

IN THIS ISSUE

****Review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course – Your contributions welcomed!****

[Sixty Seconds with...Leila Whitworth, Assistant Registrar \(Research\)](#)

[Board Business](#)

[Lab Talk – Professor Andrew Pollard, Department of Paediatrics and Oxford Vaccine Group](#)

[Athena SWAN News](#)

[IT News](#)

[Library News](#)

[Opportunities and Updates](#)

[And Finally...FoodSwitch App](#)



USEFUL LINKS

Find out more about what's happening across the Division:

[In the News](#)

[Current Seminars and Events](#)

[Past OxfordMedSci News issues](#)

Do you have news or events that you would like to promote? Or would you like your lab/centre/unit to feature in a future issue of Lab Talk? For further information, please contact communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk

Copy deadline for next issue: 9:00am, Tuesday 6 May, 2014

SIXTY SECONDS WITH ...

Leila Whitworth, Assistant Registrar (Research)

In this issue, we speak to Leila Whitworth who was appointed as Assistant Registrar (Research) in March 2014.

Tell us a little about your role

As Assistant Registrar (Research), I am responsible for research administration, policy and strategy development across the Division. Working closely with the Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood, I am helping to develop the Division's research strategy and supporting major inter-departmental and inter-divisional research bids. I am secretary to the Division's Research Committee and manage internal research funds including the Medical Research Fund (MRF) and John Fell Fund (JFF). [Read more...](#)



LAB TALK



In this issue, we talk to Professor Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity in the Department of Paediatrics, and Director of the [Oxford Vaccine Group \(OVG\)](#).

Tell us about the Oxford Vaccine Group

The Oxford Vaccine Group (OVG) is a multi-disciplinary team working on the design, development and evaluation of vaccines to improve

BOARD BUSINESS

In this regular feature, Dr David Bryan, Divisional Secretary, provides a summary of the Medical Sciences Board's activity

At its meeting in March, the Medical Sciences Board:

- (1) noted that nominations for the title of Associate Professor were to be considered on behalf of the Board by a panel consisting of Professor Tracey (in the chair), the Head of Division, Professor Channon and Professor Davies.
- (2) noted that the Information Security (IS) Working Group of the Board's IT Committee had met twice and was drafting a divisional IS policy.
- (3) noted that the Athena SWAN Steering Group had decided not to proceed with a single application from the Division at this stage but to explore possible groupings of departments for future joint applications;

[Read more...](#)

ATHENA SWAN NEWS

In this issue:

- (1) [Focus on the Academic Leadership Development Programme](#)
- (2) [Women in Science Podcasts](#)
- (3) [Athena SWAN Handbook 2014](#)
- (4) [Research reports](#)
[A picture of the UK scientific workforce – Diversity data analysis for the Royal Society](#)
[Results of the 28–40 survey carried out by Opportunity Now](#)

[Read more...](#)

human health through the prevention of serious infectious disease.

Celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2014, a major focus of our work has been developing and studying vaccines against important pathogenic bacteria that cause serious infections, such as meningitis, pneumonia and typhoid, in infants and children. Over the past decade, the group has grown to more than 70 staff in the UK and Nepal, including clinical staff (nurses and research fellows), clinical trial support staff and laboratory scientists. [Read more...](#)



IT NEWS

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- (1) [End of the line for Windows XP and Office 2003](#)
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- (3) [A system as the sum of its parts: agent-based modelling to look at interactions between cancerous and stromal cells](#)
- (4) [How close are we to computer marking of essays? Computational Linguistics and Educational Technology workshop](#)
- (5) [News from IT Services: new e-newsletter](#)

[Read more...](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

In this issue:

- (1) [Easter Holidays 2014 Opening Hours](#)
- (2) [Data Support Services For Researchers](#)
- (3) [Too busy to get to the library? Did you know you can read thousands of our books online?](#)

[Read more...](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

Important Updates

[Review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course – Your contributions welcomed?](#)

[Launch of the MSD Industrial Partnerships Office](#). The MSD Business Development team and NDM are pleased to announce the launch of the MSD Industrial Partnerships Office. Find out more about this initiative...

[J&J Innovation will have regular presence on campus via MSD Industrial Partnerships Office](#). Representatives from Johnson & Johnson Innovation will be in Oxford the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month between 14:00–17:00hrs at the Partnering Office in the NDMRB on the Old Road Campus. Read on to find out more about how to arrange a meeting with J&J Innovation

[Business Development Survey](#) If you are interested in finding out more about Business Development or already have a project that you would like to discuss, please complete the online form so that they can match you with any relevant opportunities

[Research Services Medical Sciences/Science Area Division Newsletter](#) for divisional Departmental Administrators has been relaunched

[Data Support Services for Researchers](#) [researchdata.ox.ac.uk](#) is a new website designed to support researchers with their research data management and sharing activities

[Office of Fair Trading Graduation Sanctions](#) The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published its report on Universities' Terms and Conditions on 18 February, with a follow up report in mid-March, which lays a particular focus on sanctions imposed on students due to outstanding debt.

[Invitation to Apply for Tier 1 \(Graduate Entrepreneur\) Visa Endorsement](#) Closing date for applications is 26th May. Interviews will be held the week of 9th June

[RCUK Open Access Block Grant](#). A simpler process to apply for funding from the RCUK Open Access Block Grant

[Cross-discipline open access survey](#) What's your experience?

[Oxford University Hospitals](#). All MSD staff and students are invited to become members of the Trust and can stand for election to the Council of Governors

Funding Opportunities

[Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards](#) These awards require a draft letter of Institutional Support. This draft must be submitted to Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood (matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk), 14 days preceding relevant Wellcome Trust deadline

[Medical Research Fund](#) To support research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division. Trinity Term: Monday 28 April 2014

[John Fell Fund](#) The next deadline for applications to the John Fell Fund is Wednesday 23 April 2014 (noon)

[Call for Knowledge Exchange Funding](#). The Social Sciences Division is launching the second round of the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) and Higher Education and Innovation Fund (HEIF) funding activities across the four divisions. Deadline: Wed 30 April

[BBSRC Funding Workshop](#) Thursday 24 April 2014. All welcome to attend

[Saïd Business School Seed Fund](#) Do you have a business idea or a startup that you're working on?

Engagement Opportunities

[Oxford Sparks Public Engagement Training](#) Oxford Sparks (www.oxfordsparks.net) is running further training courses and networking events in public engagement and science communication during Trinity Term 2014

[Come and shout about your research at Oxford's Soapbox City](#) Science Oxford had got 6 slots available for science communicators to come and talk about their research: from 11.00 – 11.30

[Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014 now open](#) Deadline: 11 May, 2014

[Daily Telegraph competition for STEM students launched](#) £25,000 prize. April 27: deadline for entries

Other Items of Interest

[Digital Health Oxford](#) A cross-disciplinary, cross-sector group which aims to promote all things related to digital health within Oxford and beyond

[Biobanking and Ethics Workshop](#) Thursday 1 May 2014, 1030 – 1600

[Oxford Safer Pregnancy Alliance Research Centre Open Day](#) Wednesday 21st May, 12 – 4 pm

[Attention undergraduates! RDM Summer Student Scheme now accepting applicants](#) Do you have the potential to become a leading medical research scientist?

[Careers Service events](#) Careers workshops for research staff, Four Steps to Career Success for DPhil students, Other events, and One to one appointments

[Oxford Learning Institute Designing Courses](#) A course for new lecturers or staff undertaking the HEA accreditation. Tuesday 22 April 2.00–4.00pm.

[Leverhulme Lecture Series](#) 'An Unnatural History: The Re-Emergence of Infectious Disease in the 20th Century'

[Course on Network Meta-Analysis](#) Oxford Psychiatry Autumn School, 14th – 16th July 2014

[Clinical Vaccine Trials](#) The Jenner Institute are developing vaccines against major global diseases and want healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55 to take part in trials of them.

[Malaria Challenge Study](#) Healthy Volunteers Needed

[Oxford University Newcomers' Club](#)

[AstraZeneca Open Innovation initiative](#)

[Survey on culture of scientific research](#) Calling all scientists – what's it like being you?

AND FINALLY...



FoodSwitch is a revolutionary new smartphone app, developed by The George Institute for Global Health (TGI), the Nuffield Department of Population Health and Nuffield Department of Primary Care, in partnerships with Consensus Action on Salt and Health (CASH), the Medical Research Council Human Nutrition Research and The British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group.

FoodSwitch uses a simple traffic light system to help you find out what's in the food you're eating, so you can make simple switches to healthier options. FoodSwitch is available as a free, UK-only download from iTunes and Google Play.

www.foodswitch.co.uk

Review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course – Your contributions welcomed?

Why the review?

At the instigation of the Head of Division, and in the context of the period of time that has elapsed since provision was last reviewed (2005) and in preparation for the GMC review visit in November, a major review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course is being conducted this year.

A Panel has been established to undertake the review, jointly chaired by Professor David Paterson, Associate Head of Division (Education), and Professor Peter Sullivan, Director of Medical Education, OUH NHS Trust.

How can I contribute?

