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Copy deadline for next issue: 09:00, Monday 7 March. Delivery date: Monday 14 March



INTERNAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

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](#).



PROFESSOR GLYN HUMPHREYS, 1954 –2016

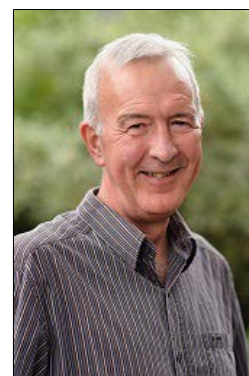
It was with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden death of [Professor Glyn Humphreys](#) at the start of the year. Professor Humphreys, Watts Professor of Experimental Psychology and Head of the Department of Experimental Psychology, was a leading light of cognitive neuropsychology. He received numerous accolades, including the [British Psychological Society Lifetime Achievement Award](#) in 2015 in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the field of psychology.

Professor Alastair Buchan, Head of the Medical Sciences Division, said in a statement: 'I speak for the whole Division when I say we are all affected by this extremely sad news. Glyn was so young and so full of life and vitality. Together with his wife and colleague Jane Riddoch they brought both wisdom and experience to both Experimental Psychology and the John Radcliffe Hospital. He is going to be terribly missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Jane and their family.'

Professor Kia Nobre, who has replaced Glyn as Head of Department, added: 'In his relatively short time at Oxford, Glyn transformed our department – greatly expanding our research infrastructure and integrating our activities with those in other departments. Glyn approached his aspirations and commitments with tireless drive, and interacted with colleagues and students with generosity and kindness. He leaves an inspiring legacy as a scientist, a leader, and a human being, as can be immediately appreciated by looking over the many comments on his [memorial web page](#).'

If you would like to send your condolences to Jane and family, please email [Janice Young](#). Alternatively, you can contribute to the memorial website set up in Glyn's name <http://88.202.227.92/~glyn/>. A memorial event will be held at Wolfson College on Saturday 28 May 2016. Details will follow.

Image courtesy of Nasir Hamid/simplyoxford.com



CREATING A NEW DRUG DISCOVERY ECOSYSTEM IN OXFORD USING OPEN ACCESS – PART I

This month, we talk to Dr Wen Hwa Lee,

BOARD BUSINESS

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

Strategic Alliances Manager at the [Structural Genomics Consortium](#) (SGC), part of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, about how the SGC is revolutionising the way we think about drug discovery.



We have recently heard a lot about open innovation in drug discovery and biomedicine – with the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC) being one of the shining examples, mentioned in industry and strategic reports (including RAND, Deloitte and the recent Dowling Report) – can you tell us a bit more about it?
I think we should begin by clarifying that the term 'Open Innovation' is very fuzzy and covers a wide range of partnership/collaboration models where large organisations are more 'permeable' to exchange of ideas with external entities. This varies from very restrictive (and many times secretive) arrangements to completely open source projects, where everything is shared in the public domain.

[Read more...](#)

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- (1) observed a period of silence at the beginning of the meeting in memory of Professor Glyn Humphreys;
- (2) received an oral report on Athena SWAN developments, noting that support was being provided for departments to take part in the Staff Experience Survey and that awards of about £35.5k (derived from BRC funds) had been made in December to applicants to the Returning Carer's Fund;
- (3) received a report from the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee, noting the discussion of the departments' Q1 forecasts, of possible approaches to medium-term financial strategy and of the process for revising the Division's 2016–17 plans as required by PRAC;

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ATHENA SWAN NEWS

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- (2) [OxFEST's 5th annual conference](#)
- (3) [University of Oxford Staff Experience Survey](#)
- (4) [Research Project on Microaggressions](#)
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IT NEWS

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- (2) [OUH Trust "Virtual Workspace" users – LibreOffice replacing Microsoft Office](#)
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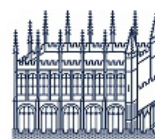
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LIBRARY NEWS

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- (1) [Now available – Nature Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine](#)
- (2) [Act on Acceptance – Open Access and the next REF](#)
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- (5) [Tell Us What You Think About the Cairns Library](#)
- (6) [Have your say: Bodleian's Reader Survey 8 – 29 February](#)
- (7) [Bodleian iSkills for Hilary 2016](#)
- (8) [Edible Book Festival and other events for Hilary at the RSL](#)
- (9) [#OxEngage Programme 2016](#)

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Bodleian Libraries
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

Important Updates

Attention staff working on OUH NHS sites: Parking, Transport and Travel Survey

RCUK & CRUK Researchfish Outputs Collection 2016 Collection dates: 1 February – 10 March 2016

Wellcome Trust Visit, Tuesday 15 March 2016 Open Forum

Funding Opportunities

Internal Funding Available for Translational Research MRC Confidence in Concept Fund: EOI Deadline 18 April.

Returning Carers' Fund

Oxford – Celgene 2016 Translational Research Fellowships Launch Meeting Tuesday 23 February, Kennedy Institute, Old Road Campus

Staff development opportunity – Erasmus funding for training abroad Deadline 17 February
Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership Awards Outline bid deadline 7 March

Engagement Opportunities

Save the Date! The Conversation training coming soon Feb, March – Introductory sessions, short workshops, drop-in clinics and in-depth day long masterclasses

3 Minutes, 1 Slide...Your Thesis! Enter the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition and put your communication skills to the test

STFC Public Engagement Fellowships Funding available for researchers working in STFC research areas, deadline 25 February.

Nuffield Council on Bioethics Parliamentary Fellowship 2016 Deadline Friday 26 February

Call for Soapbox Science 2016 speakers now open! Applicable for woman working in all areas of science

Volunteer Opportunities

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

A bit tense or worried?

Vaccines Against Salmonella Typhi You are invited to take part in a study to investigate how different vaccines prevent infection with Salmonella Typhi.

Volunteers needed for study of the genetics of social brain function

Take part in Jenner Institute trials testing vaccines

Other Items of Interest

Oxford Immunology Group Annual Meeting 17 March, John Radcliffe Hospital

AIMday in Digital Health Industrial networking event, 20 June

7th Annual Oxford Neuroscience Symposium Wednesday 23 March

The EQUATOR Network – have we helped you? Tell us your story!

IDEAL Collaboration Conference 2016 Thursday 7 April 2016, St Catherine's College, Oxford

OUCAGS Forum Events 2016

Open Access Drop-In Surgeries 11.30–13.30 every Monday of term

University Club launches new website

Survey on supporting good practice in research Survey closes Monday 22 February

AND FINALLY...WE ARE MEDICAL SCIENCES. WATCH US ON YOUTUBE!



