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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: 17:00, Thursday 4 September

An almost complete listing of seminars, workshops and events taking place across the division can be found here (Divisional What’s On calendar), and here (Oxford Talks).

RETURNING CARER’S FUND

A Returning Carer’s Fund has been established as part of the Vice-Chancellor’s Diversity Fund for the advancement of diversity among academic and research staff at Oxford. Applications are invited from women and men for funding of up to £5k to support the development of their research career following a break to care for a child or close relative. In exceptional circumstances, larger amounts may be awarded, up to an absolute maximum of £10k.

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There will be two closing dates for applications: September 15 2014 and February 28 2015.

Applications should be submitted on the application form (attached) and sent to Jennifer Anderson (Athena SWAN advisor and facilitator) at jennifer.anderson@medsci.ox.ac.uk or athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

For further details see http://intranet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/returning-carers-fund or contact Jennifer Anderson.

This fund is supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

SIXTY SECONDS WITH ...

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Tell us a little about your role

I am responsible for coordinating the administration team, which supports the delivery of years 4 to 6 of the standard 6-year Medicine course and the Graduate Entry Medicine Course. I manage a dedicated and hard-working team of academic administrators based in the university’s Medical School Office at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Read more...

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   - Athena SWAN at Queen’s University Belfast
   - The G20 and gender equality
   - Mentors sought for Student to STEMette

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IT NEWS

In this issue:

(1) Medical Science Division Information Governance Office
(2) Update on Information Security developments
(3) IT Learning Programme News
   - Michaelmas Course Schedule
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LIBRARY NEWS

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(1) WISER: Open Access Oxford – what’s happening?
(2) Open Access Update Talk Now Online
(3) Review of subscription to British Pharmacopoeia
(4) Did you know... there are over 1,500 online medical and health care textbooks available to you

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OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

Important Updates

Important information for all medical staff regarding revalidation Message from Dr Tony Berendt, Responsible Officer and Interim Medical Director, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford
Research Services Science Area team moves to Robert Hooke Building
Researchfish implementation for the UK Research Councils and Cancer Research UK All Research Councils have now agreed to use Researchfish for research outcomes reporting
New research data management support website
Bringing Isis Innovation closer to researchers Isis Innovation is pleased to announce the opening of five new hot-desks in Oxford University departments
Invitation to Apply for Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Visa Endorsement
Oxford University Hospitals wants you! Did you know that staff working for the University of Oxford in a department within the Medical Sciences Division can apply to become a member of the staff constituency?

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Returning Carer’s Fund
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Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund Deadline 12 September 2014

Fellowship Opportunities

Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Psychology
Lincoln College Non-Stipendiary Research Fellowships
Colt Foundation Fellowships in Occupational/Environmental Health

Engagement Opportunities

Outreach Grants available from the British Pharmacological Society
Scientific Outreach Grants from the Biochemical Society
British Science Association seeking trustees
BBC Academy looking for BAME Experts
Wellcome Trust Provision for Public Engagement The Wellcome Trust now provide dedicated funding for public engagement within research projects

Volunteer Opportunities

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.
OxWATCH study now recruiting! We are looking for women between the ages of 18 and 40 who are hoping to become pregnant with their first child,
Other Items of Interest

**Oxford Medical Alumni Weekend and Osler Lecture** 19–21 September, with Osler Lecture, "Good Ageing: How should we pay for care when we are elderly?" on 20 September

**Experience as Evidence?** A two-day symposium on the sciences of subjectivity in healthcare, policy and practice

**Oxford University Museums** 16 lightning talks illuminating the museums and what we do

**Digital Health Oxford meetup** Monday 1 September, 6:30pm

‘The Culture of Scientific Research: A discussion event with the Nuffield Council of Bioethics’ Oxford Brookes, 2 September 2014

**Clinical Training Fellows Careers Advice Meeting** 15 September, 4:30–6:00pm, Seminar Room at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine

**AND FINALLY...**

Keep up to date with Medical Sciences talks, seminars, and workshops

A huge thank you to all 583 of you who responded to the Consultation on Seminar Communications survey. A summary of the key results (including a wish-list for improvements suggested by respondents) is available on the MSD intranet and some possible medium and longer term solutions, which the Divisional Communications and Web Team will continue working on in collaboration with departmental colleagues.

In the short term, there are a number of ways to keep up to date with seminars, talks, and workshops taking place across the Medical Sciences Division, including:

- An almost complete listing of seminars, workshops and events is available on the Divisional What’s On calendar or Oxford Talks
- Oxford Talks provides automatic reminders of talks, why not sign up to receive reminders of seminars over Michaelmas Term (details in September newsletter). In Hilary Term the new Oxford Talks will be launched with more options for alerts and reminders
- Join over 2000 people following @OxfordMedSci on Twitter. Many talks are advertised on this platform
- Check out your department's website seminar listing (see list of departments here).

(Image courtesy of sumetho / FreeDigitalPhotos.net)
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Laura Morgan, Clinical Course Coordinator

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Tell us a little about your role
I am responsible for coordinating the administration team, which supports the delivery of years 4 to 6 of the standard 6-year Medicine course and the Graduate Entry Medicine Course. I manage a dedicated and hard-working team of academic administrators based in the university’s Medical School Office at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

And why is what you and your team do important?
My team supports the Director of Clinical Studies, Dr Tim Lancaster, and the Associate Directors to ensure the successful delivery of the medical course. We also work closely with the course tutors and administrators based in the departments that deliver the course modules and with the central university administration. It is important that the administrative team in the Medical School Office provides a strong framework to underpin the course and is a friendly and approachable face for those students seeking advice and support to facilitate their studies.

What’s currently at the top of your to do list?
The General Medical Council (GMC) will visit the Medical School in November and we are preparing the documentation they have requested prior to their visit. We have also just bid farewell to our 2014 graduates and the team here is busy preparing for the arrival of our new intakes in September. The clinical medical students do not follow the standard University terms so life never really stops here and we always have students around, which we like.

How did you get where you are today?
Following a period of work experience at the Eye Hospital, I thought I would like to work in medical administration. I had intended to work in a more clinical setting but saw a role in the Medical School advertised, which sounded quite interesting as it involved organising attachments for visiting medical students and also providing administrative support to the Director and Deputy Director of Clinical Studies and Administrator. Since then my role has changed several times and I am now lucky enough to be in a different role but one which I still enjoy.

What do you like to do to relax?
You might find me tentatively peering over the ramparts of a castle (I have a fondness for castles but not for heights!) or out walking in the wilds of West Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, where I grew up.
Lab Talk

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Tell us a little about the Electron Microscopy Facility at the Dunn School

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How many people use the EM Facility in the Dunn School?

