# OxfordMedSci News

# Issue 20 – April 2015

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Internal Funding Opportunities Message from Head of Division Board Business Sixty Seconds with...Chris Price, Head of Strategic Planning and Projects Lab Talk – Dr Iveta Simera, Deputy Director, UK EQUATOR Centre Athena SWAN News IT News Library News Opportunities and Updates And Finally...Show-off your research!

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

Copy deadline for next issue: 09:00, Tuesday 5 May. Delivery date: Monday 11 May.

Sign up <sup>mathere</sup> to receive a weekly digest of all events/seminars/talks/workshops taking place across the Division.







#### INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We are particularly pleased to highlight several innovative funding calls now open within the Medical Sciences Division. Whether you have plans for industry engagement, early translational research or working on an interdisciplinary project then we have a funding scheme for you.

The <u>MRC Confidence in Concept Scheme</u> will help your research on its pathway from bench to bedside by providing support for the earliest stages of translational research.

The <u>MRC Proximity to Discovery Scheme</u> is focused on promoting a culture of innovation and will provide support for creative approaches to building relationships with industry partners.

Deadline noon on Monday 4 May 2015.

The <u>Wellcome Trust ISSF</u> continues to provide support across a variety of themes, the strategic priorities for this call have been updated and cross-divisional bids are particularly welcomed.

Deadline Tuesday 5 May 2015.

Read more...

#### MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF DIVISION

From Professor Alastair Buchan, Dean of Medicine and Head of Division

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and productive start to 2015 and an opportunity to relax during the Easter break. As the daffodils bloom and the days lengthen, it's clear that Spring is



finally here, and the Division has certainly been abuzz with renewed energy and activity: at the end of March, four departments were successfully reviewed in the Divisional/Council Education Committee process. Staff and students also took part in a variety of <u>innovative and exciting public</u> <u>engagement events</u> at science festivals across the county; we've welcomed many new starters and, as the celebrity awards season came to an end, many of you also received <u>national and international awards</u> for your significant contributions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued efforts in all your endeavours, be they administrative, educational, research or clinically focussed, which in turn contribute to

#### **BOARD BUSINESS**

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

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(1) received a report on Athena SWAN developments and discussed the need for a long-term strategy for nurseries, taking account of transport issues and the need therefore for some out-of-Oxford provision;

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(3) received a report from the Information Security Working Group and noted that the Group would shortly be bringing forward recommendations for the establishment of a small divisional Information Governance Office;

#### Read more ...

Read more ...

#### SIXTY SECONDS WITH ...



In this issue, we talk to the new Head of Strategic Planning and Projects, Chris Price. Chris has spent his entire working life here in Oxford, and is therefore very well prepared to take on the challenge that this role entails!

Tell us a little about your role The job of Head of Strategic Planning and Projects has, as the name suggests, two parts. First, I oversee the Division's planning activities especially as they relate to resources. This

involves understanding what it is departments are seeking to achieve, understanding the central University's strategic aims, and then trying to find a way to move forward that keeps everyone happy! The Division has a very important role to play in advocating and supporting its departments in various discussions with the University. My role plays an important part in ensuring that our departments are resourced adequately by the University to deliver on their academic visions. This is not always straightforward!

Read more ...

#### LAB TALK

The UK EQUATOR Centre is an international initiative set up to help researchers (and journals) publish wellreported, reliable, usable research papers. Dr Iveta Simera, the Centre's



Deputy Director describes the Centre's work and how they can help you.

#### Tell us a little about your work. What are the challenges?

Together with Prof Doug Altman, I lead the development of the <u>FOUATOR</u> (Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research) programme in Oxford. The programme's launch was in response to the growing unhappiness about the state of the medical research literature. Those of us who read research papers often feel frustrated, sometimes because we cannot access a full paper, but more often because it does not provide sufficient detail or clear descriptions. We cannot judge how well the study was done and what was actually found. These deficiencies create problems, particularly for people who work on systematic reviews, which aim to pull together similar studies and compare their findings. Poor reporting of crucial information, such as participants' eligibility criteria, the randomisation process, descriptions of an intervention and its delivery, selective reporting of outcomes (often only the 'positive' outcomes) and non-reporting of harmful effects, is unfortunately very common. This makes the reliable interpretation of published findings difficult or even impossible.

Read more ...

### ATHENA SWAN NEWS

#### In this issue:

(1) SUSTAIN Programme
 (2) Oxford ScienceGrrl Chapter
 (3) Talks and Events
 (4) Articles and Resources

Read more ...



#### IT NEWS

#### In this issue:

 (1) IT Innovation Seed Fund
 (2) OXTALENT Competition 2015
 (3) The student digital experience at Oxford: seeking the perspective of teaching staff
 (4) ARC High Performance Computing Showcase Event
 (5) Oxford students - be part of Digital Oxford Week, 9-17 May
 (6) Smart Oxford website launched: Bloggers required

Read more ...

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 2020 Vision: Making your research output compliant (FOSTER)
 Isis Innovation Hot Desks

Read more ....

#### **OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES**

#### Important Updates

MSD Teaching Excellence Awards 2015: Now open for applications and nominations Deadline: Tue 30 June 2015

MSD IDREC Research Ethics drop in sessions 13 May, JR Hospital

Careers events for Clinical DPhil Students, organised by OUCAGS 18 May – Developing a clinical academic career, 10 June – Funding your post-doctoral research

Find funding in the Medical Sciences: ResearchProfessional.com demo Monday, 20 April 2015, 10 am - 11.30 am, Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

What is the Oxford Research Staff Society? Join the community

Universities Superannuation Scheme Consultation Information sessions at Old Road Campus 16 April, JR Hospital 17 April and Department of Biochemistry 24 April

It's easy to Give As You Earn

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Medical Research Council Confidence in Concept Fund Call now open. Deadline for expressions of interest 12 noon Monday 4 May Medical Research Council Proximity to Discovery Fund Call now open. Deadline for applications 12 noon Monday 4 May Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund Call now open. Deadline for applications Tuesday 5 May

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Oxford Sparks public engagement surgeries Are you unsure of how to plan or find funding for your public engagement projects? Oxford Sparks can help Oxford Sparks wants your stories! Does your research involve light or light based technology? Then Oxford Sparks wants to hear from you EQUATOR Publication School Want to make an impact with your research? EQUATOR's brand new course will teach you the secrets of success in writing and publishing high-quality research articles, for a wider reach

Royal Society writing and media skills courses Improve your writing and media skills. Courses available in April, May and June National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) training courses If you're looking to enhance your public engagement skills then why not participate in one of the NCCPE's training courses?

#### Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in taking part in clinical research? Study looking at how steroids and insulin work in the body, seeks male volunteers Interested in the workings of the human brain? Male? We need you!

Would you like to train your BRAIN? The Oxford Centre for functional MRI of the brain is looking for healthy volunteers to take part in an experiment Volunteers needed: Type 1 diabetes study

Male volunteers sought for Type 2 diabetes study

Help researchers find out what strategies people use to lose weight

Healthy volunteers needed for drug study

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

#### Other Items of Interest

Integrating Genetics into Clinical Practice - Why, How and When? Friday 17 April. Free event open to GPs, secondary care physicians, allied health professionals and medical students

CRUK International Oesophageal Cancer Symposium registration is now open! Disease Mechanisms, Diagnosis and Therapy. 6–7 June 2015, Mathematical Institute

Engaging ethics in healthcare: the ethics of markets and markets for ethics Friday 19 June, The Royal Society of Medicine (London) Register Now - Drug Discovery: An Oxford-Industry Conversation Friday 31 July 2015, Mathematical Institute, Andrew Wiles Building Randomised Controlled Trial Course A Guide to Design, Conduct, Analysis, Interpretation and Reporting

Careers Services Events Careers workshops for research staff, Other Events, One to one appointments, New! OX Postcode Careers Fair

Improvement FUNdamentals: Time to get "in the MOOC" New Massive Open Online Course run by NHS Improving Quality

That Other Place An exhibition of film and photography exploring Alzheimer's disease from the dual perspectives of sufferer and carer Oxford Martin School Forthcoming Events 2015

Cell Senescence: From Physiology to Pathology 19-22 July 2015, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

#### AND FINALLY...SHOW-OFF YOUR RESEARCH!



Got a public event or activity that you want to advertise?

Not sure how to plan or find funding for your public engagement projects? Does your research involve light or light based technology and you're interested in getting involved in a PE activity?

Then <u>read on</u> to find out Oxford Sparks and the Divisional Office can help you.

Also, see highlights from our public engagement activities this Spring!

