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

Copy deadline for next issue: 09:00, Monday 6 July. Delivery date: Monday 13 July.

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



INNOVATION ROUND UP

Miss last month's special *Innovation Issue*, featuring interviews with staff and student innovators, a comprehensive list of university resources and a variety of upcoming innovation-related events?

For example, the issue featured [Enterprising Oxford](#), a gateway for students and researchers to learn the basics of enterprise, from impact to intellectual property, to setting up a business or social venture, and lots of other things in-between.

Or perhaps you're interested in Wednesday's (10 June) mini-symposium [Making the most of your research: impact through innovation and enterprise](#), with guest speakers from within the University and Isis Innovation spin-out companies.

Catch up on The Innovation Issue [here!](#)

LAB TALK

In this issue of Lab Talk, we talk to Professor Peter Brown, Director of the recently opened Medical Research Council Brain Network Dynamics Unit (BNDU) at the University of Oxford and Professor of Experimental Neurology in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences.

Tell us a little about the work in the BNDU? What are your goals?

The [Medical Research Council Brain Network Dynamics Unit \(BNDU\)](#) opened in April this year and brings together complementary research groups in the [Department of Pharmacology](#) and [Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences \(NDCN\)](#). Our goal is to understand and exploit the moment-to-moment interactions between nerve cells that are critical for brain functions, with a special focus on the brain circuits underlying movement and memory. To achieve this we have complementary experimental, computational and clinical neuroscience research programmes.

[Read more...](#)



BOARD BUSINESS

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

At its meeting in May, the Medical Sciences Board:

- (1) received a report on Athena SWAN developments, noting that silver awards had recently been made to two departments and 12 new applications for silver awards made;
- (2) received and noted a report from the Board's Information Technology Committee including information on IT Services' Portfolio Review;
- (3) received a report from the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee and discussed the financial pressures facing the Division including those arising from the way in which HEFCE had allocated the Research Excellence Framework-related QR income. It was noted that much work had yet to be done on the proposed budget for 2015-16. It was agreed that the REF outcome was excellent in reputational terms and that it should be possible for the Development Office to capitalise on the impact case studies, for example;

[Read more...](#)

ATHENA SWAN NEWS

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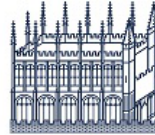


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Bodleian Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

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Revised CUREC 1 checklist now available

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AND FINALLY...OXRSS IDEAS AND BEERS

*An evening of socialising and sharing ideas about how OxRSS can help improve your experience as a member of research staff *(non-alcoholic alternatives available of course!)*

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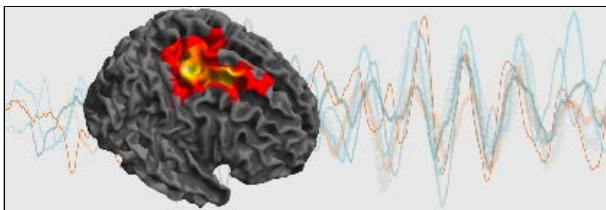
The Medical Research Council Brain Network Dynamics Unit (BNDU) opened in April this year and brings together complementary research groups in the Department of Pharmacology and Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences (NDCN). Our goal is to understand and exploit the moment-to-moment interactions between nerve cells that are critical for brain functions, with a special focus on the brain circuits underlying movement and memory. To achieve this we have complementary experimental, computational and clinical neuroscience research programmes.

Why do you think this is important?

By focussing on how neural interactions change from one moment to the next we aim to develop and deliver novel therapies that specifically target the disordered communication between nerve cells and nerve circuits lying at the heart of many brain diseases. The interventions we hope to develop in the future will both simultaneously read out aberrant brain activity and correct it by stimulating or inhibiting key neural elements.

The unit brings together researchers from the old MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit and NDCN. What's your thinking behind this?

The MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit was world-class in its exploration of how and which nerve cells interact with one another during information processing. This knowledge and the skills developed are essential if we are now to begin to understand how the dynamic interaction between nerve cells and circuits becomes deranged in diseases of the brain. Also critical, though, is determining which



interactions at the microcircuit level actually determine behaviour, whether normal or pathological, and taking the necessary steps to scale up from the microcircuit level in small animal models so as to be able to identify those key mechanisms and interventions that might prove useful in patients. Thus the new Unit also contains clinical and computational modelling programmes housed in the NDCN that facilitate this scaling up of insights and the early testing of candidate interventions. The integration of these diverse and

multidisciplinary strands in to the new unit has gone well, now that the long process of evaluation required to establish and fund the unit is over.

How did you get to where you are today?

Luck and the conviction that the precisely timed and coordinated interactions between nerve cells are the final common pathway by which behaviour and disease symptoms are expressed, so that directly and intelligently interacting with these processes should lead to new insights and treatments. Oh, and more luck!

What lessons have you learnt?

That's easy – everything takes much longer than you expect and you know even less than you thought.

How do you see your field developing in the next ten years?

Relatively few novel medications have been developed for the treatment of brain disease over the last decade, with some elements of the drug industry considering brain disease to be too 'hard' a problem and electing to invest in drug development in other body systems. However, recent progress in the understanding and explanation of the circuit mechanisms underlying behaviour as derived from animal studies provides an unparalleled opportunity for developing novel therapeutic approaches. In tandem there have been tremendous technical advances that enable the imaging and control of the interactions between nerve cells from moment to moment. The challenge now is to define what goes wrong with these interactions to cause symptoms so that we can use electrical and optogenetic approaches to react to and right aberrant interactions. Sounds too ambitious? Remember that brain pacemakers are already proving a tractable and effective therapy in several neurological and psychiatric diseases, so that what we are really talking about is refining the control that brain pacemakers afford, so that stimulation is targeted to the precise circuit dysfunctions expressed at any given moment. This should make them far more effective, efficient and selective.

Links:

Medical Research Council Brain Network Dynamics Unit (BNDU)

MRC BNDU on Twitter

MRC University Units (feature in August 2013 *OxfordMedSci News*)

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- (4) received a report from the Board's Research Committee and noted that there had been a discussion of the need to improve overhead recovery rates and that the committee had agreed to the establishment of a Clinical Trials Committee which would report to it.

Athena SWAN News

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5. Stress Management – support for employees and managers / supervisors
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2. Bapsybanoo Marchioness of Winchester and Dasturzada Dr Jal Pavry Memorial Lectures
3. WISE Career Development Programme and the Returners' Programmes

3. Articles and Resources

1. Science still seen as male profession, according to international study of gender bias

News

ECU's Athena SWAN Charter now covers arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law

From May this year ECU's Athena SWAN Charter has expanded to recognise work undertaken in arts, humanities, social sciences, business and law (AHSSBL), for those working in professional and support roles, and for trans staff and students.

The charter also now recognises work undertaken to address gender equality more broadly, and not just barriers to progression that affect women.

ECU's Athena SWAN Charter covers women (and men where appropriate) in:

- academic roles in STEM and AHSSBL
- professional and support staff
- trans staff and students

in relation to their:

- representation
- progression of students into academia
- journey through career milestones
- working environment for all staff

Find out more <http://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/athena-swan/>

At the ECU Sarah Dickinson is now fulfilling the role of Interim Head of Equality Charters and Dr Ruth E Gilligan is taking over the role of Interim Equality Charters Manager in the Equality Charters team.

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Become a panellist for our Equality Charters

Participating in an equality charter mark panel gives you an invaluable experience of the assessment process. You will come away with a detailed understanding of how panels work, and insight into how other institutions analyse their data and make progress on their action plan.

Reading through a range of applications will also give you plenty of good practice ideas you may wish to consider implementing in your department.

Being on a panel member also gives you an opportunity to build your professional networks and share learning among peers.

