**Information and Guidelines**

**About the Crick’s Interest Groups**

The Crick Interest Groups were developed to bring together scientists working on diverse biological systems, with many different complementary sets of expertise, to understand how these processes are regulated in health, and how their breakdown can result in diverse diseases.

The aim of the Interest Groups is to enhance scientific discussion by strengthening existing interactions and promoting new links within and across the different Interest Groups.

In 2018 we launched the **‘Associate Membership’** of the Crick Interest Groups scheme in which we invited university partner researchers to join and take part in our internal Interest Group seminar programmes. We aimed to widen our research horizons, particularly by the facilitation of links to clinical medicine, physical sciences and branches of biology that were not well represented within the Crick itself. We hoped to gain new collaborative interactions and to increase our visibility at partner universities. For our partners and funders the scheme represents a tangible contribution to promoting their own science and part of realising the concept of the ‘Greater Crick’.

Regular Interest Group internal and external seminars enrich scientific discourse across the institute, whilst also maximising the training of our PhD students, Postdocs and team members.

There are currently eight formal Interest Groups at the Crick:

* Cancer
* Cell Biology & Signalling
* Chromosome Biology
* Development and Stem Cells
* Immunology
* Infections
* Neuroscience
* Structural & Chemical Biology

Please find more information about these groups and their scientific membership on the Crick’s external website:

[https://www.crick.ac.uk/research/seminars,-lectures-and-symposia/interest-group-seminars/](https://www.crick.ac.uk/research/seminars%2C-lectures-and-symposia/interest-group-seminars/)

**Internal series, external series - what is the difference?**

There are two Interest Group series: internal and external.

Internal seminar series are only advertised in-house and only open to Crick Interest Group and Associate Interest Group members. These seminars will involve the presentation of work in progress, where ideas and interpretation may not be fully formed, and where there is a clear need for confidentiality amongst those attending. The Crick provides a unique and exciting opportunity for its researchers to share diverse knowledge and ideas at an early stage thereby promoting collaboration and accelerating discovery. Speakers in all the internal Interest Group series are PhD students, Postdocs and other lab members but not Group Leaders who speak in other series.

External seminars are open to a wider audience who will be able to see events on the external website or receive an update from the mailing lists. Speakers in the external Interest Group series are always external.

**Training benefits**

A major purpose of the internal Interest Group talks is to provide training for PhD students and Postdocs, who should give talks in one of the series, as advised by their Group Leader. The minimum number of talks per PhD student is one talk early in their 3rd year and their exit seminar, which coincides with their PhD viva. Postdocs are expected to present at least once every 2 years.

**Application Guidelines - Associate membership of Interest Groups 2020 scheme:**

* In applying for this scheme you are applying to become an Associate Member of **one** of the eight Crick Interest Groups (see above). You will become an Interest Group member together with up to two members of your group (students or early-stage post-docs) whose work most closely aligns with those of the Crick researchers. These lab members will be expected to present their research in the Interest Group Internal series.
* Full participation is necessary so if neither you or your lab members attend the seminars your Membership would lapse.
* The initiative is open to Crick Partner Universities and may be extended to some members from other Institutions who have made a scientific commitment to work with the Crick.
* Applications from Partner University PIs should be seconded by a Crick Group Leader and supported by a short a statement (approx. 200 words) indicating the applicant’s interest and what they would bring to the Interest Group(s) that they wish to join and three exemplar publications (see application form).
* Upon acceptance, this material will be used to inform the Interest Group of the new members’ interests.
* In the event that applications are oversubscribed or any other potential conflict arises that cannot be resolved between the Interest Group Leader and the Partnership Manager, then a small committee (Andreas Schaefer, Malcolm Irving, Peter Ratcliffe, the Partnership Manager and the Interest Group Leader) will meet to define the best way to proceed.
* Since Interest Group Membership necessarily entails the privilege and responsibility of hearing unpublished work in progress we consider it equitable that the Interest Group co-organiser should maintain the right to not accept a membership application for reasons of conflict of interest.