# Internal funding opportunities

#### Medical Research Council Confidence in Concept Fund

The MRC CiC will support the earliest stages of translational research projects. It is intended to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach.

Expression of interest deadline 12 noon on Monday 4 May 2015.

For further details and how to apply click here.

#### Medical Research Council Proximity to Discovery Fund

The MRC P2D will support activities to build relationships between the university and industry partners and promote a culture of innovation, including knowledge exchange projects between industry and academia, industry showcases and communications and staff exchanges with industry.

Deadline 12 noon on Monday 4 May 2015.

For further details and how to apply click here.

#### Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund

The second call for the Wellcome Trust ISSF is now open.

Research projects must fall within the remit of the Wellcome Trust, as well as the strategic remit of biomedical research at Oxford.

The Fund has been renewed for two years (2014–2016) for an additional £3M of funding, and has a remit to; Assist the Institution in developing its research strategy across Departments and Divisions; Encourage new inter-departmental synergies, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and inter-institutional initiatives; and add value to existing Wellcome Trust investments in the Institution.

Deadline Tuesday 5 May 2015.

For further details and how to apply visit the Oxford ISSF website.

# Message from Head of Division

From Professor Alastair Buchan, Dean of Medicine and Head of Division

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and productive start to 2015 and an opportunity to relax during the Easter break. As the daffodils bloom and the days lengthen, it's clear that Spring is finally here, and the Division has certainly been abuzz with renewed energy and activity: at the end of March, four departments were successfully reviewed in the Divisional/Council Education Committee process. Staff and students also took part in a variety of <u>innovative and exciting public engagement events</u> at science festivals across the county; we've welcomed many new starters and, as the celebrity awards season came to an end, many of you



also received <u>national and international awards</u> for your significant contributions. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued efforts in all your endeavours, be they administrative, educational, research or clinically focussed, which in turn contribute to Oxford Medical Sciences' ongoing success.

Earlier this month, The MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit (ANU) in the Department of Pharmacology closed after 30 years of world leading research on the complex networks of the brain. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Peter Somogyi and Professor Paul Bolam, for leading the unit so successfully. The ANU will transition to become a new university unit, the <u>MRC Brain Network Dynamics</u> <u>Unit</u>, and I would like welcome in the new director Professor Peter Brown. Additionally, Professor Rodney Phillips will later this year be taking up the Deanship of Medicine at the University of New South Wales and he has therefore stepped down after 14 years as Chairman of the Peter Medawar Building and has been succeeded in that capacity by Professor Paul Klenerman. Rodney's divisional role as Deputy Head of Division (Finance and Physical Capital) has now been taken by <u>Professor Richard Cornall</u>. Rodney will be greatly missed and we wish him every success in due course in Sydney.

As you'll see in this month's newsletter, there are numerous <u>internal funding opportunities</u> now open: JFF, MRF, MRC CiC, MRC P2P, ISSF. We are extremely lucky within the Division to be able to offer access to such a variety of funds and look forward to reading your aspirational applications. Finally, watch out for May's newsletter (in your inbox on Monday 11 May), which will focus on innovation. Featuring interviews with academic and student innovators, an introduction to innovation in the Division and links to innovation–related resources, it's not to be missed!

# **Board Business**

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(3) received a report from the Information Security Working Group and noted that the Group would shortly be bringing forward recommendations for the establishment of a small divisional Information Governance Office;

(4) received a report from the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee and noted the improved financial performance of the Division outlined in the 2014–15 Quarter 2 Forecast Report;

(5) received a report from the Board's Research Committee, noted that a bid had been submitted to BIS for a major new facility at Harwell and noted also the concern that had been expressed about diminishing levels of charity QR funding and the need to lobby charity leaders to articulate its importance;

(6) discussed Council's Personnel Committee's second consultation on the possible revision of Statute XII and agreed to support the proposed changes;

(7) received and noted the terms of the forthcoming review of the Division's health and safety arrangements;

(8) discussed Council's Personnel Committee's proposals for the nature and timing of the review of the Employer-Justified Retirement Age and for clarification of the EJRA's stated aims and for amendment of the EJRA procedure and agreed to offer broad support for these proposals;

(9) received with great sadness the news of the death of Professor Sir David Watson, Principal of Green Templeton College.

# **IT** News

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- 1. IT Innovation Seed Fund
- 2. OxTALENT Competition 2015
- 3. The student digital experience at Oxford: seeking the perspective of teaching staff
- 4. ARC High Performance Computing Showcase Event
- 5. Oxford students be part of Digital Oxford Week, 9-17 May
- 6. Smart Oxford website launched: Bloggers required

# IT Innovation Seed Fund

Following the MSD successes in the Hilary round of funding, the Trinity term challenge for the IT Innovation Seed Fund is now open. This challenge is open to all University staff members and is aimed at surfacing ideas for digital projects that can target key University objectives.

For Trinity term we would welcome project ideas for digital initiatives that would improve the academic experience at Oxford (the 'Open' category), but we particularly welcome ideas that would:

- lead to innovation in the curriculum (especially helping to diversify in terms of race and ethnicity, and gender; and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurial activity) and/or
- . improve student engagement (especially in terms of taking part in decisions about what they learn and how they learn) and/or
- assist staff in facilitating excellent research and/or
- assist with the management of research projects.

The process is designed to encourage open discussion of ideas to allow them to build and grow, so submit your thoughts as early as possible. This will allow others to add suggestions, offer assistance and help to develop the proposal. Projects can be of any size from a few hundred pounds upwards but cannot exceed  $\pm 100$ k, and can be of any length but cannot exceed 12 months. You are not required to submit a fully worked-up project proposal at this stage – that comes later – it's all about capturing ideas which have the potential to develop.

So if you would like to get involved, please visit: http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/innovation-fund.

Or to join in immediately please go to the Oxford Ideas site and register at: https://oxfordideas.wazoku.com/.

The Trinity term challenge closes on Friday 8 May 2015.

# **OxTALENT** Competition 2015

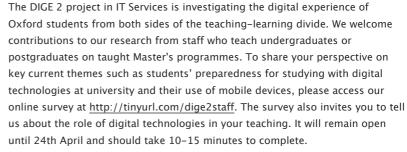
The OxTALENT Competition 2015 celebrates and rewards the innovative use of digital technology in teaching, learning, research, and outreach at the University of Oxford. If you have used technology in an exciting way, enthused students with your WebLearn site, or designed an eye-catching conference poster or visualisation, please visit the <u>OxTALENT competition website</u> for details and an entry form. Alternatively, if you have been impressed by a colleague's use of technology and you think we should consider them for an award, please tell the <u>CoxTALENT</u> competition committee.

The closing date for entries is Friday 15 May.

Details of MSD winners in last year's competition are in the MSD Newsletter July 2014



# The student digital experience at Oxford: seeking the perspective of teaching staff



The research has been commissioned by the Education IT Board and is supported by the University's IT Capital Fund. The overall findings of the project are intended to inform decision-making by the Education IT Board; we also hope to make findings relevant to the wider higher education sector publicly available.



Image courtesy of Jeremy Keith (Flickr: Cuddling with multiple devices) [CC BY 2.0], via Wikimedia Commons

# ARC High Performance Computing Showcase Event

Advanced Research Computing (ARC) is holding a High Performance Computing Showcase event at the Oxford e-Research Centre on the afternoon of 14th April, from 2pm onwards. The event will showcase work from a variety of research groups, illustrating how high performance computing can be used to innovate and accelerate research.

ARC is a central resource, available to any Oxford University researcher who needs high performance computing.

For more details, see the OeRC event page, or the ARC website.

### Oxford students - be part of Digital Oxford Week, 9-17 May



There's more to life this May than exams and revision.

If you're interested in digital technology and want to get a flavour of what's happening in around Oxford, schedule in Digital Oxford Week, 9 to 17 May.

A whole week's worth of events, talks and gatherings are happening in and around Oxford during the week for anyone interested in digital technology. Here's how to get involved:

Want to run your own event? Get a topic, a venue and date during that week and we'll promote it for you across the Digital Oxford networks.

Got an event idea but don't know how? Email Karen David - <a>href="mailto:spriggsdavid.co.uk">mailto:spriggsdavid.co.uk</a> - with what you have so far and she'll put you in touch with people who might help find you a speaker, an expert, a venue. And we'll help you promote it.

Want to link up with another digital group? <u>Here's a list</u> of the groups and networks running or supporting digital events in Oxfordshire. Get in touch with any of them and pitch your idea.

Want to go to an event? Take a look at the Digital Oxford Events Page, sign up, bring some friends. Keep a watch on it as more events are added frequently.

Want to keep up with Digital Oxford? Sign up for our newsletter here.