Panellists are sought with the following roles and specialisms:

- academics
- professional services staff
- equality and diversity practitioners
- HR practitioners
- representatives of research councils, research institutes, learned societies and professional bodies

More information here <http://www.ecu.ac.uk/get-involved/become-charter-mark-panellist/>



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Virtual Staff Advisory Group

The EDU are inviting all members of staff to get involved in a virtual staff advisory group which will give everyone the opportunity to have their say on key issues that may impact on equality and diversity within the University, such as:

- Caring for children or elderly relatives
- Hidden disability
- Harassment and bullying

Taking part will be very easy and won't take up more than a few minutes of your time.

Brief surveys will be circulated via WebLearn once a term or so, taking a quick straw poll (no more than 5 questions). Feedback gained in this way will be added to that received from other sources such as the staff networks (women's, BME, disabled, LGBT), HR staff, OUSU and other constituencies to highlight areas where more staff engagement is needed or bring forward proposals for change.

If you would like to express an interest, please email: sara.smith@admin.ox.ac.uk

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A call for nominations: STEM – Disability Advisory Committee (STEMM–DAC) Chair

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine – Disability Advisory Committee (STEMM–DAC, formerly Stem Disability Committee) is looking for an experienced, independent Chair.

STEMM–DAC brings together the main academies, learned societies and professional bodies in science, engineering and medicine to speak with a clear authoritative voice on the inclusion of disabled people in STEM education and employment. The Chair of the STEMM–DAC will play a vital role in the leadership and stewardship of our work to influence policy and provision for disabled people studying and working in STEM. They will help shape the future direction of the work that the Committee undertakes and be an ambassador for disabled people studying and working in STEM careers.

The Royal Society is a member of STEMM–DAC and provides the secretariat for the Committee.

For further information and to express an interest visit the [STEM Disability Committee webpages](#)

The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday 19th June 2015.

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Stress Management – support for employees and managers / supervisors

Occupational Health have recently updated their website regarding stress with increased information and support for both employees who feel stressed, and guidance for managers / supervisors on how to support employees with stress.

Stress is increasingly common and early management significantly reduces the likelihood of it developing into something more serious, such as depression and anxiety.

For more information on how to manage stress, please go to <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uohs/at-work/mental-health/stress/>.

For more information on support available from Occupational Health on health at work, please go to <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uohs/at-work/>.

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First time fathers need more support

Fathers who want to be more involved with their new born children feel held back by lack of support from health staff, government and society, a study by Oxford University researchers has shown. The team also identified other issues such as financial and practical concerns, as well as dads' own beliefs about what makes an ideal father.

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2015-05-18-first-time-fathers-need-more-support>

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Events

Cultures of Genius: Why women are underrepresented in certain academic disciplines

The 2015 Gareth Evans Memorial Lecture is given by Professor Sarah-Jane Leslie (Princeton). Some academic disciplines have significant gender gaps (e.g. philosophy), while others do not (e.g. molecular biology). Sometimes, the phenomenon is characterized in terms of the natural sciences/mathematics having large gender gaps, and the social sciences/humanities having small or no gender gaps. This is a crude

characterization, as reflection on disciplines such as philosophy vs. molecular biology illustrates. Are there any general, isolable factors that predict the occurrence of gender gaps across all academic disciplines, and also within the broad domains of natural sciences/mathematics, and social sciences/humanities? One such factor may be academics' beliefs about what is required for success — in particular, the extent to which innate, immutable, natural talent is emphasized, at the expense of hard work and dedication, predicts the presence and extent of a discipline's gender gap. This talk presents the original data in support of the hypothesis, along with several other in-progress studies, which shed light on how these beliefs are communicated, the mechanisms by which they operate to discourage women's participation, and their developmental trajectory. Research findings suggest that even very young girls are vulnerable to being discouraged by such messages.

