

This month, we speak to Maria Kendall-Belcher, Executive Assistant to the Divisional Secretary. It is quite appropriate to have Maria feature in the November issue, as it's both her birth month (and no she is not going to reveal her age) and also the anniversary month of when she joined the University and Medical Sciences back in 2002.



Tell us a little about your role

My role is primarily to support Dr David Bryan, the Divisional Secretary, and includes diary management, fielding calls and enquiries, general administrative support for various committees, the Medical Sciences Board, Trustee bodies and fitness to practise procedures. I also assist in co-ordinating the annual funding exercise with the Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund and also the divisional Recognition of Distinction exercise.

[Read more...](#)

LAB TALK

In this month's issue, we speak to Professor Alison Simmons, from the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine. Professor Simmons is the first Oxford-Harrington Scholar and discusses with us the benefits of the programme, which is launching officially on 14 November.

Tell us a little about the work in your lab

Our work involves understanding mechanisms of innate immune sensing that breakdown in disease. We have investigated the function of the innate sensor NOD2. Genetic variants in NOD2 are associated with the development of Crohn's disease. We have recently undertaken work that describes the molecular pathway in which NOD2 acts and defined a node in this cascade that directs multiple immune functions of NOD2 dysregulated in Crohn's. We have developed a biomarker within the cascade that is being used to stratify Crohn's patients and define new drug targets in collaboration with the Target Discovery Institute here in Oxford.



[Read more...](#)

IT NEWS

In this issue:

- (1) [Important news from MSD IT Services](#)
- (2) [News from \(central\) IT Services](#)
- (3) [IT Services Research Support team now offering support for software selection and sustainability](#)
- (4) [Research Software Engineers AGM report](#)
- (5) [News from the IT Learning Programme](#)
- (6) [Invitation to shape the future of Oxford Nexus – Your input please](#)

[Read more...](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

Important Updates

Presentations and discussions of the MSD culture change survey results

Call for Final Honour School Research Projects 2015

Oxford-Harrington Scholars launch event

Medical Sciences Divisional peer mentoring scheme for research staff

Old Road Campus Developments and Updates New divisional intranet pages launched to help keep you up to date with ORC developments

At its meeting on 21 October, the Medical Sciences Board:

- (1) reappointed Professors Rodney Phillips, David Paterson and Dame Kay Davies for further three year terms as Associate Heads of Division for, respectively, Finance and Physical Capital; Education; and Development, Impact and Equality.
- (2) endorsed the proposal for a new MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine following the further work that had been done on this since the previous meeting of the Board.
- (3) received a report that the University did not have any direct investments in the tobacco industry and agreed to propose that the University should not receive *donations* from individuals who have worked in or closely with the tobacco industry, the current provision being that the individuals should be actively involved in the tobacco industry.

[Read more...](#)

ATHENA SWAN NEWS

In this issue:

- (1) [Prof Dame Kay Davies nominated for the WISE Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
- (2) [Free membership of WISE for female students](#)
- (3) [Shared parental leave \(SPL\)](#)
- (4) [New recruitment and selection training for panel chairs](#)
- (5) [Talks and Events](#)
 - [Women in Science in South Parks Road](#)
- (6) [Articles and Resources](#)
 - [Industry campaign to improve women's retention and progression](#)
 - [Male Scientists' Competing Devotions to Work and Family: Changing Norms in a Male-Dominated Profession](#)
 - [Nancy Rothwell on being the University of Manchester's first female vice-chancellor](#)

[Read more...](#)



LIBRARY NEWS

In this issue:

- (1) [Automatic library access to the Cairns Library and Knowledge Centre for MScs and DPhils](#)
- (2) [Ebola Outbreak: resources for researchers, medical professionals and the wider public](#)
- (3) [Free workshop with IT and Library skills & services for your research – Medical Sciences](#)
- (4) [Remembering Radcliffe: 300 years of science and philanthropy](#)

[Read more...](#)

Receive a weekly digest of all MSD events

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

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?

Funding Opportunities

NIHR Research Professorships Call for Applications Deadline Today

Pfizer Rare Disease Consortium Funding Call Deadline 8 December

ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Calls Now Open Funding available for knowledge exchange activities. Briefing session on 21 Nov.

Would you like £1000 to develop a new inter-disciplinary research project on a social science question? Registration deadline today

Funding opportunities for Science-Humanities Collaboration TORCH is offering funded studentships and sabbaticals designed to create new interest in, and opportunities for, research that reaches between the humanities and sciences.

OneStart competition - Your chance to win £100k to realise your life science business idea

£20k Prize for Best Paper with 3Rs Impact The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) is seeking nominations for its 2014 3Rs prize

Fellowship Opportunities

250 Great Minds Academic Fellowships leading to Associate Professor roles at the University of Leeds

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Short-Term Research Fellowships Call for researchers to conduct collaborative research at Japanese Universities and Research Institutions now open

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 Michaelmas Term 2014.

FameLab is back! Calling all scientists and engineers to take part in its flagship science communication competition.

Volunteer Opportunities

Healthy volunteers and depressed individuals required for brain scanning study

Brain study on anxiety and depression seeks volunteers

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

NDM celebrates the international year of crystallography

Cast your vote for Healthtalk.org - shortlisted in Website of the Year Awards Health experience website shortlisted in Charity and People's Choice categories

Annual Oxford Developmental Biology Symposium Poster presentation submission deadline Friday 14 November

SynOx Michaelmas Seminar Series Synthetic Biology Seminar Programme from the Oxford University Society of Synthetic Biology (SynOx)

Gazette, Blueprint and Oxford Magazine Distribution Changes Members of staff need to opt-in online to continue receiving Gazette, Blueprint and the Oxford Magazine

Careers Events for Research Staff Michaelmas Term Careers workshops for research staff, Academic Application and Interview Skills for Researchers, MBTI workshop for Researchers, One to one appointments

Springboard Development Programme for Researchers Opening Now Award-winning personal and professional development programme for women

Early Career Academic Outreach Network MT Training Programme

A course for Oxford academic staff who act as expert witnesses

Oxford Martin School Michaelmas Term Seminar Series Health in the 21st Century: what's new?

Science Summit: Making an Impact Last few places remaining for this conference focused on achieving excellence in research

AND FINALLY...



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

- (1) Sign up [here](#) to receive a **weekly digest** of events/seminars/talks/workshops taking place across the Division
- (2) Visit the [Divisional What's On calendar](#) or [Oxford Talks](#)
- (3) Join over 2000 people following [@OxfordMedSci](#) on **Twitter**
- (4) Check out **your department's website** seminar listing (see list of departments [here](#))

[Read more...](#)

(Image courtesy of sumetho / FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

Clinical DPhils Path study

OUCAGS

Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School

Clinical DPhil Paths study

Clinical DPhil Paths is a study of the career plans of clinical DPhil students and is being conducted by OUCAGS (Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School). It started in 2013, with a survey of all Oxford clinical DPhil students and focus groups, and will run until 2017–18 to follow the development of clinicians' career plans during and beyond their DPhil.

The study's emerging findings are informing OUCAGS' approach to post-doctoral clinical academic careers, including the organisation, this academic year, of a careers seminar for clinical DPhil students (to be advertised in MedSci News). Findings from the study will also be more widely available at the end of the study, as they will be of interest locally and nationally to those seeking to understand the place of the research degree in medical careers.

Read more: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/x/8aKc0Z>

Message from Head of Division

Thank you to all of you who took the time to participate in the C-Change survey. The aim of the survey was to help us understand how to create a more supportive, inclusive and engaging culture within the division. We now have the results and invite all academic, research, administrative and support staff to join Dr Linda Pololi (Director of the US National Initiative on Gender, Culture, and Leadership in Medicine at Brandeis University) and myself on 12, 13, or 14 November, to discuss the survey results more fully. For further details see [here](#).



The Oxford-Harrington Scholar programme will be launched this month. It is a joint programme, a partnership between the US-based Harrington Discovery Institute and the University of Oxford. The programme provides awards and support to selected researchers at Oxford to enable translation of discovery science into medicines that improve human health. If you are interested in participating in this programme, please join us on 14 November. For further details see [here](#).

Finally, in my capacity as Dean of the Medical School, I am very pleased to announce that Professor Peter Sullivan, who recently demitted office as Head of the Department of Paediatrics, has agreed to take on the role of Associate Dean (Postgraduate Medicine) to assist me in maintaining the University's contribution to ensuring excellence in postgraduate clinical medical training in Oxford. A major part of this role will be to represent the University on the Board of Health Education Thames Valley. Peter is currently also Director of Medical Education (and Associate Medical Director) for the OUH NHS Trust.

Sixty Seconds with ...

Maria Kendall-Belcher, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Medical Sciences Division

This month, we speak to Maria Kendall-Belcher, Executive Assistant to the Divisional Secretary. It is quite appropriate to have Maria feature in the November issue, as it's both her birth month (and no she is not going to reveal her age) and also the anniversary month of when she joined the University and Medical Sciences back in 2002.



