# OxfordMedSci News

# Issue 32 - April 2016

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\*\*\*Sign up Entry for the MSD Weekly Events Digest: a comprehensive list of all department's seminars, talks, workshops and conference \*\*\*

#### Copy deadline for next issue: 09:00, Tuesday 3 May. Delivery date: Monday 9 May



# UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



# OXFORD WELLCOME TRUST ISSF - CALL NOW OPEN

#### Deadline: Midday Tuesday 3 May

The next call for the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) is now open. The Wellcome Trust ISSF is open to all academic members of staff across the whole University. The ISSF Committee especially welcomes cross divisional bids.

Applications are invited to seed new strategic projects across a broad range of themes including translational research, multidisciplinary initiatives linking biology to medicine and public engagement.

Projects must meet the strategic priorities of the Oxford Wellcome Trust ISSF. Details of the themes and strategic priorities can be found on the <u>strategy page</u> of the ISSF website.

Details of the fund, how to apply and the application form can be found on the <u>ISSF</u> website.

#### SNIPPETS FROM THE SLEEP LAB

This month we talk to <u>Aarti lagannath</u>, Research Fellow in the <u>Sleep and</u> <u>Circadian Neuroscience Institute</u>, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences. Last year Aarti received one of the five highly contested <u>L'Oréal-UNESCO UK & Ireland For Women In Science Fellowships</u> to further her work on 'Setting the Body Clock'.

You may also have seen Aarti featured in an <u>article on Britain's 'rising</u> <u>immigrant stars' in the Independent</u>, in which she said: 'I found Britain very welcoming...The only 'work' I had to do in order to fit in was to go to the pub and pick up the British sense of humour...'

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- (1) Diversifying Portraiture at Oxford
- (2) Returning Carers' Fund
- (3) The 2nd Lorna Casselton Memorial Lecture: Global Challenges in

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#### LIBRARY NEWS

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(1) Act on Acceptance

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(4) <u>Women of Achievement Lecture Series – Lecture 2: Katharine Viner,</u> <u>Editor-in-Chief of The Guardian</u>

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(7) <u>3D printing drop-in events in Trinity term</u>

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Bodleian Libraries

#### **OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES**

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Fun computer game project for children on the autism spectrum

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Are you interested in the effects of nutrition on your health and well-being, and don't regularly take dietary supplements?

Are you interested in taking part in clinical research? Applicable for male volunteers aged between 18-65

Take part in Jenner Institute trials testing vaccines

Is your child 12-23 months old and not had chickenpox?

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Lecture by Nobel Laureate Sir Venki Ramakrishnan "From Chidambaram to Cambridge and the Royal Society: A scientific journey." One-day intensive MedComms careers workshop Wednesday 11 May. The Careers Service, 56 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PA. Wellcome Trust Funding Event - Humanities & Social Sciences Tuesday 17 May for researchers in medical ethics, humanities and social sciences Practical Patient-Centric Services: an open innovation workshop Thursday 19 May, 2pm - 6.30pm, Oxford Martin School

 $\label{eq:Grant writing workshop} \ \mbox{Deadline for registration TODAY Monday 11 April}$ 

#### AND FINALLY...THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH AWARDS

These awards, new for 2016, will recognise and reward those who undertake high quality Public Engagement with Research and/or have contributed to building capacity in this area. Entrants can be at any level in their career and activities of any scale are welcome. There are three categories of Award:

- (1) Public Engagement with Research Award Projects
- (2) Public Engagement with Research Award Building Capacity
- (3) Public Engagement with Research Award Early Career Researcher



The winning entries will receive recognition for their achievements at the Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards Ceremony, which will take place on Friday 1 July 2016 (noon-2pm). One overall winner will be announced at the ceremony and will receive a cash prize of £1,500. Closing date for entries: 5pm, 16 May 2016.

Further details and the Entry Forms are available from: https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/impactke/public-engagement/vcperawards/

Image: Paul Wilkinson Photography Ltd

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You may also have seen Aarti featured in an <u>article on Britain's 'rising immigrant stars' in the Independent</u>, in which she said: 'I found Britain very welcoming...The only 'work' I had to do in order to fit in was to go to the pub and pick up the British sense of humour...'

#### Tell us a little about what goes on in your lab

The <u>Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute</u> has a mix of scientists from a variety of backgrounds – neuroscience, psychology and computer science – and we work together on some very interesting projects. We are also doing some really interdisciplinary work, for example with the departments of Pharmacology and Bioengineering.

Our group consists mainly of neuroscientists looking at how sleep and circadian rhythms are regulated and the impact of their disruption on health. My specific interests are the molecular mechanisms by which the circadian clock is set to the right time.

Life on earth has evolved under a 24-hour day-night cycle where factors such as temperature and light levels fluctuate with a daily predictable rhythm. As a consequence, most organisms have evolved internal timekeeping mechanisms known as circadian clocks that anticipate these regular environmental changes and establish 24-hour rhythms in physiology and behaviour. A major research question is how internal circadian time is coordinated with the external world.

While we know a great deal about the machinery that makes up the molecular circadian clock, we understand very little about the processes that set it to the right time. A circadian clock must be sensitive to time cues in the environment, in order to ensure we live in synchrony with the outside world. Light, which signals the dawn-dusk cycle, is an important time cue. Our work has improved our understanding of how light information is communicated to, and interpreted by, the molecular clock.

We found that during jetlag, for example, or when the circadian clock is misaligned with the external light-dark cycle, a raft of genes were switched on within the brain master clock. Among these, a gene known as Salt Inducible Kinase 1 or Sik1 acted as brake on how fast the clock could re-align. This finding represented a major breakthrough in our understanding of how the clock was regulated, but it's just the tip of the iceberg.

#### What's one of the more interesting techniques you are using?

I use RNA interference. RNA stands for ribonucleic acid, which is a polymeric molecule implicated in various biological roles in coding, decoding, regulation, and expression of genes. RNA interference is a molecular technique based on small RNA to turn off gene expression and then look at circadian behaviour in the whole animal.