Date: Tuesday 9 June

Time: 5pm

Venue: Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Law, St Cross Road

Bapsybanoo Marchioness of Winchester and Dasturzada Dr Jal Pavry Memorial Lectures

10.30–11.00: Registration, morning tea and coffee

11.00–12.00: **Thinking Like a Vegetable: How Plants Decide What to Do**

Professor Ottoline Leyser, University of Cambridge

12.00–13.00: Lunch

13.00–14.00: **Pathways to Success in Science**

Professor Dame Kay E Davies, University of Oxford

Professor Ottoline Leyser, University of Cambridge

Professor Lalita Ramakrishnan, University of Cambridge

Professor Dame Carol Robinson, University of Oxford

14.15–15.15: **Lessons for Human Tuberculosis and its Treatment from the Zebrafish**

Professor Lalita Ramakrishnan, University of Cambridge

15.30–16.00: Afternoon tea and coffee

All are welcome – the event is open to the public

Please RSVP: diversity@mpls.ox.ac.uk

Date: 29 June 2015

Time: 11.00–16.00

Venue: Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre St. Anne's College, Oxford

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WISE Career Development Programme and the Returners' Programmes

The **Career Development Programme** has been designed to help women further their careers. Now in its seventh year it has helped over 3,000 women advance their careers.

Consisting of four one-day workshops over 2 months

4th June – Future Focussed

1st July – Confident Communication

2nd July – Authentic You

9th July – Presentation Delivery & Individual Feedback

A pre-course activity will be set prior to the initial workshop; each workshop will then build on the previous session.

Start date: Thursday 4th June 2015 09:00 – 17:00

Venue: WSP-Parsons Brinckerhoff, 4th Floor, 6 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YE.

Cost: £1000 for non-members, £950 for WISE members plus VAT

Future course dates available on the website

The WISE **Returners' Programme** tackles one of the biggest challenges faced by working parents today – achieving a healthy balance between the demands of work and a fulfilling personal life.

Whether you are returning after your first child or are have been balancing work and family life for some time, this programme will deliver renewed confidence as well as practical tools and targeted interventions to help you focus on specific areas of your work and home life,

enabling you to safeguard your professional, personal and mental wellbeing.

This is a two-day course, ideal for women currently on maternity leave and preparing to return to work and women who have returned to work within the last six months.

Start date: Thursday 18th June 2015 09:00 – 17:00

Venue: will be London based

Cost: £600 for non-members, £550 for WISE members plus VAT

Both programmes are delivered by training provider Skills4UK and fully endorsed by WISE.

Additional information regarding courses can be found on the WISE [website](#). If you are interested in any of the courses please get in touch with Shagufta on s.sharif@wisecampaign.org.uk for a booking form and any further information.

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Articles and Resources

Science still seen as male profession, according to international study of gender bias

<http://news.sciencemag.org/social-sciences/2015/05/science-still-seen-male-profession-according-international-study-gender-bias>

Library News

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Welcome to the Bodleian Health Care Libraries team – Sally and Bridget from the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Horton Hospital Libraries

We are extremely pleased to welcome two new members of staff to the Bodleian Health Care Libraries (BHCL); Sally Ryan (on the right), Outreach Librarian at the NOC/Horton, and Bridget Lucas, Library Assistant at the Horton. This is part of the new service level agreement between the Bodleian Libraries and the OUH Trust, which sees BHCL taking over the management of the libraries at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Horton Hospital.

Sally said “Bridget and I have worked in partnership with our colleagues at BHCL providing library services to the Trust, and we’re now really excited to join the team on a permanent basis”. We look forward to continuing Sally and Bridget’s work within the Trust, whilst also enhancing services for the MSD and OUH Trust based at all four Trust sites.

We will be starting work on improving services, facilities and resources over the summer. Watch this space for further announcements!

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In memoriam: Liz Osborne

It is with much sadness that we pass on the news that Liz Osborne, Outreach & Enquiry Services Manager at Bodleian Health Care Libraries died on 1 May. Liz had been suffering from cancer for some time.

Liz wasn’t with BHCL for very long, but her very positive and warm personality made a big impression on all of us and she will be greatly missed.

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Online Resources for New Doctors – NHS OpenAthens

If you’re starting work in the NHS this summer and want access to online databases, ebooks and full text online journals then you need to know about NHS OpenAthens, the username and password system used by the NHS to provide access to online resources. Access is available from anywhere with an Internet connection.