Tell us a little about your role

My role is primarily to support Dr David Bryan, the Divisional Secretary, and includes diary management, fielding calls and enquiries, general administrative support for various committees, the Medical Sciences Board, Trustee bodies and fitness to practise procedures. I also assist in co-ordinating the annual funding exercise with the Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund and also the divisional Recognition of Distinction exercise.

What changes have you seen in the Division over the years?

It seems difficult to believe that I have been here twelve years but during this time I have seen the building of the Children's Hospital and West Wing; the closure of the Radcliffe Infirmary and the transfer of NHS services, including the Eye Hospital, up to Headington; the re-organisation and refurbishment of the Medical Sciences Divisional Office as the Divisions have taken on more responsibilities from the Central University; the relocation of the Medical School Office to the old Blackwell's Medical Bookshop site (which used to be here at the JR) and the merger of some departments across the Division.

How did you get where you are today?

I joined the University from the private sector never having previously worked in Higher Education. It was a whole new learning curve for me but I am still here and still learning. I previously worked for an IT company providing online help systems. I was Office Manager and Training Co-ordinator organising their regular in-house training programme, external seminars and an annual, large, international conference so I was very lucky to have travelled and seen some wonderful places whilst working with them. This position enabled me to develop my IT, organisational and communication skills. Unfortunately the recession hit and the company went into liquidation forcing me to seek new employment.

What do you like to do to relax?

Living in the Cotswolds, I love to take every opportunity to explore the local area where I live and walk our dog whilst taking in the beautiful views and countryside. You will often find me lost in the Silk Woods at Westonbirt Arboretum! I enjoy quite a variety of music and dance including Latin American and country and western and I salsa and line dance, quite a contrast I know! To try to keep fit, I have taken up Zumba fitness and yes, I love it so much I even have the T shirt!

Board Business

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

At its meeting on 21 October, the Medical Sciences Board:

- (1) reappointed Professors Rodney Phillips, David Paterson and Dame Kay Davies for further three year terms as Associate Heads of Division for, respectively, Finance and Physical Capital; Education; and Development, Impact and Equality.
- (2) endorsed the proposal for a new MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine following the further work that had been done on this since the previous meeting of the Board.
- (3) received a report that the University did not have any direct investments in the tobacco industry and agreed to propose that the University should not receive *donations* from individuals who have worked in or closely with the tobacco industry, the current provision being that the individuals should be actively involved in the tobacco industry.
- (4) received a report on Athena SWAN developments and noted that a 'Returning Carer's Fund', to which the Biomedical Research Centre had made a contribution, had been established as part of the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund.
- (5) received a report from the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee and agreed: to support the revised funding proposal for the University's Capital Masterplan, subject to clarifications regarding the criteria for qualifying for 'free' capital in terms of funds raised externally, the future of the capital charge waiver and the link between the cost of borrowing incurred by the University and the interest charged to projects; to accept the need for the Division to improve its financial performance for 2015-16 in line with a centrally determined savings target and therefore for a small group to propose how new financial controls would operate; and to support the FMRIB 3T replacement project.
- (6) received reports of two meetings of the Board's IT Committee and noted in particular the work that was continuing to be done on improving information governance and security.
- (7) received and noted a report from the Board's Research Committee including discussion of the need for a Public Engagement appointment at divisional level.
- (8) received a report from the Board's Educational Policy and Standards Committee and agreed to recommend to Council's Education Committee that the proposal for a new part-time on-line Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Sleep Medicine be approved.

Lab Talk

In this month's issue, we speak to Professor Alison Simmons, from the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine. Professor Simmons is the first Oxford–Harrington Scholar and discusses with us the benefits of the programme, which is launching officially on 14 November.

Tell us a little about the work in your lab

Our work involves understanding mechanisms of innate immune sensing that breakdown in disease. We have investigated the function of the innate sensor NOD2. Genetic variants in NOD2 are associated with the development of Crohn's disease. We have recently undertaken work that describes the molecular pathway in which NOD2 acts and defined a node in this cascade that directs multiple immune functions of NOD2 dysregulated in Crohn's. We have developed a biomarker within the cascade that is being used to stratify Crohn's patients and define new drug targets in collaboration with the Target Discovery Institute here in Oxford.



How do you think being an Oxford–Harrington Scholar will enhance your research?

A key translational remit of our work is to develop novel immunotherapies based on the information conducted in our molecular screens that would be used to repair defects observed in Crohn's.

While we are confident in our ability to undertake the biology required to define new targets and at the other end of the pipeline, to undertake clinical trials or experimental medicine studies with new therapies in suitable patients with IBD, my group lack expertise required to bridge the gap between target discovery and phase 1 trials. The Harrington Discovery Institute's (HDI) Innovation Support Center aims to provide the expertise to bridge this gap and efficiently advance projects toward clinical introduction. Importantly for us the HDI offers expertise in prioritizing targets for their feasibility and commercial viability for benefit of patients. It also helps identify the most efficient means to advance projects beyond academia, including company creation, sponsored research agreements and IP enhancement with the overarching aim of increasing the number of clinically useful drugs.

What have been the benefits of being an Oxford–Harrington Scholar so far?

We have just commenced the program and have benefited most so far from the critical appraisal of our work by leading international medicinal chemists with backgrounds in target validation, disease mechanisms and compound characterization in pre-clinical and clinical development. Each has major experience in advancing drug candidates into clinical development across a spectrum of therapeutic areas. This input has impacted on the direction in which we have taken our target discovery programme, facilitated an increase in throughput of candidate screening approaches and allowed us to access novel reagents that would have otherwise been unavailable.

You recently attended the Harrington Scientific Symposium in the US. What were the highlights of the symposium? What did you learn?

The symposia included talks from physician scientists describing novel therapeutic, diagnostic or care changing interventions across a spectrum of specialties. Firstly I was struck by the quality of the work described – each with a realistic and tangible chance of making a significant impact on management in the respective disease. The investigators described instances where the Harrington Innovation Centre had impacted on their work and it was clear the depth of knowledge and networks available in this scheme would be very difficult to access for most physician scientists without having undertaken high level work in pharmaceutical companies. The Symposia highlighted obstacles the various investigators had encountered that HDI had helped them overcome. These ranged from tractability of targets they were working on to IP obstacles that might have prevented introduction of interventions into the clinic. I was struck overall by innovativeness of the approaches being undertaken to tackle many so far intractable clinical problems.

Links:

[Professor Simmons webpage](#)

[Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine](#)

[Further information about the Oxford–Harrington Scholars Programme and launch event](#)

[Oxford–Harrington Scholars Programme Application Guidelines](#)

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. [Prof Dame Kay Davies nominated for the WISE Lifetime Achievement Award](#)
2. [Free membership of WISE for female students](#)
3. [Shared parental leave \(SPL\)](#)
4. [New recruitment and selection training for panel chairs](#)
5. [Talks and Events](#)
 1. [Women in Science in South Parks Road](#)
6. [Articles and Resources](#)
 1. [Industry campaign to improve women's retention and progression](#)
 2. [Male Scientists' Competing Devotions to Work and Family: Changing Norms in a Male-Dominated Profession](#)
 3. [Nancy Rothwell on being the University of Manchester's first female vice-chancellor](#)

Prof Dame Kay Davies nominated for the WISE Lifetime Achievement Award



WISE helps organisations to inspire women and girls to pursue STEM subjects as pathways to exciting and fulfilling careers and the WISE Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates the achievements of a woman who has had a truly outstanding career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics and has inspired and supported other women to follow in her footsteps. Prof Davies has been shortlisted for this award along with Prof Jean Manson (Head of Neurobiology at The Roslin Institute) and Loraine Martins (Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Network Rail).

The annual [WISE Awards](#) celebrate female talent in science, technology and engineering – from classroom to boardroom – and recognise the efforts of advisors, employers and other organisations to encourage and support women in STEM careers. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Thursday 13 November.

[Top](#)

Free membership of WISE for female students

Membership of WISE is now free to students. As a member you can connect with other women who love science, technology, engineering and maths; join the WISE campaign to inspire more girls to follow in your footsteps; access events and training opportunities; and receive a monthly e-newsletter. To find out more and sign up see: www.wisecampaign.org.uk/get-involved/student-membership

The University of Oxford is also a corporate member of WISE, which offers free individual membership for a number of our staff. If you would like to sign up, email gender.equality@admin.ox.ac.uk. Find out more about the benefits of membership at: www.wisecampaign.org.uk/get-involved/individual-membership

[Top](#)

Shared parental leave (SPL)

Shared parental leave is a new right that will be available as an option to parents of children due to be born/placed for adoption on or after 5 April 2015, enabling eligible parents to choose how to share time off work after a child is born/placed. It is intended to give parents more flexibility in deciding how to share the care of their child in the first year following birth/placement for adoption. Parents can decide to share a portion of the current 52 weeks' maternity leave entitlement and either take SPL together, or to take it in turns to have leave to look after the child. Personnel Services are working on updating their guidance, and will provide further details as soon as this is finalised.