The ability to transition from molecules to behaviour is very exciting and has allowed me to do some real cross-cutting work. For example, one of our recent papers was about trying to understand the function of the two different 'flavours' or splice-variants of the retinal photopigment melanopsin. We switched off each molecular variant one at a time and found out that they regulate different physiological behaviours, such as the ability of the pupil to constrict versus the ability to go to sleep.

#### What are the implications of your research?

The circadian clock is a master regulator of physiology and, naturally, when the clock is disrupted, there can be serious consequences on health. Sleep and circadian rhythm disruption (SCRD) is inevitable in today's 24/7 society, but it can lead to diabetes, obesity, depression and even cancer; indeed shift-work is now a classified carcinogen (source – IARC – International Agency for Research on Cancer, part of the World Health Organisation). SCRD is a debilitating feature in nearly all psychiatric illness. Therefore understanding how the circadian rhythms are generated and regulated is important to be able to address the problems caused by their disruption.

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

I was interested in research during my undergraduate days in India, and I won a scholarship towards a DPhil here at Oxford working on the molecular mechanisms in RNA interference. I joined Professor Russell Foster's group funded by a Roche Post-Doctoral Fellowship to study how light interacted with the circadian clock.

#### What's a typical day like in the lab?

My days are quite varied, with a lot of molecular/bench work, some animal work, supervision of students and interaction with other members of the group. I also collaborate widely across the University, so I spend some time in other labs. For example, I am doing some high-throughput microscopy, imaging hundreds of live cell cultures simultaneously, at the <u>Target Discovery Institute</u> up at the Churchill Hospital.

Lately, I've been involved in discussions with investors to fund the commercialisation of some of our work and this has been a very interesting process. In collaboration with the <u>Department of Pharmacology</u> and the <u>Institute of Biomedical Engineering</u> at Oxford, we are developing drugs and diagnostics as part of a 'Circadian Medicine' platform. We are in talks with funders to spin this platform out as a small biotech company.

What are the bigger questions in your field?

We live in this 24/7 environment, where circadian disruption is a part of life. There's much less difference between day and night now than there ever was in the past as far as humans are concerned. The big question is what consequences does this have on health? And how can we treat these consequences?

# **Board Business**

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(3) received a report from the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee. It was agreed to make the proposed commitment to secure renewed BHF funding for the four-year DPhil in Cardiovascular Science on the basis of the anticipated HEFCE Charity QR income associated with the award. It was noted that the Quarter 2 (of the 2015–16 financial year) forecast was for a reduction in the previously forecast year-end outturn from £4m to £2m which if it proved accurate would mean a financial worsening of £5.5m compared with the performance in the previous financial year. It was reported that the divisions' financial projections of the implications of their plans for 2016–17 had now been twice rejected by Council and that the budget-setting process for 2016–17 was likely to be the most challenging since the Divisions were first created. The Board approved the committee's support for the proposed undergraduate and graduate fee changes for 2017–18.

(4) received a report from the Board's Research and Innovation Committee and discussed how the most might be made of the strategic opportunities created by Oxford Sciences Innovation. The Board also endorsed the committee's response to Lord Stern's Review of the Research Excellence Framework and in particular support for a model for allocating QR based on external research income.

(5) received and noted a report from the Board's Information Security Working Group.

# Athena SWAN News

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### News

#### Diversifying Portraiture at Oxford

Over the last nine centuries, the University's walls have become home to numerous portraits of pioneering men and women – some wellknown, and some now almost forgotten – whose achievements and images challenged the stereotypes and exclusions of their times, and in some cases continue to do so today. These images celebrate stories from our past, make visible our values and ambitions for the future and help to shape the present living and working environment for staff, students, and visitors.

The Diversifying Portraiture at Oxford project is supported by the <u>Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund</u>, and aims to widen the range of people represented around the University. To celebrate and encourage Oxford's increasing inclusivity, it is planning to commission new portraits for the University's central public spaces. The first stage of the project involves finding and highlighting existing images which illustrate the diversity of Oxford's past and present. So far around 230 portraits have been identified and catalogued. This exercise will also help identify any significant gaps in the representation of the different kinds of people linked to the University.

#### Who's missing?

Do you know of any paintings or photographs (from any Oxford institution) which illustrate women or other potentially underrepresented groups linked to the University? Please email <u>equality@admin.ox.ac.uk</u> with any information about images of women, people from minority ethnic and religious groups, those with experience of disabilities, LGBTQ individuals and people from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. To see a few of the portraits we've found, follow us on <u>Twitter</u> for regular updates, visit our <u>website</u>, or read about <u>five</u> pictures of women selected for the TORCH website for International Women's Day.

Тор

# **Funding Opportunities**

### Returning Carers' Fund

The Returning Carers' Fund will be open for applications in Trinity term. The Fund supports women and men who have taken a break (of at least 6 months) for caring responsibilities to re-establish their research careers. Those currently on leave can also apply for support on their return to work. The scheme 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 who hold statutory chairs. Full details and an application form can be found at: <a href="https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/vc-fund/returning-carers/">www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/vc-fund/returning-carers/</a>. Deadline Friday 17 June.