**Digital Oxford** is an independent organisation setting out to make Oxford and Oxfordshire a global destination for digital business and talent. We are governed by an elected committee, run entirely by volunteers and we are building a network of working groups to 'get things done' such as website development, member relations and the search for a physical space.

## Smart Oxford website launched: Bloggers required

Smart Oxford represents a commitment by Oxfordshire Partners to develop efficient and effective use of data and technology for the benefit of its citizens. Visit the new website - <u>http://oxsmart.city/</u>

Also, Smart Oxford is looking for bloggers to write smart-city themed article, or re-blog existing material. If you are interested, contact Bill Imlah 💷 bill.imlah@oii.ox.ac.uk

# Library News

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- 2. BMJ Case Reports
- 3. Study and Training Space at the Health Care Libraries
- 4. 2020 Vision: Making your research output compliant (FOSTER)
- 5. Isis Innovation Hot Desks

# Marks of Genius Exhibition, Weston Library

The Weston Library, the "newest" Bodleian Library, has recently opened, including the first exhibition in its new galleries *Marks of Genius: masterpieces from the collections of the Bodleian Libraries*. In over four centuries the Bodleian Libraries have assembled, through gift and purchase, many individual items which can be called works of genius. This exhibition looks at ways in which common attitudes towards genius are manifested in the physical form of a number of remarkable books and manuscripts, and considering the relationship between genius and learning, it explores ways in which the works of genius found in a university library can be acquired, collected and read.

The exhibition features world-renowned items of the Bodleian's unique collections, including many scientific and medical works.

The exhibition runs from 21 March to 20 September 2015, Monday-Saturday: 10am-5pm, Sunday: 11am-5pm and admission is free.

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# **BMJ** Case Reports

*BMJ Case Reports* (<u>http://casereports.bmj.com/</u>) is the largest single collection of case reports online with more than 8,500 peer-reviewed articles from over 70 countries. It offers a high volume of cases in all disciplines so that healthcare professionals and researchers can easily find information on common and rare conditions.

Articles are indexed in PubMed.

As a member of the University or the OUH Trust you have full-text access to all the case reports. You can also submit your own free of charge - please contact us to obtain the appropriate Fellowship code.

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# Study and Training Space at the Health Care Libraries

#### Beeson Training Room: Your training space in the JR Hospital

Looking for teaching, group study or tutorial space in the JR Hospital? The Beeson Training Room is

located at the end of the corridor at the back of the Cairns Library and can be used immediately if it's free. It's open from 9am-7pm on week-days. Wireless access is always available and there are 9 PCs and a projector that can be used if booked in advance. If you wish to book the Beeson Room, call Cairns Library Reception on 01865 221936.

#### As well as the Beeson Training Room we have group study spaces for you to use

Group study rooms are available in the Cairns Library (seats 6) and the Knowledge Centre (seats 12) for use by all library members for study sessions, project meetings or teaching.

Both have a whiteboard, a flip chart and network access. The Knowledge Centre Study Room also has a data projector and screen, moveable furniture, and six laptops with access to the University network. Rooms can be booked in advance or used immediately if free. Contact us for bookings or more information 01865 221936.

#### Тор

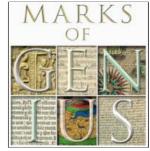
# 2020 Vision: Making your research output compliant (FOSTER)

#### 21st April, Keble College

#### www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science/2020-vision (#fosteropenscience)

This workshop is designed to update graduate students and research staff at Oxford on Open Access (OA) policies and expectations with special emphasis on the practical implications for researchers and how to meet REF 2020 requirements. The workshop is supported by a grant from the FOSTER project (www.fosteropenscience.eu/project/) and by Keble College.

The programme will include:



- Keynote presentations from representatives of HEFCE and HORIZON 2020.
- Updates on University OA implementation policy, projects and services created by libraries and academic services
- Presentations about institutional repositories Oxford Research Archive (ORA) and ORA-data
- An insight into open access academic repositories Zenodo, Europe PubMed Central and arXiv
- Q&A sessions will provide practical advice on how to make publications freely available

This event is free of charge (including lunch) but places are limited. Please book at http://tinyurl.com/p6usd97.

If you have any queries, please contact <a>[i]</a>jilja.ristic@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

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# Isis Innovation Hot Desks



Isis Innovation, the University of Oxford's research and technology commercialisation company, now has a "hot desk" in the Radcliffe Science Library Entrance Hall Lounge on Mondays, 2–5pm. This is to assist researchers who wish to commercialise IP or engage in academic consultancy work.

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INNOVATION For more information, please see <u>http://isis-innovation.com/</u>.

To arrange a meeting, contact +44 (0) 1865 280830 or innovation@isis.ox.ac.uk.

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EQUATOR Publication School Want to make an impact with your research? EQUATOR's brand new course will teach you the secrets of success in writing and publishing high-quality research articles, for a wider reach

Royal Society writing and media skills courses Improve your writing and media skills. Courses available in April, May and June

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Cell Senescence: From Physiology to Pathology 19-22 July 2015, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

# And Finally...Show-off your research!

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Then read on to find out Oxford Sparks and the Divisional Office can help you...

# Advertising public engagement activities

During the busy Spring science festival season, the divisional office and communication officers across the division trialled a <u>new webpage</u> and Twitter hashtag (<u>#OxfordMedSciEngages</u>) to help promote events.

Both proved quite successful, so we have decided to keep on using them. If you have an event or activity (e.g. blog, podcast, video etc.) that you would like us to promote on the new webpage, please contact your <u>department's Communications Officer</u> or the <u>Divisional</u> <u>Communications Manager</u>.

And don't forget to use <u>#OxfordMedSciEngages</u> when you tweet about your events too!

Also, see highlights from our public engagement activities this Spring!

# Oxford Sparks public engagement surgeries

Oxford Sparks

Are you unsure of how to plan or find funding for your public engagement projects? Oxford Sparks can help. Got a public engagement project idea that you want help shaping or finding funding for? Not quite sure how

to pitch a talk to school students? Got a podcast you want to develop?

If you have a specific question or are just seeking a sounding board for your project then we can help! Michaela Livingstone holds 'surgery' hours most Tuesday afternoons down the hill and Friday mornings in MSD at the John Radcliffe Hospital. To register, find an available appointment in the calendar on the Oxford Sparks website below then email *Michaela*.

http://www.oxfordsparks.net/training-0#121

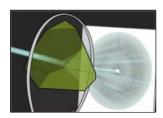
# Upcoming Oxford Sparks Training Sessions

Podcast your science

http://www.oxfordsparks.net/training-0#podcast

Translating your research into a Hands-on Activity http://www.oxfordsparks.net/training-0#handson

Using social media to communicate your research http://www.oxfordsparks.net/training-0#social



# Oxford Sparks wants your stories on light or light based technology

Does your research involve light or light based technology? Then Oxford Sparks wants to hear from you.

This year is the <u>International Year of Light, and Light-based Technology</u> (a UN designated celebration). To showcase the brilliant research and technology at the University of Oxford, Oxford Sparks will be focussing its latest animations on the subject of 'light'. From light itself, to the use of light to study everything else!

Oxford Sparks are looking for research groups to share how they investigate or use light in their research. To share your story, or get some more information you can contact IM Michaela Livingstone, or <u>fill in this spreadsheet</u>.

In addition to the animations Oxford Sparks will be producing supporting materials, including learning resources for schools and a number of podcasts, all of which will be available to use in outreach and engagement activities by anyone at the University.

Oxford Sparks is a programme led by the MPLS and Medical Sciences Divisions with the aim of inspiring and involving the public, and enriching students' learning, with the fascinating science being carried out at the University of Oxford. In addition we offer training in public engagement and science communication. You can find out more at our website, <u>www.OxfordSparks.net</u>.

Contributions by Friday 17 April.

Image: Oxford Sparks, the 'A Case of Crystal Clarity' animation.

# Sixty Seconds with...

Chris Price, Head of Strategic Planning and Projects



In this issue, we talk to the new Head of Strategic Planning and Projects, Chris Price. Chris has spent his entire working life here in Oxford, and is therefore very well prepared to take on the challenge that this role entails!

#### Tell us a little about your role

The job of Head of Strategic Planning and Projects has, as the name suggests, two parts. First, I oversee the Division's planning activities especially as they relate to resources. This involves understanding what it is departments are seeking to achieve, understanding the central University's strategic aims, and then trying to find a way to move forward that keeps everyone happy! The Division has a very important role to play in advocating and supporting its departments in various discussions with the University. My role plays an important part in ensuring that our departments are resourced adequately by the University to deliver on their academic visions. This is not always straightforward!