We are pleased to launch a new [Medical Sciences Division video](#). The video, which briefly highlights the diversity of the division's research and teaching environment, was produced in collaboration with our colleagues in the Public Affairs Directorate and the other three academic divisions. All four videos can be viewed on the [University's YouTube channel](#). Please share!

Professor Glyn Humphreys, 1954 –2016

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Professor Glyn Humphreys at the start of the year. Professor Humphreys, Watts Professor of Experimental Psychology and Head of the Department of Experimental Psychology, was a leading light of cognitive neuropsychology. He received numerous accolades, including the British Psychological Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the field of psychology.

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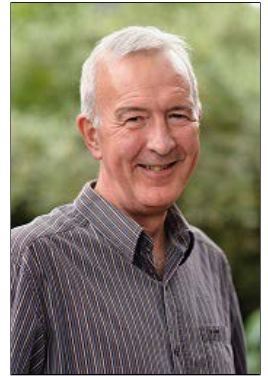
Professor Kia Nobre, who has replaced Glyn as Head of Department, added: 'In his relatively short time at Oxford, Glyn transformed our department – greatly expanding our research infrastructure and integrating our activities with those in other departments. Glyn approached his aspirations and commitments with tireless drive, and interacted with colleagues and students with generosity and kindness. He leaves an inspiring legacy as a scientist, a leader, and a human being, as can be immediately appreciated by looking over the many comments on his memorial web page.'

If you would like to send your condolences to Jane and family, please email [✉Janice Young](mailto:Janice.Young@oxford.ox.ac.uk)

Alternatively, you can contribute to the memorial website set up in Glyn's name <http://www.glynwhumphreys.memorial/>

A memorial event will be held at Wolfson College on Saturday 28 May 2016. Details will follow.

Image courtesy of Nasir Hamid/simplyoxford.com



Creating a New Drug Discovery Ecosystem in Oxford using Open Access – Part I

This month, we talk to Dr Wen Hwa Lee, Strategic Alliances Manager at the [Structural Genomics Consortium](#) (SGC), part of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, about how the SGC is revolutionising the way we think about drug discovery.



We have recently heard a lot about open innovation in drug discovery and biomedicine – with the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC) being one of the shining examples, mentioned in industry and strategic reports (including RAND, Deloitte and the recent Dowling Report) – can you tell us a bit more about it?

I think we should begin by clarifying that the term ‘Open Innovation’ is very fuzzy and covers a wide range of partnership/collaboration models where large organisations are more ‘permeable’ to exchange of ideas with external entities. This varies from very restrictive (and many times secretive) arrangements to completely open source projects, where everything is shared in the public domain.

The SGC itself is built around a very unique model on the open source extreme of the spectrum – a public–private partnership that will only work in a pre–competitive manner, but always on completely novel proteins (the ‘targets’ of most medicines). And we are committed to not patent anything we discover or produce, and will share everything in the public domain without any restrictions on its use.

You mentioned that you’ll only work with novel proteins – why is that?

We only work with novel proteins because human biology is heavily under–explored. Let’s look at protein kinases – a very important family of proteins, which is the target of many frontline oncology drugs. Despite the fact that we have about 500 different kinases in the human genome, with very consistent data showing that a very large number of these are involved in many diseases – more than 90% of all the work done in academia revolves around less than 10% of all the kinases. And industry follow suit, as so much industrial research is built upon academic outputs. The tragedy is that in both public and private R&D funding strategies there has been an increased emphasis on ‘return of investment’ and the need for ‘preliminary data’ before any project is funded. So to maximise impact, the SGC decided to focus its efforts on the under–explored protein families – those that wouldn’t be worked on otherwise due to risk–averse funders.



And what’s your approach to work with novel proteins?

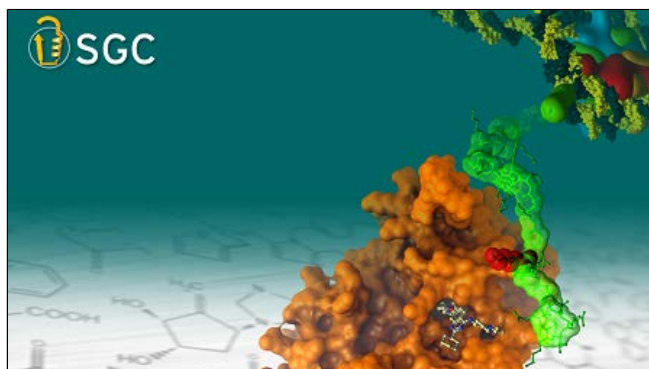
The SGC generates novel research tools for novel proteins – this includes development of protocols to purify large quantities of novel human proteins, solving the three–dimensional structure of these proteins (a blueprint that will facilitate the development of bespoke chemical compounds, thus starting points for new drugs), creation of chemical starting points and in many cases high–specificity, high–potency chemical probes and generation of functional and biophysical assays to explore the role of the new protein and new chemical inhibitors/binders. Once this is all developed, validated and discovered, we put protocols, clones, chemical structures of new compounds and even the actual physical samples of our chemical probes out in the public domain without patents or restrictions on their use.

Another very interesting point you’ve made is the absence of patents and making everything publicly available – this goes against the perceived route for biomedical discoveries! Why have you decided to do this?

We’ve done so in the interest of accelerating research and drug discovery. Contrary to many misconceptions, specific chemical inhibitors are still very far from being actual medicines and rushing to patent those early stage compounds ends up restricting the exploration of biology and slowing it even more! The failure rate for any drug discovery project before validation of efficacy in Phase II clinical trials is more than 90%, so it is naïve to think that the value could reside in such an early stage chemical compound. More than anything, it is critical to establish the link between a target and an indication/disease and restricting open exploration of such tools will only slow any progress. That’s why we have decided to give away everything without any restrictions on use.

And has it worked? Can you give me some examples?