#### Тор

#### **Events**

The 2nd Lorna Casselton Memorial Lecture: Global Challenges in Modern Medicine and in Revealing the Origin of Life, Professor Ada Yonath

Professor Ada Yonath, Nobel Laureate, will deliver the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lorna Casselton Memorial Lecture. To register for this free lecture, please complete the booking form at: <a href="http://www.stx.ox.ac.uk/lorna-casselton-memorial-lecture-booking-form">www.stx.ox.ac.uk/lorna-casselton-memorial-lecture-booking-form</a>

Date: Wednesday 4 May

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: Mathematical Institute, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road

#### Тор

Women of Achievement Lecture Series - Lecture 2: Katharine Viner, Editor-in-Chief of The Guardian

The Oxford Women of Achievement lecture series showcases and celebrates women's achievements and leadership across a wide range of sectors. The lecture will be hosted by Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and will be followed by a drinks reception. A small number of places at an onsite crèche will be provided free of charge. Booking must be made in advance at time of registration. <u>Book online here</u>

Date: Wednesday 4 May

Time: 5.30 - 7.30pm

Venue: Examination Schools

#### Тор

#### Launch of The Open University's equality scheme 2016-2020

The Open University reviewed its equality objectives which were set in 2012 and has set new and ever more stretching targets under its Equality Scheme for 2016–2020. The new scheme and related equality strategy will be launched by their Vice-Chancellor, Peter Horrocks.

#### Keynote speakers will include:

- David Ruebain, Chief Executive, The Equality Challenge Unit
- Miranda Wayland, Head of Diversity, ITV, and
- Sharon Pegg, Head of Diversity, The Cooperative

Dr Victoria Pearson, who led on the University's successful submission for Juno Champion status, will share the journey to becoming a Champion.

Funke Abimbola, General Counsel & Company Secretary, Roche UK, and Clem Herman, Chair of the Open University's STEM Gender Equality Group, will be joining the other guests for a panel discussion. This will be an opportunity for you to quiz the panel members on how they made it happen and how they managed challenges along the way. <u>http://tinyurl.com/jcf146x</u>

Date: Tuesday 19 April

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: The Berrill Lecture Theatre, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA

Тор

### Articles and Resources

Read two reviews of a new book from Iris Bohnet - What Works Gender Equality by Design here: http://occamstypewriter.org/athenedonald/2016/04/03/what-works-a-review/

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# Library News

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- 5. New e-books for the undergraduate pre-clinical and biomedical sciences courses
- 6. Isis Innovation drop-in sessions at the Radcliffe Science Library
- 7. 3D printing drop-in events in Trinity term

# Act on Acceptance

As many of you will now be aware, HEFCE's new OA policy takes effect from 1 April 2016, and requires action by all researchers. In brief, the final peer-reviewed version of journal articles and conference papers must be deposited in an open access repository within three months of acceptance for publication if they are to be included in the next REF.

'Act on Acceptance' is Oxford's mechanism to help researchers comply with open access using our new quick deposit form via Symplectic Elements to deposit all newly-accepted articles and conference papers into ORA.

Library staff have been visiting MSD departments, groups and individuals to offer support about Open Access. Please contact eleven.coxall@bodleian.ox.ac.uk (clinical depts.) or eleventer@bodleian.ox.ac.uk (non-clinical depts.) if you'd like one of our team to come and talk to you or your colleagues, or to discuss online sessions via Skype.

#### Тор

# Open Access training & help for April

To mark the go-live of HEFCE's open access policy, our OA team is providing the following support during April:

#### UAS Conference on Tuesday 12th April

- 'Open Access' Breakout session 1 (9.40-10.10am). Get an update on Oxford's 'Act on Acceptance' campaign, remind yourself what researchers need to do for REF-eligibility and other funder requirements. Book via the UAS Conference website (http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/uasconference/).
- Information stand 'Open Access and Scholarly Communications'. Meet members of the Open Access team. Bring your questions about funder and research data requirements, and learn about our services and support for Oxford Research Archive, Symplectic Elements and ORCID at Oxford.

#### Тор

#### Weekly drop-ins at the Radcliffe Science Library

Tuesdays 4-5pm from 5th April to 14th June, in the Lounge area of the RSL.

Do you want help depositing your work in ORA? Confused about 'Act on Acceptance' for open access & the next REF? Get one-to-one help with all things Open Access, ORA and Research Data.

Тор

iSkills

Our next **iSkills Open Access session** is on Wednesday 20th April, 12–1pm at the Manor Road Building. Open to all members of the University. Covers Act on Acceptance and how to deposit, plus how to meet funder requirements such as RCUK and Wellcome Trust/COAF. Book at https://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TZW7.

Further training & drop-ins will be arranged for Trinity Term. Check the Open Access Oxford website (<u>http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/</u>). You can also contact your Subject Librarian or email our Open Access Team on emailed on the second s

#### Тор

# Watch this space - World Book Night, April 2016

We are very excited that the all four Bodleian Health Care Libraries have been chosen as distributors of free books for World Book Night. The Health Care Libraries will have a selection of books to give out – keep an eye on our website www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/hcl for more details.

World Book Night actually takes place on Saturday the 23rd of April, but we will be celebrating it on Monday the 25th of April. We will be distributing the books at the main entrances to the John Radcliffe, Churchill, NOC and Horton hospitals from 9am. We don't expect the books

to last long, as we anticipate there will be lots of interest!

World Book Night is an annual celebration of reading and books which sees passionate volunteers give out hundreds of thousands of books in their communities to share their love of reading with people who don't read regularly or own books. World Book Night is run by The Reading Agency, a national charity that inspires people to become confident and enthusiastic readers to help give them an equal chance in life.

#### Тор

# Bodleian Libraries Reader Survey

Thank you for participating in the recent survey. We are very pleased to have received 505 responses from MSD out of a total of 3497. The overall response rate for undergraduates and postgraduates was higher than the 2012 survey. All departments of the division participated. Population Health and Primary Care Health Sciences are the winners for hitting the 20% response rate – they were rewarded with a number of "coffee and cake" vouchers. Half of the ten £50 Amazon voucher prizes were won by MSD members – from Surgical Sciences, Clinical Medicine, Population Health and Experimental Psychology. Initial results will be available by the end of Easter Vacation. A full report will be completed by the end of Trinity Term.