Read more about the scheme at: www.gov.uk/shared-parental-leave-and-pay/overview

[Top](#)

New recruitment and selection training for panel chairs

The Oxford Learning Institute has updated the recruitment and selection online training course. This replaces the previous online recruitment and selection training, which can now be completed in modules rather than in one block.

Completion of recruitment and selection training is mandatory for all those chairing recruitment panels (at least every four years) and it is good practice for all those involved in recruitment panels and administration of recruitment.

Other valuable training courses for promoting a culture of equality include Challenging Behaviour (dealing with bullying and harassment), Unconscious Bias and Equality & Diversity.

All of these courses (along with numerous other personal development courses) can be found at the Oxford Learning Institute [website](#) using your single sign-on to log on.

[Top](#)

Talks and Events

Women in Science in South Parks Road

This seminar series has been designed to highlight the lives and work done by individuals across the South Parks Science Area. The seminars will look at how people at different stages in their careers combine their working and personal lives.

In the next seminar of the series Prof Dame Kay Davies (DPAG) will talk about her life as a woman in science. Hosted by Prof Jane Mellor (Department of Biochemistry) there will be the opportunity for questions, followed by networking over coffee and tea.

Date: Tuesday 18 November

Time: 11am–12pm

Location: Main Seminar Room, New Biochemistry Building, South Parks

[Top](#)

Articles and Resources

Industry campaign to improve women's retention and progression

An industry-led ten point plan has been launched, in conjunction with WISE, to help retain women in STEM. The steps include challenging bias and sexism whenever and wherever it occurs, promoting flexible working and increasing the transparency of opportunities for progression.

Male Scientists' Competing Devotions to Work and Family: Changing Norms in a Male-Dominated Profession

Using in-depth interviews with 74 men across different ranks in biology and physics at prestigious U.S. universities, the authors ask to what extent changing norms of fatherhood and a flexible workplace affect men working in a highly male-dominated profession and what variation exists in family forms. The authors conceptualize four typologies of men: those forgoing children, egalitarian partners, neotraditional dual earners, and traditional breadwinners. Findings suggest male scientists hold strong work devotions, yet a growing number seek egalitarian relationships, which they frame as reducing their devotion to work. The majority of men find the all-consuming nature of academic science conflicts with changing fatherhood norms.

<http://wox.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/08/07/0730888414539171.abstract>

Nancy Rothwell on being the University of Manchester's first female vice-chancellor

Professor Nancy Rothwell discusses her role as the first female Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University. She is one of three female heads in the Russell Group, alongside Alice Gast at Imperial and Janet Beer at Liverpool.

www.ft.com/cms/s/2/212bd72c-283d-11e4-9ea9-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3FRm1il1L

[Top](#)

IT News

Contents

1. [Important news from MSD IT services](#)
2. [News from \(central\) IT Services](#)
3. [IT Services Research Support team now offering support for software selection and sustainability](#)
4. [Research Software Engineers AGM report](#)
5. [News from the IT Learning Programme](#)
6. [Invitation to shape the future of Oxford Nexus – Your input please](#)

Important news from MSD IT services

MSD IT Services are in the final stages of their Windows XP End of Life project. All XP machines will be removed from MSD IT networks by 1 December 2014.



For further information, please see: <http://www.imsu.ox.ac.uk/content/end-life-microsoft-windows-xp-urgent>



News from (central) IT Services

The Michaelmas edition of News from IT Services is now available. The latest issue profiles Professor Lionel Tarassenko, the new Chair of the University Information Technology (IT) Committee, with an aptitude for 'Big Data' and includes updates on 'Chorus', Oxford's new unified communications service, and the new core network, which will be known as ODIN.

You can sign up to receive a regular email version of News from IT Services by sending an email to it-services-news-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk with the subject line 'subscribe'.

[Top](#)

IT Services Research Support team now offering support for software selection and sustainability

The [IT Services Research Support team](#) recently expanded the number of specialist areas in which it can offer help to researchers to include [software selection](#), [software sustainability](#), and [intellectual property](#). These derive in part from the experience gained by team members running [OSS Watch](#), the national centre of expertise in open source software and open development.

Selecting appropriate software or other technologies for a research project can be key to the success of the endeavour, and the Research Support team is happy to assist researchers in evaluating and selecting technologies, whether that's open source software, proprietary solutions, or cloud-based services.

Software sustainability is all about delivering long-term value from investments in software, particularly where software is being developed as part of funded research activities. Building software tools can often be an integral part of a research project, but what happens after the project ends? The team's advice is – don't wait to find out! Instead, it's important to invest in sustainability as early as possible – preferably right at the start of a project, or at least long enough before the project ends to ensure there are both the time and resources to develop a credible sustainability plan.

An example of the team's work in this area can be found on their [blog](#). This summer, the team was contacted by the [World Wide Antimalarial Resistance Network](#) (WWARN) to talk about the sustainability of several pieces of software they had developed. A key part of WWARN is its platform for collecting and mapping reports of resistance to antimalarial drugs, plus the web tools used for displaying this data, and WWARN were keen to see how the platform could be further developed, either to support researchers looking at other diseases, or for completely different fields of research with similar requirements. To do this, they needed a strategy for sharing the software and engaging external contributors. To read more about how the Research Support team helped them work towards achieving this, see the [full post](#).

If you have a software-related issue you'd like to discuss with a member of the Research Support team, please get in touch by emailing researchsupport@it.ox.ac.uk.

[Top](#)

Research Software Engineers AGM report

Researchers whose work involves developing software may be interested in hearing about what went on at the recent AGM of the UK Community of Research Software Engineers. The AGM was attended by a member of the [IT Services Research Support team](#), who blogged about it [here](#). The post discusses some of the possible approaches to software development in the higher education community, and also

provides some links for those who'd like to know more – or to join the discussion for themselves.

[Top](#)

News from the IT Learning Programme

For the third year running IT Services and the Bodleian Libraries are organising a series of talks and presentations for Engage: Social Media Michaelmas. The Engage programme offers a full term of events (lunchtime seminars, courses, workshops etc.) to explore different social media strategies and digital tools for use in an academic setting. For details of the lunchtime sessions visit <http://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/engage/social-media-michaelmas/programme-2014/>.

The sessions are held at IT Services 13 Banbury Road. If getting there is difficult, not to worry; this year we are streaming some of the talks with the supporting slides live! This means that you can tune in and listen to our speakers online for free. Take a look at the Engage blog (<http://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/engage/live-streaming/>) to see which talks are being recorded in this way and click on the relevant link just before the presentation is scheduled to start.

Our Research Skills Toolkit events for graduate research students run again this year between 2–5 December and 19–23 January. In lively two hour sessions you get hands-on experience with applications that you may not have thought of using in your studies and research. More details at <http://www.skillstoolkit.ox.ac.uk>

Our standard range of courses has proved popular again, with many courses being fully booked, but there are still some places available. Even if a course is full, get yourself on the waiting list and you may get a place if people cancel their booking. Details at <http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk>.

[Top](#)



Invitation to shape the future of Oxford Nexus – Your input please

C3E is an IT Services project designed to look at 'cloud' providers delivering Communication and Collaboration services, similar to our Nexus Exchange and SharePoint services. See <https://sharepoint.nexus.ox.ac.uk/c3eflyer> for more background. The project aims to inform future strategies of staying 'on premises' or moving the Nexus services to the cloud.

The project needs help in finding out what you value the most and in prioritising criteria for evaluating cloud services. A questionnaire will also be issued but participation, in person, at one of 3 sessions between **19–21 November** would be greatly appreciated. You will note that the Thursday (20th) session is now particularly themed for IT staff, but please attend any day if you're not available then and encourage other non-IT colleagues to book for another session.

We really need input from IT Staff, academics, researchers, admin staff and students. Email, room bookings, calendar management, documentation and work flows are core technologies used by nearly all at the University so a broad consultation is important.

For those concerned about their data being held by third parties, please be assured that this consideration is part of the project and people will have an opportunity to air those views in the consultation sessions and via the questionnaire.

For those wishing these services to be run on premises, the project is still useful. New valuable functionality has already been seen that could be deployed on premises.

The team needs to know what functionality is most important to you, so, whatever your view, please book to attend a session! And please pass this invitation on to other non-IT colleagues for consideration.

The sessions are themed as follows:

- 19 November 1000–1130: User functionality, Legal/Information Security, Compliance, FOI
- 20 November 1000–1130: IT Support, security and account management
- 21 November 1330–1500: User functionality, support, migration and emigration later etc.