We currently have over 60 active users in the EM Facility, with projects covering an extremely diverse and exciting range of science, from fundamental cell biology and medicine, through to ecology and bio-manufacturing. Two thirds of our users are from external Departments, including Biochemistry, Earth Sciences, Zoology, STRUBI, DPAG, NDM, Physics and Engineering.

How is EM being applied to research in the Medical Sciences Division?

The wavelength of accelerated electrons is up to 100,000x shorter than that of light and using an electron beam, which is manipulated by electro–magnetic lenses in the EM, allows objects smaller than 1 nm to be magnified and resolved. In TEM, the image is formed by electron interactions with the specimen as the beam transmits through it, enabling small particulate samples (eg: proteins, viruses and bacteria), cellular ultrastructure and tissue architecture to be visualised at ultra–high resolution. Examples of recent biomedical TEM projects include imaging negatively stained: synthetic virus-like particles, ribonucleoproteins, type IV pili in Neisseria gonorrhoea and exosomes isolated from dendritic cells; as well as using resin embedded specimens to characterise the ultrastructure of: the flagellum during life cycle stage differentiation in Leishmania sp., the blood–brain barrier in mice models, centrosomes in Drosophila and chicken cells infected with coronavirus.

SEM works differently, with the image instead being formed by scattered electrons that result from interactions between the electron beam and the specimen as the beam is scanned across its surface. This permits specimen topography to be imaged in exquisite detail and is ideal for morphological characterisation of mutant or drug–treated cells, tissue or even whole organisms. Recent biomedical applications include assessing the rough–eye phenotype of Drosophila mutants, investigating the effect of growth media on the morphology of stem–cell derived blood cells, and characterising the morphology of: genetically modified mouse dendritic cells, E. coli, and malaria merozites after freezing.

What are some of the more advanced techniques you are using?

There are a number of advanced techniques available including 3D–SEM, correlative microscopy, cryo–ultramicrotomy, protein localisation using immunogold or new genetic tags for EM, and electron tomography. The latter is facilitated by our new user–friendly ISSF-funded dual–axis tomography holder, which allows organelles and structures to be reconstructed and modelled in 3D (eg: this is currently being used here to study the immunological synapse between melanoma cells and T cells).

An area of active technique development in the EM lab is correlative microscopy. Using this method, the same cell is imaged using two different techniques, commonly confocal and TEM. In this way, proteins and/or other sub–cellular components can be imaged on the confocal using fluorescent probes and then placed into ultrastructural context at the EM level. Though the specimen preparation involved is more demanding, this is an extremely powerful bridging technique and we look forward to assisting more correlative projects in future.
We also have a new BBSRC–funded Zeiss Merlin Compact Variable Pressure FEG–SEM, equipped with a Gatan 3view system (an *in situ* ultramicrotome). This instrument is capable of producing large, high resolution volumes of biological samples using a technique called serial block face sectioning, which enables the 3D architecture of whole cells and tissues to be reconstructed and analysed at the ultrastructural level. The microscope is based at Oxford Brookes University and is jointly run by the two departments under a shared access agreement. Please contact Dr Errin Johnson to learn more about this cutting-edge (excuse the pun) technique and to setup a collaboration.

**How can people access the EM Facility?**

The EM Facility is open to all members of Oxford University and multiple usage options are available: full/partial service (recommended for difficult, short term or one-off projects), training (free and comprehensive, a particularly good option for PhD students) and collaboration (for long-term technically challenging projects). Usage charges are available upon request and vary depending on the instrument and project. Service work involves an additional fee. I am also able to prepare quotes for grant applications.

Please contact Dr Errin Johnson to discuss how you can use the Dunn School EM Facility to further your research.

**Links:**

Website: [www.dunnschoolbioimaging.co.uk](http://www.dunnschoolbioimaging.co.uk)

Twitter: [@DunnSchoolBIF](https://twitter.com/DunnSchoolBIF)

**Images:**

Top: A variety of specimens imaged on the Tecnai 12 TEM: negatively stained protein aggregates (top left; image by E Johnson) and thin sections of a mouse embryonic fibroblast cell (image by E Johnson), the blood–brain barrier in mouse (bottom left; A Douglas, DPAG) and a very happy nucleus in a *Leishmania* sp. cell (J Valli, Dunn School).

Middle right: SEM micrographs of: Drosophila (top left), *E. coli* (top right), a monocyte and a macrophage (bottom left), and a T-cell killing a melanoma cell (bottom right). Imaged on the JEOL JSM–6390 by E Johnson.

Bottom: Joshua Long, a PhD student in the Fodor group in the Dunn School, using the TEM.

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](mailto:communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk).
Athena SWAN News

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Athena SWAN awards ceremony

Representatives from our most recent Athena SWAN award winning departments attended a ceremony in Durham on July 10 to receive their awards. The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences received a Silver award, and Bronze was awarded to the Departments of Oncology, and Pharmacology, the Nuffield Departments of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS), and Population Health (NDPH), the Nuffield Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine) and the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology. Congratulations to all.

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This fund is supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

Image: Ulla Räisänen (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences) and her daughter at the department’s family summer party. Taken by Nasir Hamid. Copyright: Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

Talks and Events

Women in Science Symposium

As part of its 60th Anniversary celebrations, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, is holding a ‘Women in Science’ symposium on Friday 26th September 2014. This research-based event will focus on three key areas around women in STEM subjects; female participation in STEM in schools, the Undergraduate experience of women in STEM and the value of STEM in the labour market.

This symposium will feature keynote speakers, including Professor Dame Athene Donald, Lord Browne and Dr Maggie Alderin-Pocock, and panel discussions to provide a unique platform for researchers and key stakeholders to engage with the academic debate around this issue and to identify key research areas, as well as taking discussion forward on what can be done in practice. In each case, the research findings will be complemented by views from practitioners (e.g. teachers and students) on their experience and their practical approaches to how we make a difference.

Date: Friday 26 September

Time: 10am–3.40pm
Cambridge AWISE 20th Anniversary Celebration

Cambridge AWISE will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a meeting in Cambridge on 2nd Oct 2014. They will explore advances over the past 20 years and the challenges that remain. Topics covered in the meeting will include the impact of Government reports such as the SET Fair report and the contribution of initiatives from employers, Research Councils and Professional Societies.

The meeting will be of interest to SET employers in industry, enterprise and academia, policy-makers, funding bodies, professional societies, women’s networks and individual scientists and engineers at all stages in their career and will draw attendees from throughout England as well as the eastern region.