Second, I coordinate the Divisional support for complex projects. This includes oversight of the Division's capital investment programme and dealing with ad-hoc projects such as the incorporation of new research units and institutes. We seek to use the expertise available in the Divisional Office from dealing with such projects for well over a decade to help departments embarking on similar tasks. The Division is fortunate to have <u>Dr Eveline James</u> as its Capital Projects Manager and she delivers much of the work in overseeing the capital programme.

I work very closely with the Head of Division, Heads of Department and especially the Deputy Head of Division (Planning, Finance, and Physical Capital), <u>Professor Richard Cornall</u>. Richard and I have both come into post on 1 April 2015 and are both 'enjoying' learning the scale of the tasks we have taken on.

#### What's currently at the top of your to do list?

Sorting out my to do list! The kind of job I have is pretty frenetic and just staying on top of the various demands from departments and the centre is a task in itself. The Division has a number of large building projects, several of which are cross-departmental, in the early stages of planning and they are dominating my working week at the moment. Building projects tend to be at their most complex \***before**\* anything starts to be built. They range from the Precision Cancer Medicine Institute on the Churchill Hospital site to the next phase of development in the Science Area known as Hans Krebs 2.

We are also in the middle of the annual planning cycle. This includes setting the budget for 2015–16, as well as trying to describe our academic plans and resource requirements for the next five years. The 2015–16 budget will include the post REF funding for the first time and it is clear there will be financial winners and losers as we find out how the REF results translate into actual funding.

#### How did you get to where you are today?

I have only ever worked for the University of Oxford. I joined the Clinical Trial Service Unit (now part of the Nuffield Department of Population Health Sciences) as a trainee departmental administrator in 1995 and (apart from a brief period as Deputy Head of Planning and Resource Allocation for the University) have been in roles in the Medical Sciences Division ever since. My divisional office role is currently 80 per cent of full time with my other day spent undertaking a similar role within the Radcliffe Department of Medicine. I never thought I would be a 'one-company' employee but there are two reasons why I have stayed. First – the people – I have been fortunate to work with some wonderfully talented colleagues over many years and they are what make the job so enjoyable. Second – is that things never stay the same and the constant evolution has and continues to be a really stimulating development to part of. I remember when the Division first moved on to the Old Road Campus in 1996. It was a site full of 1970's buildings and portacabins. The site of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics was a rather pleasant meadow. Look at it now!

#### And if you weren't working for the Division, what would you like to be doing?

I realised late in life – far too late to do anything about – that I really should have been a professional cycling photographer given it combines my two passions. As a result I spend far too much time (and money) travelling around Europe photographing bike races. And if MSD IT Services were wondering who was streaming Eurosport constantly through the year then I think they may now have their answer!

# Lab Talk

The UK EQUATOR Centre is an international initiative set up to help researchers (and journals) publish wellreported, reliable, usable research papers. Dr Iveta Simera, the Centre's Deputy Director describes the Centre's work and how they can help you.

#### Tell us a little about your work. What are the challenges?

Together with Prof Doug Altman, I lead the development of the <u>EQUATOR</u> (Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research) programme in Oxford. The programme's launch was in response to the growing unhappiness about the state of the medical research literature. Those of us who read research papers often feel frustrated, sometimes because we cannot access a full paper, but more often because it does not provide sufficient detail or clear descriptions. We cannot judge how well the study was done and what was actually found. These deficiencies

create problems, particularly for people who work on systematic reviews, which aim to pull together similar studies and compare their findings. Poor reporting of crucial information, such as participants' eligibility criteria, the randomisation process, descriptions of an intervention and its delivery, selective reporting of outcomes (often only the 'positive' outcomes) and non-reporting of harmful effects, is unfortunately very common. This makes the reliable interpretation of published findings difficult or even impossible.

#### How can EQUATOR help researchers?

EQUATOR has developed an online library (<u>http://www.equator-network.org/</u>) of reporting guidelines, providing researchers with easy access to all of the relevant guidelines in one place. Many journals (including the <u>BMJ</u>, <u>Lancet</u>, <u>JAMA</u>, <u>Science Translational Medicine</u> and many specialty journals) now require authors to follow these guidelines.

Anyone who has prepared a research manuscript knows that it is not easy to decide (and remember) what information to include while maintaining

equator

readability and a reasonable manuscript length. <u>Reporting guidelines</u> are designed to help researchers make these decisions. They provide structured advice on the minimum information that should be included in an article reporting a particular type of medical research. Guidelines focus on scientific content and thus complement journals' instructions to authors, which mostly deal with the technicalities of submitted manuscripts. Some guidelines provide generic frameworks for defined study types (e.g. <u>CONSORT</u> for reporting randomised trials and <u>STROBE</u> for observational studies), but most are more specific and provide guidance relevant to a particular medical speciality or aspect of research (e.g. <u>economic evaluations</u> or the description of <u>biospecimens</u>).

#### Why do you think this is important? Why does it matter?

We all want to make a difference with our work. Describing our research clearly, accurately and completely is a necessary part of its future translation into clinical practice and further research. We also have a moral responsibility to our research participants and patients, who volunteer their participation and expect their contribution to be fully utilised.

No-one wants their research to just be published and forgotten, or to find itself on the 'exclusion pile'. As one <u>systematic review</u> reported, 'We included 4 studies with a total of 83 participants... A further 11 studies met the inclusion criteria but were excluded due to poor data reporting... Most of the potentially relevant data were unusable, hence it is impossible to draw firm conclusions.'

# How many people are there in your team? What are EQUATOR's future plans?

Prof Altman founded EQUATOR in 2008 and I was very fortunate to be part of the small team that launched the initiative. Our activities are not purely research, but are necessary for research to make a difference. Although it has not always been easy to secure funding, we have managed to sustain the programme and build a great team. EQUATOR now operates from three centres, in the UK, France and Canada. The UK EQUATOR Centre is hosted by the <u>Centre for Statistics in Medicine, NDORMS</u>, which has been incredibly supportive of our work.

Our <u>team</u> develops and maintains its unique library of <u>online resources</u>, mainly thanks to the hard work of Shona Kirtley, our Senior Information Specialist. We also run <u>training courses</u> and organise education events. For example, our new writing course, the <u>EQUATOR Publication School</u>, has just been launched. Contact <u>Caroline Struthers</u>, our Education Manager, if you would like more information! We plan to engage more people in



promoting (and adhering to) the principles of good research reporting and are currently preparing toolkits to aid in this work. We are also launching a new open access journal, <u>Research Integrity and Peer Review</u>, in May. *It will cover all aspects of integrity in research, such as* peer

review, study reporting, and research and publication ethics. I will be one of the Editors-in-chief and am very much looking forward to this new challenge.

#### Contact:

Dr Iveta Simera, Deputy Director, UK EQUATOR Centre Centre for Statistics in Medicine, NDORMS, University of Oxford Email: Iveta.simera@csm.ox.ac.uk

#### EQUATOR on social media:

Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/EquatorNetwork</u> EQUATOR Linked in: <u>https://www.linkedin.com/groups/EQUATOR-Network-Improving-reporting-health-5032663</u> Twitter: <u>https://twitter.com/EQUATORNetwork</u> YouTube: <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/equatornetwork</u>

#### Images:

Top: Dr Iveta Simera Centre: EQUATOR Network logo Bottom: EQUATOR Network website (screenshot)

# Athena SWAN News

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- 3. Articles and Resources:
  - 1. BBSRC Chief Executive on International Women's Day in Science
  - 2. 10 words every girl should learn

#### News

#### SUSTAIN Programme

The Academy of medical Sciences have a new programme (SUSTAIN) for women at the beginning of their independent research careers.



#### http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/careers/mentoring-and-careers/sustain/

SUSTAIN is the first programme that is tailored specifically towards women at the beginning stages of their independent careers. By integrating a range of approaches, SUSTAIN enables new PIs to develop their own, personal leadership styles needed for their successful progression as scientists. The year-long programme includes peer support, one-to-one mentoring, media training and an interactive career workshop. The Academy also covers childcare costs for attending the workshops.