It is intended that the review be as consultative as possible, seeking a wide range of opinion from tutors and students, alumni, departments and a range of bodies and individuals. There are a number of ways in which contributions will be sought, including:

1. Discussion Forums

A series of three Discussion Forums are being held. The first of these on Course Structure, Curriculum and Assessment has already taken place. The others, to which you are invited, are:

(I) NHS & research interfaces, including careers (Leads: Professor Peter Sullivan , Dr Ashok Handa)

Chair: Dr Sue Burge

Date: Trinity Term 0th Week Thursday 24th April 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

(II) Admissions

Chair: Professor David Paterson

(i) Pre-clinical (Lead: Professor David Vaux)

(ii) Clinical (Lead: Dr Tim Lancaster)

Date: Trinity Term, 2nd week – Tuesday 6th May 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Teaching Centre, Science Area

2. Written Submissions

The review panel would welcome the views of all stakeholders on any or all of the main review themes, which are:

- (i) access and admissions, including the arrangements for competitive entry to the Clinical course and alternative approaches;
- (ii) overall aims of the course, curriculum design and course structure;
- (iii) the international, national and institutional context of the course;
- (iv) teaching, learning and assessment;
- (v) relationships with relevant NHS Trusts;
- (vi) the extent to which the course is successful in preparing its graduates to perform as Foundation doctors;
- (vii) the relationship between teaching and research;
- (viii) specific arrangements for the pursuit of pathways into professional clinical practice, graduate studies and academia;
- (ix) academic and pastoral support and guidance;
- (x) the provision and use of learning resources (including physical and staff resources);
- (xi) governance and administrative support;
- (xii) relationships with colleges;
- (xiii) quality assurance mechanisms.

Committees, groups and individuals are encouraged to make submissions to the Review Panel. Your comments should be sent **by Friday 6th June at the latest** to Ms. Jane Dale, Senior Assistant Registrar (Education), Medical Sciences Division: jane.dale@medsci.ox.ac.uk , who would be pleased to provide more information about the review upon request.

The Medical Sciences Board and its Education Policy and Standards Committee will consider the Panel's report, its conclusions and

recommendations at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

Sixty Seconds with ...

Leila Whitworth, Assistant Registrar (Research)

In this issue, we speak to Leila Whitworth who was appointed as Assistant Registrar (Research) in March 2014.

Tell us a little about your role

As Assistant Registrar (Research), I am responsible for research administration, policy and strategy development across the Division. Working closely with the Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood, I am helping to develop the Division's research strategy and supporting major inter-departmental and inter-divisional research bids. I am secretary to the Division's Research Committee and manage internal research funds including the Medical Research Fund (MRF) and John Fell Fund (JFF).



What is currently at the top of your list?

It is my top priority to speak to as many researchers, department administrators and research support staff as possible to start to gain a sense of the big challenges, barriers and opportunities they face so I can best represent and support them in my role in the Division.

How did you get to where you are today?

I studied Physics at the University of St Andrews, which unlocked my passion for research and science. However, after working in research groups at Oxford and Glasgow I realised I was much better at communicating research and supporting researchers than being a researcher myself. I spent some time running a science public engagement project, writing for science magazines and popular science books, and editing a science publication. After deciding the freelance lifestyle was not for me, I stepped into the world of research administration as a Programme Manager at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in Swindon. In 2009, I joined the University of Oxford as a Projects Officer based in Research Services in Wellington Square. My role there was to support researchers as the "impact agenda" developed. For the last few years I have been working in the Department of Physics as a Research Facilitator. There I worked directly with researchers on their grant proposals and on preparing the Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission. I hope my first-hand experience of the pressures and priorities from both a departmental and central university perspective will help me in my new role.

What is life like outside work?

I like cycling and running and enjoy setting myself near-impossible challenges that really push my (not very high) level of fitness. I hope, one day, to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats, but for now I am 'training' daily on the Headington Hill as I commute between meetings. I also practice the performance art of poi (fire spinning).

Board Business

In this regular feature, Dr David Bryan, Divisional Secretary, provides a summary of the Medical Sciences Board's activity

At its meeting in March, the Medical Sciences Board:

- (1) noted that nominations for the title of Associate Professor were to be considered on behalf of the Board by a panel consisting of Professor Tracey (in the chair), the Head of Division, Professor Channon and Professor Davies.
- (2) noted that the Information Security (IS) Working Group of the Board's IT Committee had met twice and was drafting a divisional IS policy.
- (3) noted that the Athena SWAN Steering Group had decided not to proceed with a single application from the Division at this stage but to explore possible groupings of departments for future joint applications; and that on the initiative of the Head of Division a workshop (including participants from elsewhere in the UK and internationally) had been held to review factors that both facilitate and obstruct women's advancement and leadership in academic medicine (Read [related article](#))
- (4) received the report of the Board's Educational Policy and Standards Committee and in particular (a) noted the plans for a review of the standard undergraduate medical course and (b) endorsed the recommendation that the proposal from the Nuffield Department of Population Health for changes to the MSc in Global Health Science be approved, for onward referral to the University's Education Committee.
- (5) received the report of the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee and in particular (a) noted the ranking of capital priorities that the committee had undertaken; (b) confirmed the position in respect of the development of a number of major capital projects including those associated with the Big Data Institute, the proposed Precision Cancer Medicine Institute and the proposed interdivisional, Science Area Hans Krebs II project; and (c) noted that discussion were continuing about the proposed revision of the 123 infrastructure charging mechanism.
- (6) gave preliminary consideration to the university-wide consultation (see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/statutexii.html>) on the future of Statute XII which currently applies to a wide range of staff within the University and provides for dismissal on grounds of redundancy or 'good cause', for disciplinary action short of dismissal, for dismissal on medical grounds, for appeals, and for grievances raised by individuals against their managers or the University.

The next Medical Sciences Board meeting will take place on Tuesday 6 May, 2014.

For further information about the board and its committees, please see 'Committee' on the [Medical Sciences Division's intranet](#). Questions should be directed to [Dr David Bryan](#).

Lab Talk

In this issue, we talk to Professor Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity in the Department of Paediatrics, and Director of the [Oxford Vaccine Group \(OVG\)](#).



Tell us about the Oxford Vaccine Group

The Oxford Vaccine Group (OVG) is a multi-disciplinary team working on the design, development and evaluation of vaccines to improve human health through the prevention of serious infectious disease. Celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2014, a major focus of our work has been developing and studying vaccines against important pathogenic bacteria that cause serious infections, such as meningitis, pneumonia and typhoid, in infants and children. Over the past decade, the group has grown to more than 70 staff in the UK and Nepal, including clinical staff (nurses and research fellows), clinical trial support staff and laboratory scientists.



Why is the work of the OVG so important?

Vaccines are a key component of global public health policy and are particularly important in the defence of the health of young children. Despite the challenges of so doing, new and improved vaccines must be evaluated in the target population of infants and young children prior to licensure. Since 2001, we have enrolled over 10,000 children and young people into a number of clinical trials, including phase IV studies of a meningitis C vaccine and a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine; a phase II study of a new pneumococcal vaccine for infants; phase II and III studies of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccines and group B meningococcal vaccines; phase II studies of a preschool vaccine; evaluation of a novel avian and swine influenza vaccines in adults and children; and study of different schedules for immunisation of the elderly against pneumococcal infection.

This research underpins half of the vaccines in the NHS childhood immunisation schedule and is cited in the vaccine policies of many countries around the world. We have a substantial portfolio of research with over 200 publications in the last ten years and have attracted over £7M in grant funding since January 2013. Additionally, ten DPhil students have graduated at OVG in the past five years.

As well as conducting clinical trials, what other research is the OVG involved in?

We undertake epidemiological studies, including evaluation of carriage of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in childhood in the UK and Nepal, and surveillance of invasive bacterial infections in children admitted to Patan hospital in Kathmandu, where we are now assessing the impact of the new pneumonia vaccine which is being implemented there in 2014.



In the laboratory we drive projects using our unique access to our clinical trials samples evaluating the developing immune system in the infant and child. The group has specifically focused on the development of B cell memory after immunization with glycoconjugate vaccines and has found correlations between the generation of memory during priming and the persistence of the immune response. A major programme is focussed on the development of novel serogroup B meningococcal vaccines from preclinical studies through to clinical trials. In a ground-breaking study, the group are developing a human paratyphoid model for the evaluation of paratyphoid vaccines, building on recent work with typhoid. A bank of DNA has been collected from children enrolled in vaccine trials and studies of the genetic control of the immune response following immunisation are currently underway.

What's one of the more interesting techniques you are using?

We are studying whether typhoid and paratyphoid vaccines work through use of a human challenge model. By deliberately infecting vaccinated volunteers with the bacteria, we can see whether they are protected and then study the mechanisms of protection.

What's a typical day like in the OVG?

Mad!!

Links:

[Oxford Vaccine Group \(OVG\)](#)

The Oxford Vaccine Group would like to acknowledge and thank its funders: Wellcome Trust, MRC, NIHR EME and HTA programme, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Action Medical Research, Meningitis

Research Foundation, Meningitis UK, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, World Health Organisation, and vaccine manufacturers.

Would you like your lab/centre/unit to feature in a future issue of Lab Talk? For further information, please contact communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk.



Athena SWAN News

Contents

1. [Focus on the Academic Leadership Development Programme](#)
2. [Women in Science Podcasts](#)
3. [Athena SWAN Handbook 2014](#)
4. [Research reports](#)
 1. [A picture of the UK scientific workforce – Diversity data analysis for the Royal Society](#)
 2. [Results of the 28–40 survey carried out by Opportunity Now](#)

Focus on the Academic Leadership Development Programme



The Academic leadership development programme (ALDP) is run by the OLI for academics who have successfully completed their probation and who now have the capacity to broaden the role that they play in the University. ALDP explores academic leadership at Oxford and seeks, in particular, to encourage the participation of those from demographic groups currently under-represented in leadership roles at Oxford, including women and those from ethnic minorities.

ALDP commences with a two-day workshop, which is followed by three half-day workshops spread across the academic year. ALDP explores 'how things work at Oxford' and the way academic leadership shapes this. Participants have the opportunity to hear from those who have already made significant contributions to leadership and from those who have insights into specific areas of expertise that underpin effective leadership.