Further information and bookings can be found here. Alternatively contact Dr Jenny Koenig (jk111@cam.ac.uk) or the Cambridge AWiSE co-ordinator Gayle Sullivan (info@camawise.org.uk).

Date: Thursday 2 October
Time: 3–9pm
Location: Lucy Cavendish College, Lady Margaret Road, Cambridge

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Articles and Resources

Athena SWAN at Queen’s University Belfast

Jane Garvey and Teresa McGormark from Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) visited Bournemouth University to discuss the impact of Athena SWAN on science academics and share their experiences of QUB obtaining Silver and Gold institutional and departmental accreditation. A video of their talk has been made available (~40 minutes in length) where they discuss examples of the actions they undertook as part of their work on Athena SWAN e.g. introduction of a mentoring scheme, staff training in Equality & Diversity and Recruitment Selection training, training events specifically for female PhDs and postdocs, annual promotions seminar for women, better support for PhD students and postdocs. As a result of their efforts QUB have seen the number of women in professorial positions rise from 11% in 2000 to 22% today and the proportion of academic-related posts held by women increased from 26% to almost 50%.

The G20 and gender equality

Oxfam recently published a report on gender equality, making several recommendations for the G20 on how they can advance women’s rights in employment, social protection and fiscal policies. Based on the current rate of decline in wage inequality it will take another 75 years for there to be equal pay between men and women. According to the report each day women perform an additional 2 to 5 hours of unpaid care work compared with men; this includes caring for children & elderly as well as domestic labour such as cooking & cleaning. A summary of the report is also available.

Mentors sought for Student to STEMette

STEMettes was established with the aim of inspiring the next generation of females into STEM. Their Student to STEMette initiative is bringing together girls aged 16+ and women currently working in STEM. The mentoring period lasts for 4 months and the student and mentor are expected to meet once per month and attend networking events together. If you are passionate, dedicated and enthusiastic about STEM and work in STEM then consider becoming a mentor. More information and the application form can be found on their webpage.
Medical Science Division Information Governance Office

At the June 2014 Medical Science Board meeting it was agreed that the Division should have a formal Information Governance Office. This office will be responsible for the coordination of Information Governance and Security within the Division and will be working closely with the current Information Security activity being conducted at the Central University level. The Office is supported by an Information Governance Working Group, chaired by Dr Martin Landray. For the first six months the Information Governance Office will be developing the scope of the new Office and defining the requirements of the Medical Science Division. It will aim to work in close collaboration with Departments, Units and Representative Groups to develop a coordinated Information Governance Strategy for the Division. It will also be seeking to develop ways of assisting and coordinating, training, awareness, support materials, standards and policies.

The Office is temporarily staffed by individuals already working or involved in Information Security and Governance within the Medical Science Division with the aim of providing a specification in approximately six months’ time of how it can be permanently operated. Anyone with expertise or interest in Information Governance or Security currently working in the Division is invited to get in contact with the Office if they would be willing to offer any time or support in the further development of the Office. Over the next six months there will be activities to engage with all Departments to establish needs and requirements for Information Governance as well as work to engage with external partners including NHS, sponsors and stakeholders.

The current Information Governance Lead Coordinator for the new Information Governance Office is Sarah Lawson. Please contact msdigo@medsci.ox.ac.uk for more information or if you would like to offer ideas or assistance to the new Office.

Update on Information Security developments

Message from Professor Paul Jeffreys, IT Services’ Director of Risk Management:

Here is a brief update on four Information Security developments, related specifically to Departments in MSD Division:

1. Information Security Policy Tool
Since the University Information Security Policy was published two years ago, many Departments have complied with a requirement to implement a local Information Security Policy. It is recognised good practice to interpret and manage information risks locally. If your Department does not have a local Policy in place, a simple tool is available to build one from scratch using a template, in very little time. We would be pleased to meet you to help you use the tool; please contact: infosec@it.ox.ac.uk to arrange. The MSD Information Governance Office, that will be formed over coming weeks, will be able to help with developing the base policy to include IG Toolkit requirements and other MSD specific guidance (please send requests to infosec@it.ox.ac.uk and we will forward to the IGO).

2. Information Asset Register Tool
Imagine the situation where a key information asset, held electronically or on paper, were lost from your Department (exam papers, development information, intellectual property, private staff data …). A new Information Asset Register tool is available, to help you to identify your key information assets and to ensure they are appropriately protected. It is designed to be as self-explanatory as possible, but we would be very pleased to help you to use the tool – contact: infosec@it.ox.ac.uk to arrange.

3. Whole Disk Encryption (WDE)
A centrally operated WDE service is fully operational, and is available to the collegiate University. Your Division has a total of 50 laptops encrypted so far as well as 521 encrypted on the MSD IT Services’ system. Please would you promote further encryption of University-purchased laptops within your Department and encourage take up of the centrally funded WDE service? Registration to use the central WDE service is made through the MSD IT Services. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the service, and how it might be more effectively deployed in your Department, please contact: infosec@it.ox.ac.uk.

4. Information Security Awareness Module
We are delighted that the Awareness Module has been taken by around 1600 staff (c. 120 staff in your Division). In MSD many staff find the NHS Information Governance Toolkit Training Tool more appropriate. Please would you promote use of the Module and / or the NHS IG Toolkit Training Tool in your Department and consider whether it should be Policy that certain categories of staff are expected to take one or both.

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IT Learning Programme News

Michaelmas Course Schedule

We aim to make our schedule for Michaelmas available by September 17th. In the meantime you can see course descriptions in our catalogue at: http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk

Some things to look out for next term:

- A new structure for our Office Fundamentals courses in which we hope to provide more individual guidance for those who need to become more comfortable in the everyday use of the standard Microsoft Office applications.

- A reorganisation of our suite of Excel and Access courses to better reflect the changing needs of staff, postgraduates and researchers.

- New courses on Blender, MySQL and digital video.

- Engage: Social Media Michaelmas will be held for the third year running. Join us for workshops, talks and training on using social media tools and digital technology for building online presence, academic networking and public engagement. Alongside this, you can participate in the excellent ‘23 Things for Research’ which is a self-directed online programme where you can develop your digital skills with a community of learners. See www.it.ox.ac.uk/engage for more details about this and the exciting programme of upcoming events.

ITLP Portfolio – Course Materials Online

Course materials for many of our popular courses are available for you to download in WebLearn. This Portfolio can be found at http://portfolio.it.ox.ac.uk

Here you can read course handbooks, collect a set of exercise files to try out the hands-on activities, read helpful articles or discover extra tips, tricks and videos provided by the course teachers.
Library News

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1. WISER: Open Access Oxford – what’s happening?
2. Open Access Update Talk Now Online
3. Review of subscription to British Pharmacopeia
4. Did you know...there are over 1,500 online medical and health care textbooks available to you

WISER: Open Access Oxford – what's happening?