#### Тор

# New e-books for the undergraduate pre-clinical and biomedical sciences courses

- ∎ <u>Neurophysiology: A Conceptual Approach</u> (5<sup>th</sup> ed., Carpenter & Reddi)
- Integrated Endocrinology (Laycock & Meeran)
- <u>Renal Physiology</u> (Mosby Physiology Monograph Series, Koeppen & Stanton)
- Wheater's Functional Histology: A Text and Colour Atlas (Young, Woodford & O'Dowd)
- An Introduction to Cardiovascular Physiology (Levick)
- Neuroanatomy: An Illustrated Colour Text (Crossman & Neary)

#### Тор

# Isis Innovation drop-in sessions at the Radcliffe Science Library

Got an idea you want to commercialise? These sessions will take place in the Entrance Hall Lounge

- Monday 11th April 2-5pm
- Monday 9th May 2-5pm
- Monday 13th June 2-5pm

#### Тор

# 3D printing drop-in events in Trinity term

Add a new dimension to your research. Details can be found at http://ox.libguides.com/3dprintingscanning/3dprintingscanningevents.

- Friday 6th May 2016, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm
- Friday 10th June 2016, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm

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Closing date - 16 May 2016

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Public Engagement with Research Award - Projects

Public Engagement with Research Award - Building Capacity

Public Engagement with Research Award - Early Career Researcher

The winning entries will receive recognition for their achievements at the Vice-

Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards Ceremony, which will take place on Friday 1 July 2016 (noon-2pm). One overall winner will be announced at the ceremony and will receive a cash prize of £1,500. Closing date for entries: 5pm, 16 May 2016.

Further details and the Entry Forms are available from: <u>https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/impactke/public-engagement/vcperawards/</u>

Image: Paul Wilkinson Photography Ltd



# OxfordMedSci News



# Important Updates

# Open Access - New REF requirement now in effect

Did you know that your open access choices not only affect the visibility of your research but also whether your outputs are eligible for the next REF?

At the beginning of this month the new REF open access requirements came into effect. You now need to **act on acceptance** to make your outputs REF eligible. Articles and conference papers must be placed in an online repository within 3 months of acceptance for publication.

So while you're celebrating your next article being accepted for publication, make sure you <u>deposit your work</u> in the Oxford Research Archive repository. This free service for University of Oxford Researchers allows you to quickly and easily deposit your work via Symplectic Elements.

#### You deposit, we'll take care of the rest.

For more information on open access at Oxford and how to make sure that your work is eligible for the next REF visit the <u>Open Access</u> <u>Oxford website</u>.



# MSD Recruiting for Director of Skills Training and Researcher Development

#### Deadline Friday 15 April.

The Medical Sciences Division is seeking to appoint a new Director of Skills Training and Researcher Development.

The Director will be expected to play a co-ordinating role, liaising with academic and administrative colleagues, within the Division and across the University, so as to promote, co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate researcher development and skills training activities. The director will work closely with the Divisional Skills Training Officer and the Divisional Athena Swan Officer to successfully implement and fulfil the duties of the role.

A job description for the role listing duties and responsibilities can be found here.

It is expected that the successful candidate will already be employed in a post within the University. A responsibility allowance will be paid in connection with this appointment.

Informal enquiries about this post should be made to Ms Jane Dale on 222075 or at <u>spine.dale@medsci.ox.ac.uk</u> Expressions of interest (including a CV and a written statement) should be sent to <u>spine.rudman@medsci.ox.ac.uk</u> by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April2016.

# Virtual Staff Advisory Group

The virtual Staff Advisory Group has been set up to give all University employees an opportunity to provide feedback on issues that can have an impact on equality and diversity at the University. The aims of the Group are to:

- Help the Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU) engage with a broad range of staff on relevant topics,
- Provide structured feedback via brief surveys, and
- . Help raise awareness of issues affecting staff in order to inform further engagement and proposals for change.

The first survey – on the impact of caring responsibilities on staff – ran in February 2016 and achieved an outstanding response rate of 86%. Many staff spoke frankly about the difficulties they experienced juggling their caring responsibilities with their employment, but also about how much they valued the flexibility and support managers could provide. The results will now inform the development of an institutional statement of support for carers along with changes to University policy to formalise flexible working arrangements and make it easier for all members of staff to discuss their needs.

A short report has been published on the EDU website at:

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/staff-advisory-group

Next term's survey will be on the impact of hidden disability in the workplace. If you would like to join the virtual Staff Advisory Group,

please email asara.smith@admin.ox.ac.uk.

# **Funding Opportunities**

# Oxford Wellcome Trust ISSF - Call now open

#### Deadline: Midday, Tuesday 3 May

The next call for the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) is now open. The Wellcome Trust ISSF is open to all academic members of staff across the whole University. The ISSF Committee especially welcomes cross divisional bids.

Applications are invited to seed new strategic projects across a broad range of themes including translational research, multi-disciplinary initiatives linking biology to medicine and public engagement.

Projects must meet the strategic priorities of the Oxford Wellcome Trust ISSF. Details of the themes and strategic priorities can be found on the <u>strategy page</u> of the ISSF website.

Details of the fund, how to apply and the application form can be found on the ISSF website.

### Internal Funding Available for Translational Research

MRC Confidence in Concept Fund: EOI Deadline 18 April.

The next call of the MRC Confidence in Concept Fund is now open. The MRC CiC is an internal fund that will support the earliest stages of translational research projects. It is intended to accelerate the transition from discovery research to translational development projects by supporting preliminary work or feasibility studies to establish the viability of an approach.

Applications for interdisciplinary research are particularly welcomed, it is anticipated that half of the funding available will be awarded to interdisciplinary projects.

Expression of interest deadline Monday 18 April.

For more information about the scheme and how to apply click here.

# Oxford-Celgene Fellowship

#### Deadline: Wednesday 27 April

Celgene and Oxford University are together embarking on a fellowship programme to support training in translational research and facilitate skills transfer between academia and industry. Funding will be awarded to Oxford Principal Investigators to support projects that can demonstrate a clear translational value to the advancement of therapeutics.