Here's what some former ALDP participants from the Medical Sciences Division have said about the programme:

"I've found the programme very useful ... I have particularly appreciated the Oxford-specific information we've been given. Many aspects of how the University is run at a high level are quite opaque for most of us – getting an insider view of how things work has been very informative.

It has also been an effective way of getting to know individuals at a similar stage across the University."

"The pre-course Myers Briggs was illuminating and I particularly liked the sessions where we role played handling difficult situations – not least because the group were very supportive about each other's issues and agreed they were tricky to handle."

"We've had some inspirational people telling us about their experience of leadership, I'm thinking particularly of the Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History who came to speak very honestly about her experience of Oxford."

All applicants must have the support of their head of department or equivalent. Application is via an online questionnaire which will be available through the Learning Institute website in July of each year. You are invited to express an early interest to Bill Dunn bill.dunn@learning.ox.ac.uk if you wish to be notified when the application process is open or find out more about the programme.

<https://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/support/leaders/programmes/aldp/#d.en.102568>

[Top](#)

Women in Science Podcasts

The Women in Science series provides talks from the support network OxFEST (Oxford Females in Engineering, Science and Technology) which aims to promote and encourage women in their scientific careers. The series provides information and resources, which may aid females in pursuing their careers. The series includes talks from a range of inspirational speakers with the overall goal to convince women out there that, although it may be challenging, it is possible for motivated women to succeed in science.

<http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/women-science>

[Top](#)

Athena SWAN Handbook 2014

The latest Athena SWAN handbook is available on the ECU website:

<https://www.athenaswan.org.uk/content/guidance-and-application-forms>

The main change to the handbook is that it now includes guidance for research institutes on applying for Athena SWAN awards.

Some other changes to note are:

- To ask (rather than advise) that both percentages and raw numbers for data should be presented
- Clarification that departments with clinical and non-clinical staff should separate these two groups when presenting staff data.
- It is recommended that web links should not be used, as only content included within the submission will be assessed

The previous handbook will be used for judging the April 2014 submissions.

[Top](#)

Research reports

A picture of the UK scientific workforce – Diversity data analysis for the Royal Society

As part of the Royal Society's diversity programme the Society has published new data on the composition of the scientific workforce in terms of gender, disability, ethnicity and socio-economic status and background.

[Read more and download the report](#)

Results of the 28–40 survey carried out by Opportunity Now

28–40 is a critical age for career development – the danger zone where women are not promoted at the same rate as men – a problem not just for women but for companies too. This survey, the largest ever undertaken, provides invaluable insights into how to tackle this.

25,000 people (23,000 women and 2,000 men) contributed to the survey and the findings were explored in focus groups and interviews with chief executives.

[Watch a video of the executive summary and download the report](#)

[Top](#)

IT News

Contents

1. [End of the line for Windows XP and Office 2003 – from the Director of MSD IT Services](#)
2. [The Oscars are nearly upon us again...well the equivalent for those involved with technology for teaching and learning at Oxford anyway – the OxTALENT Awards](#)
3. [A system as the sum of its parts: agent-based modelling to look at interactions between cancerous and stromal cells](#)
4. [How close are we to computer marking of essays? Computational Linguistics and Educational Technology workshop](#)
5. [News from IT Services: new e-newsletter](#)

End of the line for Windows XP and Office 2003 – from the Director of MSD IT Services

On 8th April this year both Microsoft Windows XP and Office 2003 become 'end-of-life' which means no further updates or security updates will be provided. This makes any systems running this software at an increasing risk of attack or infection by malware, viruses etc. and therefore this software must be removed or replaced urgently.

Some computers attached to laboratory equipment or door control systems cannot be upgraded for various reasons and these will be transferred to a secure virtual network (VLAN) which will enable them to operate under restricted conditions. These computers will still have access to our network files store so that data can be transferred, but will not have access to the public internet. Therefore their use will be restricted to data acquisition & storage only.

All remaining computers running Windows XP must be upgraded either by replacing the operating system where possible, or by being decommissioned by 1 July 2014.

For full details please see: <http://www.imsu.ox.ac.uk/newsitems/winxp>

[Top](#)

The Oscars are nearly upon us again...well the equivalent for those involved with technology for teaching and learning at Oxford anyway – the OxTALENT Awards



We are pleased to announce the OxTALENT 2014 competition. Each year we give the OxTALENT awards to staff and students who have been innovative and talented in their use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

This year we are inviting entries in these categories:

- Use of WebLearn to support teaching, learning, or outreach
- Apps and mobile technologies
- Student IT innovation
- Videos created independently by students in support of their learning, research, or teaching
- Conference posters
- Interactive infographics

Full details are at <http://tinyurl.com/oxtalent2014>

The closing date for entries is Friday 16th May 2014

Entry is easy, and involves very little work – usually, just sending us details of something you have done already. This is your opportunity to get your creativity recognised, so why not enter now?

Awards can be given either to individuals or to teams. Applications relating to the development of more effective links between teaching and research or to improving impact and outreach will be particularly welcome.

We also give prizes for examples of innovation and good practice in other uses of technology, so if you know of an academic or a student who has done something out of the ordinary, let us know at competitions@it.ox.ac.uk.

There is a small prize for the winner in each category. The awards will be presented at our annual Red Carpet ceremony on the 18th June. Winners will be profiled on IT Services and other University websites, and interviewed by the University's podcasting team.

If you have any questions about the awards please email competitions@it.ox.ac.uk

OxTALENT is an interest group bringing together representatives from the academic divisions within the University. The awards are part of the University Teaching Awards Scheme. You can read about the winners from previous years at:

[Top](#)

A system as the sum of its parts: agent-based modelling to look at interactions between cancerous and stromal cells

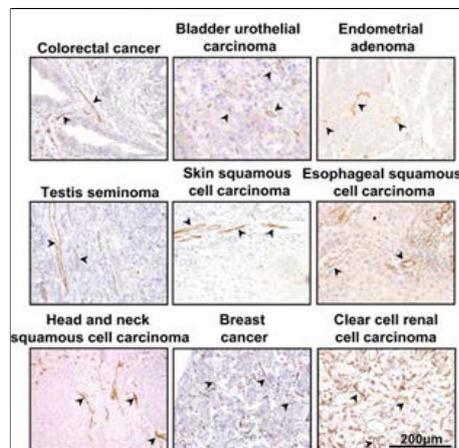
Agent-based models (ABM) are those which simulate the actions and interactions of autonomous agents (individuals and/or groups of individuals) with a view to assessing their effects on the system as a whole.

Francesca Buffa (Applied Computational Genomics Group Leader, Department of Oncology) is working with IT Services' Research IT Team to apply the visualization, interactivity and versatility of ABM to help better understand her data and more easily test new hypotheses. The ABM platforms www.modelling4all.org and NetLogo make it easy for anyone to get to grips with this powerful technique and to share their models online.

If you are interested in using ABM in your research or teaching please contact

researchsupport@it.ox.ac.uk or visit <http://research.it.ox.ac.uk>

[Top](#)



How close are we to computer marking of essays?

Computational Linguistics and Educational Technology workshop

Come and find out at the SAFeSEA workshop hosted by the two OUs – Oxford University's Department of Computer Science and the Open University's Institute of Educational Technology.

Details below:

Computational Linguistics and Educational Technology

The purpose of this workshop is to explore the application of computational linguistics techniques in educational technology. The use of such techniques is by now well established in automated essay assessment, short answer grading, and grammatical error detection in second language learning, as well as more experimental applications like automated tutoring or essay critiquing. We will have presentations on some of these issues from leading international researchers.

Speakers on the day include:

- Stephen Pulman (Oxford University) – Overview of the SAFeSEA project
- Ted Briscoe (Cambridge University) – Improving Cambridge English Write&Improve's error detection and correction suggestions
- John Stewart (Amplify) – Scoring student paraphrases in low-stakes settings
- Nick Saville (Cambridge English Language Assessment) – TBC
- Myrosia Dzikovska (University of Edinburgh) – Understanding explanations in interactive simulation context
- Diane Litman (University of Pittsburgh) – Using Computational Linguistics to Support Students and Teachers during Peer Review of Writing

www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/safesea

Attendance to this event is free but registration is required. As there are only 50 places available, please register early to avoid disappointment. Email evaghn.desouza@open.ac.uk to register.

Time & Date: **Tuesday 13th May 10am – 5pm** (with refreshments and free lunch being provided)

Location:

Kents Hill Park Conference Centre
Timbold Drive
Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ

[Top](#)

News from IT Services: new e-newsletter

Keep up to date with major IT projects and service developments through News from IT Services, the new termly e-newsletter from IT Services.

The Hilary term issue, available at www.it.ox.ac.uk/about/newsletter/issue1, includes overviews of the Service Desk





Consolidation Project, which aims to bring together the service desks across IT Services, and the Integrated Communications Project, which will replace the University's telephone system by 2017. Sign up to receive an email alert when a new issue is published by sending a blank email to it-services-news-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk.

[Top](#)

Library News

Contents

1. [Easter Holidays 2014 Opening Hours](#)
2. [Data Support Services For Researchers](#)
3. [Too busy to get to the library? Did you know you can read thousands of our books online?](#)

Easter Holidays 2014 Opening Hours

Bodleian Health Care Libraries would like to wish all our users Happy Easter

During the period Friday 18th April to Monday 21st April the libraries are open as follows:

- Cairns Library, John Radcliffe Hospital NOT STAFFED (24 hour card access still available)
- Knowledge Centre, Old Road Campus Research Building CLOSED (24 hour card access available at Cairns Library)

The Radcliffe Science Library will be closed from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th April. It will be open on Monday 21st April 9am–5pm.