Of course! One of the SGC programmes focused on a completely novel family of proteins called bromodomains, involved in epigenetics regulation. Using our high–throughput platform, the SGC very quickly solved about 50% of the 61 existing bromodomains in the human genome and designed an inhibitor to a member of that family – BRD4. Since there was no patent, we could bypass the game of ‘how to share an imaginary pie if this leads to a drug’ and negotiating the terms: we have quickly established a collaboration with a clinician in Harvard who worked on a rare cancer where BRD4 was involved (called NUT midline carcinoma) and 11 months later work demonstrating that inhibition of BRD4, a bromodomain, could be used to stop that rare cancer was



undertaken and published in *Nature* (Dec. 2010). Since then we have distributed the compound to more than 1000 labs across the globe, each testing in new indications (remember – there was no restriction on use!) and publishing spectacular links to BRD4 that no-one would have imagined, such as cardiac hypertrophy, many other cancers, response to HIV infection and many others. So much data that GSK decided to take this target into a first-in-man clinical trial in less than three years after we started the project (!). This sparked a lot of further interest and presently there are more than six companies, each with their own proprietary molecules targeting validated bromodomains running more than 14 clinical trials in many indications. And this is the story of only one probe out of a pipeline of 37 already made publicly available by the SGC.

Wow – the impact is undeniable! But I am sure our readers would like to know how the SGC is structured and funded?

The SGC is actually a federation of research labs operating in the best academic institutions in leading academic institutions across the globe. Along our labs here in Oxford (SGC Oxford sits in the Old Road Campus), we have a further five labs at the Universities of Toronto, Campinas (Brazil), North Carolina Chapel Hill (USA), Frankfurt (Germany) and at the Karolinska Institute (Sweden). The funding for our operations comes from a very diverse set of organisations, including eight of the leading pharma companies (Pfizer, Novartis, Takeda, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer, Merck, AbbVie and Janssen), government funding agencies (Genome Canada, Canada Foundation for Innovation, São Paulo Research Foundation, EU's Innovative Medicines Initiative), charities (Wellcome Trust) and philanthropists (Eshelman Institute for Innovation). Taken together we can commit to form a common global infrastructure platform, with each lab advancing research in non-overlapping areas of biology. All the discoveries, reagents and tools from our six labs are then integrated and shared openly with the world (see www.thesgc.org).

And obviously, all this and much more can be tapped into by our researchers in the Medical Sciences Division, right?

Absolutely! And in fact we'd be more than happy to share with everyone – pre-clinical and clinical scientists alike. So if you are interested in what the SGC does and how to get access to our network, reagents and tools, feel free to begin by visiting our [website](#) and [get in touch with me](#). In the spirit of Open Access, the more the merrier – and the faster we can help mapping human biology for the benefit of patients and future generations!

Part 2 and 3 to be published on our [website](#) over the next few months.

Links:

[Dr Lee's webpage](#)

[Structural Genomics Consortium](#)

[Open Access Target Validation Is a More Efficient Way to Accelerate Drug Discovery \(pdf\)](#)

Would you like your lab/centre/unit to feature in a future issue of OxfordMedSci News? For further information, please contact communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk.

Board Business

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- (3) received a report from the Board's Finance and Physical Capital Committee, noting the discussion of the departments' Q1 forecasts, of possible approaches to medium-term financial strategy and of the process for revising the Division's 2016-17 plans as required by PRAC;
- (4) received and noted a report from the Board's Research and Innovation Committee and discussed the process and strategy in respect of the forthcoming Biomedical Research Centre bids in conjunction with both the Oxford University Hospitals and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trusts; it was agreed that a robust approach was required to adjust to the fact that university overhead costs as such could not be covered by a BRC and that prima facie seeking BRC funding for relevant direct salary costs that would in any case have been borne by the University was a reasonable way of proceeding;
- (5) received and discussed the paper on the Third Consultation on Statute XII. Comments from departments had been sought but none had been received. Questions were asked about the membership of the proposed Staff Employment Review Panel but overall the Board was content with the proposed draft legislation.

To view the current and past agenda/papers, please contact [Dr David Bryan](#).

Athena SWAN News

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News

Careers Support Network

A new area of provision open to staff in support roles and in a first or second administrative role. The Careers Support Network is staffed by volunteer mentors, all of whom are experienced recruiters.

The network is operated by OLI and aims to match a mentee with a volunteer mentor on one of these three topics:

- Preparing an application for a post
- Preparing for interview
- Considering feedback offered after an unsuccessful interview or application

More information, including how to apply for a mentor, is available at:

<http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/resources/careers/>

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OxFEST's 5th annual conference

Signposts and Pathways: How to get ahead in your STEM career?

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/oxfest-signposts-and-pathways-2016-tickets-19499030124

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/oxfest5thannualconference/timeline

OxFEST would like to invite you to the 5th annual conference aiming to inspire and promote women in STEM. This year, we hope to provide an opportunity for people of all career stages in STEM subjects to explore various career pathways in STEM and to prepare themselves on the journey to success. If you are the kind of person who would like to get informed and get ready for your STEM career, this is an event not to be missed.

The day will consist of talks from prominent speakers about their career stories, interactive workshops and a panel discussion centred on which career options are available for you as an undergraduate or a young researcher, what steps to take next and how to maximise your potential and achieve your career goals within STEM. There will also be plenty of opportunities to network and share and discuss experiences with both peers and STEM's most prominent figures.

This event promises to be filled with exciting activities that will open your eyes to the range of roles of women in the scientific world and will



present an exciting opportunity for you to be inspired, acquire vital skills, widen your network of connections and be motivated to go out and pursue your goals and careers.

Date: Saturday 5 March, 2016

Time: 9:00 – 18:00

Venue: Maths Institute, Andrew Wiles Building

OxFEST Conference: Calling for Student Speakers – abstract deadline Sunday 14 February

OxFEST are looking for 6 inspiring female PhD students in STEM fields to deliver a short presentation on their research areas and about themselves. This is the perfect opportunity to transform your study to a source of inspiration, and to stand in front of the audience as one of the female role models who have dedicated their passion to a specific STEM subject.

Structure of the presentation: A total of 15 minutes with 10 minutes on the research area, and the rest about the speaker herself, including why you decided to do a PhD/work in your current research field

To apply: Email yulin.liu@balliol.ox.ac.uk with an abstract for your presentation – make sure it is concise and understandable, and most importantly, appealing to someone who might never have heard of your research topic but with a general scientific background. You can also send a short video clip (1–2 mins long), where you introduce yourself and what your presentation will be on. This is strongly recommended.

All PhD speakers enjoy free conference entrance and are cordially invited to the conference dinner with our keynote speakers and committee members, with your places paid for by OxFEST.

OxFEST Annual Conference Poster Competition 2016 – abstract deadline Sunday 14 February

OxFEST's 5th annual conference is proudly holding a Research Poster Competition for a General Scientific Audience which offers undergraduate and graduate students an opportunity to meet, showcase and discuss the innovative research they are undertaking, thereby providing them with an opportunity to network and raise the profile of their research.

