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

[communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk)

Copy deadline for next issue: 09:00, Monday 2 February. Delivery date: Monday 9 February

Sign up [here](#) to receive a weekly digest of all events/seminars/talks/workshops taking place across the Division.



## NEED FUNDING?

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- Oxford–Harrington Scholarship Programme (**deadline Mon 12 Jan**)
- John Fell Fund (**Wed 14 Jan**)
- Medical Research Fund (**Mon 19 Jan**)
- Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (**Fri 30 Jan**)
- Oxford–UCB Prize Fellowship in Biomedical research (**Fri 20 Feb**)
- Returning Carer's Fund (**Sat 28 Feb**)

For further details about all these opportunities, please visit the [Internal Research Funding page](#) on the new Medical Science Division's website.

## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF DIVISION

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

Happy New Year! I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing break, and are feeling refreshed and ready for 2015!

2014 ended on a high for the Medical Sciences Division, as we achieved terrific results in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise. The University overall performed excellently, and the Division's performance has been superb across the board.

We ranked top for the overall quality of our submissions in the following three areas: Clinical Medicine; Public Health, Health Service and Primary Care; and also in Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience. In Biological Sciences, we submitted the largest volume of world leading and internationally excellent research in the exercise and ranked top for research 'power'.

The REF provides a valuable assessment of our research output, environment, and impact. This assessment provides further evidence that Oxford Medical Sciences continues to be a world leading research centre, and we should all be very proud to be associated with this achievement. [Read more.](#)

I should like to take this opportunity personally to congratulate you all for your individual contributions to, and in support of, the Division's research endeavour. I should also like to offer special thanks to the UOA Coordinators, Richard Cornall, Antony Galione, Paul Harrison and Richard Hobbs and to Tertia Softley, for their efforts throughout the REF process.



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**Bodleian Libraries**  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

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### Important Updates

#### **New Medical Sciences Division Website Launched**

**Bringing Isis Innovation closer to researchers** A new hot desk at the John Radcliffe Hospital

### Funding Opportunities

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**BBSRC Summer Research Experience Placements** Deadline: 23 January

**ERC Advanced Grant Workshops: February 2015**

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

**Present your research at the British Science Festival 2015**

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**Men needed for a brain study!**

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### Other Items of Interest

**Oxford BRC Open Weeks** Learn about world-leading research in conditions including Cancer, Dementia and Heart Disease/ and how it can improve your healthcare

**Careers Events for Research Staff Hilary Term** New Career Seminars in Science Area, Career workshops for research staff, events and one-to-one appointments

**Staff discounts**

ImpactFEST 2015 5th February, St John's College, Oxford

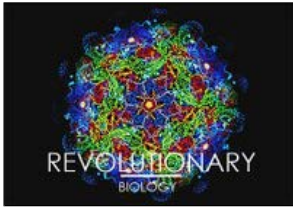
Personalised Medicine World Conference comes to Oxford To be held 15–17 April 2015, early bird registration deadline 20 December

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

Spaces still available on Principal investigators programme Workshops for 'nearly PIs' and new PIs

## AND FINALLY...

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The Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM) produced a series of short films to celebrate the International Year of Crystallography. The '[Revolutionary Biology](#)' series highlights the work of Oxford scientists, in the past, present and future of structural biology. Each film examines the development of structural biology from the discovery of X-ray crystallography, and the role of cutting-edge technology, such as Diamond Light Source, through to the impact of these discoveries on drug discovery. The series has been well received with over 2000 views so far and is available to download as an educational resource.

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# Athena SWAN News

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## Returning Carers' Fund – call for applications



The Returning Carers' Fund is a small grants scheme intended to support the return to research of women and men who have taken a break of at least 6 months for caring responsibilities. Awards will normally be up to £5k. In exceptional circumstances, larger amounts may be awarded, up to an absolute maximum of £10k.

The fund is open to:

- All members of academic and research staff employed by the University, including those holding joint appointments but excluding those who have achieved full professorial title or hold statutory chairs
- All those who have either taken a single break of at least 6 months for caring responsibilities in the 2 years prior to 31 July 2014 or taken 2 or more breaks of at least 6 months each in the 5 years prior to 31 July 2014.