#### Applications close - 14 May 2015

The programme is available to women who hold one of the following fellowships:

Medical Research Council

- Career Development Award
- Skills Development Fellowships (previously Strategic Skills Fellowships)
- Clinician Scientist Fellows

#### Royal Society

- Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship
- University Research Fellowship
- Sir Henry Dale Fellowships

Academy of Medical Sciences

- Starter Grant Award
- Clinician Scientist Fellowship

#### Тор

#### Oxford ScienceGrrl Chapter

ScienceGrrl is a grassroots organisation celebrating and supporting women in science. Its aim is to provide a voice for women in science attain and tackle the under-representation of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

In line with ScienceGrrl's national efforts, local chapters have been put together across the country, including Oxford. The Oxford ScienceGrrl Chapter aims to bring science to the next generation at a local level by engaging with the community through both independent action and partnerships with existing STEM programmes. The local chapter are continuing to develop a network of individuals in Oxfordshire who can educate and encourage young people to pursue careers in STEM, whilst at the same time taking steps to improve gender equality in the STEM industry. Members of the group, Drs Rachna Begh, Beth Shinkins and Nicola Lindson–Hawley from the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences recently helped fellow ScienceGrrls run a successful stall at the Oxford Science Festival on March 7th to showcase their careers and promote science to the public. The group are welcoming scientists to join in with future events, projects and meet–ups.

For more information about Science Grrl and on how to get involved in the oxford chapter, please visit http://sciencegrrl.co.uk/oxford-chapter/

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## Talks and Events:

#### Florence Nightingale Lecture - Professor Christl Donnelly



#### 'An epidemiologist's life on the edge (of the science-policy interface)'

Ebola, MERS, pandemic influenza and SARS have all posed serious threats to our health and economic wellbeing in recent years. In each of these cases, statistical (and more broadly mathematical) epidemiologists contributed to top-level policy discussions of diseases control policy development, implementation and contingency planning. The methods build upon foundations of epidemiological modelling and analysis of both human and animal diseases (HIV/AIDS, BSE, vCJD and foot-and-mouth disease, among others). The potential impact of such analyses is enormous, but it can be challenging to provide robust answers to key scientific and policy questions. In the midst of an epidemic response effort, it really does feel like living on the edge.

This lecture forms part of the It All Adds Up: Celebrating Women Across the Mathematical Sciences event being hosted by the Mathematical Institute. Professor Donnelly is currently based at Imperial College, London, and works with a focus on improving our understanding of (and ability to predict) the effect of interventions on infectious agent transmission dynamics and population structure. The ultimate goal of her research is to make control strategies as effective as they can be. She is on the Scientific Committee of the Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment Programme of the International Council for Science, and honorary fellow of the ZSL Institute of Zoology.

Date: 16th April 2015

Time: 5pm

Location: Mathematical Institute, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

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#### Ann McPherson Memorial Lecture 2015 - Professor Ann Oakley

#### 'Voices of Experience: Reflections on four decades of women's health research'

The fourth annual Ann McPherson Memorial Lecture will take place on Monday 11 May 2015 at 5pm to celebrate the legacy, academic and professional achievements of the late Dr Ann McPherson, former Green Templeton College Fellow and the founder of HEXI.

Professor Ann Oakley, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the Institute of Education, University of London will be speaking on Voices of Experience: Reflections on four decades of women's health research

The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception at 6.45pm in the Radcliffe Observatory, Green Templeton College.

For more information and to register for this event please click here.

Date: 11th May 2015

Time: 5pm

Location: E. P. Abraham Lecture Theatre, Green Templeton College, 43 Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6HG

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### Articles and Resources:

#### BBSRC Chief Executive on International Women's Day in Science

In her <u>recent blog</u> the Chief Executive of the BBSRC Professor Jackie Hunter reflects on the recent events held to celebrate International Women's Day. She notes the importance of individuals as agents for change, stating: "although the commitment from the top is extremely important, for example Sally Davies' mandating of Athena SWAN status for NIHR BRC and BRU funding, we, as individuals, can all help to drive change."

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#### 10 words every girl should learn

An interesting <u>article</u>, with great links, on socialised male speech dominance that results in women routinely being interrupted and talkedover. The author's advice to those who wish to challenge men in these instances include the phrases "stop interrupting me," "I just said that," and "no explanation needed."

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# OxfordMedSci News



# Important Updates

# MSD Teaching Excellence Awards 2015: Now open for applications and nominations

#### Deadline: Tue 30 June 2015

Staff across all MSD departments are now invited to apply and/or nominate colleagues for Medical Sciences Division Teaching Excellence Awards 2015 recognising and rewarding excellence in teaching, the organisation and development of teaching, and support for teaching and learning, within a research-intensive environment.

Full details of the Division's scheme, including eligibility criteria and application / nomination forms, can be found at <a href="http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/support-services/educational-strategy/awards/msd-teaching-excellence-awards-2015">http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/support-services/educational-strategy/awards/msd-teaching-excellence-awards-2015</a>

Completed application / nomination forms - including supporting materials - should be submitted to aga.bush@medsci.ox.ac.uk by midnight on Tuesday 30 June 2015 at the latest. (Applications / nominations received after this deadline will not be considered.)

All enquiries should be directed to Mrs EAga Bush.

## MSD IDREC Research Ethics drop in sessions

#### 13 May, JR Hospital

The MS IDREC Research Ethics Team are holding an informal "drop in" session for researchers who would like advice on submitting applications to CUREC and/or other research ethics queries.

The session is being held on 13 May 2015, 10am-12pm. Location is the Margaret Davision Room, George Pickering Education Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital.

If you would like to email MS Ethics, prior to attending the session, then please email your question(s) to =ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

# Careers events for Clinical DPhil Students, organised by OUCAGS

18 May - Developing a clinical academic career, 10 June - Funding your post-doctoral research

# OUCAGS

Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School

Oxford doctoral students are invited to find out about clinical academic careers in a two-event series organised by OUCAGS.

The events are a chance for delegates to find out about, and discuss with speakers, possible clinical academic career paths and concrete opportunities to develop their post-DPhil career.

Event 1: Developing a clinical academic career: experiences from the front-line Monday, 18 May 2015, 12.00-14.15, John Radcliffe Hospital

Event 2: Funding your post-doctoral research: clinical academic opportunities Wednesday, 10 June 2015, 12.00-14.00, John Radcliffe hospital

For further information, please see http://www.oucags.ox.ac.uk/our-programmes/news/careers-events-for-clinical-doctoral-students

Clinical Academic Careers Event Series for Clinical DPhil Students

## Find funding in the Medical Sciences: ResearchProfessional.com demo

Monday, 20 April 2015, 10 am - 11.30 am, Lecture Theatre 1, John Radcliffe Hospital

# Research Professional

*Please note:* participants will need to go to the Lecture Theatre (orange square in the attached map). At the moment the main entrance path is closed due to building work. If that's still going on on 20 April, you will have to go around the Women's Centre. There is a way between the Women's Centre and WIMM.

Intended audience: Oxford post-graduates/post-doctoral staff, academics/contract researchers, research support staff, and anyone else interested in finding research funding in the Medical Sciences.

Please register for this free MedSci event via Doodle

# What is the Oxford Research Staff Society? Join the community

The Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS) was formed by a group of research staff who wanted to provide more professional and social networking events across divisions and departments in the University. They also wanted to fulfil a need for research staff to have a voice within the University and to be kept informed about University decisions affecting their work.

OxRSS aims to provide Oxford research staff with a voice and networking opportunities. It is free to join and membership is automatic for all research staff employed by the University of Oxford. If you want to

meet up with other researchers either socially or professionally, or to have a voice in University decisions that affect research staff, then OxRSS is for you.

You can find out more about OxRSS by visiting the website: http://www.oxrss.ox.ac.uk/

#### Follow us on twitter @ResStaffOxford

If you would like to get information directly from OxRSS it is important that you sign up to the Research Staff Mailing List. We publish a regular newsletter called Connections and send details of other events via email.

SO DON'T MISS OUT - to keep up to date on all the latest training, networking and social opportunities available to you, estimate the Research Staff Mailing List.

### Universities Superannuation Scheme Consultation

Information sessions at Old Road Campus 16 April, JR Hospital 17 April and Department of Biochemistry 24 April The University is consulting current members and eligible non-members of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) on proposed changes to the pension scheme. Information sessions on the proposals are being run by the University's Pension Office at the Old Road Campus on 16 April, John Radcliffe Hospital on 17 April and the Department of Biochemistry on 24 April. For details and to reserve a place, go to:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/pensions/schemes/uss/ussconsultation/meetings

## It's easy to Give As You Earn

It's good to give a little back - according to last year's World Giving Index, 76% of people in the UK give money to charity in a typical month. The University's Give As You Earn (GAYE) scheme makes it easy and tax-effective to support your favourite charities by making tax-free donations directly from your salary.

The scheme is run through the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), a registered charity to help people and businesses support the causes they care about. The CAF database contains over 160,000 charities, covering almost every registered charity in the UK, as well as organisations that have a recognised charitable purpose such as community groups.