This overview of Open Access at Oxford will take place 11am–12pm on August 20th at the Social Science Library. For more details and to book, go to http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TZW7.

Open Access Update Talk Now Online

Recorded by our colleagues in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, staff from the Bodleian Libraries discuss open access at Oxford University. Eli Harriss talks about the different routes to make published work open access and the policies required by different funding bodies, Juliet Ralph talks about the help and tools available to comply with open access policies and Sarah Barkla discusses the Oxford Research Archive.

The session can be viewed online at http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/open-access.

About the speakers

- Eli Harriss is the Knowledge Centre Manager and Outreach Librarian, Bodleian Health Care Libraries
- Juliet Ralph is the Open Access Subject Librarian, Radcliffe Science Library
- Sarah Barkla is the Research Archive Librarian, Oxford Research Archive

Questions can be sent to the general enquiries email at open-access-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Review of subscription to British Pharmacopeia

We are currently reviewing subscription to British Pharmacopeia. This resource has had very low usage, with only 148 views in two years.

Due to this very low use we have delayed renewing the subscription whilst we consult on its value and contribution to the learning, research, and teaching within the MSD. This is not a notice of permanent cancellation, but is part of our continuing review of the resources we buy, ensuring they deliver value for money.

As part of this process, we'd welcome any feedback you may have on the importance of this title to your work or study. Please respond to Owen Coxall, the BHCL Collections Manager, at owen.coxall@bodleian.ox.ac.uk by 22nd August 2014.

Did you know...there are over 1,500 online medical and health care textbooks available to you

that all members of the Medical Sciences Division have access to over 1,500 online medical and health care textbooks from the Oxford University Press via Oxford Medicine Online (http://oxfordmedicine.com)?

You can also now use the Oxford Index to search across All Books and Journals from Oxford University Press.

The Oxford Index brings together the best of reference, journals, and scholarly works in one search tool. The Index provides smart recommendations for related content – from journal articles and scholarly monographs, to reference content, primary sources, and more – based on your research interests.

The Index is found at the bottom of the screen at http://oxfordmedicine.com/. Just enter your search term(s) in the box at the bottom right of your browser, and click the search icon to view your results in a new tab or window.
Opportunities and Updates

Important Updates

Important information for all medical staff regarding revalidation
Message from Dr Tony Berendt, Responsible Officer and Interim Medical Director, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford
Research Services Science Area team moves to Robert Hooke Building
Researchfish implementation for the UK Research Councils and Cancer Research UK All Research Councils have now agreed to use Researchfish for research outcomes reporting
New research data management support website
Bringing Isis Innovation closer to researchers Isis Innovation is pleased to announce the opening of five new hot-desks in Oxford University departments
Invitation to Apply for Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Visa Endorsement
Oxford University Hospitals wants you! Did you know that staff working for the University of Oxford in a department within the Medical Sciences Division can apply to become a member of the staff constituency?

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Outreach Grants available from the British Pharmacological Society
Scientific Outreach Grants from the Biochemical Society
British Science Association seeking trustees
BBC Academy looking for BAME Experts
Wellcome Trust Provision for Public Engagement The Wellcome Trust now provide dedicated funding for public engagement within research projects

Volunteer Opportunities

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.
OxWATCH study now recruiting! We are looking for women between the ages of 18 and 40 who are hoping to become pregnant with their first child, and have an Oxfordshire home address

Other Items of Interest

Oxford Medical Alumni Weekend and Osler Lecture 19-21 September, with Osler Lecture, “Good Ageing: How should we pay for care when we are elderly?” on 20 September
Experience as Evidence? A two-day symposium on the sciences of subjectivity in healthcare, policy and practice
Oxford University Museums: 16 lightning talks illuminating the museums and what we do
Digital Health Oxford meetup Monday 1 September, 6:30pm
‘The Culture of Scientific Research: A discussion event with the Nuffield Council of Bioethics’ Oxford Brookes, 2 September 2014
Clinical Training Fellows Careers Advice Meeting 15 September, 4:30–6:00pm, Seminar Room at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine
And Finally...

Keep up to date with Medical Sciences talks, seminars, and workshops

A huge thank you to all 583 of you who responded to the Consultation on Seminar Communications survey. A summary of the key results (including a wish-list for improvements suggested by respondents) is available on the MSD intranet and some possible medium and longer term solutions, which the Divisional Communications and Web Team will continue working on in collaboration with departmental colleagues.

In the short term, there are a number of ways to keep up to date with seminars, talks, and workshops taking place across the Medical Sciences Division, including:

- An almost complete listing of seminars, workshops and events is available on the Divisional What’s On calendar or Oxford Talks.
- Oxford Talks provides automatic reminders of talks, why not sign up to receive reminders of seminars over Michaelmas Term (details in October newsletter). In Hilary Term the new Oxford Talks will be launched with more options for alerts and reminders.
- Join over 2000 people following @OxfordMedSci on Twitter. Many talks are advertised on this platform.
- Check out your department’s website seminar listing (see list of departments here).
Important Updates

Important information for all medical staff regarding revalidation

Message from Dr Tony Berendt, Responsible Officer and Interim Medical Director, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford

As you will know, all doctors with a licence to practice granted by the GMC are required to revalidate every 5 years. To do so they must create a Prescribed Connection with a Designated Body (for more information on the process and how to create a connection please visit the revalidation section of www.gmc-uk.org).

The Trust is currently experiencing an influx of requests to create a Prescribed Connection from doctors who are due to revalidate in the next few months. In some cases these doctors have been working with the Trust for many years and should have aligned themselves back in 2012 when revalidation became a legal requirement. Because a Prescribed Connection is governed by a doctor’s personal circumstances it is not possible for the Trust to ascertain which doctors it is responsible for revalidating. The GMC is therefore clear that it is the doctor’s responsibility to align themselves with the correct Designated Body. By not doing so a doctor is risking being classed as failing to engage with the revalidation process which ultimately could result in an administrative suspension of their licence and thus affect their ability to work in the UK. This represents a significant risk to the Trust as it is conceivable that a doctor working here could fail to revalidate due to not having connected themselves to a Responsible Officer and thus be unable to work when they are expected to. Late alignments also place a huge burden on the team administrating the process as there is a significant amount of “back office” work that needs to be done in addition to reviewing annual appraisals in order to prepare a revalidation portfolio. It is not only very difficult to do this at short notice but has a knock on effect on other recommendations due to be made around the same time.