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

Previously successful applications include:

- £4100 towards generating pilot data to support a fellowship application
- £1400 to support conference attendance
- £4850 to support a 6-week visit to collaborators' labs (including travel costs and lab consumables in hosting labs)
- £5000 to buy-out NHS clinical time

The next closing date for applications is **February 28 2015**. For further details and a copy of the application form see <http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/research/internal-research-funding/returning-carers-fund> or contact Jennifer Anderson (Athena SWAN advisor and facilitator at [jennifer.anderson@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.anderson@medsci.ox.ac.uk) or [athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:athena-swan@medsci.ox.ac.uk)).

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## Talks and Events

### 2015 Mabel Fitzgerald Lecture – The Science of Healthy Ageing

In connection with their Department's Athena SWAN programme, the Department of Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics is pleased to announce a new annual lecture series to be held in honour of Mabel FitzGerald (1872–1973).

The inaugural Mabel FitzGerald Lecture will be given by Professor Dame Linda Partridge (Weldon Professor of Biometry at the Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment at University College London, Director of UCL's Institute of Healthy Ageing and Founding Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Biology of Ageing in Cologne).

All are welcome but **\*\* registration is needed\*\***

**Date:** Thursday 22 January 2015

**Time:** 4pm

**Location:** Large Lecture Theatre, Sherrington Building, Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, South Parks

For further information and registration, please see <http://www.dpag.ox.ac.uk/seminars/mfg2015>

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## Articles and Resources

### “Not for people like me?” Under-represented groups in science, technology and engineering

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) have [published a report](#) that reviews recent research on the under-representation of women in STEM careers and suggests ways to encourage girls to undertake a STEM career.

The report finds that STEM careers are not popular aspirations for students age 10–14, who perceive that a career in STEM is 'not for people like me'. In order to overcome this perception the report recommends providing role models, peer support and mentoring, as well as describing the 'person spec' as well as the 'job spec' i.e. focusing on the types of people who succeed in science, technology and engineering rather than the jobs themselves. The report also suggests that employers need to provide a supportive work environment with flexible working options in order to retain female workers.



# IT News

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2. [Student Systems launch 6 Jan](#)
3. [First wireless online exam a success for year 5 medics at the JR](#)

## Funding of up to 100K available for innovative IT projects

Funding of up to 100K available for innovative staff IT projects in the Hilary Term IT Innovation Seed Fund – propose an idea, offer assistance, take part in the discussion or simply vote for those you think should go forward to the next stage.

This term, the IT Innovation Group would particularly welcome ideas that would:

- assist in **Widening Access** (outreach and bridging activities) and/or;
- improve the **Student Feedback** experience (assessment criteria and help with improving their work).



However, proposals for other innovative digital projects that would improve the academic experience of staff or students at Oxford are also welcome. A parallel fund, open to Oxford students is also available with funding of up to £20K. Closing date for idea submission is 14 Feb 2015.

Further details: [IT Innovation Seed Fund](#)

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## Student Systems launch 6 Jan



The switch over from the Oracle Student System (OSS) to eVision for staff access to the on-course student record has taken place. Student Self Service will be available through eVision from the 6 Jan 2015 at 09:00.

This means eVision will open for on-course student records and degree ceremonies access for staff. OSS remains active for Admissions, admissions dataviews, GOCAT and SVS.

More information: [Student Systems Programme](#)

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## First wireless online exam a success for year 5 medics at the JR

Until recently all of the 50+ online assessments run annually within MSD as formal University exams, have required students to travel to an IT suite in the Science Area or the Rosemary Rue building on the Old Road Campus. With increasing pressure on IT suites and the demolition of the Rosemary Rue, this was becoming harder and harder to organise at the appropriate point in students' courses.

Funded in part by an MSD Teaching Excellence Project Award, [MSD Learning Technologies](#) (MSDLT) bought a set of 35 tablets (with keyboards) that can be transported, along with their own secure wireless network, to any room suitable for an assessment with a University internet connection. During a pilot otolaryngology assessment to test the technology at the JR, in November, we established that, despite the smaller screen size, students preferred being able to take assessments without travelling to the Science Area.



The Community Based Subjects summative assessment for Year 5 medics in mid-December was sat by 27 students in Lecture Theatre 2 with no significant technical problems and paves the way for a wider roll out of wireless online assessments across MSD.

However, we're already exploring the use of our 'mobile learning spaces' in other situations, including:

- Polling/Audience Response in seminars/lectures
- Virtual microscopy alongside traditional histology teaching
- Objective structured clinical examinations

If you would like to be involved in any of these pilots, have other ideas for how they might be used, or would like to discuss how tablets might benefit your teaching, please get in touch with us at [msdl@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:msdl@medsci.ox.ac.uk).