Nationally-available resources include bibliographic databases such as Medline and Embase, as well as hundreds of online textbooks and journals and tools such as The BNF. Your OpenAthens account also gives you access to resources purchased by your local Trust library service.

You can register for OpenAthens at <https://openathens.nice.org.uk/> as soon as you’re in post in the NHS. If you register from a PC on the NHS network or with an NHS email address, your account will be created automatically and immediately.

For more information or to get a demo or hands-on practice before you leave Oxford then just contact us at hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

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Reminder to Final Year students

If you are leaving Oxford University this year, please remember to return any outstanding loans you may have with the Bodleian Health Care Libraries before you graduate, and clear any outstanding fines. You can now pay outstanding Bodleian Health Care Libraries fines online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/BHCLfines>.

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Consultation on the future of the RSL

The Radcliffe Science Library invites readers to have their say in future developments. From 1st to 28th June, there will be a display in the Entrance Hall Lounge. Leave your comments on the board or share them with us at consultation.rsl@bodleian.ox.ac.uk. Staff will also be on hand to discuss your ideas 11.30am–12.30pm, Monday 1st– Friday 5th June.

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Opportunities and Updates

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Important Updates

Revised CUREC 1 checklist now available

A revised CUREC 1 checklist has been uploaded to the [CUREC website](#). The new checklist looks somewhat different to the version in use since July 2013 – the sections have been re-arranged in the hope that there will be less form-filling for researchers than has previously been the case!

Wording has been updated to include advice and guidance that has been on the CUREC website since the launch of the new website in October 2014. Applicants should use the new checklist with immediate effect but should you be in the process of writing an application, old format versions will be accepted until July 1st 2015.

For further information, please see <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/curec/apply/ms-idrec-process/>

12th Medical Sciences Division DPhil Day

Thursday 9 July 2015, John Radcliffe Hospital

Featuring:

- Keynote lecture by **Professor Adrian Hill**
- Excellent talks and posters from students of the Medical Sciences Division
- Exhibitions from sponsors and careers service
- Wine and nibbles reception & networking with the University of Oxford DPhil students

The DPhil Day is free to attend and open to all students and staff of the University.

For further information please see <https://sites.google.com/site/dphilday2015/>.

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 <http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/support-services/educational-strategy/awards/msd-teaching-excellence-awards-2015>

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 [Aga Bush](#).

Oxford Research Staff Society

Join the community at one of our upcoming events this June

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, [sign up to the](#)



Research Staff Mailing List.

Upcoming events:

OxRSS Ideas and Beers: an evening of socialising and sharing ideas about how OxRSS can help improve your experience as a member of research staff

*(non-alcoholic alternatives available of course!)

From 5pm (discussion starts at 6.30pm), 18 June, St Aldate's Tavern (upstairs)

OxRSS has been working to gain representation and forge close working relationships with colleagues throughout the University with a view to making sure that researchers' voices are heard. Now we need you to let us know what you think are the most important things we should be addressing so that we can make sure all research staff have the best possible experience during their time at Oxford.

We'd like to invite you to our first Ideas and Beers evening at St Aldates Tavern – an informal chance to discuss over a drink the issues that matter to you. OxRSS will provide your first drink for free as well as nibbles throughout the evening (you can also buy dinner from the pub).

Please put the date in your diary and look out for details about how to book – coming very soon!

Curry and social night Thursday 25 June

Last Thursday evening of every month from 6:30pm

University Club, Mansfield Road

Walking tour of Oxford Saturday 4 July

Meeting point tbd at 11am

Keep an eye out for more events in our mailing list!

***NEW!* Research Connections workshop series for research staff**

The first in a new series of occasional events for research staff, *Research Connections*, run by the Oxford Learning Institute has just been launched. *Research Connections* events will build on the introductory Welcome Event for Research Staff by providing further opportunities for you to connect:

opportunities for networking, for accessing support for researchers across the University, and for connecting your research with other disciplines, with the public, those who make use of research, and with a range of potential careers.