Giving directly through payroll has tax benefits as your donation is taken from your pay **before income tax is calculated and deducted**. So if you're on the 20% tax rate, a £20 donation will cost you just £16, while the £4 that would have been paid in tax goes direct to the charity (less a small administration fee deducted by CAF). On the 40% tax rate, the tax reduction is £8 on a £20 donation, and on 45% it is £9.

Once you have decided how much you would like to give each month, you have three options:

- You can nominate a charity or group of charities to benefit from your monthly donation. The contribution is deducted from your salary and CAF forwards the donations to the charity(ies) concerned.
- If you give more than £10 a month, you can create a 'Personal Charity Account', allowing you to donate to any charity at any time using a charity chequebook (for example, supporting an emergency appeal or a friend doing a charity fun run).
- You can club together with colleagues and pool your donations to form a 'staff charity fund', which has a chequebook facility.

To find out more, visit the GAYE page on the University website at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/processes/payroll/gaye.



# OxfordMedSci News



# **Funding Opportunities**

# Medical Research Council Confidence in Concept Fund

Call now open. Deadline for expressions of interest 12 noon Monday 4 May

The MRC CiC will support the earliest stages of translational research projects. It is intended to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach.

Expression of interest deadline 12 noon on Monday 4 May 2015.

For further details and how to apply click here.

# Medical Research Council Proximity to Discovery Fund

Call now open. Deadline for applications 12 noon Monday 4 May

The MRC P2D will support activities to build relationships between the university and industry partners and promote a culture of innovation, including knowledge exchange projects between industry and academia, industry showcases and communications and staff exchanges with industry.

Deadline 12 noon on Monday 4 May 2015.

For further details and how to apply click here.

# Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund

Call now open. Deadline for applications Tuesday 5 May

The <u>Wellcome Trust ISSF</u> continues to provide support across a variety of themes, the strategic priorities for this call have been updated and cross-divisional bids are particularly welcomed.

Research projects must fall within the remit of the Wellcome Trust, as well as the strategic remit of biomedical research at Oxford.

The Fund has been renewed for two years (2014–2016) for an additional £3M of funding, and has a remit to; assist the Institution in developing its research strategy across Departments and Divisions; encourage new inter-departmental synergies, cross-disciplinary collaborations, and inter-institutional initiatives; and add value to existing Wellcome Trust investments in the Institution.

Deadline Tuesday 5 May 2015.

For further details and how to apply visit the Oxford ISSF website.

# **Engagement Opportunities**

# Oxford Sparks public engagement surgeries

Are you unsure of how to plan or find funding for your public engagement projects? Oxford Sparks can help



Got a public engagement project idea that you want help shaping or finding funding for? Not quite sure how to pitch a talk to school students? Got a podcast you want to develop?

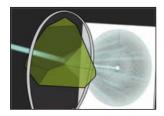
If you have a specific question or are just seeking a sounding board for your project then we can help!

Michaela Livingstone holds 'surgery' hours most Tuesday afternoons down the hill and Friday mornings in MSD at the John Radcliffe Hospital. To register, find an available appointment in the calendar on the Oxford Sparks website below then email Michaela.

http://www.oxfordsparks.net/training-0#121

# Oxford Sparks wants your stories!

Does your research involve light or light based technology? Then Oxford Sparks wants to hear from you



This year is the International Year of Light, and Light-based Technology (a UN designated celebration). To showcase the brilliant research and technology at the University of Oxford, Oxford Sparks will be focussing its latest animations on the subject of 'light'. From light itself, to the use of light to study everything else!

Oxford Sparks are looking for research groups to share how they investigate or use light in their research. To share your story, or get some more information you can contact <u>Michaela Livingstone</u>, or <u>fill in this</u> <u>spreadsheet</u>.

In addition to the animations Oxford Sparks will be producing supporting materials, including learning

resources for schools and a number of podcasts, all of which will be available to use in outreach and engagement activities by anyone at the University.

Oxford Sparks is a programme led by the MPLS and Medical Sciences Divisions with the aim of inspiring and involving the public, and enriching students' learning, with the fascinating science being carried out at the University of Oxford. In addition we offer training in public engagement and science communication. You can find out more at our website, <u>www.OxfordSparks.net</u>.

Image credit: Oxford Sparks, the 'A Case of Crystal Clarity' animation.

# **EQUATOR Publication School**

Want to make an impact with your research? EQUATOR's brand new course will teach you the secrets of success in writing and publishing high-quality research articles, for a wider reach



**EQUATOR** Publication

School, 6-10 July 2015, St Anne's College, Oxford UK.

The UK EQUATOR Centre, part of the internationally recognised EQUATOR Network and based at NDORMS, University of Oxford is launching the first of a series of unique courses designed to improve research publications for the benefit of all users of research findings.

The EQUATOR Publication School is aimed at both new and experienced health researchers wishing to develop skills and confidence to achieve success in writing, publishing and disseminating of research through traditional journals and other media channels.

Spaces are limited! Early-bird rate until 30 April

http://www.equator-network.org/2015/03/03/equator-publication-school/

# Royal Society writing and media skills courses

Improve your writing and media skills. Courses available in April, May and June

The Royal Society's courses will help you communicate about your work effectively and memorably. Their 'Writing about your research' and 'Media skills' courses are designed exclusively for scientists, and are tutored by leading communication specialists.

Science is in today's headlines more and more, meaning effective communication is crucial. Can you afford not to attend?

#### Available courses in 2015:

- Writing about your research 29 April
- Media skills training 21 May
- Residential course (combined 'Media skills' and 'Writing about your research') 22-23 June

For further course dates, availability and funding information please visit the Royal Society's <u>website</u>. Each one-day course costs £450, the two-day residential course costs £900. Payment is required in full at the time of registration.

To register for a course or for further information please email ==courses@royalsociety.org.

# National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) training courses

If you're looking to enhance your public engagement skills then why not participate in one of the NCCPE's training courses? Tailored to the needs of delegates, these highly interactive courses are a key way to develop your practice, and include:

- **Beginners' guide to public engagement** (14 July): Ideal for those just starting out, this interactive workshop offers delegates the opportunity to explore the key ingredients needed to develop a high quality public engagement activity.
- **Beginners' guide to evaluation** (16 April; 11 June): Need to develop an evaluation plan for your public engagement project and don't know where to start? This interactive course takes you through all the steps necessary to develop an evaluation plan that can enhance your practice.
- **. Research in context** (30 June): A one day course for researchers which provides an opportunity to reflect on the social and ethical implications of research, and explore ways of responding to this through engagement with others.
- Evaluation masterclass (7 & 28 October): Aimed at those who have experience of evaluation, but want to tease out some of the issues, this course explores some of the complexity in evaluating your engagement work, including exploring the challenges of measuring impact.

You can find out more and book your place on the NCCPE website.

# Volunteer Opportunities

# Are you interested in taking part in clinical research?

Study looking at how steroids and insulin work in the body, seeks male volunteers If you are interested in taking part, please contact:

Dr Conor Woods, Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Tel: 07572 793254

#### OR

Professor Jeremy Tomlinson, Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Tel: 01865 857359

We will reimburse any travel cost and offer compensation for your time and inconvenience.

# Interested in the workings of the human brain? Male? We need you!

#### Opportunity to participate in a study at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford.

We need healthy men, aged 18-40, to take part in a study investigating the effect of a gene and a drug on the performance of simple computer tasks.

If you decide to take part, we will ask you to:

- Provide a cheek swab (to see which form of the gene you have).
- . Complete some questionnaires.
- Take a single tablet (either a drug or a dummy pill) and then carry out simple computer tasks involving the processing of reward and emotion.

You will be reimbursed for your time.

Interested? For more information (without any obligation) please email

comt.study@psych.ox.ac.uk or call 01865 22361801865 223618

<u>Call</u> <u>Send SMS</u> <u>Add to Skype</u> You'll need Skype CreditFree via Skype

## Would you like to train your BRAIN?

The Oxford Centre for functional MRI of the brain is looking for healthy volunteers to take part in an experiment Your brain has the ability to learn from repeated exposure.

Our research will test what happens to the parts of the brain controlling the fingers in healthy people while learning to improve tactile abilities. In particular, we will test how temporary tactile deprivation (local anesthesia injections in your finger) affects our brain's ability to generalize learning across the hand. We hope that this research will lead to new understanding of how we generalize new learning.

#### We are currently looking for participants in good health aged 18-65, who don't mind needles.

Participants will be reimbursed for their time and any travel expenses incurred by participating in the study.

