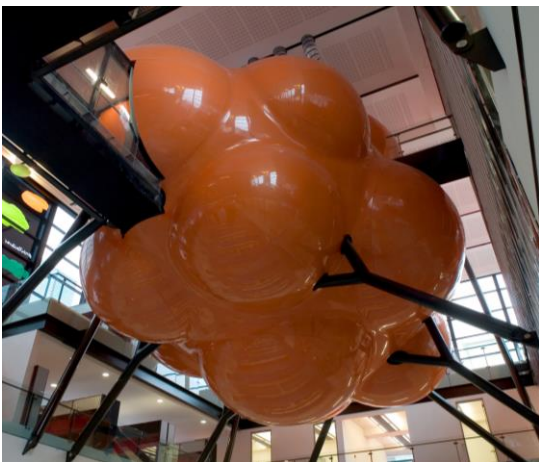




# Centre of the Cell™

Centre of the Cell is an informal biomedical science education centre and outreach project located in Whitechapel, Tower Hamlets. It is the first science education centre in the world to be located within medical research laboratories, part of Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London.

We have two unique learning spaces embedded within the Blizard Institute: our award-winning digital interactive STEM Pod launched in September 2009; and Neuron Pod, a dedicated learning space used to deliver our onsite workshops and shows. Since our opening in 2009, we have **engaged with over 207,000 participants**.



*Centre of the Cell's STEM Pod suspended above the laboratories (left) and Neuron Pod (right).*

## Our mission and aims

We seek to have a positive impact on the educational, career and health choices of the children, young people and families we work with.

*Centre of the Cell's aims are to:*

- Inspire the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals
- Stimulate interest, excitement and dialogue about biomedical research
- Raise aspirations, especially in our local community
- Widen participation in further and higher education
- Improve health and wellbeing in our local communities
- Create a local, national and global centre of excellence in Public Engagement

# Ways to support Centre of the Cell

## Subsidise shows and workshops for our schools

We keep our prices low to make sure the Centre is accessible to all. This requires core funding to pay for our explainers and bookings team. We welcome donations of any amount to ensure we can continue offering shows to the young people who need it most.

## Interactive STEM-Pod refurbishment

Our STEM Pod was built 12 years ago. At the time it was state-of-the-art, but now it needs a refresh. Technology has moved on, and to offer the best possible experience to students, we need to move on with it.

We're looking for partners to donate capital funding towards the total project budget, which includes a complete IT and AV refurbishment, updating the interactive games and activities, and creating up-to-date and relevant videos to aid learning during the show and a new projection mapping feature.

## Website and online resource refresh

The Centre of the Cell website is a hub of online content to support science learning. We've got online games, school resources, activities for parents to do at home, and an extensive series of blogs covering various scientific and science-career topics. It is also the main way that schools and families find out about the Centre and book their visits.

Many of the games need to be updated to work on newer devices, and the website needs redesigning to be easier to navigate and better fit for purpose.

## Support our core running costs

Centre of the Cell seeks support from individuals and organisations looking to provide core funding to cover costs to enable us to achieve a balance of stability, continuity and flexibility. This will support core operations including bookings management, website development and maintenance, strategy development, STEM and Neuron Pod maintenance, and overhead costs.

## Youth membership scheme

Our Youth Membership Scheme (YMS) is the clearest means by which we can positively influence the lives of young people and support their career and study plans. We have an active and engaged YMS, offering 14-19 year olds a range of activities designed to help kickstart a life in STEM subjects.

The scheme has 500 members aged (100 of them actively involved in our events and support year-on-year) and offers:

- Work experience opportunities
- Volunteering opportunities during school holidays
- Careers advice workshops, study support and revision sessions
- Opportunities to take part in youth forums
- A week-long intensive Summer School
- Big Question lectures
- Online content about science and health careers and Higher Education