Book at: <http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/OMW>

Library News

Contents

1. [Automatic library access to the Cairns Library and Knowledge Centre for MScs and DPhils](#)
2. [Ebola Outbreak: resources for researchers, medical professionals and the wider public](#)
3. [Free workshop with IT and Library skills & services for your research – Medical Sciences](#)
4. [Remembering Radcliffe: 300 years of science and philanthropy](#)

Automatic library access to the Cairns Library and Knowledge Centre for MScs and DPhils

If you're a current undertaking an MSc or DPhil within the MSD and want to use any of the BHCL Libraries you now have library membership automatically added to your University card. No need to fill in any forms, your card will let you in at the Cairns Library or Knowledge Centre.



Ebola Outbreak: resources for researchers, medical professionals and the wider public

In response to the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, a number of organisations and publishers have made information available to the general public as well as researchers and medical professionals.

Oxford University Press has made [50 articles from leading journals and online resources](#) freely accessible to assist researchers, medical professionals, policy makers, and others working on the containment, treatment, and prevention of Ebola hemorrhagic fever.

UpToDate has made the following UpToDate topics on the Ebola virus disease freely available to the public, and will update them as new information is reviewed:

- [Epidemiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of Ebola and Marburg virus disease](#)
- [Diagnosis and treatment of Ebola and Marburg virus disease](#)
- [Patient information: Ebola \(The Basics\)](#)

Elsevier is providing free access to medical research online and through mobile devices. This includes, for West Africa, free access to its primary online clinical information and reference tool, ClinicalKey, for the next two months.

For a full description of the programs and how to gain access: <http://www.elsevier.com/connect/free-access-to-medical-information-for-african-countries-battling-ebola>

The majority of these resources are already available to MSD and OUH staff, however colleagues elsewhere may be interested in free access to these articles.

[Top](#)

Free workshop with IT and Library skills & services for your research – Medical Sciences

A free **hands-on workshop** for research students. An opportunity for you to learn about a broad range of resources in one time-efficient session.

The 2-hour session focuses on the skills and tools that will streamline your academic work. You will encounter a variety of IT and Library tools and services to support your research. Relevant software, online services and libraries techniques are on offer for you to try out.

You will also meet with subject specialists for help and guidance on further training.

These workshops are open to graduate researchers in the Medical Sciences, in week 8 of Michaelmas and week 1 of Hilary Term.

[Read more here and book your place](#) – places are limited, book your place now

[Top](#)

Remembering Radcliffe: 300 years of science and philanthropy

The Libraries' winter exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of John Radcliffe, a physician and philanthropist who left a lasting mark on the University and city of Oxford. Radcliffe had an



uncanny ability to accurately diagnose and successfully treat many of his patients, including Queen Anne, and on his death left the bulk of his fortune to charitable causes.

The exhibition considers his legacy to Oxford, and the three buildings in the city which bear his name: the Radcliffe Infirmary, the Radcliffe Observatory, and the Radcliffe Camera: the first circular library in Britain, and one of the country's most distinctive and recognisable buildings. The exhibition will also look at Radcliffe's ongoing legacy in the work of the [Radcliffe Trust](#) as it marks the 300th anniversary of his death.

[Top](#)

Opportunities and Updates

Important Updates

Presentations and discussions of the MSD culture change survey results

Call for Final Honour School Research Projects 2015

Oxford–Harrington Scholars launch event

Medical Sciences Divisional peer mentoring scheme for research staff

Old Road Campus Developments and Updates New divisional intranet pages launched to help keep you up to date with ORC developments

Receive a weekly digest of all MSD events

Bringing Isis Innovation closer to researchers Isis Innovation is pleased to announce the opening of five new hot–desks in Oxford University departments

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?

Funding Opportunities

NIHR Research Professorships Call for Applications Deadline Today

Pfizer Rare Disease Consortium Funding Call Deadline 8 December

ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Calls Now Open Funding available for knowledge exchange activities. Briefing session on 21 Nov.

Would you like £1000 to develop a new inter–disciplinary research project on a social science question? Registration deadline today

Funding opportunities for Science–Humanities Collaboration TORCH is offering funded studentships and sabbaticals designed to create new interest in, and opportunities for, research that reaches between the humanities and sciences.

OneStart competition – Your chance to win £100k to realise your life science business idea

£20k Prize for Best Paper with 3Rs Impact The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) is seeking nominations for its 2014 3Rs prize

Fellowship Opportunities

250 Great Minds Academic Fellowships leading to Associate Professor roles at the University of Leeds

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Short–Term Research Fellowships Call for researchers to conduct collaborative research at Japanese Universities and Research Institutions now open

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 Michaelmas Term 2014.

FameLab is back! Calling all scientists and engineers to take part in its flagship science communication competition.

Volunteer Opportunities

Healthy volunteers and depressed individuals required for brain scanning study

Brain study on anxiety and depression seeks volunteers

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

NDM celebrates the international year of crystallography

Cast your vote for Healthtalk.org – shortlisted in Website of the Year Awards Health experience website shortlisted in Charity and People's Choice categories

Annual Oxford Developmental Biology Symposium Poster presentation submission deadline Friday 14 November

SynOx Michaelmas Seminar Series Synthetic Biology Seminar Programme from the Oxford University Society of Synthetic Biology (SynOx)

Gazette, Blueprint and Oxford Magazine Distribution Changes Members of staff need to opt–in online to continue receiving Gazette, Blueprint and the Oxford Magazine

Careers Events for Research Staff Michaelmas Term Careers workshops for research staff, Academic Application and Interview Skills for Researchers, MBTI workshop for Researchers, One to one appointments

Springboard Development Programme for Researchers Opening Now Award-winning personal and professional development programme for women

Early Career Academic Outreach Network MT Training Programme

A course for Oxford academic staff who act as expert witnesses

Oxford Martin School Michaelmas Term Seminar Series Health in the 21st Century: what's new?

Science Summit: Making an Impact Last few places remaining for this conference focused on achieving excellence in research

And Finally...

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

We have been working with departmental communication colleagues and event organisers and are now able to offer staff and students a variety of ways to keep up to date with seminars, talks, and workshops taking place across the Medical Sciences Division.



1. Sign up [here](#) to receive a **weekly digest** of events/seminars/talks/workshops taking place across the Division. (This will open up a new email in your email client – just hit send and it will automatically subscribe you at that email address. Alternatively, go to https://web.maillist.ox.ac.uk/ox/info/msd_events. You will be asked to log in and can then subscribe to the list by clicking the subscribe button on the left.).
2. Visit the **Divisional What's On calendar** or **Oxford Talks** for an almost complete listing of seminars, workshops and events.
3. Join over 2000 people following **@OxfordMedSci on Twitter**. Many talks are advertised on this platform.
4. Check out **your department's website** seminar listing (see list of departments [here](#)).

(Image courtesy of sumetho / FreeDigitalPhotos.net)

Presentations and discussions of the MSD culture change survey results



In Hilary Term, 2407 (63%) MSD faculty and staff members participated in the C-Change survey. This in-depth assessment of the current culture will compare Oxford to the leading US institutions in terms of faculty and staff engagement vitality, institutional/personal values alignment, gender and minority equity, leadership aspirations, ethical/moral distress, work-life integration, career self-efficacy, institutional support and mentoring. The results will help us understand how to create a more supportive, inclusive, and engaging culture for all academic/research faculty and administrative/support staff.

Dr Linda Pololi, MBBS, FRCP, Director of the US National Initiative on Gender, Culture, and Leadership in Medicine, Brandeis University, will come to Oxford to deliver the results in person. There will be three presentations in November on the JR, Old Road, and South Parks Road campuses. The presentations are designed to be interactive, and reactions and opinions to the results will be encouraged as well as suggestions for actions in relation to the findings. The presentations are open to all, although booking will be required for catering and health and safety purposes.

Details of the presentations are as follows:

Wed 12 November – Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

9.30 until 11.00am

Tea/coffee and pastries will be offered from 9am

Thu 13 November – NDM Research Building, Old Road Campus

12.30 until 2pm

A sandwich lunch will be offered from 12pm

Fri 14 November – Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Teaching Centre South Parks Road

12.30 until 13.45pm

A sandwich lunch will be offered from 12pm

Please select the date and site that are most convenient for you and book your place here:

<https://bookwhen.com/c-change>

Oxford–Harrington Scholars launch event

On 14th November 2014, the Oxford–Harrington Scholar programme will be launched to provide support to selected researchers at the University of Oxford to enable translation of discovery science into medicines that improve human health. Up to three awards will be made to Oxford researchers working on clinical translational projects.

This new call will be formally launched at an event on the 14th November 2014 from 11am – 1pm in the Seminar Room, NDM Research Building. The event will include talks from Professor Sir John Bell, Dr Jonathan Stamler (Director of Harrington Discovery Institute) and Professor Alison Simmons (Oxford's first Harrington scholar awardee). Lunch will be provided.

Please [register your interest](#) to attend the launch event.