# Library News

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6. [Research Skills Toolkits](#)

## Happy New Year and Good Luck to Clinical Medicine Finalists

The January finals loom for the sixth year Clinical Medicine students; we wish you luck and would like to remind you how we can help by providing:

- 24/7 access to the Cairns Library, using your University Card
- Bookable Group Study Rooms, at both the Cairns Library and Knowledge Centre



## New for 2015. Isis Innovation hot desk in JR Cairns Library – Isis Innovation, working across the University



Isis Innovation, the University of Oxford's research and technology commercialisation company, has a hot-desk in the Cairns Library (please ask the library receptionist for directions to our room 3A31).

This Isis hot-desk will be open every Tuesday afternoon from 1300–1600.

To arrange a meeting, contact Dr Richard Reschen via [Richard.reschen@isis.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.reschen@isis.ox.ac.uk) or just

stop by!

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## The life and legacy of Dr John Radcliffe – Remembering Radcliffe

The Bodleian Libraries' winter exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of John Radcliffe, a physician and philanthropist who had uncanny success in diagnosing and treating his patients, including Queen Anne, and on his death left the bulk of his fortune to charitable causes.

The exhibition considers 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 Radcliffe's ongoing legacy in the work of the Radcliffe Trust as it marks the 300th anniversary of his death.

There will be a lunchtime lecture accompanying the exhibition Remembering Radcliffe: 300 years of science and philanthropy

21 January 2015 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Convocation House, Old Bodleian Library

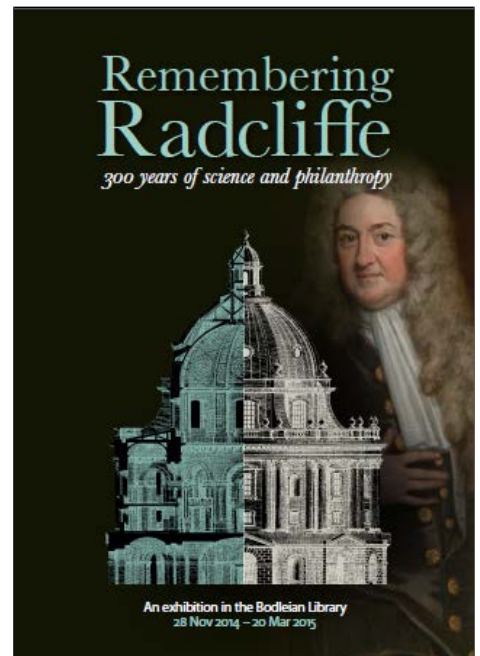
Speaker: Professor David Cranston, Consultant Urological Surgeon, Fellow of Green Templeton College

This event is free but places are limited so please complete our booking form to reserve tickets in advance.

[Book free tickets](#)

For general enquiries about this event, please contact [Wilma Minty](mailto:Wilma.Minty@bodley.com), Department of Special Collections, Bodleian Libraries.

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## Journal Subscription Consultation

The Bodleian Libraries, along with all departments in the University, are facing continued financial pressure and constraints. As a result, we don't renew any subscription without a careful review of usage and cost. The following resources are now due for renewal, however usage is

low:

#### Number of Downloads

Endoscopy	183
European Journal of Pediatric Surgery	125
Hormone and Metabolic Research	226

As a result, we're considering the renewal of these resources carefully and any impact if we were to cancel them.

Please note that this isn't a notice of their cancellation, at the moment we're gauging their usage and their value to our research community.

As part of this process, we'd welcome any feedback you may have on the importance of these titles to your work. Please respond to Owen

Coxall, the BHCL Collections Manager, at [owen.coxall@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:owen.coxall@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## ClinicalKey – advance notice to Clinical Medical Students of possible interruption to access

Our subscription to ClinicalKey is due for renewal, and at present we are in negotiations with the supplier to ensure we obtain the best value for money. Whilst we are working towards this there may be some interruption to access during January 2015. If you have any queries or need help accessing reading list titles please contact [hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

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## Research Skills Toolkits

**IT and Information Skills and services for your research – A free hands-on workshop for research students introducing key tools, techniques and resources.**

Topics covered in this 2 hour session include:

- Reference management software
- Literature searching and advanced search techniques
- Keeping up to date with emerging research
- Managing your thesis with Word
- Analysing data with Excel pivot tables
- Podcasting with Audacity and WebLearn
- Free software for image manipulation
- Measuring research impact
- Your thesis, copyright and submitting to ORA

During the sessions you will also meet with subject specialists for help and guidance on further training.