Applicant requirement: Female undergraduates and postgraduates reading STEM subjects

Please send your abstract of no more than 200 words to oxfestposter@gmail.com

First prize: £150 to be spent on academically-relevant activities

2 runner-up prizes: £75 to be spent on academically-relevant activities

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University of Oxford Staff Experience Survey

The University of Oxford Staff Experience Survey is an exciting new initiative, bringing several surveys together into a single questionnaire that is being run across the University by departments and divisions. It will provide an authoritative source of information to help us see where we might need to make changes in order to ensure the best possible experience for all our staff.

It will also be used to support a variety of best practice awards and to benchmark our progress over time. It therefore replaces many other surveys (including those to support Athena SWAN, for researchers, or across divisions) meaning staff will receive fewer overall. Departments will use their results to look at what changes might be made locally, and in summer 2016 the EDU will aggregate all the results received so far in support of University wide work on gender and race equality and in support of research staff, as well as looking at staff experiences more widely.

The survey asks respondents about their experience of the environment and culture where they work, their career development, and perceptions of their jobs. It also asks for some contextual information (such as demographic details, contract and background) which will enable us to look at the experiences of different groups of staff. The results will be used not as an absolute indicator of people's experiences but as a starting point to explore particular areas in greater depth. Whether the survey is being run by a department, division, or the Equality and Diversity Unit depends on how each department has opted to administer it. To find out when your department will be taking part or for more information, please email: surveyenquiries@admin.ox.ac.uk

For more information and FAQs, please see the survey website: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/staffexperiencesurvey.

If you have a disability or long-term health condition, please remember that we will not be able to respond individually to anything you say in the survey. If you would like to explore possible support at work talk to your line manager or contact Caroline Moughton, the Staff Disability Advisor: caroline.moughton@admin.ox.ac.uk.

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Research Project on Microaggressions

Researchers at Goldsmiths University are working on a research project on microaggressions and would value your support. They are in need of more responses, and especially from BME staff.

The project aims to better understand a form of prejudice termed as microaggression. Racial microaggressions are subtle, ambiguous, brief and everyday verbal, behavioural, or environmental indignities that communicate negative racial insults to people of colour.

Microaggressions are considered modern forms of racism. Unlike traditional direct forms of racist behaviours (e.g. racial attacks) this form of modern racism is deemed more pervasive and psychologically damaging due to its subtle nature. On encountering a micro-aggression, individuals have to manage feelings that stir up anxieties as they make sense of events and decide a response. Non-response to these apparently subtle and ambiguous situations may have psychological consequences, such as repressed anger or dealing with perceived loss of

integrity.

The hope is that this investigation could provide cost-effective means for better managing adverse intergroup relations at individual, organisational and societal levels, improving both quality of life and the productive work environment.

https://goldpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_42fSo1Ag5BQorwp

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Soapbox Science: Call for Speakers

Soapbox Science is a novel public outreach platform for promoting women scientists and the science they do. The events transform public areas into an arena for public learning and scientific debate; they follow the format of London Hyde Park's Speaker's Corner. With Soapbox Science everyone has the opportunity to enjoy, learn from, heckle, question, probe, interact with and be inspired by leading scientists. No middle man, no powerpoint slide, no amphitheater – just remarkable women in science who are there to amaze you with their latest discoveries, and to answer the science questions you have been burning to ask. Look out for bat simulators, fake breasts or giant pictures of volcanoes. Or simply hear them talk about what fascinates them, and why they think they have the most fantastic job in the world!

The call for speakers for the 2016 Soapbox Science events is now live www.soapboxscience.org

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Funding Opportunities

Returning Carers' Fund

The Returning Carers' Fund will be open for applications in Hilary and Trinity terms. 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/. The Hilary term deadline is **Friday 4 March**.

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FfWG Funds for Women Graduates

FfWG offers Foundation Grants to help women graduates with their living expenses (not fees) while registered for study or research at an approved institution of higher education in Great Britain. The criteria are the proven needs of the applicant and her academic calibre. Foundation Grants will only be given for the final year of a PhD or DPhil. The closing date for applications for 2016/17 is Tuesday 1 March and the grants are awarded in July for the following academic year. Request for applications must be made by **Monday 22 February**. For more information see: www.ffwg.org.uk/our-grants.html

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L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowships

The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK & Ireland Fellowships Programme for 2016 is now open for applications. In 2016, five awards of £15,000 each, will be offered to outstanding female post-doctoral researchers in the UK & Ireland.

Adjudicated by a panel of eminent scientists, the fellowships can be used in any number of ways – from purchasing new equipment to paying for childcare costs – to enable women scientists to further their careers and facilitate world class research.

To apply and find out more go to: www.womeninscience.co.uk

Deadline: 11 March 2016

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Events

Women's Health: A New Global Agenda

Professor Robyn Norton

Global efforts to improve the health of women have largely focused on reducing unacceptably high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity. However, the leading causes of death and disability for women in almost all countries in the world are now non-communicable diseases (NCDs). For many years, it was widely assumed that the occurrence and outcomes of disease were the same for men and women, and that results from studies involving only men would be equally relevant for women. An increasing body of evidence suggests that this is not the case, and that we can improve our knowledge about disease occurrence and disease outcomes – for both men and women – by undertaking analyses of health data disaggregated by sex and informed by a gender perspective, as well as by including women in scientific studies. A new policy paper presented by its lead author Professor Robyn Norton, Principal Director of The George Institute for Global Health, Professor of Global Health and a James Martin Fellow at the University of Oxford, and Professor of Public Health at the University of Sydney, argues that the global agenda for women's health must be redefined to prioritise NCDs and calls for a gendered approach to the collection and utilisation of health data, making recommendations for action by Government, international leaders and institutions across all sectors.

Its findings will be discussed by a panel including Dr Jane Dacre, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Dame Una O'Brien, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, and Stephen Twigg MP, Chair of the International Development Committee. To attend please contact: rihaj@parliament.uk

Date: Wednesday 10 February

Time: 4.00pm

Venue: Athlee Suite, Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament, London

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A Great Unrecorded History: Richard B Parkinson

Introduced by the Vice-Chancellor

Richard B Parkinson, Professor of Egyptology and author of "A Little Gay History: Desire and Diversity across the World", will give the 2016 Oxford University LGBT History Month Lecture. This is a free event and all are welcome. [Booking](#) is recommended to be sure of a place.