Those of you who were here two years ago will remember that the previous *Research Connections* event was a full-day conference. We've decided to split it into these smaller workshops instead in order to maximise the opportunities for researchers to attend – but the themes and aims of connecting researchers with each other, the University, and outside academia, remain the same.

The first event will be:

Managing people and activities in a research setting

15 July, Exam Schools, workshop 3pm–5pm, drinks and nibbles 5pm–6pm

Many research staff find themselves managing other researchers formally or informally – whether or not it is an official part of their role – but receive little or no training in how best to do this. This workshop explores the challenges that this presents and how to meet them, looking at what it means to 'manage' others, at how this is done in order to keep projects and activities on track, and at how to tackle problems that can arise. So if you have found yourself managing others, or think this is an aspect of work you might like or need to take on in the near future, come along and join in the exploration.

The workshop will run from 3pm–5pm and there will also be a chance after the workshop to continue the conversation and meet fellow researchers over free drinks and nibbles between 5pm–6pm!

Book your place here: www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/RES&page=3&id=2158



We'll announce future events once we have confirmed details. We'll also vary the time of day and/or look into podcasting so that as many people as possible are able to attend. To make sure you keep in the loop you can follow the Oxford research staff Twitter feed (@ResStaffOxford) or have a look at the [Support for Researchers website](#). And if you have any ideas for possible future workshops that you'd find useful, please let me know.

Wellcome Trust, MRC and CRUK speakers

Event for clinical DPhil students about funding post-doctoral research, 10th June. Find out more...

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

Whole Genome Sequencing for patients with inherited disease (WGS) – The 100,000 Genomes Project

The technologies available for investigating patients with genetic disease have improved greatly in the last few years, taking genetic analysis from a research based undertaking to something which is now capable of informing many areas of clinical practice. The NHS in England is undertaking a program of work to transform how we apply this knowledge to clinical practice, you may have heard about this in the national print and broadcast media. This is primarily a program of work to transform NHS genetics, but undoubtedly many research opportunities will flow on from this. I am inviting you to participate.

NHS England has announced 11 new Genomic Medicine Centres that will lead the way in delivering the 100,000 Genomes Project. OUH was successful in becoming one of these centres, with a remit to recruit patients with inherited genetic disease and some common forms of cancer. This message relates to patients with inherited disease.

As ever with new developments such as these getting them from Whitehall to the clinic is not always straightforward. With this in mind OUH has attempted to develop a cohesive, coherent strategy that will allow all of us and our patients to gain maximum benefit from this exciting opportunity.

How can you be involved?

Submissions are welcome from any clinician working with patients who have diseases that have a genetic basis, that may include virtually all of us. The project team can offer individual assistance with the application process if required, and advice can be given on the types of cases which are most likely to be tractable using this approach and those that are eligible for the 100,000 Genomes Project. We have attempted to make this as similar to ordering routine tests as we possibly could.

How to apply

All applications are considered by a genomic medicine multidisciplinary team (GM-MDT) which meets monthly to discuss specific cases and provide advice on the best strategy for genomic sequencing for individual cases or families. The GM-MDT is accessible by all specialties for case referral and discussion and includes experienced clinicians from clinical genetics and a wide spectrum of other clinical specialties. Any clinician making an application or interested in the process is encouraged to attend a meeting or to contact us for an informal discussion.

If you have identified patients from your practice or research that you think could benefit from genomic sequencing then contact the project team to discuss submitting an application, we are very happy to discuss specific cases prior to any application. The benefit could be in any one of a number of areas e.g. diagnostic, prognostic, therapeutic.

For inclusion in the program we ask that there is specific written informed consent for sequencing. For the 100,000 Genomes Project we are required to use their consent forms and fresh patient samples may also be required.

Details of this specific program are available at <http://www.genomicsengland.co.uk/>.

Please contact Dr Ed Blair (Ed.Blair@ouh.nhs.uk) Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust if you

wanted further information about what this could mean for you and your patients.