These workshops which are run jointly by IT Services and the Bodleian Libraries are open to graduate researchers and take place in week 1 of Hilary Term:

- Research Skills Toolkit for Medical Sciences Wed 21 Jan 10.00–12.00, Thurs 22 Jan 14.00–16.00 – [Book a place](#)

# Opportunities and Updates

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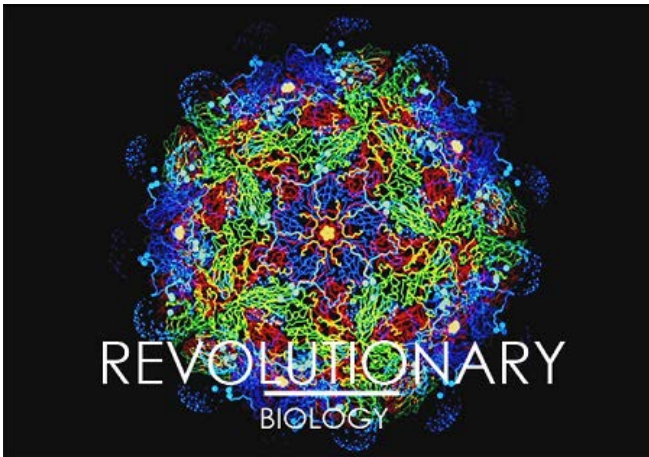
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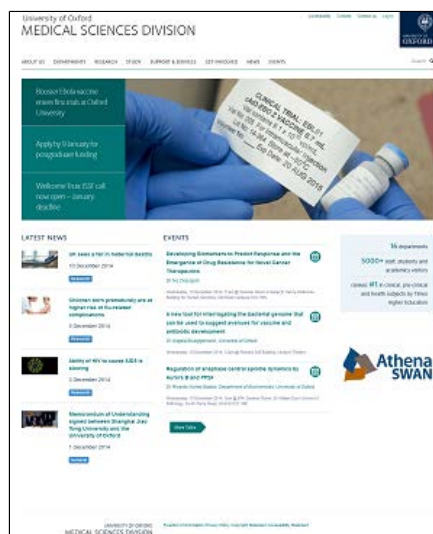
We are pleased to announce the launch of the new Medical Sciences Division website. The new site will be regularly updated, so check back frequently to keep up to date with events, opportunities and updates.

New sections of particular note include:

- Internal Research Funding – A list of divisional and university funding streams, including guidelines and deadlines. Examples of previous award holders and lists of panel members to follow soon
- Resources for Researchers – A quick guide to some of the best internal and external resources available for our researchers
- Support and Services – A directory of teams and staff from the divisional office and its related units, including available resources and easy-to-find contact information

The website joins many of our departments and units – most recent additions include the Nuffield Department of Population Health and the Department of Paediatrics – on the Haiku Web platform. This family of websites offers our users a more consistent web experience, and allows for more efficient integration of content.

This is a phased, ongoing web development project, so we appreciate comments and ideas on how to improve the site at any point. Please email [communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk)



## Bringing Isis Innovation closer to researchers

A new hot desk at the John Radcliffe Hospital

Isis Innovation and the Cairns Library (John Radcliffe Hospital site) are pleased to announce that the **Cairns Library is now hosting an Isis Innovation “hot desk” in the 3A31 meeting room.**

The Isis Innovation hot desk will be staffed by Dr Richard Reschen or one of his colleagues on **Tuesday afternoons from 1300 – 1600**. Please contact [richard.reschen@isis.ox.ac.uk](mailto:richard.reschen@isis.ox.ac.uk) to



arrange a meeting to discuss any questions you may have relating to intellectual property, patenting, software commercialisation, licensing, spin-outs and consultancy with Isis staff at the Cairns Library Isis Innovation hot desk.

For further information on all other Isis hot desks located around the University please click here – <http://isis-innovation.com/university-members/isis-spokes/>



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## Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund call now open

Deadline: Saturday 31 January 2015

The objects of the charity are for:

*"the raising of the standard of the Hospital or Hospitals concerned in order to assist the development and carrying on of the Oxford University Medical School".*

Applicants should note that research projects are not normally funded (other than through Oxfordshire Health Services Research Committee (OHSRC).

The annual funds available are approximately £300,000 and bids are considered and grants awarded by the Trustees in May/June of each year. Recently grants have been awarded in the £20,000 to £40,000 range. The Trustees do not allocate grants for less than £5,000.