Date: Tuesday 23 February

Time: 6pm

Venue: Mathematical Institute, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Oxford OX2 6GG

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Oxford Martin School International Women's Day lecture: Automation, robotics and the promise of an easier life

Professor Judy Wajcman

In this lecture Professor Judy Wajcman, Visiting Professor at the Oxford Internet Institute, will examine the ways in which robotics embody the desire to save valuable time by enabling us to complete tasks ever faster and more efficiently. They are supposed to make our lives easier. Yet we hear constant laments that we are pressed for time, and that the pace of everyday life is accelerating. How do we explain this conundrum? And why is it that machines designed for today's service economy often resemble gender stereotypes? For further information and booking see: <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/2268>

Date: Wednesday 2 March

Time: 5.00–6.30pm

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Oxford Martin School, 34 Broad Street (corner of Holywell and Catte Streets)

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Women and success: Professors in the UK academy

Dr Kate Hoskins, University of Roehampton

Dr Hoskins' research draws on life history interviews with twenty women professors working in the social and natural sciences. The majority of these pioneers feel they have paid a high price for their career success and this price is linked to their gender and social class background. Dr Hoskins explores the career support that these women cited as important for their progression within the academy; the important role of sponsors, mentors and opportunities for networking in the women's career progression; and considers the influence of the women's class background and gender in shaping their academic career trajectories and particularly how these aspects of identity facilitate the tactics of success such as gaining sponsorship or mentoring. All welcome, no booking required.

Date: Thursday 3 March

Time: 4.00–5.00pm

Venue: Seminar Room, Level 2, Littlegate House, 16/17 St Ebbe's Street

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Geddes Lecture 2016: Breaking into the boys' club – why British politics needs more women

Anushka Asthana

Anushka Asthana, Sky News' Political Correspondent, was recently appointed as The Guardian's Political Editor, in a ground-breaking job share with Heather Stewart. This event is free and open to all, but you must register in advance for a ticket by emailing gillian.powell@seh.ox.ac.uk.

Date: Friday 4 March

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: Milner Hall, Rhodes House

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Expanding horizons in biomedical research

Do you want to know more about careers in academic medicine and biomedical science? Are you interested in the options available to you, such as biotechnology or working on large cross-disciplinary collaborations? Would you like to develop your network of contacts and

support?

This event will provide a space for biomedical academic trainees to network, discuss issues such as transforming cultures in medicine, working on large collaborations, working internationally and in industry.

The event will be chaired by Professor Barbara Casadei FMedSci FRCP, British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Oxford, and is open to all clinical trainees from Foundation Doctors to Clinician Scientists. Early career researchers with a non-clinical background are also welcome to attend.

Speakers include:

- Professor Sir Pete Downes OBE FRSE FMedSci, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Dundee
- Professor Christopher Pugh FMedSci, Professor of Renal Medicine, University of Oxford
- Professor Sarah Rowland-Jones, Professor of Immunology, University of Oxford
- Dr Andrew Heron, Director of Advanced Research, Nanopore Technologies
- Professor Irene Tracey FMedSci, Nuffield Professor Anaesthetic Science and Head, Nuffield Division Anaesthetics, University of Oxford.

<http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/more/events/expanding-horizons-in-biomedical-research/>

This event is free but spaces are limited. If you have any questions please email catriona.hands@acmedsci.ac.uk

Date: Wednesday 16 March

Time: 12:30 – 17:30

Venue: Ruth Deech Building, St Anne's College Oxford, Oxford, OX1 3UJ

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MPLS Impact through Enterprise Programme: Enterprising Women

Are women entrepreneurs different or do women have to be different to be entrepreneurs? The aim of this workshop is to explore what women bring to enterprise (in all settings – start-ups, academia and corporate life). The course will use inspirational female case studies and will address factors which typically hold women back. It is however open to all and will look into the enterprising mindset – risk taking, leadership, bringing ideas to fruition. Intended especially for DPhil students and Research Staff in MPLS. For further details and booking see: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/course-signup/rest/course/4D004D101198>

Date: Thursday 17 March

Time: 9.00am–2.00pm

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Articles and Resources

Gender breakdown at course level

The proportion of male and female students varies widely across different subjects in UK universities. Figures on the gender make-up of the student body for 2013–14 were broken down to discipline level, and to level of study, in *Patterns and Trends in UK Higher Education 2015*, a report released by Universities UK.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/infographic-gender-breakdown-at-course-level>

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Pages/PatternsAndTrends2015.aspx>

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Equality in HE: statistical reports 2015

Using data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), the report aims to focus attention on areas where the higher education sector needs to act to achieve an inclusive culture for all staff and students.

This year's data provides institutions with key benchmarking data plus broader significant food for thought in how they continue to tackle inequality.

[Equality in HE: statistical reports 2015](#)

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Diversity at work: hiring 'the best person for the job' isn't enough

Unconscious bias and a tendency to hire in their own image can lead managers to bring in the wrong candidate for their team.

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/jan/12/part-time-feminist-job-women-flexibility>

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Publish or perish? Metrics and research diversity

If we want to embed equality and diversity in research culture, any future use of metrics to assess research must not adversely affect specific groups or researchers.

[HEFCE blog](#)

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Busting the baby brain myth: Why motherhood makes minds sharper

Article that outlines growing evidence that having a baby could prime your brain for empathy, reasoning and judgement.

www.newscientist.com/article/mg22930550-700-busting-the-baby-brain-myth-why-motherhood-makes-minds-sharper/

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Minority ethnic academics receive lower NSS scores

Analysis of the 2014 results of the National Student Survey (NSS) scores found that the ethnicity of lecturers is one of the key factors in determining student satisfaction. University of Reading researchers have attributed this to an 'unconscious bias' held by some students.

Universities often use NSS scores to monitor academic departments' performance. Most of the other recorded staff characteristics such as gender and age, and whether a lecturer holds a teaching qualification, did not have a statistically significant effect on student satisfaction.

[More about unconscious bias](#)

[Biased students give BME academics lower scores. Times Higher Education](#)

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Trans equality recommendations for HE

The Women and Equalities Select Committee made 30 recommendations based upon the findings of their inquiry into trans equality. These include changing the protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010 from 'gender reassignment' to 'gender identity', introducing a legal category for people with a non-binary gender identity, and combatting transphobia.