Important Updates

Presentations and discussions of the MSD culture change survey results



In Hilary Term, 2407 (63%) MSD faculty and staff members participated in the C-Change survey. This in-depth assessment of the current culture will compare Oxford to the leading US institutions in terms of faculty and staff engagement vitality, institutional/personal values alignment, gender and minority equity, leadership aspirations, ethical/moral distress, work-life integration, career self-efficacy, institutional support and mentoring. The results will help us understand how to create a more supportive, inclusive, and engaging culture for all academic/research faculty and administrative/support staff.

Dr Linda Pololi, MBBS, FRCP, Director of the US National Initiative on Gender, Culture, and Leadership in Medicine, Brandeis University, will come to Oxford to deliver the results in person. There will be three presentations in November on the JR, Old Road, and South Parks Road campuses. The presentations are designed to be interactive, and reactions and opinions to the results will be encouraged as well as suggestions for actions in relation to the findings. The presentations are open to all, although booking will be required for catering and health and safety purposes.

Details of the presentations are as follows:

Wed 12 November – Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

9.30 until 11.00am

Tea/coffee and pastries will be offered from 9am

Thu 13 November – NDM Research Building, Old Road Campus

12.30 until 2pm

A sandwich lunch will be offered from 12pm

Fri 14 November – Lecture Theatre, Medical Sciences Teaching Centre South Parks Road

12.30 until 13.45pm

A sandwich lunch will be offered from 12pm

Please select the date and site that are most convenient for you and book your place here:

<https://bookwhen.com/c-change>

Call for Final Honour School Research Projects 2015

The Course Directors for Pre-clinical Medicine and Biomedical Sciences are seeking around 180 research projects for candidates of the Final Honour Schools of Medical Sciences, Cell & Systems Biology and Neuroscience.

Typically research projects begin in May and should occupy the student full time for a period of approximately 8 weeks.

For each student supervised, the supervisor's department will be allocated a proportion of the T-JRAM associated with Year 2 of the student's course (usually a figure of c.£2000). Supervisors will also be able to claim for the equivalent of 8 hours of tutorial teaching (£205 for 2014-15) from the student's college.

Supervisors can advertise a project in the central allocations process or make a private arrangement with a student.

In order to help you advertise your project in the central allocation scheme we would need to receive your submissions by Monday 12 January 2015 (0th week, Hilary Term).

If you would be interested in offering a project please see https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/medsci/med/fhs/page/project_sup for

further details or e-mail studentadmin@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

Oxford–Harrington Scholars launch event

On 14th November 2014, the Oxford–Harrington Scholar programme will be launched to provide support to selected researchers at the University of Oxford to enable translation of discovery science into medicines that improve human health. Up to three awards will be made to Oxford researchers working on clinical translational projects.

This new call will be formally launched at an event on the 14th November 2014 from 11am – 1pm in the Seminar Room, NDM Research Building. The event will include talks from Professor Sir John Bell, Dr Jonathan Stamler (Director of Harrington Discovery Institute) and Professor Alison Simmons (Oxford's first Harrington scholar awardee). Lunch will be provided.

Please [register your interest](#) to attend the launch event.

Medical Sciences Divisional peer mentoring scheme for research staff

Following a successful pilot during 2014 the Medical Sciences Divisional peer mentoring scheme is now once again open to mentors and mentees.

The scheme involves the formation of peer mentoring circles comprising 3–4 members of research staff and one more senior member of staff, which will meet at least 4 times in 2015. It aims to support the development of researchers across the Division by:

- Encouraging self-reflection
- Increasing networking opportunities through peer circles
- Providing access to senior staff members outside of the researchers' home department

Mentors often gain as much as their mentees from the process and find that it provides an opportunity to review their own experience. Mentors must be experienced researchers, but could be at different stages of their careers. For example:

- Academic staff
- PIs
- Senior/experienced postdocs (especially those wishing to develop their mentoring skills)

For more information and details on how to register see <http://intranet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/information/divisional-peer-mentoring-scheme-for-research-staff>

Old Road Campus Developments and Updates

New divisional intranet pages launched to help keep you up to date with ORC developments

Construction activities on Old Road Campus may well impact staff on the site, and we understand that this may cause some inconvenience. We will provide updates on the development work throughout the period on our new dedicated [webpages](#) (on Divisional intranet, university network only).

Receive a weekly digest of all MSD events

In the recent [Consultation on Seminar Communications](#) 91% of respondents said they would like to receive a weekly digest of events taking place across the division. Over the past few months, we have been working with departmental communication colleagues and event organisers, to ensure, where possible, that all events are added to a central event calendar (Oxford Talks), which in turn allows us to more easily create a digest of events. We are now in the position to offer staff and students a weekly digest, which will be delivered via email every Friday, listing the events for the following week. **To receive the digest, please sign up [here](#). (This will open up a new email in your email client – just hit send and it will automatically subscribe you at that email address. Alternatively, go to https://web.maillist.ox.ac.uk/ox/info/msd_events. You will be asked to log in and can then subscribe to the list by clicking the subscribe button on the left.)**

Oxford Talks is currently being rebuilt and there are plans for the new version to allow for personalised digests (e.g. talks filtered by subject area). We hope to be able to offer this solution in due course. More detailed information and timescales are available on the Oxford Talks website and project site (<http://talks.ox.ac.uk> | <https://sharepoint.nexus.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtalks>).

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.



For further information, please see <http://www.isis-innovation.com/researchers/Departments/Spokes.html>

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Roy.azoulay@isis.ox.ac.uk)
- No phone number – please email or ask James Murray, the Launchpad Curator

Plant Sciences (room 200):

- Every Thursday 9.30am–4.30pm
- Hot-desk co-ordinator [✉angela.calvert@isis.ox.ac.uk](mailto:angela.calvert@isis.ox.ac.uk)
- Tel no. 01865 280870

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. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

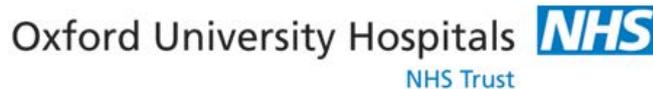
Isis helps Oxford University researchers to commercialise intellectual property arising from their research: patenting, licensing, spin-out companies.

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>

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.

Funding Opportunities

NIHR Research Professorships Call for Applications

Deadline Today

The call for applications for the fifth round of NIHR Research Professorships has been announced. The competition for these is extremely tight, since only five are typically awarded nationally, and there is a restriction to two applications per institution. Further information is available on the NIHR website:

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nihr-research-professorships-round-5.htm>

Enquiries and draft applications should be sent to Leila Whitworth (leila.whitworth@medsci.ox.ac.uk) by **Monday 10th November**. Final applications will need to be completed well in advance of the submission deadline of 17th December, to allow sufficient time for sign off by both the Medical Sciences Division and Hospital Trust.

Pfizer Rare Disease Consortium Funding Call

Deadline 8 December

Pfizer in conjunction with GMEC and Oxford University are pleased to announce the second call for drug discovery research proposals in the area of rare diseases. Under the Rare Disease Consortium agreement, an umbrella collaboration between Pfizer and the GMEC universities (Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, King's, QMC and Imperial) successful applicants will have research proposals fully funded by Pfizer, including the provision of staff and research costs, gain access to Pfizer's drug discovery platforms and expertise in addition to accessing appropriate tools and molecules. A key feature of the agreement is the opportunity for the academic team to work in close collaboration with Pfizer scientists by forming joint research teams and working towards a common goal of developing new medicines.

In this, the second call, we are seeking applications in two areas:

- 1) *Gene Therapy*, particularly applications to develop and refine the AAV vector platform and research programs using AAV vector based systems to deliver replacement genes for individual rare disease indications
- 2) *Biologics*, particularly novel targets that can be drugged using either antibody, recombinant protein replacement therapy or other novel biologic based approaches directed at individual rare disease indications

The application process has been made simple, replicating the process used successfully in the first call, to facilitate dialogue and rapid decision making. To apply please contact Jutta Roth at jutta.roth@medsci.ox.ac.uk, who is leading this scheme for Oxford before the **closing date of 8th December 2014**, with a title and brief paragraph (Non confidential and 200 words or less) describing the outline of the research proposal. Successful applicants will be invited to meet with the Pfizer team in the week commencing February 2nd in Oxford for a full description of the scheme and for a short face to face meeting to discuss your proposal and next steps.

ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Calls Now Open

Funding available for knowledge exchange activities. Briefing session on 21 Nov.

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 pleased to launch the latest calls for proposals to **Oxford's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA)**; funding for knowledge exchange provided by the ESRC as a block grant to the University, and managed by the Social Sciences Division.

The Social Sciences Division are offering a variety of flexible schemes to suit a wide variety of activities. They are happy to advise on which scheme would best suit the needs of potential applicants. They anticipate a highly competitive field for this call and will be running briefing sessions and drop-in application surgeries.

