

Centre of the Cell
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"It's not every day you walk into a suspended cell and play all kinds of games"

"It was amazing seeing scientists working, so different from anything I have seen before"

"A computer scanned my hand and found I had 36,000,000,000 cells"

"It's not all sitting down putting your head down, you can actually have fun when you're a scientist"



Centre
of the
Cell™





What is Centre of the Cell?

Centre of the Cell is dedicated to inspiring curiosity and learning by connecting science to everyday life. We seek to have a positive influence on the career, educational and personal health choices of children and young people through:

- A science education Centre (the 'Pod') dramatically suspended above biomedical research laboratories catering especially for 8-19 year olds.
- An online destination featuring more than 150 pages of unique content, videos, teachers' resources and interactive games (www.centreofthecell.org).
- An outreach programme of workshops, original science shows, and the Big Question lecture series.
- A widening participation project for 14-19 year olds that includes internships, volunteering opportunities, mentoring and revision sessions, careers advice, and the Centre of the Cell Youth Panel.



Outcomes

We aim 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
- Promote learning within the family and community
- Improve lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds
- 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

Audiences

Since the project opened to the public in September 2009, there have been over 75,000 participants in Centre of the Cell activities. More than 50% of these are from our local borough of Tower Hamlets but visitors also come from other parts of London and the UK, Europe and the Middle East. In 2012-13 Centre of the Cell ran Pod sessions for over 9,000 visitors from 169 different schools alongside outreach workshops and shows for almost 5,000 school participants.

Supporting Centre of the Cell

The Centre relies on external support to maintain and enhance its activities. There are a number of ways in which companies, charities and individuals can support Centre of the Cell's work.

Sponsoring Pod Shows

Each 'Pod' show costs £475 to run, but we only charge our visitors £125 as many come from deprived backgrounds and inner city schools. Sponsors are able to support individual or multiple Pod shows, which will allow us to provide shows to the widest possible audience, regardless of financial constraints.

- £35,000 would sponsor 100 Pod Shows — approximately one-third of our annual total.
- £3,500 would sponsor 10 Pod Shows
- £350 would sponsor one Pod Show

We would be delighted to discuss these or alternative sponsorship packages with interested parties and how your support can be recognised.

Sponsoring Outreach Sessions

Outreach workshops and shows enrich the science curriculum. The majority of our sessions are delivered in the east London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Newham. Sponsorship of these outreach sessions, allow us to provide outreach to the widest possible audience, regardless of financial constraints.

- £12,000 would sponsor 100 outreach sessions for the most deserving schools who would otherwise be unable to take part for financial reasons
- £1,200 would sponsor 10 outreach sessions

Youth Membership Scheme

£35,000 would fund Centre of the Cell's Youth Membership Scheme for a year, providing young people aged 14-19 from deprived areas with:

- access to internship, volunteering and hospital placement opportunities
- careers advice
- the chance to meet scientists and healthcare professionals
- mentoring sessions on university applications
- revision and exam preparation



Neuron Pod

Neuron Pod is the next exciting development at Centre of the Cell — an eye-catching building, resembling a giant nerve cell, which will provide multi-purpose, state of the art facilities for live shows, workshops, films and exhibitions. Over £1.4m of the £2.3m cost has been raised and we aim to reach our goal in 2014. There are a number of opportunities to support the project, including sponsorship of the individual dendrites which will cover the building. To learn more about how you can support this important development, contact akmol.hussain@qmul.ac.uk or visit www.centreofthecell.org