[Top](#)

Data Support Services For Researchers

Research Data Management (RDM) is an increasingly important element of research projects, so have you considered how to store data securely? What does your funder expect you to do with your data? Can you get help with costs?

If you're looking for answers to these questions or have any others about RDM, have a look at <http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk>. This is a new website designed to support researchers with their research data management and sharing activities.

Further information is available from the Outreach Librarians based within Bodleian Health Care Libraries.

http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/hcl/using-the-libraries/outreach_librarians or contact us hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

[Top](#)

Too busy to get to the library? Did you know you can read thousands of our books online?

There are many e-books and e-book collections available to you such as:

- Over 1,500 online medical and health care textbooks from Oxford University Press, including almost 600 medical titles via [Oxford Medicine Online](#).
A further 939 textbooks in neuroscience, palliative care, psychology, public health and epidemiology are available via [Oxford Handbooks Online](#) and [Oxford Scholarship Online](#), and also the Public Health and Psychology modules of [Oxford Bibliographies](#) via <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com>.
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- Clinical Medical Students have access to over 1,100 full text textbooks from Elsevier via www.clinicalkey.com. For the Elsevier titles you'll need to use your ClinicalKey username and password, contact us if you don't have these details.

Many of these books can be downloaded to your own PC, laptop, tablet or phone. If you want more information or have any questions about how to use ebooks, please get in touch with us hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

[Top](#)

Opportunities and Updates

Important Updates

Review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course – Your contributions welcomed?

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BBSRC Funding Workshop Thursday 24 April 2014. All welcome to attend

Saïd Business School Seed Fund Do you have a business idea or a startup that you're working on?

Engagement Opportunities

Oxford Sparks Public Engagement Training Oxford Sparks (www.oxfordsparks.net) is running further training courses and networking events in public engagement and science communication during Trinity Term 2014

Come and shout about your research at Oxford's Soapbox City Science Oxford had got 6 slots available for science communicators to come and talk about their research: from 11.00 – 11.30

Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014 now open Deadline: 11 May, 2014

Daily Telegraph competition for STEM students launched £25,000 prize. April 27: deadline for entries

Other Items of Interest

Digital Health Oxford A cross-disciplinary, cross-sector group which aims to promote all things related to digital health within Oxford and beyond

Biobanking and Ethics Workshop Thursday 1 May 2014, 1030 – 1600

Oxford Safer Pregnancy Alliance Research Centre Open Day Wednesday 21st May, 12 – 4 pm

Attention undergraduates! RDM Summer Student Scheme now accepting applicants Do you have the potential to become a leading medical research scientist?

Careers Service events Careers workshops for research staff, Four Steps to Career Success for DPhil students, Other events, and One to one appointments

Oxford Learning Institute Designing Courses A course for new lecturers or staff undertaking the HEA accreditation. Tuesday 22 April 2.00–

4.00pm.

[Leverhulme Lecture Series 'An Unnatural History: The Re-Emergence of Infectious Disease in the 20th Century'](#)

[Course on Network Meta-Analysis Oxford Psychiatry Autumn School, 14th - 16th July 2014](#)

[Clinical Vaccine Trials](#) The Jenner Institute are developing vaccines against major global diseases and want healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55 to take part in trials of them.

[Malaria Challenge Study](#) Healthy Volunteers Needed

[Oxford University Newcomers' Club](#)

[AstraZeneca Open Innovation initiative](#)

[Survey on culture of scientific research](#) Calling all scientists - what's it like being you?

And Finally...



FoodSwitch is a revolutionary new smartphone app, developed by The George Institute for Global Health (TGI), the Nuffield Department of Population Health and Nuffield Department of Primary Care, in partnerships with Consensus Action on Salt and Health (CASH), the Medical Research Council Human Nutrition Research and The British Heart Foundation Health Promotion Research Group.

FoodSwitch uses a simple traffic light system to help you find out what's in the food you're eating, so you can make simple switches to healthier options. FoodSwitch is available as a free, UK-only download from iTunes and Google Play. www.foodswitch.co.uk

Important Updates

Review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course – Your contributions welcomed?

Why the review?

At the instigation of the Head of Division, and in the context of the period of time that has elapsed since provision was last reviewed (2005) and in preparation for the GMC review visit in November, a major review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course is being conducted this year.

A Panel has been established to undertake the review, jointly chaired by Professor David Paterson, Associate Head of Division (Education), and Professor Peter Sullivan, Director of Medical Education, OUH NHS Trust.

How can I contribute?

It is intended that the review be as consultative as possible, seeking a wide range of opinion from tutors and students, alumni, departments and a range of bodies and individuals. There are a number of ways in which contributions will be sought, including:

1. Discussion Forums

A series of three Discussion Forums are being held. The first of these on Course Structure, Curriculum and Assessment has already taken place. The others, to which you are invited, are:

(I) NHS & research interfaces, including careers (Leads: Professor Peter Sullivan , Dr Ashok Handa)

Chair: Dr Sue Burge

Date: Trinity Term 0th Week Thursday 24th April 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

(II) Admissions

Chair: Professor David Paterson

(i) Pre-clinical (Lead: Professor David Vaux)

(ii) Clinical (Lead: Dr Tim Lancaster)

Date: Trinity Term, 2nd week – Tuesday 6th May 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Teaching Centre, Science Area

2. Written Submissions

The review panel would welcome the views of all stakeholders on any or all of the main review themes, which are:

- (i) access and admissions, including the arrangements for competitive entry to the Clinical course and alternative approaches;
- (ii) overall aims of the course, curriculum design and course structure;
- (iii) the international, national and institutional context of the course;
- (iv) teaching, learning and assessment;
- (v) relationships with relevant NHS Trusts;
- (vi) the extent to which the course is successful in preparing its graduates to perform as Foundation doctors;
- (vii) the relationship between teaching and research;
- (viii) specific arrangements for the pursuit of pathways into professional clinical practice, graduate studies and academia;
- (ix) academic and pastoral support and guidance;
- (x) the provision and use of learning resources (including physical and staff resources);
- (xi) governance and administrative support;
- (xii) relationships with colleges;
- (xiii) quality assurance mechanisms.

Committees, groups and individuals are encouraged to make submissions to the Review Panel. Your comments should be sent **by Friday 6th June at the latest** to Ms. Jane Dale, Senior Assistant Registrar (Education), Medical Sciences Division: jane.dale@medsci.ox.ac.uk , who would be pleased to provide more information about the review upon request.

The Medical Sciences Board and its Education Policy and Standards Committee will consider the Panel's report, its conclusions and recommendations at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

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Where appropriate, companies will arrange to host PIs in the office for meetings or use the office as a base for meeting around the university campus.

Please note:

1. All conversations with companies in the Partnering office should be assumed to be **non-confidential**. Where researchers wish to discuss new ideas or innovations with a company, they are advised to first contact Research Services or Isis Innovation to identify whether any early stage intellectual property should first be protected, and/or whether it should be disclosed to the company under cover of a Confidentiality Disclosure agreement.
2. The Industrial Partnering Office is managed by the MSD Business Development Team and is located on the ground floor of the Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM) Building at the University of Oxford's Old Road Campus.

J&J Innovation will have regular presence on campus via MSD Industrial Partnerships Office

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To sign-up for an appointment with Johnson & Johnson Innovation at the Industrial Partnerships Office visit or contact the MSBD team.

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*This site replaces www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rdm. Where bookmarks exist to the old url, please update these and replace with the new url: <http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk>. Please contact sian.dodd@admin.ox.ac.uk with any feedback.

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The report advises that graduation should not be withheld on account of non-tuition fee debt, and that such debt should be administered instead through reasonable debt management procedures. The University Degree Conferrals Team will follow this advice with immediate effect, and will no longer be able to withhold graduation due to non-payment of non-tuition fee debts, such as those in respect of Accommodation and Library fines. Proctors and colleges are aware of this change in policy, and have taken steps to amend administrative procedures. Collegiate university committees will begin to consider a range of implications arising from the OFT report, which cover a wide range of 'student information' provision, such as debt management best practice; earlier student communications; revisions to regulations; and ensuring clarity of terms and conditions in respect of student contractual obligations. Contact: Den Moore, Deputy Director of Student Administration (Student Affairs) - den.moore@admin.ox.ac.uk

Invitation to Apply for Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Visa Endorsement

Closing date for applications is 26th May. Interviews will be held the week of 9th June

Under the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) category for the UKBA points-based system, the University of Oxford may endorse up to twenty graduates who have 'genuine and credible business ideas and entrepreneurial skills, to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to establish one or more businesses in the UK.'

Applicants who the University endorses would be able to apply for a visa for one year to develop their business idea. If the University then confirms adequate progress they can apply for one further year, following which to remain in the UK they would need to qualify for the main Entrepreneur route, or enter Tier 2 employment. Additional employment is allowed for up to 20 hours a week to supplement income whilst the business is in development. The applicant's dependent partner and children can stay in the UK with them.

The University of Oxford Careers Service invites students, graduates and post-doctoral researchers who wish to stay in the UK to develop their business ideas and who meet the eligibility criteria to apply for University endorsement. **Closing date for applications is 26th May. Interviews will be held the week of 9th June.**

How to apply:

Applicants must apply through Career Connect. Please search for vacancy 59892. If you do not yet have an account on Career Connect, please visit <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/our-services/careerconnect/> to register. The endorsement is a competitive process and applicants will be required to show evidence that they have a genuine, credible and innovative business idea. Required documents include:

- CV
- Cover Letter
- A description of the business and business plan

More detailed information about applying is available on Career Connect.

For information on the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa and eligibility please visit the UKBA website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier1/graduate-entrepreneur/>

RCUK Open Access Block Grant

A simpler process to apply for funding from the RCUK Open Access Block Grant

The RCUK Open Access Block Grant to Oxford is available and easy to apply for. The University Research Committee recently agreed to simplify the application process; sign-off from the Head of Department is no longer necessary.