Briefing Session

Following the release of the latest round of ESRC Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) funding for social sciences knowledge exchange (KE), we

would like to invite all those interested in applying to attend a related briefing session. The session will include an overview of the funding schemes and application process followed by a series of short presentations from current IAA grant holders, who will take questions on their experiences of applying for and holding a KE grant. The briefing will be repeated at a second location to enable as many colleagues to attend as possible.

Date: Friday, 21 November 2014

Time: 12:30 to 14:00

Location: Seminar Room, Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, OX1 3PP

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/esrc-impact-acceleration-account-briefing-session-pitt-rivers-museum-tickets-13851035821>

If for any reason you are unable to attend after you have signed up please let us know as spaces are limited.

If you have any questions please contact: esrciaa@socsci.ox.ac.uk.

ANNUAL CALL FOR IAA KE SCHEMES

Type of activity: Knowledge Exchange

Deadline: 5pm, 19th December 2014

Amount: Up to £50,000

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

Eligibility: Oxford academics in any Department/Faculty of the University carrying out social science research fundable under the [ESRC's remit](#).

Application: Submit via your departmental administrator.

More info: [ESRC IAA webpages](#)

OPEN CALL FOR KE DIALOGUES SCHEME

Type of activity: Knowledge Exchange events

Deadline: Open call

Amount: Up to £2,500

Schemes: KE Dialogues

Eligibility: Oxford academics in any Department/Faculty of the University carrying out social science research fundable under the [ESRC's remit](#).

Application: Submit via your departmental administrator.

More info: [ESRC IAA webpages](#)

Questions about this scheme can be addressed to esrciaa@socsci.ox.ac.uk

Would you like £1000 to develop a new inter-disciplinary research project on a social science question?

Registration deadline today

All research staff are welcome to join a specially convened half-day research incubation workshop held by the Social Sciences Division. Bring along your ideas, meet potential collaborators over lunch, and work on shaping an interdisciplinary social research project.

Date: Friday 14 November

Time: 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Location: Seminar Room G/H, Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens, OX2 6PY

The workshop will support the development a number of proposals during the afternoon; the best (as decided by participants) will receive £1000 towards the costs of developing and piloting their project. The organisers are also keen to discuss different ways of continuing cross-disciplinary and cross-divisional discussions with researchers engaged in social science research in Oxford.

Please register for this event before **midday Monday 10th November**, by emailing research@socsci.ox.ac.uk, providing a brief statement of your areas of research, and stating any specific dietary requirements that you may have for lunch.

Funding opportunities for Science–Humanities Collaboration

TORCH is offering funded studentships and sabbaticals designed to create new interest in, and opportunities for, research that reaches between the humanities and sciences.



This year The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH)'s headline series will focus on the relationship between the humanities and the sciences, exploring how new answers can be found – and new research questions can be set – by bringing the disciplines together.

Thanks to generous funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, TORCH is offering joint doctoral studentships and paired research sabbaticals to enable science and humanities postholders in Oxford to develop joint research projects and to provide opportunities for outstanding doctoral students to conduct their research under the joint supervision of a scientist and a humanities scholar. Pairs of postholders – one in the sciences, and one in the humanities – are invited to submit joint applications for a research project that will involve a pair of fully funded postgraduate students and/or joint applications for paired research sabbaticals.

TORCH would also like to showcase existing Oxford projects that intersect the disciplines, so please do get in touch if you have a project or event that you would like to promote, or develop, through the *Humanities and Science* series.

Visit www.torch.ox.ac.uk/humsciox for information about how to apply and to find out more about the *Humanities and Science* series.

To get in touch please email torch@humanities.ox.ac.uk. You can also follow @TORCHOxford and #humsciox on Twitter for *Humanities and Science* related tweets!

OneStart competition – Your chance to win £100k to realise your life science business idea



Do you have an idea for a new therapeutic, novel cell culture method, health IT solution or a clever device to advance healthcare? Or maybe you do not have your own idea, but have the scientific or business know-how to help someone else realise their business? If so, apply to **OneStart Europe competition**.

Who should apply?

- science/medical students and researchers interested in spinning out their research or commercialising their great ideas
- business students keen to get actively involved with the science community
- IT specialists and engineers – are you a keen coder? Are you able to help someone constructing their device?
- anyone interested in entrepreneurship.

Applications are open from 1st October until 1st December 2014. You can apply as an individual or with a team. Ideas at **all stages of development** are welcome. All semi-finalists will be directly mentored by experienced industry professionals, connected with venture capital, pharmaceutical, and biotech executives and invited to attend a Business Bootcamp in London with workshops from our global sponsors, including SR One, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Takeda Ventures, Roche, McKinsey, and others. OneStart will be open to applicants under the age of 36 (as of 31st December 2014).

Find more information at: <http://www.oxbridgebiotech.com/onestart/>.

£20k Prize for Best Paper with 3Rs Impact

The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) is seeking nominations for its 2014 3Rs prize

The annual award is given for a piece of primary research published in any peer reviewed journal in the last three years (between 1 September 2011 and 1 September 2014) that significantly advances, or has the potential to advance, one or more of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). It is open to researchers in academia and industry based anywhere in the world.

The prize consists of a £18k grant and a £2k personal award. Further details of the prize and the nomination process can be found at www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rsprize. The deadline for the applications is **5 December 2014** and the prize will be awarded in February at a high-profile ceremony in London.

Past winners have included papers describing: a new method developed to enable adult mouse stem cells to grow and expand into fully functioning three-dimensional liver tissue; new ways of handling laboratory mice to reduce stress; a method for growing primary, untransformed macrophages in the laboratory; and the use of retinal tissue culture to replace the need for experiments on live animals in developing glaucoma treatments. These examples illustrate the high quality and diversity of the work that the NC3Rs wish to recognise and reward, and demonstrate that applications of the 3Rs principles can lead to improvements in the quality and quantity of scientific outputs.

Fellowship Opportunities

250 Great Minds

Academic Fellowships leading to Associate Professor roles at the University of Leeds

The University of Leeds want to recruit 250 exceptional University Academic Fellows over the next three years who have the potential to make a major contribution to the University's academic performance and standing. After successful completion of a structured five year development and induction programme, Fellows will be confirmed as an Associate Professor.

For more information on the scheme visit the [250 Great Minds website](#).

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Short-Term Research Fellowships

Call for researchers to conduct collaborative research at Japanese Universities and Research Institutions now open

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) is the leading research funding agency in Japan, established by the Japanese Government for the purpose of contributing to the advancement of science. Their Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (Short Term) provides the opportunity for researchers based outside of Japan to conduct collaborative research activities with leading research groups at Japanese Universities and Research Institutions for visits of between 1 to 12 months. Eligible applicants need to be either within 2 years of finishing their PhD at the time of applying to start their fellowship in Japan or have obtained their PhD after 2 April 2009. Eligible research fields are not limited.

Application Deadline: **Monday, 1 December 2014** Fellowships must start between 1 May 2015 to 31 March 2016.

For further information visit <http://www.jps.org/funding/2014/10/the-jps-london-call-for-the-prepost-doctoral-fellowship-for-foreign-researchers-short-term.html>

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 Michaelmas Term 2014.

Social Media for Communicating Science

1400–1600, Tuesday 3 February 2015

A practical introduction to using social media tools to develop and maintain an online presence, and how to start defining your audience and developing strategies for engagement.

For further details and to register: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/course-signup/rest/course/4D00D40110>



Narrative Skills

0930 –1700, Monday 17 November 2014 – Banbury Road.

0930 –1700, Monday 23 February 2015 – John Radcliffe Hospital.

Using your own research and interests, learn the essential ingredients of a compelling narrative, how to 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>

These courses 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/portal/hierarchy/grad/>

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/training

FameLab is back!

Calling all scientists and engineers to take part in its flagship science communication competition.

- **Contestants have just three minutes to convey a scientific concept of their choice.**
- **They will be judged by leading researchers, media personalities and science policy makers on the *content*, *clarity* and *charisma* of their presentation.**
- **The UK winner receives £1000 cash prize and £750 to spend on a science communication activity and goes on to compete against over 25 other contestants from around the world at The Times Cheltenham Science Festival in June 2015.**



Initiated by The Times Cheltenham Science Festival, FameLab aims to discover charismatic, up-and-coming scientists who can inspire people to see the world from a new perspective. The University of Oxford's own Johnny Brooks-Bartlett, a doctoral student in the Department of Biochemistry, was a UK finalist in 2014.

Open to researchers and professionals both in academia and industry, FameLab also offers 'money can't buy' prizes, such as the FameLab Masterclass, where communication experts provide superb public engagement training.

FameLab alumni have gone on to have successful media careers, for example British space scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock, who has recently been awarded an MBE for her services to science, and evolutionary biologist Simon Watt who has gone on to present Channel 4's *Inside Nature's Giants*.

Regional heats will be taking place all over the UK in universities, museums, pubs, and festivals, ahead of the grand UK final on 22 April 2015 at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London.