The report acknowledges the bullying and harassment experienced by trans students in higher education and recommends university staff receive gender identity awareness training and take proactive steps to promote trans equality, including through a 'transgender champion' scheme for non-trans staff.

[Trans equality report](#)

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Students from wealthy backgrounds dominate medical schools

A disproportionate number of medical students in the UK come from the most affluent homes and neighbourhoods, a survey of nearly 33,000 applicants has found. [The 'Fair Access to Medicine' study](#) by academics at Dundee and Central Lancashire universities of applications to 22 medical schools also found that applicants from the wealthiest backgrounds – particularly in Scotland and Wales – were more likely to be given places than applicants from poorer homes.

The data has reinforced longstanding anxieties that Britain's doctors and surgeons fail to mirror the profile of society: 80% of medical students came from households containing professionals or those in higher managerial roles, and more than a quarter from private schools.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jan/22/medical-school-students-wealthy-backgrounds>

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IT News

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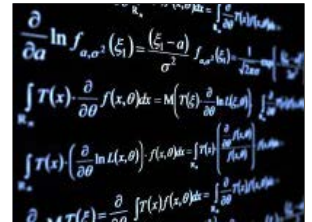
Interested in computer-marking of maths through WebLearn?

MSD Learning Technologies are piloting a new tool for computer-making of questions to which students can type algebraic answers. The system understands complex algebra (e.g that $\cos(2a)$ is recognised as algebraically equivalent to $\cos(a)^2 - \sin(a)^2$), significant figures, decimal places, scientific notation and will soon understand units so a student could give a mass as 1000g or 1kg or even $1 \times 10^{-3}t$. Try it out for yourself:

https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/medsci/department/msd_lt/complex_math

and get in touch with msdlt@medsci.ox.ac.uk if you're interested in using it in your teaching.

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OUH Trust "Virtual Workspace" users - LibreOffice replacing Microsoft Office

MSD IT Services have been advised by the OUH Information Management & Technology Services that - to minimise software licensing costs to the Trust whilst ensuring it is fully compliant with licensing requirements - Microsoft Office 2010 will, in the coming weeks, be removed from the majority of Virtual Workspace computers, and replaced with a free open source alternative - LibreOffice. This will enable all Virtual Workspace users to open Office documents within LibreOffice and also to use LibreOffice for writing notes etc.

If you believe that this change will cause an adverse impact within your area, please email the OUH IM&T Service desk at imandtservicedesk@ouh.nhs.uk. Their Service Desk will then reply, requesting specific information to ensure the correct assessment is made regarding requests to have Microsoft Office 2010 installed, rather than LibreOffice.

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New Vice-Chancellor puts the spotlight on technology

Professor Louise Richardson was installed as Oxford's 272nd Vice-Chancellor on 12th January. As is customary on major University occasions, Academic IT's Educational Media Services team was on hand to film the proceedings.

[Read more...](#)

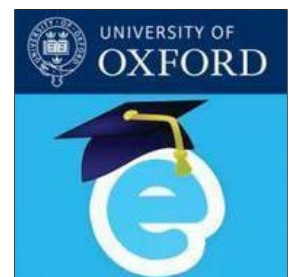
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Digital Tech for Impact, Engagement and Outreach: #OxEngage

The award-winning #OxEngage programme is back for a full term of lunchtime talks, workshops, and online courses. Running throughout Hilary, the programme will offer practical support, inspiring case-studies and discussion on the use of digital technologies for impact, public engagement and outreach. The programme will be complemented by a new classroom-based series and online course where staff and students can explore ways we use, create and share open knowledge.

#OxEngage is delivered by IT Services and the Bodleian Libraries. For more information and to book please visit: <https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/engage/>

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SharePoint Upgrade Successful

On the weekend of 23-24 January 2016, the SharePoint service was upgraded to the SharePoint 2013 platform.

There should be minimal change immediately after the upgrade as sites will continue to operate as before (in SharePoint 2010 mode), but there might be cosmetic differences to the appearance of a few sites.

Over time, sites will be migrated to SharePoint 2013 mode and it is then that users will realise the benefits of the upgrade. Improvements will include greater flexibility for customisation, a better search facility and a richer browser experience. Site collection administrators* will keep site owners and users advised about



when this migration will happen. (*A site collection administrator has control over a group of SharePoint sites. Within this group, individual sites will have site owners who have administrative control over that particular site.)

For further information or if you have any queries about the upgrade, in the first instance please contact your Site Collection Administrator (check who this is via the [SharePoint listing](#)). If they are unable to assist you please contact sharepointproject@it.ox.ac.uk. For help with using SharePoint you should contact the IT Service Desk on (01865 6) 12345 or via help@it.ox.ac.uk.

See [the SharePoint 2013 Upgrade project web page](#).

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IT Help 24/7

Central IT help is now available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including weekends, bank and public holidays, and during University closures. The new, telephone-based, out-of-hours support service, [NorMAN](#), started at the end of Michaelmas term.

IT appointments will continue to be available from 9.00am – 5.00pm for face-to-face support, contact help@it.ox.ac.uk or (6)12345 to book, but we will no longer be offering an evening helpdesk.

The arrangement operated successfully over the Christmas period when NorMAN took eight IT support calls, largely password and email-related, and all calls were successfully dealt with. This year NorMAN also formed part of our arrangement for emergency contact over the break. While feedback showed that the provision was appreciated, we were delighted that it was not needed.

The change is due to increasing demand from IT users at all levels in the University for round-the-clock IT support, voiced most recently through the Service Portfolio Review. However, we are aware that some users and IT support staff may be concerned about the reduced availability of face-to-face support. If you have any concerns, please contact the service desk via help@it.ox.ac.uk or (6)12345 to discuss your requirements and book an appointment where appropriate.

This is a significant change to our services and we will review performance regularly to help make it effective as quickly as possible.

IT Services is very grateful to everyone who has worked on our evening help desk and our data centre evening supervisor who have managed this provision seamlessly for many years.

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Spring into IT Innovation

Turn your idea into a digital project with funding from IT Innovation Challenges

The IT Innovation Challenges provide funding for small-scale digital projects that will bring a benefit to the University; for example, by creating an app or website, or using an existing technology in a novel way. The Spring 2016 challenge is open from **10 February** and welcomes ideas from University staff.

For this round **we would particularly welcome** ideas for digital projects that:

- target inclusivity (see <https://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/dphil/diversity/>) and/or
- facilitate the capturing and/or recording of research data and processes.

Ideas in other areas can be submitted under the 'Open' category.