Oxford staff and students can apply for funds to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC) or article-related charges for papers submitted for publication on/after 1st April 2013,

- If they do not have such funding on the relevant RCUK program, project, fellowship or student grant from RCUK awarded prior to 1 April 2013

Or

- If they hold a new RCUK award commencing on or after 1 April 2013

For a brief summary of the requirements set by each of the Research Councils, please see <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/sponsor-requirements/>

Questions can be posted via <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/home-2/contact-us/>

RCUK will in summer 2014 audit compliance with its policy which requires that for peer-reviewed papers submitted for publication after 1st April 2013 which are based in whole or part on RCUK-funded research, authors must

1. Make their paper Open Access either via the payment of an APC or by placing the author accepted manuscript in a recognised subject-based or institutional repository (such as the [Oxford Research Archive](#))
2. Acknowledge the source of funding that supported the research i.e. funder and grant number where applicable.
3. If applicable, include a statement on how the underlying research materials such as data, samples or models, can be accessed.

Cross-discipline open access survey

What's your experience?

Professor Thomas Eger, Vice-Dean for Research and International Affairs at the University of Hamburg, together with doctoral student, Marc Scheufen is conducting a survey on the experience of academic scholars with and their perception of open access publishing.

[Read more and complete the survey](#)



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University of Oxford staff belonging to other departments and students can join us as public members.

To join us visit www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft or call 01865 743491 for a membership form.

Membership is free!

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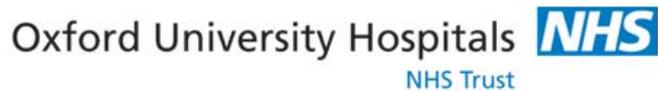
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University of Oxford staff belonging to other departments and students can join us as public members.

To join us visit www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft or call 01865 743491 for a membership form.

Membership is free!

Funding Opportunities

Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards

These awards require a draft letter of Institutional Support. This draft must be submitted to Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood (matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk), 14 days preceding relevant Wellcome Trust deadline



All Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards (New and Senior) require a detailed letter of support from the Head of the Division. The process for generating this supporting letter is that a draft letter should be submitted to the Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood (matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk), for review and approval prior to obtaining the Head of Division's signature.

Draft letters should be submitted for approval no later than 14 days preceding the relevant Wellcome Trust deadline to ensure timely Divisional review and approval.

Medical Research Fund

To support research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division. Trinity Term: Monday 28 April 2014
The Medical Research Fund supports research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division.

Awards are made via three funding schemes towards the overall goal to promote work in the field of medical research and to extend medical research training opportunities.

The **bridging salary support scheme** accepts applications to augment existing externally funded research activity, by providing short-term (typically 3 months) funding to cover salary costs needed in order to retain experienced research staff between external research grants, and by providing a limited scheme to support maternity leave costs.

The **startup research funding scheme** accepts applications for small (up to £10k) awards in order to enable investigators to obtain pilot data to be used to support larger scale applications for external research funding in future. All non-staff research costs, including equipment, are eligible. Priority will be given to those applications that demonstrate matching funding from other sources. This scheme will not normally provide research support for students.

The **pre-fellowship scheme** accepts applications for short-term (up to 3 months) funding to cover the salary costs of clinicians who will shortly begin an externally funded research training fellowship at Oxford.

Please email applications to the secretary of the MRF Committee (mrf@medsci.ox.ac.uk) by the deadlines listed below. Awards will only be made with start dates that fall after than the relevant deadline; retrospective applications will not be considered. When emailing your application, please copy in your departmental administrator to demonstrate that your department is aware of the application.

2014 deadlines:

Trinity Term: Monday 28 April 2014

Summer Long Vacation: Monday 28 July 2014

For further information, please see <http://intranet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/processes/research/mrf-medical-research-fund>

John Fell Fund

The next deadline for applications to the John Fell Fund is Wednesday 23 April 2014 (noon)
The John Fell Fund is intended to foster creativity and a proactive approach to research opportunities in all subject areas, and particularly interdisciplinary fields. It will make seedcorn and start-up grants, and provide staff and funds to stimulate applications to external agencies. As the Fund is intended to complement external funding bodies, it will not duplicate the purposes of those bodies.



For more information, please see <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/pras/jff>

This term, a new online submissions system has been launched for the JFF. Please submit applications using the online system.

Medical Sciences Divisional contact: jff@medsci.ox.ac.uk

Technical queries about the online system: JohnFellFund@admin.ox.ac.uk

Call for Knowledge Exchange Funding

The Social Sciences Division is launching the second round of the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) and Higher Education and Innovation Fund (HEIF) funding activities across the four divisions. Deadline: Wed 30 April

Are you seeking funding for knowledge exchange activities? Would you like to build relationships with non-academic research users? Could a placement within an external partner organisation enhance the impact of your research? Would you like to bring an external practitioner to

work with you in Oxford?

The Social Sciences Division is launching the second round of the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) and Higher Education and Innovation Fund (HEIF) funding which is intended to fund these kinds of activities across the four divisions.

Type of activity: Knowledge Exchange

Deadline: 12 noon, 30th April 2014

Amount: £7,500 – £30,000

Schemes: KE Awards, Kick-start Awards, KE Fellowships, Visiting Practitioner Fellowships

Eligibility: Oxford academics carrying out social science research (fundable under the ESRC's remit) which fully engages external partners.

Application: Submit via your departmental administrator.

For more detail please see the guidance and application form. Applications should be submitted to the division by your departmental administrator. You can download these documents from our Sharepoint site:

<https://sharepoint.nexus.ox.ac.uk/sites/socsci/ke/Funding/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Briefing session | Wednesday 12th March, 13:00 – 15:00

A seminar and Q&A session will be hosted by the KE team at Hayes House; all interested parties are welcome to attend. This session will include an overview of the schemes being funded and a Q&A with two current IAA grant holders. Please sign up for this session here:

<https://ke-funding-briefing.eventbrite.co.uk>

Agenda:

13:00 – 14:00 – Aileen Marshall-Brown, the Knowledge Exchange Facilitator for the Division, will outline the IAA funding schemes, eligibility, criteria and application process, and take questions from delegates.

14:00 – 15:00 – Professor Susan Bright (Faculty of Law) and Professor Robert Picard (DPIR) will talk about their respective successful bids to the IAA. They will take questions on their projects and experiences, sharing best practice on building and maintaining successful partner relationships, and developing KE projects.

KE Surgeries | Friday 4th – Tuesday 8th – Tuesday 15th – Wednesday 23rd April

These half hour surgeries are intended for researchers who are applying to the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account which is being administered by the Social Sciences Division. This will be an opportunity for applicants to discuss any questions they have relating to the fund and/or their proposals, with the Knowledge Exchange Facilitator Aileen Marshall-Brown. Please select the date and time which you would like to book by choosing the corresponding ticket on this event page: <https://ke-applications-surgeries.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you are keen to see exemplar applications, please do get in touch with us, as some award holders have kindly agreed to allow their applications to be shared in confidence.

If you have any questions please email ke@socsci.ox.ac.uk for further advice and assistance.

BBSRC Funding Workshop

Thursday 24 April 2014. All welcome to attend
Lecture Theatre B, Zoology Department, The Tinbergen Building, South Parks Road

Programme:

9.30 – 10.00 Arrival and Refreshments

10.00 – 10.10 Welcome and Introduction

Professor Tim Coulson, Associate Head, Zoology Department

10.10 – 11.00 Writing a BBSRC Grant Application

Dr Jef Grainger and Dr Caroline Dow, BBSRC

11.00 – 11.20 *Professor Marian Dawkins, Zoology Department*

As a recipient of multiple BBSRC awards, from Responsive Mode to Follow-on funding, Professor Dawkins will talk about her experiences of

applying for various schemes and commercialization of her BBSRC funded research.

11.20 – 11.40 *Professor Chris Schofield, Chemistry Department*

Professor Schofield will talk about his extensive experience as an applicant, a reviewer, Chair of Committee D and member of the BBSRC's Research Advisory Panel.

11.40 – 11.50 BBSRC Funding Opportunities: Beyond Responsive Mode

Dr Dan Blakey, Senior Research Services Manager

11.50 – 12.00 KE Funding Opportunities and Working with the KEIT Team

Dr Caroline Bucklow, Knowledge Exchange Officer

12.00 – 12.10 Working with the Business Development Team

Dr Sam Gallagher, Business Development Manager

12.10 – 12.20 Working with ISIS

TBC, ISIS Innovation

12.20 – 12.30 Panel Q&A and Closing Remarks

Chair: Tim Coulson

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

To book your place register here (before 17th April) : <http://doodle.com/6rwnamv5pbdsttaw>

The BBSRC will be available from 13.30–15.00 for 1:1 sessions with interested attendees. If you would like to pre-book one of these sessions then please contact sarah.wagstaffe@admin.ox.ac.uk by 11 April (after newsletter delivery date, please email anyway to see if it's still possible). Please be advised that spaces are very limited; please include a brief description of your reasons for requesting a 1:1 session and any specific questions you would the BBSRC to answer.

Saïd Business School Seed Fund

Do you have a business idea or a startup that you're working on?

The SBS Seed Fund (<http://sbsseedfund.com>) is a student-run committee looking to invest £15–25K in start-ups led by Oxford students and alumni. If you have an early stage venture and require funding or support, we would love to hear from you! We made two investments in undergraduate and graduate businesses last year, which have gone on to achieve £200k of follow-on funding, and to which we are still providing business support.