Revalidation has now been in operation for 2 years and I therefore feel it is appropriate to expect that all doctors will have at least a rudimentary knowledge of revalidation including the requirement to create a Prescribed Connection. To this end the way in which requests to create a Prescribed Connection will change from 1st September 2014 as follows;

- Until 31st August 2014 any doctor with a legitimate Prescribed Connection may align themselves to the OUH without penalty
- From 1st September any doctor attempting to create a prescribed connection will not only be screened to ensure the validity of their request but to establish how long they have been employed by the Trust and in what capacity.
  - If a doctor has been employed for less than 3 months they will be counted as a “new starter” and no further action will be taken.
  - If they have been employed for between 3 and 6 months they will be referred to the relevant Clinical Director for a conversation of concern.
  - If they have been employed for between 6 and 12 months they will be referred to the relevant Divisional Director for a conversation of concern.
  - If they have been employed for more than 12 months I will have that conversation of concern with them personally as their Responsible Officer.

Should you have any questions about this process or indeed about any aspect of appraisal or revalidation please do not hesitate to contact the Medical Director’s Office team on mdo.business@ouh.nhs.uk or 01865 (7)43216 and they will be happy to provide more detailed advice relevant to your personal circumstances.

Research Services Science Area team moves to Robert Hooke Building

The Research Services Science Team has now moved offices to new space on the second floor of the Robert Hooke Building, Parks Road (the building is also home to the Department of Computing Science and the MPLS Business Development team).

Their new telephone numbers can be found on the RS website at http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/contacts/rs/science/ (please note, all extensions should be prefixed with the number 6, not 2 as currently shown, for external calls). The door security/buzzer system has not yet been fitted but in the meantime please telephone the member of the team you wish to see, or Athis Vadivale on x16502, and they will come down to meet you at the front entrance.

Researchfish implementation for the UK Research Councils and Cancer Research UK

All Research Councils have now agreed to use Researchfish for research outcomes reporting

Researchfish is being rolled out for AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC, EPSRC, & NERC in September 2014. The first collection period will run from 16 October – 14 November 2014. (MRC and STFC are existing users of Researchfish and we understand that the system remains largely unchanged for MRC/STFC funded researchers. MRC and STFC will also run their collections at the same time this autumn.)

AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC, EPSRC & NERC: Next Steps

- PIs who are funded by these Councils will be contacted individually by email by Researchfish in September (5th–15th) with details of how to log-in and use the ResearchFish system.
- Oxford will be sent details of the grants on which outcomes data are expected in September/October. We expect that data will be requested for all current grants and those which finished in 2009 onwards, although it is likely that data from 2006 will have been
uploaded into the system.

- ROS data has been through a data cleaning process and is being migrated in Researchfish during August. PIs will be asked to check this data. Part of the submission process in 2014 will involve PIs updating and correcting any incomplete data migrated from ROS.
- PIs can nominate delegates to help them to complete information on their grants however the initial onus is on the PI to access the system and grant delegate access.

Completion of outputs reporting is strongly encouraged and requested by the Research Councils. It is likely that for AHRC, BBSRC, ESRC, EPSRC and NERC sanctions will not be applied in 2014 but will be introduced for non-compliance in 2015. (MRC will continue to apply sanctions in 2014 as it has in previous years’ collections.)

Cancer Research UK

From 5 August 2014, Cancer Research UK (CRUK) will ask all its funded researchers (grantees and institute group leaders) to submit data to CRUK through Researchfish on an annual basis. CRUK will be updating its grant conditions to make the submission of data through Researchfish a mandatory requirement for all relevant researchers.

More information can be found here.

New research data management support website

The University has launched a new website offering researchers support and guidance with research data management: http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/. Covering the whole research process from data management planning to depositing data in long-term data repository, the website provides information about funder requirements, relevant software and services, and what training is available. There is also an email address and contact form for queries not covered elsewhere on the site.

Bringing Isis Innovation closer to researchers

Isis Innovation is pleased to announce the opening of five new hot-desks in Oxford University departments

These hot-desks will serve as easy access points for Oxford researchers, students and support staff to talk to Isis about intellectual property, technology transfer or academic consultancy.

The creation of the Isis hot-desks has been achieved in collaboration with the hosting departments and all are now fully operational. It is hoped that the presence of Isis staff at the hot-desks will make it easier for staff from both hosting and nearby departments to access Isis expertise and advice.

The departments currently hosting new Isis hot-desks are as follows:

DPAG (Le Gros Clark building basement):
- Every Monday 9am–5pm
- Hot-desk co-ordinator weng.wong@isis.ox.ac.uk
- Tel no. during hot-desk hours: 01865 (2)82349 and (2)82348

The Kennedy Institute (room 10.40):
- Every Friday 9am–5pm
- Hot-desk co-ordinator Nikolaos.chalkias@isis.ox.ac.uk
- Tel no. during hot-desk hours: 01865 (6)12661

Research Services at Worcester Street (ground floor in KEIT office):
- Every Friday 9am–12 noon
- Hot-desk co-ordinator Mairi.gibbs@isis.ox.ac.uk
- Tel no. during hot-desk hours: 01865 616580

Begbroke Science Park (Begbroke farm house):
- Every Monday 12 noon–5pm
- Hot-desk co-ordinator Richard.holliday@isis.ox.ac.uk
- Tel no. during hot-desk hours: 01865 (2)83786

SBS Launchpad:
- Every Friday 9am–12 noon
- Hot-desk co-ordinator Roy.azoulay@isis.ox.ac.uk
- No phone number – please email or ask James Murray, the Launchpad Curator
These hot-desks complement the usual weekly drop-in sessions that Isis already runs in Chemistry, Engineering, Physics, the WIMM and bi-monthly in Maths. A further new hot-desk in Plant Sciences is planned and Isis will continue to explore the opportunity to establish others in locations such as the John Radcliffe hospital.

Current drop-in sessions in other departments:

Engineering
- Every Wednesday morning in the Holder Building Café
- Contact Andy Robertson andy.robertson@isis.ox.ac.uk

Chemistry
- Every Friday morning 9–12 at Angela Russell’s office, 2nd floor CRL
- Contact Andrew Bowen andrew.bowen@isis.ox.ac.uk

Physics
- Every Thursday morning 9–12 in the Denys Wilkinson Café West with occasional alternating visits in the Clarendon Lab Café East
- Contact Jon Carr jon.carr@isis.ox.ac.uk

WIMM
- Every Thursday morning 10–12, Central café in the WIMM: watch for announcements on the flat screen
- Contact Matt Carpenter matthew.carpenter@isis.ox.ac.uk

Maths
- Bi-monthly, New Common Room in the Andrew Wiles Building
- Contact Andy Robertson andy.robertson@isis.ox.ac.uk

If you have any questions about the hot-desks please contact Isis’s University Relationship Manager, Dr Fiona Story, on Fiona.story@isis.ox.ac.uk. If you would like to book an appointment at a hot-desk please email the relevant co-ordinator or call the hot-desk number during its opening hours.