If you have an idea that could make a difference to an aspect of studying or working at the University, submit it to the [Oxford Ideas](#) website. The scheme promotes the development of ideas through open discussion, the more your idea is talked about the stronger it will become so it is important to submit your idea as early as possible. Even if you don't have an idea you can still get involved by providing advice, or by commenting and voting on other people's ideas.

This challenge closes for ideas at midnight on **Saturday 12 March 2016** but is open for comments and discussion until midnight on **Friday 18 March**. After that, ideas will be evaluated and a selection will be invited to develop a project proposal to be considered for funding. Successful proposals can receive up to £60k to run the project.

For more information about the scheme, please visit the IT Innovation Challenges website (<http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/innovation-challenges>), where you will find updates about the latest challenge and links to further information. You can also sign up for our [Q&A session on 16 February](#), when you'll be able to put your questions directly to the scheme co-ordinators.

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Windows 10 now supported

MSD IT Services has successfully completed testing of the Novell client software and has now added the 32 & 64 bit Professional, Enterprise and Education versions of Windows 10 to its list of supported Operating Systems. Home versions of Windows 10 are not supported.

This means that new Windows computers can now be ordered with an appropriate Windows 10 version pre-installed. Initially, Operating System upgrades from Windows 7 & 8 will only be available through the normal upgrade or replacement cycle. Please contact MSD IT Services (help@imsu.ox.ac.uk) for further information.

For more updates on the work of IT Services, visit the Hilary edition of [News From IT Services](#).

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Library News

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9. [#OxEngage Programme 2016](#)

Now available – Nature Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine

Nature Microbiology (www.nature.com/nmicrobiol/) is a new online-only journal, publishing monthly from January 2016 and is available now to all members of the University. *Lab Medicine* (<http://labmed.oxfordjournals.org/>) is the journal of the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

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Act on Acceptance – Open Access and the next REF

In order to be eligible for the next REF, 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.

Oxford's message to researchers: you deposit; we'll take care of the rest.

Deposit all your journal articles and conference papers in ORA via Symplectic Elements, starting now. There's information and help on the Open Access Oxford website (<http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk>). The Bodleian team will check copyright and licensing conditions, create an ORA record and make the full-text available if and when it complies with the requirements of your publisher.

If you have any questions, please contact openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

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Extended Loans Service for students on elective

Due the difficulties of returning books and possible internet access problems, Bodleian Health Care Libraries can extend the borrowing period for students before they leave for a clinical attachment or elective away from Oxford. Please note that you need to ask library staff to do this ***BEFORE YOU GO*** as we can't renew books that have been reserved by others. You can extend your loans by contacting us:

- In person
- By email: hcl-renewals@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
- By phone: (2)21936

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Now Available – 21 Online Journals Titles from Adis

We are pleased to announce that access to 21 biomedical online journals from Adis are now available to members of the University. A full list of available titles is below.

- American Journal of Cardiovascular Drugs
- American Journal of Clinical Dermatology
- Applied Health Economics and Health Policy
- BioDrugs
- Clinical Drug Investigation
- Clinical Pharmacokinetics
- CNS Drugs
- Drug Safety
- Drugs
- Drugs & Aging
- Drugs & Therapy Perspectives
- High Blood Pressure & Cardiovascular Prevention
- Molecular Diagnosis & Therapy
- The Patient – Patient-Centered Outcomes Research
- Pediatric Drugs
- Pharmaceutical Medicine
- PharmacoEconomics

- Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes News
- Pharmacoeconomics Spanish Research Articles
- Reactions Weekly
- Sports Medicine

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Tell Us What You Think About the Cairns Library

We're looking at options for a further refurbishment of the Cairns Library. The aims are to improve the facilities that we offer library users and to free up space for use by other parts of the Medical Sciences Division.

What we'll be able to do will depend on what funding is available but may include: better quiet study facilities such as a large and enclosed quiet study room (with glass walls); extra power sockets; improved group study and training facilities; display spaces for artwork and research posters that reflect work going on in the MSD and the OUH

Please take a look at the two very tough draft *possible* options on our [webpages](#) and let us have your thoughts/comments/suggestions via hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

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Have your say: Bodleian's Reader Survey 8 – 29 February

The Bodleian Libraries is inviting all members of the University to share their feedback about the Libraries by completing a short online Reader Survey. *This includes feedback from staff or students who might never use our physical libraries.* The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete but it provides vital information that feeds into decision making and helps improve library services.

The survey is open from 8 – 29 February, and is for all readers who have used the physical libraries or the online collections. In addition to members of the University, feedback is welcome from external researchers who have a Bodleian Libraries card, including NHS and alumni.

Readers are asked to share their views on areas such as the provision of information resources, the libraries as a space for study, how staff treat readers, information skills and support, and their overall satisfaction with library support for research, teaching and learning. Responses are confidential. No identifying links between responses and the individual responding will be retained. As a thank you taking part, participants can choose to enter a prize draw to win one of ten £50 Amazon vouchers.

The Bodleian is continually seeking feedback from readers, and conducts a readership-wide survey every 3–4 years. Numerous changes and enhancements have been made to the library service in response to feedback received from the last Reader Survey, which took place in 2012. These range from increasing library opening hours and improving the usability of SOLO to improving the study environment in Reading Rooms and buying more e-books.

Preliminary results from this year's Reader Survey will be posted on the Bodleian Libraries' website in April.

Take the Reader Survey at: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/reader-survey

For more information about the Reader Survey 2016, visit www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/our-work/performance .

If you have any difficulty accessing the survey or questions about the survey please email survey@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

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Bodleian iSkills for Hilary 2016

The next Bodleian iSkills sessions on Open Access (taking place at the RSL on 18 February and 1 March) are for anyone who wants a crash course in OA, missed their 'Act on Acceptance' departmental briefing or hasn't had the opportunity to attend one (such as DAs/PAs being asked to deposit on academics' behalf). Book at <https://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TZW7>.

There is also a brand new iSkills session introducing ORCID at Oxford happening on 29 February at the RSL. Book at <http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TZW71>. More information on ORCID can be found at <http://ox.libguides.com/orcid/>.

Other Bodleian iSkills sessions are listed at <http://ox.libguides.com/workshops/workshopsbydate>.

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Edible Book Festival and other events for Hilary at the RSL

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3 March the Radcliffe Science Library is holding an Edible Book Festival! Everyone is invited to enter their book-themed culinary creations, and we are hoping for a strong showing from Bodleian Libraries staff – all entries will be exhibited, documented, then eaten!