For more information about the scheme including how to apply click here.

### UK/South Africa PhD exchange opportunity

#### Application deadline: Friday 15 April

Congratulations to Professor Helen McShane (Jenner Institute, Nuffield Department of Medicine) and the 39 Principal Investigators across the University of Oxford and University of Cape Town, who were successfully awarded funding for a PhD exchange programme, to start in 2016. This is a 3 year scheme supporting 10 University of Cape Town PhD students spending 3–6 months in a collaborating group at the University of Oxford; and 10 Oxford students spending 3–6 months in a collaborating group at Cape Town. The scheme will cover the costs of these exchange visits, a stipend, a contribution to research and bench fees or equivalent and additional partnering activities. It will also include multiple networking opportunities, including a conference in South Africa in 2018.

Initially the application process will be open to existing PhD students working with PIs named in the application. If you are a PhD student, within the Medical Sciences Division at the University of Oxford, and you are not sure if you are eligible for this exchange, then please contact your supervisor and ask them. An email will have been sent to all of the Principal Investigators involved in this programme explaining the application process. The deadline for the first round of applications is **Friday 15 April 2016**.

If you have any questions relating to this exchange, then please contact Helen McShane's PA **\_\_\_\_\_Bennifer.McNulty@ndm.ox.ac.uk** 

# **Returning Carer's Fund**

#### Deadline Friday 17 June.

The Returning Carers' Fund will be open for applications in Trinity term. The Fund supports women and men who have taken a break (of at least 6 months) for caring responsibilities to re-establish their research careers. Those currently on leave can also apply for support on their return to work. The scheme 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 who hold statutory chairs.

Full details and an application form can be found at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/vc-fund/returning-carers/.

# EIT Health

EU funding for collaborative projects. Deadline 16 May.

The University of Oxford is a partner in the <u>EU EIT Health programme</u>, which is a consortium of businesses, research centres and academic institutions. EIT Health provides funding to consortia formed of partner organisations and EIT external collaborators that contribute to the competitiveness of European industry, improve the quality of life of Europe's citizens and the sustainability of healthcare system.

The programme consists of several pillars and funding calls are currently open in all areas. Please note that calls will only be issued once a year and **the deadline in 2016 is May 16, 4pm CET**. If you plan on applying please ensure that all applicants register on the system several days before the deadline.

EIT Health focusses on providing funding to build on existing resources/ developments and to use the funding as leverage to attract further investment. As such, applicants are required to provide information on investments that have already been made in an existing projects, e.g. by MRC, Wellcome Trust, or other funders, and how the EIT Health funding will be used to leverage further investment.

Please find below information on the current funding calls and if you have questions please do not hesitate to contact the University's European Team.

#### Тор

#### Innovation by Ideas Projects

- Projects must contribute to at least one societal challenge (promoting healthy living, supporting active ageing, improving healthcare) and one business challenge (lifestyle interventions, self-management of health, workplace interventions, overcoming functional loss, improving healthcare systems).
- Projects should aim at bringing innovative products and/ or services rapidly to market.
- ∎ A maximum EIT contribution of €500,000 per project is available.
- More information can be found on the call <u>website</u>

#### Тор

#### Innovation by Design

- Projects must be led by one of EIT Health's core non-academic partners.
- Projects should address one of the four thematic areas: workplace interventions & occupational health, home care & care homes, early intervention/prevention/altering disease course trajectories, integrated care for chronic diseases.
- Projects should aim at bringing innovative products and/ or services rapidly to market.
- A maximum EIT contribution of  $\in$ 750,000 for year 1, and  $\in$ 1,250,000 for year 2 is available (please note that funding for year 2 is dependent on the success of the project and that the maximum amount per partner depends on the status of the organisation within EIT Health).
- More information can be found on the call website.

#### Тор

#### Joint Innovation Projects between EIT Digital and EIT Health

- Projects must be in the area of digital solutions for occupational health, e.g. innovations that support care-givers, office workers, and teachers; or innovations that improve mental well-being, and/ or physical well-being.
- . Ideally projects will result in a spin-out or a new business line within an existing company after year 1.
- Project teams must be multidisciplinary.
- Maximum amount available for EIT Health partners is €750,000 (additional funding for EIT Digital partners can be sought).
- More information can be found on the call website.

#### Тор

#### Campus Calls

- EIT Health campus develops novel and unique education programs tailored to provide future healthcare leaders and entrepreneurs.
- Projects must propose activities, which are not being addressed in the existing segments (promoting healthy living, supporting active ageing, improving healthcare systems) or which would supplement/ enhance existing segments.
- Further information can be found on the call website.

#### Тор

#### Accelerator Calls

- EIT Health Accelerator gathers the best and brightest health industry entrepreneurs, and provides them with the support, skills and services that they need to get their ideas off the ground and into the market.
- The Accelerator programme consists of three segments: GoGlobal, which helps companies enter an international expansion phase; Bootcamp provides training for MSc and PhD students that have a business idea; The Missing Puzzle, which looks for additional activities to add to the Accelerator portfolio to ensure that students and entrepreneurs are being provided with the best training possible.
- Projects should propose activities for the missing puzzle segment, or activities that would supplement/ enhance current offerings in the GoGlobal and Bootcamp segment.
- Further information can be found on the call website.

#### Proof of Concept and Headstart Funding

- Seven awards of up to €50,000 are available to individuals, organisations, or businesses to meet the challenges set out by the EIT industrial partners.
- Deadline is May 31, 2016 and applicants should provide a written application and a short video.
- Awards must be spent by December 31, 2016.
- For more information including how to apply download the information for applicants.