We are keen that we optimise the use of these hot-desks and welcome feedback from researchers on all aspects of their operation. If you are interested in establishing an Isis hot-desk in your department please contact Fiona Story – we would be pleased to hear from you.

About Isis Innovation

Isis manages the University’s intellectual property portfolio, working with University researchers on identifying, protecting and marketing technologies through licensing, spin-out company formation, consulting and material sales. Isis funds patent applications and legal costs, negotiates exploitation and spin-out company agreements, and identifies and manages consultancy opportunities. Isis works on projects from all areas of the University’s research activities: life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences and humanities. Isis provides access to Oxford’s expertise and provides researchers with advice on commercialisation.

Isis Innovation Limited is wholly owned by the University of Oxford.

Isis helps Oxford University researchers to commercialise intellectual property arising from their research: patenting, licensing, spin-out companies.

Isis manages Oxford University Consulting which helps Oxford University researchers to identify and manage consulting opportunities and helps clients access experts from Oxford’s world-class, interdisciplinary research base.

http://www.isis-innovation.com

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

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 14th September. Interviews will be held the week of 29th September.
How to apply:

Applicants must apply through Career Connect. Please search for vacancy 63140. If you do not yet have an account on Career Connect, please visit [http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/our-services/careerconnect/](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
- A description of the status of the venture, your stake to build the business in the UK, and an overview of what you imagine the venture doing/being in two years, including 5 key milestones along the way.

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/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier1/graduate-entrepreneur/)

Oxford University Hospitals wants you!

Did you know that staff working for the University of Oxford in a department within the Medical Sciences Division can apply to become a member of the staff constituency?

Staff who work for the MSD are not automatically members even if they work on a Trust site – you need to sign up.

We hope that many MSD staff will want to become members and have a say in our future. Members are able to vote or stand for election to the Council of Governors and are sent regular newsletters about updates on what is happening at the Trust as well as invitations to events.

Staff can become members, either by completing a form, or by applying on-line at [www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft).
Funding Opportunities

Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research

Each year the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust offers a single award to support a programme of translational biomedical research. Each institution can submit one bid only and we are seeking outstanding applicants for this highly competitive award. Previous award winners include Professor Alison Simmons from Oxford (2011).

The competition offers a grant of up to £1.5 million over a maximum of five years. Full details of the scheme can be found at: http://www.julesthorntrust.org.uk/index.php/programmes/medical-research.html

Individuals wishing to be Oxford’s preferred bid need to provide the Medical Sciences Divisional Office with an expression of interest no later than noon on Monday 18th August in order that a preferred applicant can be identified and provided with sufficient time to finalise their submission to the Trust by the 3rd October 2014.

The expression of interest should consist of no more than 2 pages of A4 summarising the proposed research, and explaining why it would be suitable for a translational study, the timescale for clinical applicability, the unmet need which is to be investigated and how the research will meet that need PLUS a one page CV for the principal investigator, including main publications. Expressions of interest should be sent to Leila Whitworth leila.whitworth@medsci.ox.ac.uk

Returning Carer’s Fund

A Returning Carer’s Fund has been established as part of the Vice-Chancellor’s Diversity Fund for the advancement of diversity among academic and research staff at Oxford.

Applications are invited from women and men for funding of up to £5k to support the development of their research career following a break to care for a child or close relative. In exceptional circumstances, larger amounts may be awarded, up to an absolute maximum of £10k.

Support could include, but is not limited to: teaching buy-out, training or professional development, short-term secondments, conference attendance, short-term research or administrative assistance, funding visits to Oxford by your research collaborator(s).

There will be two closing dates for applications: September 15 2014 and February 28 2015. Applications should be submitted on the application form (attached) and sent to Jennifer Anderson (Athena SWAN advisor and facilitator) at jennifer.anderson@medsci.ox.ac.uk or athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

For further details see http://intranet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/returning-carers-fund or contact Jennifer Anderson.

This fund is supported by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Biomedical Research Centre

Image: Ulla Räisänen (Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences) and her daughter at the department’s family summer party. Taken by Nasir Hamid. Copyright: Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

Bridging the Gaps between Engineering Sciences and Antimicrobial Resistance

As part of the cross-council initiative in Antimicrobial Resistance the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council is highlighting this future call which will aim to engage engineering and physical sciences researchers to develop networks within their institutions focused on the four multidisciplinary themes in the cross-council AMR initiative. These networks will support people to build capacity and understanding which could lead to future research proposals. This intervention is based on the success of ‘Bridging the Gaps’ which allowed institutions to undertake a range of people-focused activities to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations, funding for which can be difficult to find elsewhere.

EPSRC will expect co-ordinated responses to this call. Details of Oxford’s internal process will be published on the co-ordinated bids website shortly. In the meantime, any engineers or computational/physical scientists with relevant interests/expertise and any bioscientists/clinical researchers working in the area who are looking to establish links with EPS disciplines are asked to email Keri Dexter (MPLS Divisional Office, keri.dexter@mpls.ox.ac.uk) to register their interest.

To find out more about this initiative, please see http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/calls/epsantimicrobialresistance/

Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund
Deadline 12 September 2014

It seed funds Knowledge Exchange activities. Awards are typically up to £2,500. It supports exploratory and small scale new activities around starting or consolidating links with non-academic partners. Activities include knowledge exchange collaborations and collaboration development, building mutually informative engagements with practitioners and stakeholder groups, KE towards R&D, proof of concept and commercialisation, networking to explore collaboration priorities and opportunities, and the KE Seed Fund particularly welcomes innovative approaches to knowledge exchange.

The KE Seed Fund does not fund activities for which existing funding or funding streams exist, and it does not fund departments’/units’ regular or normally expected activities. It does not fund research or pure public engagement.

Specification and application form: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/findfunding/internal-kei-opps/#d.en.156465
Fellowship Opportunities

Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Psychology

St. John’s College invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for a five-year fixed-term Supernumerary Teaching Fellowship in Psychology (without membership of Governing Body). The appointment is available from 1st January 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter and will end on 30th September 2021. This is a fixed-term career development post intended for candidates who are at an early stage of their academic career.