Applications accepted until 1st March, 2014

For further information, please email us at hello@sbsseedfund.com or visit <http://sbsseedfund.com>

Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards

These awards require a draft letter of Institutional Support. This draft must be submitted to Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood (matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk), 14 days preceding relevant Wellcome Trust deadline



All Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards (New and Senior) require a detailed letter of support from the Head of the Division. The process for generating this supporting letter is that a draft letter should be submitted to the Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood (matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk), for review and approval prior to obtaining the Head of Division's signature.

Draft letters should be submitted for approval no later than 14 days preceding the relevant Wellcome Trust deadline to ensure timely Divisional review and approval.

Call for Knowledge Exchange Funding

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Are you seeking funding for knowledge exchange activities? Would you like to build relationships with non-academic research users? Could a placement within an external partner organisation enhance the impact of your research? Would you like to bring an external practitioner to work with you in Oxford?

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If you are keen to see exemplar applications, please do get in touch with us, as some award holders have kindly agreed to allow their applications to be shared in confidence.

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Engagement Opportunities

Oxford Sparks Public Engagement Training

Oxford Sparks (www.oxfordsparks.net) is running further training courses and networking events in public engagement and science communication during Trinity Term 2014

Come and shout about your research at Oxford's Soapbox City

Science Oxford had got 6 slots available for science communicators to come and talk about their research: from 11.00 – 11.30

Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014 now open

Deadline: 11 May, 2014

Daily Telegraph competition for STEM students launched

£25,000 prize. April 27: deadline for entries

Oxford Sparks Public Engagement Training

Oxford Sparks (www.oxfordsparks.net) is running further training courses and networking events in public engagement and science communication during Trinity Term 2014

An introduction to public engagement and science communication:

1300–1500, Thursday 8 May 2014

A whistle stop tour which will get you considering the needs of different audiences, meeting researchers who actively engage with the public and thinking about how you might share your research with the public.

For further details and to register: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/course-signup/rest/course/4D00D40104>



Narrative skills:

0930–1700, Tuesday 13 May 2014

Using your own research and interests, learn the essential ingredients of a compelling narrative, how draw an audience into a story and keep them involved, and how to turn your story into an effective 'pitch'.

For further details and to register: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/course-signup/rest/course/4D00D40106>

Sexy, sticky, stimulating – science outreach via dance and theatre

1000–1200, Saturday 7 June 2014

Dr Cedric Tan

Winner of several competitions, including "Dance your PhD" (<http://vimeo.com/30211782>)

Hear about how to use dance and theatre to engage an audience with your scientific research.

For further details and to register: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/course-signup/rest/course/4D00D40123>

Translating your research into a hands-on activity:

1300–1600, Thursday 10 July 2014

This comprehensive introduction to working with hands-on activities will include thinking about how people learn, the value of a hands-on approach and consideration of the practical issues you may face. This course will be delivered in conjunction with the Botanic Gardens.

For further details and to register: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/course-signup/rest/course/4D00D40105>

Networking event: Stand up science

1230–1330, Thursday 29 May

Dr David Legg (host of 'Science Slam <<http://www.scienceslam.net/de/>> ') and Jonny Brooks Bartlett (winner of FameLab <<http://www.famelab.org/>> regional final) explain how to use stand-up events to engage an audience with your scientific research. Have a go yourself, then have the opportunity to meet with other researchers from across the sciences.

Booking details TBC

Networking event: Making your lectures interactive

Dr Alison Woollard, presenter of the 2013 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, gives hints and tips on getting away from PowerPoint and making your lectures fun and interactive. Have a go yourself, then have the opportunity to meet with other researchers from across the sciences.

Date and booking details TBC

These courses focus on the sciences but are available to all graduate students and research staff, and are part of a wider range of researcher training opportunities: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/researcher-training>. Further information on training opportunities in public engagement and science communication, at Oxford and further afield, can be found on the Oxford Sparks website: www.oxfordsparks.net/pe_training

Come and shout about your research at Oxford's Soapbox City

Science Oxford had got 6 slots available for science communicators to come and talk about their research: from 11.00 – 11.30

Soapbox City is a project which the Oxford Playhouse and Pegasus Theatre are collaborating on for May Day 2014: *Soapbox City*. The project is part of a season of work which many of the city's arts organisations are developing this year, celebrating Oxford as the home of radical thinking. Here's the lowdown:

Get up on your soapbox!

Do you have a transformative story to tell, a progressive song to sing, a ground-breaking idea or opinion to share?

Throughout 2014, many of Oxford's leading arts organisations will make shows, host exhibitions and curate events celebrating the city's rich history of radical thinking, bringing to life ideas from the pioneers of old and pirates of today who have changed the way we think.

As part of this season of Radical Thinking, on May Day 2014 Oxford will become a Soapbox City. From dawn to dusk, 144 people from across Oxford, of all ages and backgrounds, will get up on a soapbox and for 5 minutes, do or say something radical.

We want you to join us. Strident or gentle, tough or tender – spark a debate, make us dream, change how we see the world.

Soapbox City will be a day-long event which will take place in a city centre street on **1st May 2014 from 7am – 7pm**. 144 Oxford residents, artists, thinkers, students, activists, campaigners, young people, community ambassadors, writers, well-known personalities, business leaders, charity workers, in fact anyone will be invited to get up on the soapbox for five minutes and present their big idea to the world, by doing, saying or making something radical. We're hoping to get as wide a representation of the voices of Oxford and Oxfordshire on the soapbox during the 12 hours as possible, and this is where you come in.

The soapbox will literally be a soapbox (on Broad Street in Oxford), so not a stage but an upturned crate (or something that is reinforced and built deliberately but resembles a soapbox. There'll be a PA system (megaphone and a microphone and speaker/ amp.)

Science Oxford had got 6 slots available for science communicators to come and talk about their research: from 11.00 – 11.30: and would like to invite you to participate. Your talk will need to be a maximum of 4.5 minutes long and if you have any props that would be amazing. 2 slots are already filled, so if you're interested in getting involved, drop [✉Jude Eades](mailto:Jude.Eades@scienceoxford.org) a line ASAP with a brief outline of what you would talk about.

In return, they'll buy you a coffee, film your talk for you and pay any travel expenses you might have (within reason!)

Other Items of Interest

Digital Health Oxford

A cross-disciplinary, cross-sector group which aims to promote all things related to digital health within Oxford and beyond

Biobanking and Ethics Workshop

Thursday 1 May 2014, 1030 - 1600

Oxford Safer Pregnancy Alliance Research Centre Open Day

Wednesday 21st May, 12 - 4 pm

Attention undergraduates! RDM Summer Student Scheme now accepting applicants

Do you have the potential to become a leading medical research scientist?

Careers Service events

Careers workshops for research staff, Four Steps to Career Success for DPhil students, Other events, and One to one appointments

Oxford Learning Institute Designing Courses

A course for new lecturers or staff undertaking the HEA accreditation. Tuesday 22 April 2.00-4.00pm.

Leverhulme Lecture Series

'An Unnatural History: The Re-Emergence of Infectious Disease in the 20th Century'

Course on Network Meta-Analysis

Oxford Psychiatry Autumn School, 14th - 16th July 2014

Clinical Vaccine Trials

The Jenner Institute are developing vaccines against major global diseases and want healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55 to take part in trials of them.

Malaria Challenge Study

Healthy Volunteers Needed

Oxford University Newcomers' Club

AstraZeneca Open Innovation initiative

Survey on culture of scientific research

Calling all scientists - what's it like being you?

Review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course – Your contributions welcomed?

Why the review?

At the instigation of the Head of Division, and in the context of the period of time that has elapsed since provision was last reviewed (2005) and in preparation for the GMC review visit in November, a major review of the Standard Undergraduate Medical Course is being conducted this year.

A Panel has been established to undertake the review, jointly chaired by Professor David Paterson, Associate Head of Division (Education), and Professor Peter Sullivan, Director of Medical Education, OUH NHS Trust.

How can I contribute?

It is intended that the review be as consultative as possible, seeking a wide range of opinion from tutors and students, alumni, departments and a range of bodies and individuals. There are a number of ways in which contributions will be sought, including:

1. Discussion Forums

A series of three Discussion Forums are being held. The first of these on Course Structure, Curriculum and Assessment has already taken place. The others, to which you are invited, are:

(I) NHS & research interfaces, including careers (Leads: Professor Peter Sullivan , Dr Ashok Handa)

Chair: Dr Sue Burge

Date: Trinity Term 0th Week Thursday 24th April 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

(II) Admissions

Chair: Professor David Paterson

(i) Pre-clinical (Lead: Professor David Vaux)

(ii) Clinical (Lead: Dr Tim Lancaster)

Date: Trinity Term, 2nd week – Tuesday 6th May 4.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Teaching Centre, Science Area

2. Written Submissions

The review panel would welcome the views of all stakeholders on any or all of the main review themes, which are:

- (i) access and admissions, including the arrangements for competitive entry to the Clinical course and alternative approaches;
- (ii) overall aims of the course, curriculum design and course structure;
- (iii) the international, national and institutional context of the course;
- (iv) teaching, learning and assessment;
- (v) relationships with relevant NHS Trusts;
- (vi) the extent to which the course is successful in preparing its graduates to perform as Foundation doctors;
- (vii) the relationship between teaching and research;
- (viii) specific arrangements for the pursuit of pathways into professional clinical practice, graduate studies and academia;
- (ix) academic and pastoral support and guidance;
- (x) the provision and use of learning resources (including physical and staff resources);
- (xi) governance and administrative support;
- (xii) relationships with colleges;
- (xiii) quality assurance mechanisms.

Committees, groups and individuals are encouraged to make submissions to the Review Panel. Your comments should be sent **by Friday 6th June at the latest** to Ms. Jane Dale, Senior Assistant Registrar (Education), Medical Sciences Division: jane.dale@medsci.ox.ac.uk , who would be pleased to provide more information about the review upon request.