Тор

# **Engagement Opportunities**

# The Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards

#### Closing date - Monday 16 May 2016

These awards, new for 2016, will recognise and reward those who undertake high quality Public Engagement with Research and/or have contributed to building capacity in this area. Entrants can be at any level in their career and activities of any scale are welcome. There are three categories of Award:

- Public Engagement with Research Award Projects
- Public Engagement with Research Award Building Capacity
- Public Engagement with Research Award Early Career Researcher

The winning entries will receive recognition for their achievements at the Vice-Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Awards Ceremony, which will take place on Friday 1 July 2016 (noon-2pm). One overall winner will be announced at the ceremony and will receive a cash prize of £1,500.

Closing date for entries: 5pm, 16 May 2016.

Further details and the Entry Forms are available from: <u>https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/impactke/public-engagement/vcperawards/</u>

# Lunchtime Seminar - Public Engagement with Research - What the Funders Want

#### Wednesday 18 May 2016

For: Academics and researchers at all career levels and across all disciplines; professional services staff.

Hear directly from the funders themselves (Research Councils UK; The Wellcome Trust; Research Councils) on their expectations with regard to Public Engagement with Research is valued; and ways to access funds for public engagement as part of research grants.

Chair: Professor Sarah Whatmore, University of Oxford's Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research

To register: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lunchtime-seminar-public-engagement-with-research-what-the-funders-want-registration-24251932182

# Call for ideas for 'FrightFriday: the Art and Science of Fear'

#### Deadline 25 April

In Autumn 2016, a special late night opening of the Ashmolean will explore the art and science of fear. *Fright*Friday is part of the Ashmolean's LiveFriday series of public engagement events, which give visitors the opportunity to experience the Museum and its collections after hours. We are particularly interested, but not restricting to, those ideas which can feed back into academics' research, as well as potential REF Impact Case Studies in the future.

Activities may include workshops, bite-size talks, film screenings and performances. We welcome proposals on a broad range of subjects, which may include: terror, horror, suspense, emotion, demons, ghosts, the gothic, catharsis, ritual and religion. Interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, including those that bring together the arts and sciences. We are particularly keen to hear about ideas that tie in with an object or objects in the Ashmolean collections.

Please submit your idea in less than 500 words, including your full name, Faculty/Department and how it could feed back into your research to <a href="mailto:model:ess:to

Deadline for proposals: midday, Monday 25 April 2016.

# 3 Minute Thesis Competition

Deadline: Sunday 17 April 3 Minutes, 1 Slide.....Your Thesis!

An 80,000 word thesis would take 9 hours to present; would you be able to explain yours in just 3 minutes with the aid of a single slide? We're inviting DPhil students to do just that. The 3MT challenges doctoral candidates to present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance in just three minutes to a non-specialist audience.

For more information and how to apply click here.



# Volunteer Opportunities

### Fun computer game project for children on the autism spectrum

We are looking for children on the autism spectrum aged 6-14 years to take part in a project looking at how autistic children combine information about what they see. This ability is important for making sense of the world, like when working out the overall movement of a flock of birds. Our research may give insights into why children with autism sometimes experience sensory overload.

Children would play some fun under-the-sea themed computer games where they work out the overall direction of a shoal of fish or a group of jellyfish. Children can be seen wherever is most convenient – be it at home, at school, or at the University of Oxford. Travel expenses will be reimbursed to families travelling to the University, and children will be given a certificate and a small gift to thank them for taking part.

If you and your child are interested in taking part and would like to find out more, please contact Dr Cathy Manning by email

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Ethics approval reference: MS-IDREC-C2-2015-007

### Mindfulness for IBS (MIBS) study now recruiting

Researchers at the University of Oxford have developed a mindfulness training specifically for people with irritable bowel syndrome. We are interested in finding out if this training is effective at reducing the symptoms of IBS and how the training achieves its effects. Interested? Please keep in reading to find out what is involved for you:

#### What is involved?

- A six week mindfulness course
- Regular study assessments

#### About the mindfulness course:

Mindfulness for IBS is a new mindfulness course specifically for people with irritable bowel syndrome. The course consists of 6 x 2 hour group sessions over 6–7 weeks. During the course you will develop awareness of your mind and body through the cultivation of mindful awareness. The aim of the course is to reduce the symptoms of IBS and help you increase your mental and physical wellbeing.

#### Study Participation: The course is provided at no cost to you as participant

#### About the assessments:

You will be asked to do 3 assessment visits at the Department of Experimental Psychology and 4-8 online questionnaires before, during and after the course. Each assessment visit takes 1-1.5 hours. Each questionnaire takes 30-45 minutes.

#### Are you eligible?

- Do you have a diagnosis of IBS?
- Are you interested in trying mindfulness as a treatment for IBS?
- Are you a woman between 18 and 65 years of age?

#### Location:

Course: Oxford Mindfulness Centre, Oxford University

Assessments: Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford University

Dates and Registration:

To find out more about the study, when the courses take place and to register, please contact Julia Henrich via email Julia.Henrich@psy.ox.ac.uk. You can also sign up here:

http://limesurvey.msd.ox.ac.uk/index.php/476452/lang-en

NHS REC Reference: REC: South Central - Oxford A, 15/SC/0618

# Are you interested in the effects of nutrition on your health and well-being, and don't regularly take dietary supplements?

We are looking for healthy volunteers aged **18–55** for a study investigating the effects of **naturally occurring amino acids** on the way we solve problems and process emotions.

If you would like to find out more or participate in the research, please contact Liliana Capitao at:

#### nutrition.study@psych.ox.ac.uk

#### 01865 223 622 01865 223 622

Unfortunately we are unable to include volunteers with either a current or previous psychiatric or psychological illness, who are taking

certain medications or have certain illnesses, who are pregnant or who suffer from dyslexia. Please contact us if you are unsure as to whether or not the study would be suitable for you.