For further information, please see http://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/about-us/job-opportunities/supernumerary-teaching-fellowship-in-psychology

Lincoln College Non-Stipendiary Research Fellowships

The George and Susan Brownlee Junior Research Fellowship in Biomedical Sciences
The Kemp Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Medical Sciences

Further particulars and application forms are available from the College website: www.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/Research-Fellowships-Non-Stipendiary

Applications close Wednesday 3 September.

Colt Foundation Fellowships in Occupational/Environmental Health

The Colt Foundation is interested in high quality research projects in the field of occupational and environmental health, particularly those aimed at discovering the cause of illnesses arising from conditions in the workplace.

The Foundation awards Fellowships each year to persons who are qualified in science or medicine who are carrying out research within the area of occupational and environmental health at a UK university. The Fellowship is normally for three years and the research is expected to lead to a PhD degree.

Application deadline: Monday 13 October.

For further details, please see https://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/study-or-funding/prof-doctorates/colt-foundation-fellowships-occupationalenvironmental-health-2014
Engagement Opportunities

Outreach Grants available from the British Pharmacological Society

Have you got a great idea for a pharmacology outreach or public engagement activity? Apply for one of BPS’s outreach grants and put your plan into action!

Grants of up to £1500 are available to support innovative pharmacology outreach and public engagement activities. These grants are available to both BPS members and non-members, including schools and teachers, and the project should usually take place within six months of the application deadline. Some examples of activities previously funded by BPS outreach grants can be found online.

The current round of applications closes on Monday 15 September 2014. To apply, please visit their website and submit a completed application form to education@bps.ac.uk.

Scientific Outreach Grants from the Biochemical Society

The Biochemical Society have grants of up to £1000 available to help fund activities that communicate the excitement of molecular bioscience, or more general biology, to young people and the community. Their activities library (http://www.biochemistry.org/Grants/EducationalGrants/ScientificOutreachGrants/Activitieslibrary.aspx) has some ideas you could use, including downloadable activity cards, useful links, and details of past activities for inspiration.

The deadline for the next round of applications is 24th September 2014.
For more details please see http://www.biochemistry.org/Grants/EducationalGrants/ScientificOutreachGrants.aspx

British Science Association seeking trustees

The British Science Association is pleased to invite applications for a new intake of externally appointed trustees to help us achieve our new mission.

They want to see a world where science is seen as a fundamental part of our culture and society, not just a profession or a subject. Established in 1831, the BSA run science festivals, work with schools, organise a national science week, promote science communication, and much more.

Under their new Chief Executive they are planning an ambitious new strategy to re-establish the Association as one the UK’s leading organisations for public engagement with science.

The Association has a number of upcoming vacancies for externally appointed trustees to join our governing body (Council). They are looking for individuals who are passionate about the role of science in society to help guide, promote, and govern the Association at this exciting time of change and transition.

Collectively, trustees share ultimate responsibility to the Charity Commission for the Association’s charitable objectives, their ~£3.5m turnover and ~30 staff. Trustees serve on a voluntary, unpaid capacity for an initial term of three years, which can be extended by a further three years. Reasonable expenses are reimbursed. The Association’s governing body, Council, meets quarterly at their headquarters in South Kensington.

New Trustees

The appointments committee is particularly keen to hear from people with expertise or interests in the following areas:

- Non-scientists with a lay but demonstrable interest in making links between science and broader culture
- Individuals with experience in business, industry, and finance – particularly, but not exclusively, in a scientific context
- Scientists with a passion for communicating science to a wider audience, and particularly in giving people who aren’t professional scientists a greater role in the future of science and scientific debates
- Individuals with leadership qualities, to fill an upcoming vacancy for Chair of Trustees

However, all serious applications will be considered on their own merits – so if you don’t fit into one of the above categories but believe you have something to offer, please get in touch.

For an informal discussion about the role please contact the Chief Executive (imran.khan@britishscienceassociation.org). For a list of the Association’s current trustees, click here.

To express an interest please email Imran Khan, at the address above, with your CV and a short statement about your suitability and interest by noon on the 26th of August.
BBC Academy looking for BAME Experts

The BBC Academy is holding a series of free introductions to the world of broadcasting to help people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds feel comfortable appearing on television, radio and online as expert contributors or presenters, and to boost the diversity of experts appearing in the media.

The BAME Talent Days will be held in London (9 Oct), Birmingham (27 Nov), Bristol (29 Jan), Salford (26 Feb) and Glasgow (12 March).

Applications are now open for the London BAME Talent Day which is looking for BAME experts with recognised expertise in the following subject areas:

- Cultural Commentary – is your expertise in popular entertainment, the arts, literature or areas like social policy or national identity?
- History – the Tudors, the First World War, the ancient world or modern Britain, which period are you passionate about? Are you an academic, custodian, auctioneer or museum curator?
- Science – do you have expertise in a subject – from forensics to biology – recognised in the academic, research or commercial world?
- Health and medicine – are you medically qualified?
- Finance and statistics – can you communicate about numbers, from personal finance to big business?
- Food and nutrition – are you a chef, cook or expert on farming and food production?

The application deadline for the London event is 31 August. More information, including details of how to apply, can be found at [http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/work-in-broadcast/events/expert-voices/article/art20140716164003212](http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/work-in-broadcast/events/expert-voices/article/art20140716164003212).

Experts who are interested in attending the Birmingham, Bristol, Salford and Glasgow events can register their interest now and will be sent a reminder when the applications open: expertvoices.birmingham@bbc.co.uk, expertvoices.bristol@bbc.co.uk, expertvoices.salford@bbc.co.uk and expertvoices.glasgow@bbc.co.uk. For details of the subject areas they’ll be targeting in these cities, see [http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/work-in-broadcast/events/expert-voices/article/art20140716164003212#events](http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/work-in-broadcast/events/expert-voices/article/art20140716164003212#events).

Wellcome Trust Provision for Public Engagement

The Wellcome Trust now provide dedicated funding for public engagement within research projects.

This new Provision for Public Engagement enables researchers to incorporate public engagement activities, and their associated costs, into research projects.

The Provision for Public Engagement can be included in new grant applications or can applied for to supplement existing grants with at least two years of funding remaining.
Volunteer Opportunities

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.

OxWATCH study now recruiting!

We are looking for women between the ages of 18 and 40 who are hoping to become pregnant with their first child, and have an Oxfordshire home address

The OxWATCH Study – a unique collaboration between the NHS and three departments of the University of Oxford: the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and the Cardiovascular Clinical Research Facility at the John Radcliffe Hospital – is the first of its kind to research the wellbeing and lifestyle of women planning a pregnancy in order to understand the likelihood of different diseases in later life. To build a full and detailed picture, thousands of young Oxfordshire women who have not yet started their families are invited to join the pioneering project.