The Medical Sciences Board and its Education Policy and Standards Committee will consider the Panel's report, its conclusions and

recommendations at the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

Research Services Medical Sciences/Science Area Division Newsletter

for divisional Departmental Administrators has been relaunched

Read it [here](#) (University network only)

RCUK Open Access Block Grant

A simpler process to apply for funding from the RCUK Open Access Block Grant

The RCUK Open Access Block Grant to Oxford is available and easy to apply for. The University Research Committee recently agreed to simplify the application process; sign-off from the Head of Department is no longer necessary.

Oxford staff and students can apply for funds to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC) or article-related charges for papers submitted for publication on/after 1st April 2013,

- If they do not have such funding on the relevant RCUK program, project, fellowship or student grant from RCUK awarded prior to 1 April 2013

Or

- If they hold a new RCUK award commencing on or after 1 April 2013

For a brief summary of the requirements set by each of the Research Councils, please see <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/sponsor-requirements/>

Questions can be posted via <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/home-2/contact-us/>

RCUK will in summer 2014 audit compliance with its policy which requires that for peer-reviewed papers submitted for publication after 1st April 2013 which are based in whole or part on RCUK-funded research, authors must

1. Make their paper Open Access either via the payment of an APC or by placing the author accepted manuscript in a recognised subject-based or institutional repository (such as the [Oxford Research Archive](#))
2. Acknowledge the source of funding that supported the research i.e. funder and grant number where applicable.
3. If applicable, include a statement on how the underlying research materials such as data, samples or models, can be accessed.



Cross-discipline open access survey

What's your experience?

Professor Thomas Eger, Vice-Dean for Research and International Affairs at the University of Hamburg, together with doctoral student, Marc Scheufen is conducting a survey on the experience of academic scholars with and their perception of open access publishing.

[Read more and complete the survey](#)



Medical Research Fund

To support research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division. Trinity Term: Monday 28 April 2014

The Medical Research Fund supports research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division.

Awards are made via three funding schemes towards the overall goal to promote work in the field of medical research and to extend medical research training opportunities.

The **bridging salary support scheme** accepts applications to augment existing externally funded research activity, by providing short-term (typically 3 months) funding to cover salary costs needed in order to retain experienced research staff between external research grants, and by providing a limited scheme to support maternity leave costs.

The **startup research funding scheme** accepts applications for small (up to £10k) awards in order to enable investigators to obtain pilot data to be used to support larger scale applications for external research funding in future. All non-staff research costs, including equipment, are eligible. Priority will be given to those applications that demonstrate matching funding from other sources. This scheme will not normally provide research support for students.

The **pre-fellowship scheme** accepts applications for short-term (up to 3 months) funding to cover the salary costs of clinicians who will shortly begin an externally funded research training fellowship at Oxford.

Please email applications to the secretary of the MRF Committee mrf@medsci.ox.ac.uk by the deadlines listed below. Awards will only be made with start dates that fall after than the relevant deadline; retrospective applications will not be considered. When emailing your application, please copy in your departmental administrator to demonstrate that your department is aware of the application.

2014 deadlines:

Trinity Term: Monday 28 April 2014

Summer Long Vacation: Monday 28 July 2014

For further information, please see <http://intranet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/processes/research/mrf-medical-research-fund>

John Fell Fund

The next deadline for applications to the John Fell Fund is Wednesday 23 April 2014 (noon)

The John Fell Fund is intended to foster creativity and a proactive approach to research opportunities in all subject areas, and particularly interdisciplinary fields. It will make seedcorn and start-up grants, and provide staff and funds to stimulate applications to external agencies. As the Fund is intended to complement external funding bodies, it will not duplicate the purposes of those bodies.



For more information, please see <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/pras/jff>

This term, a new online submissions system has been launched for the JFF. Please submit applications using the online system.

Medical Sciences Divisional contact: jff@medsci.ox.ac.uk

Technical queries about the online system: JohnFellFund@admin.ox.ac.uk

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Applications accepted until 1st March, 2014

For further information, please email us at hello@sbsseedfund.com or visit <http://sbsseedfund.com>

Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014 now open

Deadline: 11 May, 2014



The Wellcome Trust are pleased to announce that the Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize 2014, in association with the *Guardian* and the *Observer*, is now open.

The Prize offers an amazing opportunity for anyone with an interest in science to join a new generation of science writers. Submit your 800-word article by 11 May 2014 and you could win £1000 and be published in the *Guardian* or the *Observer*.

To enter you must be a non-published writer based in the UK or the Republic of Ireland. You can enter in either of two categories:

- a) professional scientists of postgraduate level and above
- b) anyone else with a non-professional interest in science (this includes undergraduate science students).

This year, the Prize's shortlisted entries will be judged by an outstanding panel: Jeremy Farrar (Director of the Wellcome Trust), Mark Miodownik (science writer and broadcaster), Ian Sample (Science Correspondent, the *Guardian*), Anjana Ahuja (science writer), Sophie Scott (Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow) and Nicola Davis (Commissioning Editor, the *Observer*).

Terms and conditions apply. Find out more at wellcome.ac.uk/swp.

[Share on Twitter](#) using #swp2014

Daily Telegraph competition for STEM students launched

£25,000 prize. April 27: deadline for entries

The Telegraph is launching a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition on March 14 in association with Babcock International Group. Designed to raise the profile of these key industry sectors, the competition is also supported by GlaxoSmithKline, McLaren, Atkins, Sema and BAE Systems.

To enter, **undergraduate students studying STEM subjects** are invited to answer challenges set out by our sector sponsors and industry specialists. They can also create and answer their own brief based on the pre-set judging criteria.

A prize of £25,000 will be awarded to the winning team along with a bespoke mentoring programme with a senior engineer at Babcock International Group. Entrants and the universities represented will be showcased editorially through Telegraph STEM supplements and a dedicated STEM Awards channel on The Telegraph website.

Competition partners

- The Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (Sema)
- The Higher Education External Relations Association (Heera)
- Universities UK (UUK)
- GuildHE
- Association of Colleges (AoC)

Key dates

March 14: competition launches

April 27: deadline for entries

June 9: winner announced at the start of Universities Week 2014 at an awards ceremony in London

For further details about The Telegraph STEM Awards, visit Telegraph.co.uk/STEMawards

For further details about Universities Week 2014, visit UniversitiesWeek.org.uk

VIDEO

Digital Health Oxford

A cross-disciplinary, cross-sector group which aims to promote all things related to digital health within Oxford and beyond
It is a hub to bring together researchers, developers, clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs, designers, and others interested in digital health.

The next event, as part of Digital Oxford Week, is a **special lecture by Prof. Sir Muir Gray, giving his vision for the future of digital health in the NHS, and will be held on Monday 12th May at 7pm in the Oxford Martin School.**

This will be followed by a **patient-centric hack-day to be held at the Launchpad in the Said Business School over the weekend of 17-18 May.**

The next regular **Digital Health Oxford meetup will be on Monday 2nd June**, venue and speakers tbc. More information, and details of future events can be found at <http://www.meetup.com/Digital-Health-Oxford>.

Attention undergraduates! RDM Summer Student Scheme now accepting applicants

Do you have the potential to become a leading medical research scientist?

The Radcliffe Department of Medicine (RDM) offers up to 4 **fully-funded** places for outstanding undergraduates and masters students to spend a period of approximately eight weeks in Oxford during the Summer to gain experience of an academic research environment. These prestigious awards provide successful applicants with the opportunity to conduct a challenging and meaningful research project in the Summer of 2014. Students will be based in their host supervisor's laboratory and will carry out their project alongside their supervisor's research team.

Some previous participants on Oxford schemes have gone on to apply successfully for fully-funded places on DPhil programmes.

For more information, please see <http://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/summer-student-scheme>.



Clinical Vaccine Trials

The Jenner Institute are developing vaccines against major global diseases and want healthy volunteers aged 18 to 55 to take part in trials of them.

Participants will be paid compensation for expenses and time put aside to take part. Each study will require short visits to an outpatient clinic over 4-12 months. To find out more and register, visit the [Jenner Institute website](#).



TB Trial

The Jenner Institute are developing vaccines against Tuberculosis (TB) and require healthy volunteers to take part in clinical trials to study them.

If you are aged 18 to 55 and in good health, do get in touch to receive more information. Participants will be paid compensation for time, travel and expenses.

For more information, please email zita-rose.manjaly@ndm.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 857476

Biobanking and Ethics Workshop

Thursday 1 May 2014, 1030 – 1600

Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Rooms A & B

The aim of the event is to explore some of the ethical issues relating to genomics, including consent, biobanking and incidental findings. Please find attached an agenda for the day.

This is a free event, but space is limited. If you would like to attend, please email Donna ([✉ brcpa@well.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brcpa@well.ox.ac.uk)). Please note, we are unable to offer parking onsite. For directions/transportation links, please see <http://www.well.ox.ac.uk/find-us>.

Sponsored by the OCRC, BRC and Wellcome Trust.

Oxford Safer Pregnancy Alliance Research Centre Open Day

Wednesday 21st May, 12 – 4 pm

The Oxford Safer Pregnancy Alliance (OSPREA) is a team of midwives, nurses, doctors, scientists and support staff who are working together with women and their families to carry out research relating to pregnancy and reproduction.



Please come to the OSPREA Research Centre on Level 4 of the Women's Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford to:

- Learn about our research into the health of women and babies
- Discover how research can impact on future health care
- See the ultrasound facilities in the OSPREA Research Centre
- Meet the midwives, scientists and doctors carrying out the research

There will be talks, demonstrations and hands-on activities throughout the event.