If you are interested to learn more about participation in the study, please contact Interested to learn more about participation in the study, please contact and the provided the provide

# Volunteers needed: Type 1 diabetes study

Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Churchill Hospital

We are running a study to investigate how a glucose-lowering drug called lixisenatide affects people with type 1 diabetes. We are looking for people who:

- Have type 1 diabetes
- . Using insulin to treat the diabetes
- Generally in good health
- Aged between 18 and 70

You will be reimbursed for travel expenses and your time (Payment for attending study visits would be a maximum of  $\pounds$ 450). Please get in touch for further information

E-mail: 🔤 cru@ocdem.ox.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 857287

All information collected will be strictly confidential. Should you decied to take part in this study, your GP will be informed unless you wish

# Male volunteers sought for Type 2 diabetes study

Researchers at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM) are looking for male volunteers aged 18-60 years with Type 2 diabetes to take part in a study of a new treatment approach to correct low testosterone levels.

Men with Type 2 diabetes commonly have low levels of testosterone, which are linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular problems. Kisspeptin is a hormone that controls the release of testosterone, and studies suggest that levels of this hormone might be low in conditions like Type 2 diabetes.

Work by researchers at OCDEM has shown that synthetic kisspeptin hormone can restore testosterone release to normal levels in men with Type 2 Diabetes. TAK-448 is a longer-acting form of kisspeptin - that has a powerful impact on testosterone release.

This study aims to find out how much TAK-448 people should take, and how often they should take it, in order to achieve the most beneficial impact on testosterone levels so that the drug can be evaluated further in future, larger studies.

Participants will need to attend the OCDEM Clinical Research Unit at the Churchill Hospital frequently, for up to 12 weeks. The majority of visits will be short morning visits, with a smaller number of longer visits.

Participants will be compensated for their time and inconvenience at the completion of the study and will be refunded for all reasonable travel costs that result from taking part.

For more information, please contact Sarah White (Research Nurse) on 01865 85728701865 857287 or at 💷 cru@ocdem.ox.ac.uk.

<u>Call</u> <u>Send SMS</u> <u>Add to Skype</u> You'll need Skype CreditFree via Skype

# Help researchers find out what strategies people use to lose weight

Researchers from the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences are inviting anyone trying to lose weight through diet and/or exercise to get involved in a new online study investigating what strategies people use to achieve their weight-loss goals. The Oxford Food and Activity Behaviours (OxFAB) study focuses on what people actually do, as opposed to the things health professionals and weight loss programmes ask them to do. By understanding which strategies are associated with success, the researchers hope to develop more effective guidance and advice for health professionals advising people on how to reach their weight-loss goals. www.oxfab.org

# Healthy volunteers needed for drug study

Healthy volunteers are needed for a study investigating the effects of the antidepressant Bupropion on the processing of emotions.

If you are healthy with no history of a psychological disorder, please contact Nathan for more information:

Imathan.huneke@medsci.ox.ac.uk

Time and expenses will be reimbursed.

The study involves taking a single dose of Bupropion.

Central University Research Ethics Committee: MSD-IDREC-C3-2014-004

# **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.



# Other Items of Interest

# Integrating Genetics into Clinical Practice - Why, How and When?

Friday 17 April. Free event open to GPs, secondary care physicians, allied health professionals and medical students Recent advances in genetics and the accessibility of genetic testing necessitate that all medical practitioners have an understanding of the role of genetics in clinical practice. Join us to learn why, how and when you can and should be using genetics in your practice.

Guest speakers include:

- Ingrid Slade, MD, PhD, Director of the Centre for Personalised Medicine, University of Oxford
- Peter Donnelly, FRS FMedSci, Director, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, and Professor of Statistical Science at University of Oxford
- Jill Hagenkord, MD, Chief Medical Officer, 23andMe
- Caroline Presho, Patient Advocate, Chief Executive, BRCA Umbrella
- Imran Rafi, MSc PhD DFMS, Senior Lecturer in Primary Care Education, St. George's University of London
- Heather Skirton, MSc, PhD, Faculty of Health, Education and Society, Plymouth University
- Munir Pirmohamed, MD, PhD, NHS Chair of Pharmacogenetics, University of Liverpool

Date: Friday, 17 April 2015, 1400-1700

Venue: Rhodes House, Oxford

Registration: To view the full programme and register online, click here. Registration is free.

## CRUK International Oesophageal Cancer Symposium registration is now open!

Disease Mechanisms, Diagnosis and Therapy. 6-7 June 2015, Mathematical Institute

Registration before April 19 is only £50 and this includes the **full programme of outstanding speakers**, **networking sessions**, **career workshops and refreshments and lunch across the weekend**.

The symposium will bring together eminent researchers, clinicians, and academics from the world of oesophageal cancer research. With delegations from China, the UK, and the US, this event is an excellent opportunity to collaborate on a global level.

#### Register for your ticket here.

# Engaging ethics in healthcare: the ethics of markets and markets for ethics

Friday 19 June, The Royal Society of Medicine (London)

It is a partnership between the Royal Society of Medicine, the Healthcare Values Partnership at the University of Oxford and the RSM Annual Primary Care Ethics Conference. It is funded by a British Academy Rising Star Award obtained by Professor Joshua Hordern.

The meeting opened for registration on Tuesday 7 April 2015 and \*\*places are disappearing fast\*\*. The Link is <a href="https://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/gpf03">https://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/gpf03</a> to see the programme and book a place. Those who would like to present a poster at the meeting may send abstracts to and rew.papanikitas@phc.ox.ac.uk

We are encouraging abstracts for posters (especially from early career researchers in any relevant field). If we have more abstracts than posters (space for 20) we will consider producing an abstracts book for the meeting (See meeting website for details). Abstracts from early career researchers in any relevant field are especially welcome and there are some extra places reserved for those who are selected to present a poster (for criteria see <a href="https://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/gpf03">https://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/gpf03</a>).

The meeting will offer international networking opportunities with colleagues involved in healthcare ethics as well as from the University of Oxford. Places are strictly limited in number.

Whilst the meeting registration and early evening networking reception are funded we do not have funding for delegates' travel or for dinner.

# Register Now - Drug Discovery: An Oxford-Industry Conversation

Friday 31 July 2015, Mathematical Institute, Andrew Wiles Building



#### Find out more and register

This event showcases top chemical biology research from labs at Oxford. Particular emphasis is placed on linking basic chemical biology research to work in the clinic.

The first session of the day looks at disease-agnostic technologies to aid drug discovery. The second session features work on targets and pathways applied to a variety of illnesses. The third session focuses on therapeutic interventions for neurodegenerative diseases.

Each session features top-class science presentations from a broad range of Oxford's biomedical and physical science departments, with speakers from industry giving their perspective throughout the day. This sets the stage for a round-table discussion between opinion leaders from across Oxford and industry. The conversation will focus on how we can best work together to translate ideas into new medicines.

The symposium will bring together 200 delegates including Oxford researchers, industry colleagues and technology transfer professionals. In doing so, it will provide the ideal forum for discussion and lead to lasting collaborative relationships.

Networking breaks and poster sessions will allow discussion to continue outside of the lecture theatre. The day will finish with a wine reception in the common room of the Andrew Wiles building, which provides a beautiful view of the 18th century Radcliffe Observatory.

## Randomised Controlled Trial Course

A Guide to Design, Conduct, Analysis, Interpretation and Reporting 21 September – 25 September 2015 Pembroke College, Oxford

#### About the course

This course provides a thorough grounding in the principles and practice of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) for the evaluation of healthcare interventions. It will include talks and practicals to give examples and guidance on the methodology of trials using a problem-based learning approach.

#### **Course objectives**

\* Clarify the fundamental principles and practice of RCTs

\* Demonstrate the optimal methodology to use in RCTs based on considerable practical experience and using extensive examples from the literature

- \* Examine the critical issues involved in planning, conducting and completing a successful trial
- \* Provide a basic understanding of statistical input into RCTs per se including analyses frequently used
- \* Facilitate critical appraisal of RCTs

#### **Course tutors**

- \* Prof Doug Altman, Director, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford
- \* Prof Peter Rothwell, Director, Oxford Stroke Prevention Research Unit, University of Oxford
- \* Prof Mike Clarke, Director, MRC All-Ireland Trials Methodology Research Hub, Queen's University Belfast
- \* Dr Jonathan Cook, University Lecturer, NDORMS and Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford.
- \* Susan Dutton, Lead Statistician, Oxford Clinical Trials Research Unit and Centre for Statistics in Medicine, University of Oxford
- \* Dr Vicki Barber, Oxford Clinical Trials Research Unit, University of Oxford
- \* Pollyanna Hardy, Senior Medical Statistician, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford
- \* Ed Juszczak, Head of Trials, National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford.