Some women develop conditions such as diabetes, pre-eclampsia and depression during pregnancy. These women are more at risk of associated complications later in life. To better understand which women might develop these conditions, we are measuring cardiovascular, metabolic and psychological health throughout the pregnancy and comparing them to those noted before.

Study participants will be asked to complete a wellbeing and lifestyle questionnaire and will have simple and easy measurements taken including a blood pressure, a blood test and a heart scan. The research team will then follow the women through any subsequent pregnancy and beyond.

The team hopes this will lead to better preparation for pregnancy, improved methods of preventing complications and earlier detection of problems when they do arise.

The OxWATCH team wants to recruit 300 women in the first pilot-phase and then expand the numbers to 12,000 women in Oxfordshire and other national centres.

For more information on taking part in the OxWATCH study please visit www.osprea.ox.ac.uk/oxwatch and fill out the contact form, or call 01865 572259
Other Items of Interest

Oxford Medical Alumni Weekend and Osler Lecture

19–21 September, with Osler Lecture, “Good Ageing: How should we pay for care when we are elderly?” on 20 September

Alumni Weekend

Join us in Oxford this September for the eighth Alumni Weekend in the city. Whether you can join us for three days or can only drop in for a few hours, we hope you’ll find something in our programme to tempt and inspire you.

For more details, please see https://www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk/

2014 Osler Lecture

“Good Ageing: How should we pay for care when we are elderly?”

Speaker: Sir Andrew Dilnot, Warden of Nuffield College, Chairman of the UK Statistics Authority
Saturday 20 September 2014 11.00am at the University of Oxford Museum of Natural History

In 1716 Christopher Bullock wrote in The Cobbler of Preston ‘Tis impossible to be sure of anything but Death and Taxes…’

In July 2011, on the release of Fairer Funding for All (the Commission’s recommendations to Government), Chairman of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, Sir Andrew Dilnot commented, ‘We should be celebrating the fact we are living longer and that younger people with disabilities are leading more independent lives than ever before. But instead we talk about the “burden of ageing” and individuals are living in fear, worrying about meeting their care costs.’

The President of Oxford Medical Alumni and the Head of the Medical Sciences Division warmly invite you to come to join Sir Andrew for an insider’s view of the issues – and the implications – of the findings and recommendations of the Commission Report. How might government, communities, and we as individuals, tackle the problems that arise as medicine makes it more likely that we will live longer, even with disability? As the generation of ‘baby boomers’ moves beyond retirement how will society cope?

A reception and lunch will be held afterwards in the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre for Oxford Medical Alumni. Book here for the reception and lunch.

Experience as Evidence?

A two-day symposium on the sciences of subjectivity in healthcare, policy and practice
13 & 14 October 2014
St Hugh’s College, Oxford
Further information: http://experience-as-evidence.org/
Registration: http://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=5&catid=368

Oxford University Museums: 16 lightning talks illuminating the museums and what we do

29 September 2014, 1.30–6.30pm (including drinks reception)
Museum of Natural History, Free

Join us for an afternoon of short talks illuminating the work of the Oxford University Museums. Discover how exhibitions are planned and displays interpreted, learn how we engage with schools and the public and communicate academic research into engaging activities for the public, and look behind the scenes at conservation, fundraising and IT.

For full details and to book visit: http://www.oxfordaspiremuseums.org/oxford-university-museums-conference

Digital Health Oxford meetup

Monday 1 September, 6:30pm
The next Digital Health Oxford meetup (DHOx #6) will be held on Monday 1st Sept at 6.30pm in the new John Henry Brookes Building (Headington Campus), with two main speakers (to be confirmed shortly) and short presentations from a number of teams at July's Digital Health Hack.

Details and signup can be found at http://www.meetup.com/Digital–Health–Oxford/events/199095122/.

‘The Culture of Scientific Research: A discussion event with the Nuffield Council of Bioethics’

Oxford Brookes, 2 September 2014
You are warmly invited to attend a lunchtime discussion event on the culture of scientific research jointly hosted by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and Oxford Brookes University.

2 September, 12.30–2.00pm in the Kennedy Room, John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane Campus, Oxford and preceded by a sandwich lunch from noon in JHB307 (next door to the Kennedy Room).

This event is part of a project being conducted by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics. The aims of the event are to promote debate and gather views on 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 careers. The findings of the project will be written up, published and presented to policy makers towards the end of 2014. We will be considering questions such as:

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

The event will be Chaired by Dr Andy Greenfield, Medical Research Council and Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority with:

- Professor Alistair Fitt, Pro Vice–Chancellor for Research & Knowledge Exchange, Oxford Brookes University
- Dr Emily Flashman, Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellow, Oxford University
- Professor Ian Walmsley, Hooke Professor of Experimental Physics, Oxford University

Find out more at http://nuffieldbioethics.org/research–culture/research–culture–research–culture–discussion–events or contact Susan Brooks sbrooks@brookes.ac.uk

The event is free and open to all but places are limited – so please book at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sci–culture–Oxford

Clinical Training Fellows Careers Advice Meeting

15 September, 4:30–6:00pm, Seminar Room at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine
This meeting will provide information about support for academic clinical careers, including advice for overseas trainees, with short talks from current academic clinical trainees about how they are tackling the challenges of progressing up the academic ladder post-PhD. There will be representation from the Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School (OUCAGS) and opportunities for discussion, as well as drinks and nibbles.

The following people will give talks:

Chris Pugh is Professor of Renal Medicine at Oxford University, and Honorary Consultant Physician at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust. Since 2012 Chris has been the Director of OUCAGS, which exists to support and strengthen clinical academic training.
Noemi Roy is an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Haematology. Her research aims to understand the role in normal red blood cell development of LPIN2, a gene that is mutated in a rare type of inherited anaemia.

Konstantinos Manolopoulos is a Clinical Lecturer in Endocrinology and Diabetes with a research interest in human metabolic physiology, focusing on the hormonal determinants of adipose tissue function.

Ben Fairfax is an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Medical Oncology, with a research interest in the application of genetic techniques to improve individual cancer treatments.

For more information, please see http://www.oucags.ox.ac.uk/our-programmes/news/careers-event

CTFs: if you would like to attend, or if you have any questions, please email Valentine Macaulay valentine.macaulay@imm.ox.ac.uk and her secretary Penny Berry (molonc.sec@imm.ox.ac.uk).