[Further details and application form](#)

## IT Innovation Seed Fund

Open to all University staff and students, aimed at surfacing ideas for digital projects that can target key University objectives

For Hilary Term IT Services are looking for ideas to target 'Widening Access' and 'Feedback to Students' but would also be interested in any innovative digital proposals that would improve the academic experience at Oxford (the 'Open' category). They are using an 'open innovation' process so the first step is to register on the site, read the challenge, and submit your idea or comment on others. Even if you do not have a project idea in mind, you can offer to help other people with theirs. The open innovation stage will be open until **14 February 2015** after which they will select a few ideas to go forward to formal project proposals and possibly funding.



This is your chance to get your idea funded. **Projects can be of any size from a few hundred pounds upwards but cannot exceed £100k, and can last for up to 12 months.**

For more information go to <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/innovation-fund>; or to join in immediately please go to the [Oxford Ideas site](#) and register.

They are also launching the annual **Student IT Innovation Seed Fund** in collaboration with OUSU (open to all Oxford students to get funding for digital projects over the long vacation). For further information, please see <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/innovation-fund>.

## BBSRC Summer Research Experience Placements

Deadline: 23 January

Eight BBSRC funded research experience placements are available linked to the prestigious Manchester Doctoral Training Partnership.

Placements will last for up to 10 weeks in duration, and a maintenance stipend of £200 per week is provided.



**Eligibility:** Students should be in the middle years of their first degree and be registered for a basic science (including mathematics and engineering) or veterinary degree at a UK university (Home/EU status only). Applicants should be expected to obtain a first or upper second class honours degree. Preference will be given to students who wish to use the placement to find out more about their suitability and aptitude for further research, particularly if the project is in an area of science different from their main subject area.

## How to apply

A list of projects and an application form will be available from the Friday

9th January at: <http://www.dtpstudentships.manchester.ac.uk/projects/researchexperienceplacements/>

Candidates should submit an application form by the deadline of **23rd January** to: [vanessa.haves@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:vanessa.haves@manchester.ac.uk)

## ERC Advanced Grant Workshops: February 2015

This is an early heads-up that the Research Services European Team will be running two workshops in February 2015 for Oxford University ERC Advanced grant applicants.

The ERC submission deadline for the 2015 Advanced Grant call is 2 June (the call opens 10 February)

The workshops will be identical so you only need to attend one.

The workshop dates and venues are:

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February – 9.15 am to 11.45 am in the Sherrington Large Lecture Theatre, Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics in the Parks Road Science Area: [map](#)**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – 10.00 am to 12.30 pm in the Kennedy Institute on the Old Road Campus, Headington: [map](#)**

Attendees of all disciplines are welcome at both workshops.

Please click on the doodle poll link [here](#) to register.

## Funding and Partnering Opportunities In The Life Sciences Lunchtime Seminar

Thursday 22 January, 1–2pm

Hosted by Prof. Chas Bountra, Professor of Translational Medicine

### **New Venture Capital Fund for the Life Sciences: Epidarex Capital**

Dr Liz Roper, Partner, Epidarex & Dr Peter Finan, Venture Partner, Epidarex

### **R&D Partnering with Eli Lilly: Find, Fund, Develop**

Dr Elaine Anderson, Externalisation Manager, Lilly

**Thursday 22 January, 1–2pm, NDM Research Building Seminar Room**

**Lunch and refreshments provided – for catering purposes please confirm your attendance to [alex.prior@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alex.prior@medsci.ox.ac.uk)**

If you would like a 1:1 meeting with Lilly or Epidarex on the 22nd to discuss your project,

or for further info please contact [alex.prior@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alex.prior@medsci.ox.ac.uk)

**Epidarex Capital** funds the commercialization of ground-breaking research and new technologies to address large and unmet needs in today's healthcare market. They are seeking outstanding early-stage investment opportunities in the life science industry and will discuss their investment criteria and partnering approach. Their new £47.5m fund is specifically focused on opportunities arising from UK Universities, and the fund is backed by Eli Lilly, the European Investment Fund and a number of UK research universities.

<http://www.epidarex.com/>

**Eli Lilly** is the 10th largest pharmaceutical company in the world and is committed to partnering with academia to boost their internal R&D efforts. Their 'Global External Research and Development' team complement's Lilly's internal R&D capabilities by identifying and evaluating external targets, molecules, capabilities and technologies, and forming collaborations to advance these assets. <http://www.lilly.com/>

## Funding opportunities for Science–Humanities Collaboration

TORCH is offering sabbaticals designed to create new interest in, and opportunities for, research that reaches between the humanities and sciences. Deadline 12 January



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 paired research sabbaticals to enable science and humanities postholders in Oxford to develop joint research projects. Pairs of postholders – one in the sciences, and one in the humanities – are invited to submit joint applications.