#### Time and expenses will be reimbursed.

Ethics reference: MS-IDREC-C3-2015-02

# Are you interested in taking part in clinical research?

Applicable for male volunteers aged between 18-65

We are currently looking for male volunteers aged between 18-65 for a clinical study currently being run at Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

The purpose of this study is to see if an enzyme in the body (5-alpha reductase,  $5\alpha R$ ) is important in controlling how the body handles sugar and fat. We would therefore like to demonstrate the effect of inhibiting  $5\alpha R$  on the regulation of insulin, glucose and fat in the body using a drug that inhibits of  $5\alpha R$ . We will also use a steroid hormone (prednisolone) for a short time to compare results. Importantly, these drugs are already widely used in clinical practice today for other indications.

Participants will need to attend the Clinical Research Unit at the Churchill Hospital three times over a period of 1-2 weeks. The first visit will be a short 30 minute visit with two further visits which will take all day. The total duration of treatment with a medication is 7-days.

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

If interested please contact:

Dr Thomas Marjot, Ithomas.marjot@ouh.nhs.uk, 01865 857202

OR

Professor Jeremy Tomlinson, iperemy.tomlinson@ocdem.ox.ac.uk

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

### Take part in Jenner Institute trials testing vaccines

The Jenner Institute, part of the University of Oxford, is looking for healthy volunteers to participate in clinical trials testing vaccines against diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and Ebola. If you are aged 18–50, in good health, and are interested in participating in research, get in touch to find out more. Email <u>vaccinetrials@ndm.ox.ac.uk</u> or visit the website at: http://www.jenner.ac.uk/recruiting-trials



# Is your child 12-23 months old and not had chickenpox?

We are recruiting for a vaccine trial.

INFO: http://www.chickenpoxstudy.org.uk or info@ovg.ox.ac.uk 01865 857420

# Other Items of Interest

# Oxford Biomedical Research Centre Open Day

Thursday 21 April 2016. Tingewick Hall, Academic Block, John Radcliffe Hospital

The NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre will hold a public open day "Celebrating Biomedical Research in Oxford" on Thursday April 21 from midday to 5pm at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The event will be held at Tingewick Hall in the Academic Block and will include interactive stands, talks about the work of the Oxford BRC, a tour of clinical facilities and a debate about the opportunities and challenges of sharing patient data.

Attractions will include a new 55-inch touchscreen computer being used to view cells up close for teaching at the JR, a mobile phone app to assess general fitness, a quiz on which foods contain the most iron, a microscope to view blood slides showing acute leukaemia and spectacles that simulate eye diseases.

Booking is recommended for all events other than the exhibits.

For the full programme and to book visit the Oxford BRC website.



# Loop Hole: Art - Science Collaboration

#### Exhibition 20-22 April 10am - 5pm

"Loop Hole" is an exhibition that showcases recent outcomes from a collaborative partnership between the Structural Genomics Consortium in Oxford and the Arts University Bournemouth.

Medical Science Teaching Centre, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PL

University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BJ

10am-5pm, Free entry

To find out more about the exhibition <u>click here</u>.

You are also welcome to attend the **exhibition opening on Tuesday 19 April** in the Medical Science Teaching Centre from 3.30-4.30pm and at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin 4.30-5.30pm.

### Combatting malaria through collaboration

#### Monday 25 April, all welcome.

On Monday, April 25 people across the globe will take part in a wide range of activities to mark World Malaria Day. The theme for this year is 'End Malaria for Good'. This event will showcase the breadth of malaria research that takes place across Oxford and in our overseas units. We will highlight the latest research efforts at the The Jenner Institute, MalariaGen, The Malaria Atlas Project (MAP), the Wellcome Trust Mahidol Oxford Research Unit in Bangkok (and other units in Asia), and the WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network (WWARN).

We will demonstrate the complexity of the malaria challenge, the latest multi-disciplinary research efforts and our efforts to support the global drive to eradicate malaria through collaboration.

Date: Monday 25 April

Time: 17:30 - 19:00. Wine reception at 19.00

Venue: Mathematical Institute, Andrew Wiles Building, University of Oxford, Woodstock Road, OX2

Registration: To book your free tickets click here.

#### Speakers

- Prof Kevin Marsh, Centre for Tropical Medicine & Global Health: Chair
- Prof Nick White, Mahidol-Oxford Research Unit: Confirming and responding to ACT malaria drug resistance in SE Asia
- Dr Katherine Battle, Malaria Atlas Project: P. Vivax the neglected parasite mapping the challenge
- Prof Dominic Kwiatkowskim, MalariaGEN: How can genomics help to end malaria for good?
- Prof Adrian Hill, The Jenner Institute: A malaria vaccine progress on the development of a life-saving vaccine
- Prof Philippe Guérin, WorldWide Antimalarial Resistance Network: Gathering data to improve malaria drug efficacy and treatment outcomes

# New Oxford Online Programme in Sleep Medicine

Now accepting applications for first intake in October 2016

Sleep medicine is a rapidly growing specialty. This course, hosted by the Sleep and Circadian Neuroscience Institute, will be of interest to a wide range of physicians (e.g. respiratory physicians, neurologists, psychiatrists, paediatricians, geriatricians, GPs), specialists who are

focussed on 'behavioural sleep medicine' (e.g. clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists) as well as applied sleep scientists, sleep technologists, and nurses.

The course offers two potential qualifications: Post-graduate Diploma (PgDip) and Masters (MSc). You can either enroll for a two-year PgDip or a two-year MSc. Students who complete the PgDip can apply to convert to the MSc after completion of a third year. Elements of the course may also be offered as CPD modules.

The course is almost entirely online. Prerecorded materials (video and written) can be reviewed at your convenience, complemented by moderated online discussion groups, which will be scheduled to accommodate the different time-zones of students on the course. An active online learning community keeps students in touch with each other.

For further information including course content, entry requirements, and how to apply for the PgDip or MSc click here.

## Showcasing better patient outcomes through partnerships

Monday 9 May, John Radcliffe Hospital. Thursday 19 May, Milton Park. Wednesday 15 May, Warneford Hospital.