#### Who should attend

The course is aimed at persons planning or actively involved in trials, or individuals interested in furthering their knowledge of trial methodology. Applications are invited from clinical and non-clinical researchers and other professionals allied to medicine. The course provides an overview of clinical trials and would benefit persons early in their career or serve as a refresher for more experienced individuals.

Form more information on the course, please go here. Please email =rct.course@csm.ox.ac.uk if you have any queries or to register.

# Careers Services Events

Careers workshops for research staff, Other Events, One to one appointments, New! OX Postcode Careers Fair
Please find below our exciting events for researchers programme and one-to-one appointments for Trinity Term. To avoid
disappointment please book as soon as possible through <u>CareerConnect</u>, where you can find events through the search function. If you have
any queries about the events please email <u>Courses@careers.ox.ac.uk</u> If you do not have a Career Connect account please email
<u>reception@careers.ox.ac.uk</u> to have one set up.

# Careers workshops for research staff

#### **Career Management**

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

20 April 9.30-1.00pm Book through Oxford Learning Institute

#### Job Search, CV and Cover Letter Skills

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

12 May 9.30-12.00pm

Book through Oxford Learning Institute

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

12 June 9.30-12.00pm

Interview Skills

Book through Oxford Learning Institute

### **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.

22 May 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.

03 June 2.00-5.00pm

## One to one appointments

**One-to-one 30minute 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).

## **New! OX Postcode Careers Fair**

#### Tuesday 28th April, 3-6pm, The Careers Service

Looking for work in the Oxford area? Check <u>www.careers.ox.ac.uk</u> to see the employers attending then come along and find out more about their opportunities.

### Improvement FUNdamentals: Time to get "in the MOOC"

New Massive Open Online Course run by NHS Improving Quality Wouldn't it be great if hundreds of OUH staff, clinical and non-clinical, could all get trained in healthcare quality improvement at the same time, and for free?

Well that is exactly what can happen thanks to the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) being run by NHS Improving Quality and various organisations in Jönköping County in Sweden....one of the worlds leading health systems for quality and efficiency.

To find out more about the MOOC you can paste this link into your web browser <u>http://shar.es/1gpuU9</u>. The course will teach the basics of quality improvement (QI) and will support you in trying some QI work. And you can even get certificated in quality improvement at the end.

2015-16 is going to be a big year for efforts to improve patient safety and quality in the Trust. So come on....get "in the MOOC" and sign up for "Improvement FUNdamentals" today.

To join the MOOC all you have to do is register on moco@nhsiq.nhs.uk but it may fill up quickly, so hurry!

# That Other Place

An exhibition of film and photography exploring Alzheimer's disease from the dual perspectives of sufferer and carer

4 - 26 April

O3 Gallery, Oxford Castle Quarter, OX1 1AY

As the social, emotional and welfare costs of Alzheimer's disease gain prominence, and with the number of sufferers predicted to reach one million by 2025, exploring the ways in which the disease affects the lives of the sufferers and those around them becomes an ever more important task. Responding to this, the O3 Gallery in partnership with TORCH present That Other Place, an exhibition exploring Alzheimer's disease from the dual perspectives of sufferer and carer.

Highlights of the exhibition include Fausto Podovini's photographic series MIRELLA (Winner,

World Press Photo, 2013), which documents the daily routines of a couple living with the disease, and Hayley Morris's poignant stop motion film *UNDONE* (Winner, Slamdance Award 2009) about a drifting man who struggles to pull objects from the sea below him, which was inspired by her Grandfather.

The gallery can be found at the Oxford Castle Quarter, Oxford, OX1 1AY and is open Tues-Fri 12-5pm, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm and is closed Mondays.

The exhibition forms part of TORCH's Humanities and Science series. For more information please visit: www.torch.ox.ac.uk/other-place

# Oxford Martin School Forthcoming Events 2015

#### Thomas L. Friedman, Pulitzer prize-winning Columnist, New York Times

#### The world is fast

Ten years ago, New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman shone a light on how the world was 'flattening'; how the convergence of world events and new technologies had opened up the global supply chain to previously excluded economies. His book The World is Flat captured a pivotal moment in the 21st Century, examining the trends, opportunities and challenges this 'next new world' presented to countries, companies and individuals. Ten years on, the writer will offer new insights into the effects of technological change, globalisation, economic crisis and political turmoil, in a lecture that promises to be thought-provoking and challenging.

Time & Date: Monday 27 April, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Venue: Sheldonian Lecture Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford

#### Please register at http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2122

#### 'We've never had it so good' - how does the world today compare to 1957? - Panel discussion

During a speech in 1957, Prime Minister Harold MacMillan declared "our people have never had it so good". Now, more than half a century later, are we fundamentally any better off? Through discussion of technological advances, social changes, political reforms, and economic shocks and recessions, this panel will seek to question whether the world we currently live in is indeed a better place than it was in the 1950s.

- Chaired by Professor Brian Nolan, Professor of Social Policy, the panel will consist of:
- Dr Max Roser, James Martin Fellow at The Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School
- Dr Anders Sandberg, James Martin Fellow at the Future of Humanity Institute
- Professor Robert Walker, Professor of Social Policy
- . Time & Date: Monday 11 May, 5pm 6.30pm
- Venue: Oxford Martin School, corner of Catte and Holywell Street, Oxford

#### Please register at http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2124

#### Connie Hedegaard, Former European Commissioner for Climate Action

Inside climate negotiations: a personal perspective

As former European Commissioner for Climate Action and as host Minister of the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Connie Hedegaard has been at the sharp end of global agreements. While the Copenhagen talks ended with a breakthrough recognition of the scientific case for restraining temperature rises to no more than 2°C, the accord failed to achieve commitments to reducing emissions. The outcome frustrated many and Hedegaard has subsequently described the eight-draft, 115-country process as a 'nightmare'. Hedegaard refused to give up.

Two years later in Durban, she made a stand against fierce opposition to push through a timetable for new negotiations, this time designed



to create a global pact on emissions reductions. The 2015 UNFCCC in Paris is the culmination of that timetable and the global pact, if it is achieved, will come into force in 2020. Presiding over the European 2030 Climate and Energy Framework, which commits to a 40% reduction in emissions, Hedegaard said: "We have sent a strong signal to the rest of the world. We have now done our homework and now it's up to other big economies to do theirs".

Time & Date: Monday 18 May, 5pm - 6.30pm Venue: Oxford Martin School, corner of Catte and Holywell Street, Oxford

#### Please register at http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2120

#### Chris Woods, award-wining investigative journalist

Sudden justice: America's secret drone wars

This book talk will see author Chris Woods discuss his new book Sudden Justice: America's Secret Drone Wars, an exposé of the littleunderstood yet extremely significant world of drone warfare. His work is based on insights from many of those intimately involved – the pilots and analysts, US and UK intelligence officials, Special Forces and Pentagon commanders.

Time & Date: Wednesday 27 May, 5pm – 6.30pm Venue: Oxford Martin School, corner of Catte and Holywell Street, Oxford

#### Please register at http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2107

Oxford Martin School Trinity Term Seminar Series 30 April – 28 May 2015, 5 – 6.30pm Lecture Theatre, Oxford Martin School

Creating a climate for change: what's at stake in global climate negotiations

#### Please register at: http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2030

• 30 April: Realising human rights in a warming world

Speaker: Professor Simon Caney, Co-Director, Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations

• 7 May: Top-down or bottom-up: getting traction on climate change

Speaker: Professor Steve Rayner, Director, Oxford Institute for Science, Innovation and Society and Co-Director, Oxford Geoengineering Programme

14 May: Engineering a cooler planet: Could we? Should we?

Speakers: **Professor Richard Darton**, Co-Director Oxford Geoengineering Programme and **Professor Steve Rayner**, Director, Oxford Institute for Science, Innovation and Society and Co-Director, Oxford Geoengineering Programme

21 May: Sustainable transport: electric dreams vs carbon reality

Speakers: **Professor David Banister,** Oxford Martin School Expert & Professor of Transport Studies and **Dr Malcolm McCulloch**, Oxford Martin School Expert & Head of the Energy and Power Group

28 May: A wealthy, healthy planet: creating green economic growth

Speaker: **Professor Cameron Hepburn**, Director, Economics of Sustainability, The Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School

### Cell Senescence: From Physiology to Pathology

19-22 July 2015, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

This exciting conference will bring together senior and junior researchers investigating mechanisms and pathways of cell senescence, the impact of senescence on cancer, ageing and other different pathologies, and avenues to exploit senescence, either promoting or blocking it, for disease therapies.

For further information, please see http://cellsenescence.wix.com/icsa2015