TORCH would also like to showcase existing Oxford projects that intersect the disciplines, so get in touch with them 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](http://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](mailto:torch@humanities.ox.ac.uk). You can also follow @TORCHOxford and #humsciox on Twitter for *Humanities and Science* related tweets!



# Fellowship Opportunities

## Round 8 of the NIHR Fellowships Programme is now open for applications

Deadline: 1.00pm, Wednesday 21 January 2015

NIHR Fellowships support outstanding individuals to become the health research leaders of the future by buying out their salary costs, meeting their training and development costs and by contributing to the research costs needed to complete an identified research project.

For further information and how to apply visit

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/fellowship-programme.htm>

## Oxford-UCB Prize Fellowship in Biomedical Research



Inspired by patients.  
Driven by science.



We are pleased to announce that UCB pharma have recently signed an agreement with the University of Oxford to support two early career postdoctoral or clinical research training fellowships a year for five years. This funding will support each fellow for a three year period, in addition to a generous consumables and travel budget. The aim of this programme is to support the development of a new generation of exceptional early career researchers, who will become future leaders in the field, ultimately improving the lives of patients.

The first two fellows in the programme will start in the **autumn of 2015**. Candidates can either have basic science background or have a clinical background (in this case fees will be provided should to undertake a DPhil during the three year fellowship).

The programme is being run through the Medical Sciences Division however any researcher in the Medical Sciences Division and MPLS Division whose research meets the eligibility criteria can participate. The programme is overseen by a joint steering committee with members from both Oxford University and UCB.

The first stage of the programme is for interested PIs to submit project proposals to the committee by completing the project proposal form and sending it to [oliver.voss@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oliver.voss@medsci.ox.ac.uk) by the deadline of **5pm on Friday 20 February**.

Further details about the [Oxford-UCB Prize Fellowship in Biomedical Research](#) (university network only)

# Engagement Opportunities

## Voice of Young Science

Early career researchers needed to play an active role in public debates about science



The Voice of Young Science (VoYS) programme encourages early career researchers to play an active role in public debates about science. As part of the programme, we run "Standing up for Science" media workshops to discuss concerns about speaking to the public and confront misconceptions about how the media works. The workshops are free, full day events – for early career researchers in all sciences, engineering and medicine. The next workshop is in Manchester on 27th March – apply now!

## 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>

## Present your research at the British Science Festival 2015

The British Science Association is pleased to announce that the nominations for the annual Award Lectures and the call for proposals for the British Science Festival 2015 are **now open**.



The British Science Festival is Europe's longest-standing national event which connects people with scientists, engineers, technologists and social scientists. In 2015 the Festival will be returning to **Bradford** between **7-10 September** and we would like to invite researchers to apply to showcase their work at the Festival.

The British Science Festival's aim is to bring **cutting-edge British science** to the fore and celebrate the importance of science in our culture and society. This year, the programme of events will focus on research presented through a series of lectures, debates and discussions. By working with more than 250 of the UK's leading researchers to showcase their ideas, innovations and passion, the British Science Festival aims to re-energise and engage with new and existing audiences.

The British Science Festival's Programme Planning Committee will review and select the proposals, and the BSA's Engagement Team will work closely with the academics, freelancers, institutions and organisations involved to curate their events including providing training for speakers who are less experienced in public engagement.

The British Science Association sets **no restrictions** on its **call for proposals**; anyone can suggest content for an event – staff and organisations from the host University and host city, individuals, freelancers, organisations or academic institutions from all over the UK.

#### **Open Call for Proposals**

To find out more about our open call and to submit a proposal via our webform click [here](#). The deadline for the call for proposals is **23 March 2015**.

#### **Award Lecture Nominations**

Each year, the British Science Association acknowledges the work of a number of early career researchers and scientists, through its **Award Lecture** series held at the British Science Festival. Nominations for rising science communication stars, to be honoured in 2015, are now being sought. Each Lecture encompasses a different element of science, and each year five outstanding researchers present their fascinating scientific findings to the public, following in the footsteps of previous Award Lecturers such as Professor Brian Cox, Professor Richard Wiseman, and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock.