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](mailto:Michaela@oxfordsparks.net).

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

Royal Society writing and media skills courses

Improve your writing and media skills. Residential course available in 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:

- [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 [website](#). 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.
- **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

The Oxford Vaccine Centre Healthy Volunteers Database

The Oxford Vaccine Centre is one of the largest clinical trial groups in the UK, conducting studies of new vaccines against key global diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, meningitis, typhoid and hepatitis C.

Healthy volunteers interested in taking part in Oxford Vaccine Centre clinical trials can be added to a database to receive regular updates of studies currently recruiting volunteers at the Oxford Vaccine Centre. If you would like to be added to this database, please see <http://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/lists/?p=subscribe>



Healthy volunteers and depressed individuals required for brain scanning study

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

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

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

Annabel Walsh

bupropion.study@psych.ox.ac.uk

01865 226464

Participants will be reimbursed for their time and expenses



REC Number: 13/SC/0569

Healthy volunteers needed for vaccine study testing the effectiveness of two Ebola vaccines

The Jenner Institute, part of the Nuffield Department of Medicine, is looking for healthy volunteers to take part in a vaccine study testing the effectiveness of two Ebola vaccines. If you are aged 18-50 and are in good health, you may be eligible to participate. The study involves a number of visits to their outpatient clinic, over a 7 month period. Volunteers are compensated for their time and travel.

To find out more [email](#) the Volunteer Co-ordinator, call 01865-857406 or visit their [website](#).



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

[Call](#)

[Send SMS](#)

[Add to Skype](#)

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 harriet.dempsey-jones@ndcn.ox.ac.uk

Other Items of Interest

Social Sciences in the Medical Curriculum: share your view

Researchers at Oxford University are interested in your opinion of social science subjects associated with medical training.

Do you think you should be taught health psychology, evolutionary medicine, medical anthropology or medical sociology? Or do you think those subjects are irrelevant to a medical education?

To share your opinion go to this link https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/opinion_medical_disciplines.

The survey is entirely voluntary and takes five minutes to complete. Your answers will be anonymous.

The data collected will be used for analysis and published in a peer-reviewed journal.

For more information, write to alexandra.alvergne@anthro.ox.ac.uk.

Have your say in how Oxford research is communicated

Do you have five minutes spare to tell us how you'd like to hear about Oxford's research?

The Public Affairs Directorate (PAD) have created and launched a survey, asking people about their relationship with Oxford and what they think of our research communication and web pages.

Please answer a few quick questions at the link below & send it to your friends.

PAD listen to every single piece of feedback and make it happen!

Link to survey: <https://oxford.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/research>

Have your say about UAS services

Have your say about the quality of services provided by the University's central administrative departments (UAS) by completing an online survey.

The survey, which runs until 26 June, is designed to canvass the views of all members of University and College staff about the quality of services provided by UAS. The findings will be used to help understand how services can operate more efficiently as well as identify areas where further resources may be required.

For further information and to complete the survey, please see <http://www.ox.ac.uk/staff/news-listing/2015-05-14-have-your-say-about-uas-services>

Would you like to edit medical papers for us?



Oxford Language Editing offers English language editing support to researchers around the world. Our team of highly qualified freelance editors work with the researchers to ensure their academic writing is expressed in the highest quality English.

In our two-stage process, work is reviewed by both a language editor and an academic editor. We are currently recruiting more freelance academic editors, who are experts in medicine and life sciences. As an academic editor, you would be responsible for the second revision of the work, ensuring that discipline-specific content is clearly expressed and all language issues have been corrected.

Would you like to join our esteemed list of medical freelancers?

We are looking for candidates who would be able to edit papers in:

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- genetics
- infectious diseases
- gerontology
- nephrology
- oncology
- surgery
- toxicology

- neuroscience
- psychiatry
- cognitive science
- general practice
- parasitology
- immunology
- public health

If you are interested, please email role@oup.com with:

- your CV
- academic areas of interest
- summary of publications