British neuroscientist and Chair of The Times Cheltenham Science Festival Professor Russell Foster FRS said: "FameLab introduces us to the next generation of scientists who are not only addressing great scientific challenges, but are able to communicate what they do. In my view, it has never been more important to invest in science and, critically, communicate scientific progress to the broader non-scientific community."

For more information about the competition, participating locations and to register for the 2014–2015 UK competition:

<http://famelab.org/uk/famelab-uk-2015>

For videos from previous years see: <http://www.youtube.com/user/famelab>

Volunteer Opportunities

Healthy volunteers and depressed individuals required for brain scanning study

The Department of Psychiatry are looking for both healthy volunteers and depressed individuals aged 18–50 to take part in a brain scanning study. The study compares brain activity in people who are depressed, and in people who are not depressed and investigates how an antidepressant medication (bupropion) affects information processing. The study involves two brain scans using magnetic imaging (MRI) which are completed before and after taking bupropion. Please note that healthy volunteers will NOT take the bupropion.

Currently, we are particularly looking for healthy volunteers in their late 30's and above who would be able to attend the two MRI scans at The Oxford Centre for Magnetic Resonance Imaging during normal working hours.

For information in confidence, with no obligation to participate, please contact:

Annabel Walsh

bupropion.study@psych.ox.ac.uk

01865 226464

Participants will be reimbursed for their time and expenses



REC Number: 13/SC/0569

Brain study on anxiety and depression seeks volunteers

Do you worry all the time?

Or

Do you feel down most of the time?

Or

Are you scared of particular animals/ situations?

Are you between 18 and 55 years old? We are running several brain imaging studies investigating how anxiety and depression can influence the brain and would like to invite you to take part.

You will be paid up to £100 plus any travel expenses.

Interested?

Contact the CAN (Cognitive Affective Neuroscience) team

can@fmrib.ox.ac.uk

01865 222581

facebook.com/BrainStudyOnAnxietyAndDepression

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

NDM celebrates the international year of crystallography

To mark the International Year of Crystallography, NDM has produced Revolutionary Biology, a 4-part documentary series exploring the field of structural biology and how it has developed over the past 100 years. We interview experts in crystallography, physics and structural genomics, to uncover Oxford's involvement in the history of the field and what it means for the future of medicine. Much of the footage is filmed around Oxfordshire, including the Oxford museums and the Diamond Light Source.



All 4 parts of the documentary series are now available to watch online:

[Part 1: The building blocks of life](#)

[Part 2: The history of structural biology](#)

[Part 3: Advanced technology](#)

[Part 4: A new age of drug discovery](#) (available from 10am on Tuesday 11 November)

The videos have been well-received, with over 500 people watching Part 1 in its first week after release! We'd love to know what you think. If you have feedback, please get in touch at public@ndm.ox.ac.uk.

Cast your vote for Healthtalk.org – shortlisted in Website of the Year Awards

Health experience website shortlisted in Charity and People's Choice categories

Health information website healthtalk.org, based on rigorous qualitative research from the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, provides insights into real-life experience of illness and health issues through video.

Find out more about healthtalk.org and how to cast your vote [here](#).

Annual Oxford Developmental Biology Symposium

Poster presentation submission deadline Friday 14 November

This year's Annual Oxford Developmental Biology Symposium will feature external speakers Christiana Ruhrberg (UCL) and François Guillemot (National Institute for Medical Research) as well as talks from researchers based in Oxford.

The meeting will take place between 9.30am and 4.40pm at the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre. Coffee, lunch and tea will be provided and the symposium will be followed by a drinks reception. Registration is £10.

If you would like to attend this meeting please e-mail linda.roberts@imm.ox.ac.uk to request a registration form. Completed forms must be returned by **Tuesday 25 November**.

The Symposium Organising Committee would also like to invite submissions for the symposium poster session which will be held during the lunch break of this event. If you are interested in presenting a poster please submit a title, authors including status of presenting author (student, post-doc, PI), affiliation and abstract (max 200 words) **by Nov 14th**. Poster size: A0 portrait (85cm by 115cm). Please e-mail poster submissions to linda.roberts@imm.ox.ac.uk

SynOx Michaelmas Seminar Series

Synthetic Biology Seminar Programme from the Oxford University Society of Synthetic Biology (SynOx)

SynOx is an initiative which aims to see synthetic biology flourish within Oxford University, this term they will be holding a series of lectures on synthetic biology.

Time and Date: Mondays, 10 November – 1 December, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Pusey Room, Keble College

- **10 November:** *Molecular Motors*

Speaker: Dr Richard Berry

- **17 November:** *Synthetic Biofuels*

Speaker: Professor John Love

- **1 December:** *Bacterial Superglue for Unbreakable Bridges in Synthetic Biology*

Speaker: Professor Mark Howarth

For more information contact: ju.han@wadh.ox.ac.uk

Gazette, Blueprint and Oxford Magazine Distribution Changes

Members of staff need to opt-in online to continue receiving Gazette, Blueprint and the Oxford Magazine

What currently happens?

At the moment, when new members of Congregation complete their application form, they are asked to tick a box if they want to receive the Gazette. If they tick this box, they receive copies of the Gazette to the address registered on their Congregation form, accompanied by Blueprint and the Oxford Magazine. The limitations of this system are:

- anyone who wishes to receive one of the publications must also have the other two
- members of University and college staff who are not also members of Congregation may not receive these print publications
- deliveries can only be made to certain buildings.

What is changing?

An opt-in subscription service is now available at www.staffsubs.ox.ac.uk, where any member of University or college staff with an Oxford username (single sign-on account) can:

- opt into receiving email notifications of new online issues of the Gazette, Blueprint, the Oxford Magazine and/or the OUP Annual Report (which can be sent to any email address)
- opt into deliveries of printed editions of the Gazette, Blueprint, the Oxford Magazine and/or the OUP Annual Report, and choose their preferred delivery address from a list of all college or University buildings.

We are also pleased to offer the option for staff to receive email notifications when new issues of Oxford Today, the University's alumni magazine, are published online.

Why is this change happening?

- **Avoiding waste:** we know that we currently send lots of issues of publications to people who don't want them, because we haven't previously been able to record individuals' preferences (which means that, for instance, we are sending 36 issues of the Gazette each year to people who only want Blueprint).
- **Expanding distribution:** by having our own database we can offer everyone – not just members of Congregation – access to the Gazette and other publications.
- **Encouraging readers to access the online Gazette instead of receiving print copies.**

Why should I read the Gazette online?

We would like to encourage staff to read the Gazette (and Blueprint) online, to save environmental and financial resources. Advantages of reading online include:

- Earlier access to content – the Gazette and Blueprint are available online on Thursday mornings; print copies are not delivered until Fridays.
- We send weekly emails listing all new and important information contained in the latest issue of the Gazette, with links directly to those notices and to popular content (such as job vacancies and classified adverts).
- Emails are also sent for each new issue of Blueprint, with details of articles and features.
- There are links throughout the Gazette straight to further information – no need to type URLs.
- You can read issues on computers, phones, tablets – anywhere you have access to the internet.
- You can download PDFs to your device for reading offline later (or print them if you want hard copies of certain issues/supplements).
- You have access to 20 years' back issues of the Gazette, all of which can be searched by year and keyword.

(From January 2015, the Oxford Magazine will also be available online.)

However, we know that not everyone can – or wants to – read online editions. We are therefore continuing to make each publication available as a print edition.

What do I need to do?

If you have already set up email alerts for new online issues of the Gazette and/or Blueprint, and you want to continue receiving these and not make any other changes, there is nothing you need to do – your email alerts will continue to arrive as before.

If you want to start receiving email notifications of new online issues of the Gazette, Blueprint, the Oxford Magazine, the OUP Annual Report and/or Oxford Today, visit www.staffsubs.ox.ac.uk and set your preferences.

If you wish to receive (or continue to receive) print copies of the Gazette and/or Blueprint and/or the Oxford Magazine, visit www.staffsubs.ox.ac.uk and set your preferences. If you don't complete the webform, you will not receive any print copies of any of

these publications with effect from January 2015.

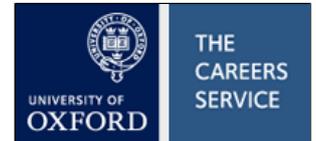
Further information

For further information, and the answers to frequently asked questions, please see www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/subs.

Careers Events for Research Staff Michaelmas Term

Careers workshops for research staff, Academic Application and Interview Skills for Researchers, MBTI workshop for Researchers, One to one appointments

Please find below our exciting events for researchers programme and one-to-one appointments for Michaelmas Term. To avoid disappointment please book as soon as possible through [CareerConnect](#), where you can find events through the search function or on the calendar. If you have any queries about the events please email courses@careers.ox.ac.uk If you do not have a Career Connect account please email reception@careers.ox.ac.uk to have one set up.