To find out more about the Award Lecture nominations and to submit a nomination via our webform click [here](#). The deadline for Award Lecture Nominations is **2 March 2015**.

For more information about both calls and to find out about other ways to get involved in the festival, please visit the British Science Association [website](#). If you have any questions, please get in touch with **Hana Ayoob** at [hana.ayoob@britishscienceassociation.org](mailto:hana.ayoob@britishscienceassociation.org)

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Oxford Vaccine Group – Evaluating Vaccines against Ebola Study

You are invited to take part in a study investigating new vaccines against Ebola. The study is being run by the Oxford Vaccine Group which is part of the University of Oxford.

If you are aged 18 to 50 years old and in good health then you may be eligible to take part in the study. We will provide reimbursement for your time, inconvenience and travel. The total study participation time is 1 year.

Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand exactly what the study is about and what participation would involve.

**If you would like to see if you are you eligible, please go to [www.ebolavaccine.org.uk](http://www.ebolavaccine.org.uk)**

If you would like to discuss the study further, please contact us:

**Telephone: 01865 857420**

**Email: [info@ovg.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@ovg.ox.ac.uk)**



## 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:

[nathan.huneke@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nathan.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

## Men needed for a brain study!

Interested in the workings of the human brain? Want to help research in psychiatry?

We need healthy men, aged 18 to 60, for a study of the effect of a gene and a drug on the performance of simple computer tasks.

If you take part, we will ask you to:

- Provide a cheek swab (to see which form of the gene you have) then, if suitable, come to the lab and:
- Complete some questionnaires;
- Take a single dose of a drug or a dummy pill and carry out simple reward tasks and tests of the processing of emotions.

The study will take around 6 hours of your time, for which you will be reimbursed.

INTERESTED? For more information,

without any obligation, please email [comt.study@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:comt.study@psych.ox.ac.uk)

(South Central – Berkshire Research Ethics Committee REF number: 14 SC 0035)

## Individual differences in working memory study

Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity Attention Group would like to alert you of the following study – [tinyurl.com/OxfordMemory](http://tinyurl.com/OxfordMemory)

There's a chance to win £100 plus £400 for charity.

## 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](mailto:bupropion.study@psych.ox.ac.uk)

01865 226464

Participants will be reimbursed for their time and expenses

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REC Number: 13/SC/0569

## 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

### Oxford BRC Open Weeks

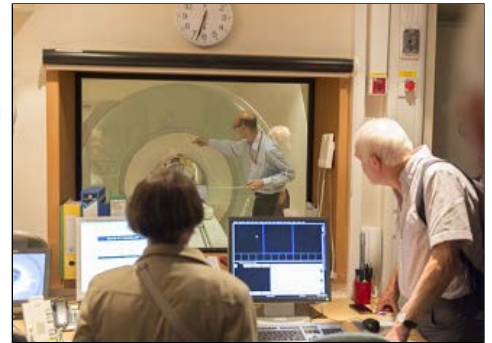
Learn about world-leading research in conditions including Cancer, Dementia and Heart Disease/ and how it can improve your healthcare. This year, the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research (BRC) is holding a series of free events including talks, tours and exhibitions, on the latest advances in research to improve healthcare. The Biomedical Research Centre brings together researchers and clinicians from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and Oxford University to improve healthcare through translational research.

From **6 to 21 March**, the BRC will showcase some of its work to tie in with the Oxford Science Festival and British Science Week and will enable people to take a tour behind the scenes of Oxford's hospitals.

The BRC Open Weeks will be brought to you at venues including the Oxford Natural History Museum in the heart of Oxford as well as talks and tours on site at Oxford's hospitals.

Activities will take place during the day and in the evening so that there is something for everyone. Events are free and everyone is welcome. There will be talks on the latest developments in research in Cancer, Dementia, Heart Disease and more, with speakers from Oxford University and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, as well as interactive exhibitions to discover how technology is revolutionising healthcare both in the hospital and at home.

For more information on the Oxford BRC Open Weeks view [www.oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk)



### Careers Events for Research Staff Hilary Term

New Career Seminars in Science Area, Career workshops for research staff, events and one-to-one appointments

Please find below Career Events for researchers and one-to-one appointments for Hilary 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](mailto:courses@careers.ox.ac.uk) If you do not have a Career Connect account please email

[reception@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:reception@careers.ox.ac.uk) to have one set up.