Everyone is welcome, including staff, students and members of the public.

The event is free and refreshments will be available.

If you would like to come, please register your interest at:

enquiries@obs-gyn.ox.ac.uk You can also drop in on the day.

For more information, please see our website at www.osprea.ox.ac.uk

Careers Service events

Careers workshops for research staff, Four Steps to Career Success for DPhil students, Other events, and One to one appointments

Careers workshops for research staff

Our core workshop programme for DPhil Students is suitable for those interested in academic careers, non academic careers or still considering both. Book through [Oxford Learning Institute](#).

Career Management, 6 May 9.30–1.00pm

An interactive mix of short individual exercises and small informal group discussions will help you to build a clearer picture of the key factors relating to your career and personal circumstances and to explore career pathways.

Job Search and CV Skills, 27 May 2.30–5.00pm

Interactive workshop enabling you to more effectively search for and apply for jobs. Includes networking, CV and cover letter skills.

Interview Skills, 18 June 2.30–5.00pm

Interactive workshop enabling you to more effectively prepare for and perform at interview.

Four Steps to Career Success for DPhil students

Our core workshop programme for DPhil Students is suitable for those interested in academic careers, non academic careers or still considering both. Book through [Career Connect](#).

Career Planning for DPhil Students, 28 April 9.30–12.00pm

Intensive workshop which focuses on enabling you to clarify your career ideas through a mix of individual and informal small group exercises.

CVs and Cover letters for DPhil students, 30 May 2.30–5.00pm

Focus on job search techniques as well as how to produce effective CVs and cover letters.

Networking Skills for DPhil Students, 13 May 3.30–5.00pm

Begin to identify what networking is, why it is important and how you can develop their own professional networks and use them effectively.

Interview Skills for DPhil students, 11 June 9.30–12.00pm

Focus on understanding interview processes, effective preparation for interviews and tackling difficult interview questions.

Other events

Book through [Career Connect](#).

Academic Application and Interview Skills for Researchers, 22 May 2.00–5.00pm

Interactive workshop covering skills required for academic applications – CVs, cover letters and research and teaching statements – and for effective preparation at academic interview.

MBTI workshop for Researchers, 3 June 9.30–12.30pm

This workshop will give you an insight into your own personality using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. This framework can help you to gain a better understanding of your natural preferences which can help you to identify the types of work and working environments that you may enjoy.

WIMM Monthly Science Career Seminar (no booking required), From Bench to Boardroom – moving from academia to Strategy Consulting

Date: Friday 11th April 2014, 13:00 – 14:00

Speaker: Dr. John Baker from Bain & Company, Inc

Place: Seminar Room, The Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9DS

One to one appointments

One-to-one appointments are available at The Careers Service, OCDEM (Churchill site), Old Road Campus and the WIMM (JR site): call reception on 01865 27464601865 274646 to book longer 30/45minute appointments, or book online through [Career Connect](#) for 15 minute appointments (only at Careers Service).

[Call](#)

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Oxford Learning Institute Designing Courses

A course for new lecturers or staff undertaking the HEA accreditation. Tuesday 22 April 2.00–4.00pm.

Designing courses is defined very broadly in this seminar. It includes not only designing new courses but also designing a series of tutorials or classes to fit within an existing course. As far as possible, participants will work during part of the seminar with colleagues from cognate disciplines.

Find out more [here](#)

Leverhulme Lecture Series

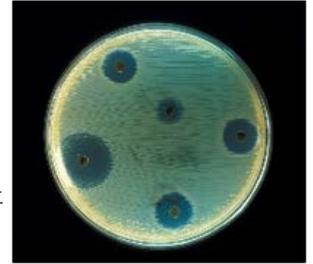
'An Unnatural History: The Re-Emergence of Infectious Disease in the 20th Century'

Hosted by *The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities*.

All lectures will take place at the Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road.

Thursday, May 15, 2014 – 5:00pm to 5:45pm

Stalking Microbes: Antibiotic Resistance, Nosocomial Infections and the Demise of the Modern Hospital 1950–1990



Thursday, June 5, 2014 – 5:00pm to 5:45pm

The Return of Natural History: Re-Emerging Infections, the End of Antibiotics and New Public Health

Please visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk for more information. To sign up for the TORCH mailing list simply send a blank email to: torch-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk

Course on Network Meta-Analysis

Oxford Psychiatry Autumn School, 14th – 16th July 2014

How to appraise, interpret and publish a network meta-analysis

A 3-day course for clinicians, researchers and policy makers wishing to expand their knowledge of indirect and mixed treatment comparisons in the context of clinical effectiveness evaluation.

Course highlights:

- Network meta-analysis (NMA) & underlying methodological assumptions
- Presenting NMA results
- Critically appraisal of NMA
- Clinical questions in the context of NMA
- Key features of a NMA protocol
- Writing the manuscript
- Replying to peer reviewers comments

Further information:

The course takes place at Rhodes House, Oxford. Course fee: £1000.

Fee includes reception, slides & scientific literature, accommodation/breakfast at Keble College* and a gala dinner held at Oriel College on 15th July.

Speakers: Andrea Cipriani, Stefan Leucht, Deborah Caldwell, Toshi Furukawa, Tianjing Li, Georgia Salanti, Julian Higgins, John Geddes.

*Keble College accommodation will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.

Alternative accommodation will be arranged in the event of these places being fully booked.

For more information and a booking form, please contact the Course Coordinator

Jane Hainsworth, Department of Psychiatry

Tel: +44 (0) 1865 223793

[✉jane.hainsworth@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jane.hainsworth@psych.ox.ac.uk)

Malaria Challenge Study

Healthy Volunteers Needed

The Jenner Institute, part of the Nuffield Department of Medicine, is looking for healthy volunteers to take part in a malaria challenge study testing the effectiveness of new malaria vaccines. If you are aged 18–45, are in good health and have never had malaria, you may be eligible to participate. Volunteers are compensated for their time and travel during the study period of 3–8 months. To find out more [email](#) the Volunteer Coordinator, call 01865–857406 or visit their [website](#).



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Oxford University Newcomers' Club

Join us on

Wednesdays from 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

at

The University Club,

11 Mansfield Road

Oxford OX1 3SZ

The Oxford University Newcomers' Club welcomes wives, husbands and partners of visiting scholars, of graduate students and of newly appointed academics of the University.

They organise a programme of tours of colleges, museums and other places of interest each term.

You could also take part in our

- Antiques Group
- Art Group
- Book Group
- Bridge Group
- Needlecrafts Group
- Conversation Group
- Country Walks
- Explore Oxfordshire
- Garden Group
- Newcomers with Children
- Opportunities in Oxford
- Singing Group

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

Visit our website at : www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk

Email : [✉newcomers@ox.ac.uk](mailto:newcomers@ox.ac.uk)

AstraZeneca Open Innovation initiative

AstraZeneca are collaborating with external scientists more than ever before. They have just launched an exciting initiative to make it easier for researchers to access our compounds and technologies and to collaborate with them.

The new [AstraZeneca openinnovation website](#) is a user-friendly gateway to the full range of Open Innovation programs. Highlights include:

- The **Clinical Compound Bank** and **Pharmacology Toolbox** provide information on a number of AstraZeneca 'live' and discontinued patient-ready compounds, including clinical compounds in the AstraZeneca early drug pipeline. An easy-to-use tool is available to submit proposals to access the compounds for clinical and/or preclinical investigation.
- **Target Innovation** is another initiative to help investigators validate a potential new drug target that they are researching. This can involve a grant from AstraZeneca to support the work and access to our discovery capabilities, including our compound library.
- **New Molecule Profiling** initiative is designed to provide new information about a new compound synthesized by an investigator.
- Through the **R&D Challenges**, they are looking to collaborate with, and reward, those who bring innovative solutions to our R&D challenges and hurdles.

Take a few minutes to check out our new Open Innovation website and to share this message with your colleagues.

They would appreciate your views on this initiative and please let them know if there are ideas outside of the current offerings that you would like to see added ([Contact us](#)).

Survey on culture of scientific research

Calling all scientists – what's it like being you?

What motivates scientists and what pressures are they under? What effects are funding, publishing and governance systems having on the production of high quality, ethical scientific research? Is competition in science a good thing?

These are some of the questions being explored in a survey <<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sci-research-culture>> to find out how the different features of the UK research environment are affecting, both positively and negatively, the work and behaviour of scientists at all stages of their career.

The survey is part of a project <<http://nuffieldbioethics.org/research-culture>> involving the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, Royal Society, Society of Biology, Institute of Physics and Royal Society of Chemistry which will gather views and promote debate about the culture of scientific research in the UK. Scientific research is increasingly professional, interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, globally competitive and technologically advanced. This presents exciting opportunities to further scientific understanding, but some elements of current research culture may be undermining efforts to maintain ethical conduct in science and produce high quality, valuable, accessible research

In addition to the survey, a series of events will also take place across the UK this summer to discuss with scientists and others their views on these issues. The findings of the survey and events will be published and presented to policy makers towards the end of 2014. Sign up for updates <<http://nuffieldbioethics.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=8511c645b9d4da10c7b9b3d53&id=2bdce242dc>> about the project.

They would like to hear from people involved in all kinds of scientific research in the UK (including bioscience, medicine, physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computing, veterinary science and psychology), in the public, charitable and private sectors. As well as researchers themselves, they would like to hear from others with an interest in scientific research, such as university managers and support staff, professional bodies, funders of research, editors and publishers of journals, science communicators, social scientists, policy makers, NGOs and campaigning bodies.

If this applies to you, they very much hope you can find the time to fill in the survey. It will take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.

Find the survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/sci-research-culture

Find out more about the project: www.nuffieldbioethics.org/research-culture