Careers workshops for research staff

Interview Skills

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

28 November 9.30–12.00pm

Book through [Oxford Learning Institute](#)

[Top](#)

Other events

Academic Application and Interview Skills for Researchers

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

18 November 9.30–12.30pm

MBTI workshop for Researchers

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.

19 November 9.30–12.30pm

One to one appointments

One-to-one 30 minute appointments are available at The Careers Service, science area, WIMM (JR) Old Road Campus and Churchill sites. Call reception on 01865 274646 to book or book online through Career Connect for 15 minute appointments (only at Careers Service).

[Top](#)

Springboard Development Programme for Researchers Opening Now

Award-winning personal and professional development programme for women

- **Programme 1: Hilary Term starts 28th January 2015**
- **Programme 2: Trinity Term programme starts 17th April 2015**

Springboard will help you to find ways to build on your skills and experience and support you in deciding the future direction of your career, whether that is in academia or elsewhere. You will also be encouraged to develop your networks and networking skills. This researcher-specific programme provides the opportunity to meet and work with other female research students and staff from across the University. Some previous participants have said:

'I think Springboard was the best "career course" I have ever done, not because it told me what to do, but because it told me I have a choice.'

'I found the course surprisingly useful in helping me rethink how I prioritised my research alongside the rest of my life. Also, listening to the experiences of others and their suggestions of how to implement small but useful changes was helpful to my considering alternative methods that might work ...especially when my priorities conflict.'

'Attending the course allowed me to examine and reassess my situation in a way that I would not have done on my own. The first and perhaps most important thing I learned from Springboard was to see myself as others might, and to work on my plans and promote them from that perspective.'

The course consists of four one-day workshops each a month apart (you will be expected to attend all four workshops in their entirety) and a workbook that supports individual reflection. The workshop dates are:

Programme 1: (All Wednesdays) 28 January, 18 February, 25 March, 22 April

Programme 2: (all Fridays) 17 April, 15 May, 5 June, 10 July

For further details and application forms please see: <http://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/springboard-programme-women> .

Early Career Academic Outreach Network MT Training Programme

The **Oxford Early Career Academic Outreach Network** aims to connect early career academics (**DPhil students, postdocs or fixed-term lecturers from any subject area**) with opportunities to do schools outreach in Oxford and further afield, as well as to provide them with appropriate training opportunities and recognition for their work at an institutional level. This network, which celebrates its first birthday this term, is intended to complement, not replace, current training provision elsewhere within the collegiate University and facilitates communication between the early career academic community and schools outreach projects across Oxford.

If you are enthusiastic about widening access to higher education in general and the University of Oxford in particular, then please [sign up now](#) to be added to our **database**. By signing up, you become eligible for (at least) termly training sessions and can expect to be contacted by outreach professionals from across the University who may wish to collaborate with you on a variety of outreach activities (including academic taster sessions giving the opportunity to work with school children on your area of research). Signing up to our database does not commit you to accepting all the requests you receive.

Interested DPhil students should be sure to check with their supervisor before taking on additional commitments and DPhils or Postdocs in receipt of funding should ensure that any outreach activities undertaken are in line with award restrictions.

Do also join our [Facebook Group](#) for regular updates as many of our opportunities are advertised there.

The programme for our **Michaelmas Term training session in Week 5** is as follows:

Thursday November 13th (5th week), 4.30–6.30pm

Venue: Margaret Thatcher Centre, Somerville College

Programme:

4.30pm – Coffee and registration

5pm – Parallel sessions

Introduction to Oxford outreach with schools (For new members of the network, or relative beginners to outreach)

Dr Eleanor David, Student Recruitment Officer, Undergraduate Admissions & Outreach Office & College Lecturer in Italian, St Anne's College

OR

Age-appropriate academic taster sessions: best practice sharing

(For network members with some experience of outreach)

Foteini Dimirouli, Access Officer, Somerville College; Lecturer in English and Modern Greek

5.30pm – **UNIQ Summer Schools** (all levels)

Whether or not you have helped out before, find out about lots of ways to get involved with the University's flagship residential summer school access programme, including sample content used by early career academics in the project

Widening Access Team, Undergraduate Admissions & Outreach Office

6.00pm **Out on the road for Oxford outreach: getting involved with the Student and Teachers' Conferences** (all levels)

Learn more about two of Oxford's largest schools outreach projects which take place in venues around the UK, including sample taster sessions used by early career academics in these projects

Charlotte Isaacs, Student Recruitment Officer, Undergraduate Admissions & Outreach Office

Dr Eleanor David, Student Recruitment Officer, Undergraduate Admissions & Outreach Office & College Lecturer in Italian, St Anne's College

6.30pm Networking drinks at the Royal Oak

To book a place for the training session, please fill in the form [HERE](#) [note this is a different form to joining the database above].

After the session, participants are warmly invited to **The Royal Oak on Woodstock Road from 6.30–8pm** to network with each other and outreach staff from around the collegiate University. Whether or not you are able to come to the training session, please do come along and share your outreach and public engagement experience and find out more about how you can connect with schools work across the University.

Further enquiries about the scheme can be directed to the coordinators at earlycareeroutreach@admin.ox.ac.uk.

A course for Oxford academic staff who act as expert witnesses

Delivered by specialist legal training company, Bond Solon, this one day course aims to provide expert witnesses with the key skills required to produce court compliant reports.

Recognizing the importance of training OUC's expert witnesses, we are offering the course in Oxford at a highly subsidized rate and hope that it may be of interest to you.

For more information on the course, including registration details, please see our web page – [Excellence in Report Writing](#).

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/expert-witness-training-excellence-in-report-writing-1-day-course-tickets-12739112027>

Oxford Martin School Michaelmas Term Seminar Series

Health in the 21st Century: what's new?

Our Michaelmas Term seminar series will examine the frontiers of technology and ideas in healthcare in the 21st century. Health and wellbeing concerns us all, but how is medical care changing and how does it affect us? What new ideas and technology are out there to take better care of us? Does where you live matter? And what can we do to extend the quality and length of our lives?

Time and Date: Thursdays, 16 Oct – 4 Dec, 3.30pm – 5pm

Venue: Oxford Martin School, Corner of Catte and Holywell Street, Oxford

[Further details & registration](#)

- **13 Nov:** *New strategies for disease prevention and management, from infancy to old age*
Speakers: Professor Terry Dwyer, Executive Director & Dr Kazem Rahimi, Deputy Director, The George Institute for Global Health
- **20 Nov:** *Eradicating Hepatitis C and HIV: progress and challenges for the next 10 years*
Speakers: Dr John Frater and Dr Ellie Barnes, Principal Investigators, Institute for Emerging Infections
- **27 Nov:** *Why do we need to reconstruct drug discovery?*
Speakers: Professor Chas Bountra, Professor of Translational Medicine, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine & Dr Javier Lezaun, Deputy Director, Institute for Innovation, Science and Society
- **4 Dec:** *Strategies for vaccines for the 21st century*
Speakers: Professor Susan Lea and Professor Christoph Tang, Co-Directors, Oxford Martin Programme on Vaccines; Professor Jeffrey Almond, Former Vice President and Head of Discovery Research and External R&D at Sanofi Pasteur and Dr Ian Feavers, Head of the Division of Bacteriology, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC)

Each seminar will be streamed live on the web, so tune in here if you can't attend: www.youtube.com/user/21school

Science Summit: Making an Impact

Last few places remaining for this conference focused on achieving excellence in research

The [Science Summit Conference](#) being held at **Woburn House Conference Centre on the 3rd December** aims to support universities and research institutions in their strategies to achieve excellence in research and to deliver economic growth on an institutional, local and

international level.

Supported by a wide range of organisations such as the **Higher Education Funding Council for England**, **RAND Europe** and the **Research Councils UK**, the conference is the second annual science policy event from Open Forum Events and will bring together a high level audience to tackle the biggest issues, opportunities and challenges facing science, technology and research institutions. The conference agenda is focused on the practical with interactive sessions, breakouts and whole audience feedback ensuring that real solutions are worked on throughout the day.

Some of the topics to be covered include:

- **Broadening Horizons:** New models of research, excellence and collaboration
- **What will be the impact of the Research Excellence Framework?**
- **Meeting the challenge:** Horizon scanning and future planning
- **Entrepreneurial science:** How to forge strong business and academic partnerships
- **Making an impact:** From a wealth of ideas to economic growth
- **Evaluating research impact**

The full conference programme can be found [here](#).

Delegates will hear from a wide range of expert speakers across the public and private sectors, including:

- **Professor Paul Boyle**, Vice-Chancellor of University of Leicester; Former President of Science Europe; Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council; International Champion, Research Councils UK
- **Dr Steven Hill**, Head of Research, Higher Education Funding Council for England
- **Rt Hon David Willetts MP**, Former Minister of State for Universities and Science
- **Dr Catriona Manville**, Senior Analyst, RAND Europe

[Click here](#) to register for this event.