### New Career Seminars in the Science Area

Monthly lunchtime career seminars open to all science DPhil students and research staff covering careers within and beyond academia. The next seminar is on Wednesday 28th January at 1-2pm in Biochemistry. For details and for future seminars at the same time and in the same location check Career Connect. No need to book – just turn up!

### Careers workshops for research staff

#### To PhD or not to PhD? A Career Pathways Workshop for Research Assistants

Are you a research assistant wondering where to go next in your career? Not sure what to do when your contract ends or if a PhD is for you? Then come to our new workshop just for Research Assistants! Meet other Research Assistants and we will explore academic career pathways as well as how to start thinking about what other career options you may have.

**19 January 9.30–11.30am**

Book through [Oxford Learning Institute](#)

#### Too Late to Change Direction? A Career Change Workshop for Research Staff

Been a researcher for a while? Considering a change but unsure what you have to offer to the outside world or if leaving academic research is indeed the right move? Then this workshop is for you.

**23 January 9.30–12.00pm**

Book through [Oxford Learning Institute](#)

#### 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.

**10 February 9.30–13.00pm**

Book through [Oxford Learning Institute](#)

### Job Search and CV Skills

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

**20 February 9.30–12.00pm**

Book through [Oxford Learning Institute](#)

### Interview Skills

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

**13 March 2.30–5.00pm**

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.

**2 February 2.00–5.30pm**

### 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.

**23 February 2.00–17.00pm**

## 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 27464601865 274646 to book or book online through Career Connect for 15 minute appointments (only at Careers Service).

[Call](#)

[Send SMS](#)

[Add to Skype](#)

You'll need Skype CreditFree via Skype

## Staff discounts

As a member of staff of the University of Oxford, you can access a range of discounts in shops, restaurants and with online retailers. The full list of discounts and a link to the University of Oxford staff benefits is available is

here:<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/discountsforstaff/>

## ImpactFEST 2015

5th February, St John's College, Oxford

### **FREE REGISTRATION**

Research impact is becoming more and more important. Research councils are increasingly basing funding decisions on the potential of research to make a demonstrable contribution to society and the economy.

ImpactFEST is a free event organised by the [Oxford Neuroscience, Psychology and Psychiatry Impact Committee](#), chaired by David Clark – Experimental Psychology.

ImpactFest will enable researchers at all career stages to learn more about;

- The different types of research impact
- Examples of high impact research from across Oxford Neuroscience
- The challenges of maximising impact and how to overcome these
- The resources available to support you in realising your research impact



The programme features talks from eminent figures well versed in the issues around research impact and who generated Oxford REF impact case studies. There will also be facilitated discussion breakouts covering areas including: drug discovery, medicine, psychology, social psychology and education.

The event will end with a networking drinks reception.

Further details including the full programme are available on the [Oxford Neuroscience Website](#)

#### **FREE REGISTRATION**

## Personalised Medicine World Conference comes to Oxford

To be held 15–17 April 2015, early bird registration deadline 20 December

The Personalised Medicine World Conference 2015 is being jointly organised by the [Centre for Personalised Medicine in Oxford](#) (a collaboration between the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and St Anne's College) and the [Personalised Medicine World Conference](#) (PMWC).

A series of these conferences, organised by PMWC, have been held annually in Stanford. The Oxford conference will be the first of this series held in Europe. An international audience of 300 people is expected, drawn from industry, academia, and the healthcare sector. They will gather in Oxford for a conference focused on personalised medicine in the clinic and on the practical applications of personalised medicine both now and in the near future.

There is the opportunity to take advantage of an early bird registration fee until December 20 2014, details available on the [website](#).

## Springboard Development Programme for Researchers Opening Now

Award-winning personal and professional development programme for women

- **Programme 1: Hilary Term starts 28 January 2015**
- **Programme 2: Trinity Term programme starts 17 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> .

## Spaces still available on Principal investigators programme

Workshops for 'nearly PIs' and new PIs

**Hilary term: to be held at the Ludwig Institute, Old Road Campus Research Building, Old Road Campus**



**Workshop 1 – Funding: finding funds in the current climate and managing them effectively** *Thursday 5 February 2015, 12.15–14.00*

**Workshop 2 – Making the most of your expertise and IP** *Thursday 12 February 2015, 12.15–14.00*

**Workshop 3 – Effective use of communications** *Thursday 19 February 2015, 12.15–14.00*

**Workshop 4 – Leading and managing a research group** *Thursday 26 February 2015, 12.15–14.00*

Please sign up using the booking page:

[http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar\\_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/PI&page=3&id=2088](http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/PI&page=3&id=2088)