.

Dr Katie Wheat is Higher Education Senior Manager at Vitae and has been working in the professional and career development of researchers for over four years. Before joining Vitae, Katie was a postdoctoral researcher in psychology and cognitive neuroscience at Maastricht University. As a postdoc, Katie became interested in the training needs and career progression of researchers, particularly equality and diversity and the transition to careers outside of academia. As a result, Katie co-founded the #ECRchat Twitter chat and online community, which provides a peer-mentoring and networking platform to discuss researcher career issues. Katie is a passionate advocate for the importance of career development opportunities for researchers and fulfils this passion in her current role through strong relationships with researcher networks in the UK and internationally. Particular areas of interest include the transition to independence, researcher wellbeing, and intersectoral mobility.

Dr Kevin Byron is an independent research skills developer and facilitator working with higher education institutions and industries in the UK and Europe. He received his Ph.D in Applied Physics from the University of Hull and pursued a career in commercial research in photonics for some twenty five years. He was an honorary visiting lecturer at the Universities of Glasgow and Salford, a member of an EPSRC peer review college, and was elected to Fellowship of the Institute of Physics. During his time in industry, Kevin was the manager of several projects, including a three-year collaboration with four industry partners and three universities. The award of a three-



year NESTA fellowship in 2002 allowed him to pursue his interest in education and the development of creative skills. An honorary fellow of the HEA, he has worked as a research skills and enterprise developer at the Universities of Leicester and London (Queen Mary). Kevin has published over 80 peer-reviewed papers, 60 patents, two monographs and six co-authored books. As well as contributing to the Vitae RDF, he has designed and developed over a dozen different research skills workshops covering the various needs of Ph.Ds, Post-Doctoral researchers and staff in industry.

Theresa Mellon is a learning and development consultant who has extensive experience of leadership and management development. She has managed staff development functions in higher education institutions and a number of large UK charities. Her most recent post in higher education was as Head of Talent and Educational Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Theresa is a trained executive coach and works with senior staff in the public and voluntary sectors. She has held senior management positions in the international aid sector, directing programmes in East Africa, West Africa and Central Asia. Theresa is currently training research staff in East Africa as part of a World Bank project, as well as coaching leaders of civil society organisations in China.

Frances Scott is an experienced trainer, facilitator and coach, specialising in helping people to develop their management, communication and project management skills. She has run her own business since 2000 and many of the delegates on her courses are researchers. Frances started her career in medical research (cytogenetics and immunogenetics) and taught science at The Open University. Then, as a Careers Adviser at the University of London, she helped students, researchers and staff with their career development. She has managed teams of up to 40 people, has been involved in projects with budgets of up to £3 million, and managed recruitment and leadership development schemes for BAE Systems. Frances has worked with universities and research institutions internationally, including: European Molecular Biology Laboratory (Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, England), European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, European Southern Observatory, and the Institute of Cancer Research, and has worked with organisations in many other sectors.