The Oxford AHSN is running seven linked events with partners during May 2016 to highlight the benefits to patients of collaboration. They take place in Didcot, High Wycombe, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Reading and Wokingham – details left and below.

At each of these 'Better Patient Outcomes Through Partnerships' events the Oxford AHSN will table its Annual Review 2015/16 and local leaders will showcase effective joint working. Each event will also include a panel discussion featuring representatives from the NHS, universities and industry.

The Oxford AHSN is a partnership of NHS providers, NHS commissioners, universities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and the life science industry from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire who are working together to deliver improvements in patient outcomes, safety and experience.

All of the 'Better Patient Outcomes Through Partnerships' events are free and open to all. They run from 4–6pm followed by light refreshments and networking.

- 9 May Oxford. Further information here.
- 12 May Reading. Further information here.
- 16 May High Wycombe. Further information here.
- 17 May Wokingham. Further information here.
- 19 May Milton Park, Didcot. Further information here.
- 25 May Oxford. Further information here.
- 26 May Milton Keynes. Further information here.

### Lecture by Nobel Laureate Sir Venki Ramakrishnan

"From Chidambaram to Cambridge and the Royal Society: A scientific journey."

This talk will cover Sir Venki's experience of growing up in India and moving to the USA at the age of 19 to obtain a PhD in physics, then switching immediately to biology and spending much of his life working on the ribosome. It will include such things as difficult career choices, including moves within and eventually out of the USA, as well as a discussion of the role of the ribosome in translation and antibiotic function. It is hoped that afterwards there will be a broad-ranging discussion of the choices facing young scientists today.

Date and Time: Tuesday 26 April at 5:30pm Venue: Lecture room 2, The Maths Institute, Oxford

This talk is open to all and followed by tea and coffee at 6:30pm

#### One-day intensive MedComms careers workshop

Wednesday 11 May. The Careers Service, 56 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6PA.

This new one-day intensive MedComms careers workshop provides the opportunity for delegates with a genuine interest in joining the MedComms industry to get up close and personal with a number of leading employers. The format is designed to give delegates as much insight as possible into life in the different agencies and to be able to compare and contrast those working environments. This event is all about talking direct and in depth with the MedComms specialists about the practicalities of getting the first job and then of the working life in the agencies, so attendees will be expected to have already made themselves familiar with the information provided online at www.FirstMedCommsJob.com and will probably have already attended one of our Introductory Careers sessions.

Please note there are a maximum 24 places. Attendance is free of charge and we expect and welcome attendees from outside Oxford University, though priority is given to their students and staff.

Further details about the workshop including an outline programme can be found  $\underline{here}.$ 

- To apply for a place please email  $\blacksquare$  Peter Llewellyn with the following information:
- 1. Current position and clear contact details (email and phone and ideally a link to an online personal profile or web page)
- 2. A letter of application to include a short explanation as to why you would like to have a place on the course

3. A sample of your writing (summarising your research interest and objectives, 150 words max).

It is anticipated that applicants will be informed of the result of their application by Friday 22 April 2016 latest. In the meantime, if you've any questions at all then please contact EPeter Llewellyn directly.

# Wellcome Trust Funding Event - Humanities & Social Sciences

Tuesday 17 May for researchers in medical ethics, humanities and social sciences

The Wellcome Trust will visit Oxford on Tuesday 17 May to talk about research funding opportunities across the Humanities and Social Sciences funding streams.

Established academics to early-career researchers from the humanities, social sciences, health care sciences, libraries and archives are invited to attend this free funding event which will consist of an open forum and group surgery meetings.

Spaces for this event are limited and booking is essential. To book your place  $\underline{click here}$ .

#### **Open Forum**

Date: Tuesday 17 May Time: 10am – 11am, Refreshments to follow in the Colin Matthew Room 11.30am – 12.15pm Venue: St Luke's Chapel, Radcliffe Humanities, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Rd

#### **Group Surgery Meetings**

Date: Tuesday 17 May Time: 12.15pm – 1pm Venue: Seminar Room and Colin Matthew Room, Radcliffe Humanities, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Rd

### Practical Patient-Centric Services: an open innovation workshop

Thursday 19 May, 2pm - 6.30pm, Oxford Martin School

A multi-disciplinary meeting aimed at improving collaboration around patient-centred care, patient engagement in healthcare and patient input to research and development.

The patient professional dialogue has changed and continues to change across both biomedical research and health service provision. Many stakeholders are influencing and being influenced by this change but focussed, multi-disciplinary cooperation is rare. This meeting aims to make a start at addressing this shortcoming. If you can help in this regard you are requested to contact the organisers.

The half-day workshop will be run as an open innovation style meeting where sharing ideas and exploring ways to bring these ideas to fruition will be the central themes. The specific objectives of this meeting are twofold:

1. to improve multi-stakeholder communication and bring different perspectives to bear on this issue

2. to develop 2 or 3 practical and relevant project ideas which can be taken forward by any of the interested participants

Outputs and emerging ideas may be focused on bringing patients into service innovation, clinical research, disease management pathways, open communication or on solutions/services to aid access, patient care and adherence.

If you are interested in attending or would like to receive more details, please contact:

Tim Mustill at Astrocyte Consulting

Email: Tim.mustill@astrocyte.co.uk

Tel: 07985 343417

### Grant writing workshop

Deadline for registration TODAY Monday 11 April

Oxford Research Staff Society would like to invite you to attend a workshop on Writing Grant Applications, led by <u>Professor Alan Silman</u>, who has extensive experience of writing and reviewing grants for many funding bodies.

Date: Wednesday 13 April

Time: 3 - 6pm

Venue: Richard Doll Lecture Theatre, Old Road Campus. Map.

For the last hour of the workshop, a panel of OxRSS committee members together with Prof Silman will be happy to answer your questions in an open forum.

Registration: e-mail Cxford Research Staff Society by the end of the day on Monday 11 April