Details are at <http://tinyurl.com/zepwsw>.

For more information or to register an entry contact beth.gibbs@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.

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#OxEngage Programme 2016

#OxEngage is organised by IT Services and the Bodleian Libraries, and offers events exploring the use of digital technologies for use in impact, outreach and engagement. This year's programme can be found at <http://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/engage/oxengage/oxengage2016/>.

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Opportunities and Updates

Important Updates

Attention staff working on OUH NHS sites: Parking, Transport and Travel Survey

RCUK & CRUK Researchfish Outputs Collection 2016 Collection dates: 1 February – 10 March 2016

Wellcome Trust Visit, Tuesday 15 March 2016 Open Forum

Funding Opportunities

Internal Funding Available for Translational Research MRC Confidence in Concept Fund: EOI Deadline 18 April.

Returning Carers' Fund

Oxford – Celgene 2016 Translational Research Fellowships Launch Meeting Tuesday 23 February, Kennedy Institute, Old Road Campus

Staff development opportunity – Erasmus funding for training abroad Deadline 17 February

Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership Awards Outline bid deadline 7 March

Engagement Opportunities

Save the Date! The Conversation training coming soon Feb, March – Introductory sessions, short workshops, drop-in clinics and in-depth day long masterclasses

3 Minutes, 1 Slide...Your Thesis! Enter the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition and put your communication skills to the test

STFC Public Engagement Fellowships Funding available for researchers working in STFC research areas, deadline 25 February.

Nuffield Council on Bioethics Parliamentary Fellowship 2016 Deadline Friday 26 February

Call for Soapbox Science 2016 speakers now open! Applicable for woman working in all areas of science

Volunteer Opportunities

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

A bit tense or worried?

Vaccines Against Salmonella Typhi You are invited to take part in a study to investigate how different vaccines prevent infection with Salmonella Typhi.

Volunteers needed for study of the genetics of social brain function

Take part in Jenner Institute trials testing vaccines

Other Items of Interest

Oxford Immunology Group Annual Meeting 17 March, John Radcliffe Hospital

AIMday in Digital Health Industrial networking event, 20 June

7th Annual Oxford Neuroscience Symposium Wednesday 23 March

The EQUATOR Network – have we helped you? Tell us your story!

IDEAL Collaboration Conference 2016 Thursday 7 April 2016, St Catherine's College, Oxford

OUCAGS Forum Events 2016

Open Access Drop-In Surgeries 11.30–13.30 every Monday of term

University Club launches new website

Survey on supporting good practice in research Survey closes Monday 22 February

And Finally...We are Medical Sciences. Watch us on YouTube!

We are pleased to launch a new [Medical Sciences Division video](#). The video, which briefly highlights the diversity of the division's research and teaching environment, was produced in collaboration with our colleagues in the Public Affairs Directorate and the other three academic divisions. All four videos can be viewed on the [University's YouTube channel](#). Please share!

COMMUNITY PAGE

Open Access Target Validation Is a More Efficient Way to Accelerate Drug Discovery

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OPEN ACCESS

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Competing Interests: The author has declared that no competing interests exist.

Abbreviations: AML, Acute Myeloid Leukaemia; APBD, Adult Polyglucoson Body Disease; CRPC, Castrate-resistant Prostate Cancer; FOP, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva; GSK, GlaxoSmithKline; HD, Huntington's disease; HDAC,

Abstract

There is a scarcity of novel treatments to address many unmet medical needs. Industry and academia are finally coming to terms with the fact that the prevalent models and incentives for innovation in early stage drug discovery are failing to promote progress quickly enough. Here we will examine how an open model of precompetitive public–private research partnership is enabling efficient derisking and acceleration in the early stages of drug discovery, whilst also widening the range of communities participating in the process, such as patient and disease foundations.

Open Innovation: Fifty Shades of Grey?

The rate at which new drugs are being discovered has flatlined despite massive investment in research and development (R & D) and new technologies, and there is a common belief that the pharmaceutical business model might be flawed [1,2]. Despite a recent upward trend, the number of “first-in-class” therapies has not changed significantly. The fundamental problem is that our understanding of human biology and pathophysiology is too poor to be able to predict the right drug targets for the right patient populations. Therefore, the widespread aversion of institutions and public and private funders to share information prior to and after publication and the overprotection of intellectual property in order to provide return on investment are amongst the most counterproductive practices to the discovery of new medicines. This strategy is at odds with the evidence for enhancing commercial outcomes as well. Most universities lose money through their technology transfer activities [3] with some notable few exceptions. Most start-up companies do not have a patent at the outset, and it is common that current patenting activities are used to restrict and limit possible uses of underdeveloped discoveries [4]—a true Tragedy of the Anticommons.

In the last decades, the pharmaceutical industry has accessed many innovative ideas and products through mergers, takeovers, and in-licensing. This trend follows the concepts of Open Innovation, as defined by Chesbrough [5,6], in which companies improve their competitiveness by entering into open external partnerships. However, Open Innovation appears to have had very little impact on the trajectory of drug discovery, presumably because such

histone deacetylase; HMT, histone methyltransferase; KDM, lysine demethylase; MDS, Myelodysplastic Syndrome; MPN, Myeloproliferative Neoplasms; R & D, research and development; SGC, Structural Genomics Consortium; TEP, Target Enabling Packages.

partnerships most often only involve inward flow of knowledge or exclusive exchanges between a limited number of partners. On occasion, they involve outflow of assets, but these assets are typically restricted to a few appointed groups and with strings attached. Open Innovation as exercised above is an advance, but its true impact remains to be seen.

On the other hand, there are several initiatives in the biomedical research area that are true to the public's understanding of the term "open" and that practice a genuine open access or open source and precompetitive scientific commons approach. These projects appear to have had significant impact, and some have been transformational, including the Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms Consortium (1999; [7]), the International HapMap Project (2002; [8]), the Open Source Malaria Project (2011; [9]), and the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC) (2003; [10]; www.thesgc.org).

It is important to reiterate that drug discovery is a long and intricate process with different types of challenges and thus different approaches. In the early hypothesis generation stages, it makes sense for different communities to join efforts to create novel, open research tools that can be used by everyone [11]. This is in contrast to late, derisked stages, where different groups can begin development of their own proprietary products [12]. As such, we will be examining the impact of open access in early stages of drug discovery, especially in target discovery and validation, as these are strong indicators of success in creating new medicines.

Open Access to Eliminate Choke Points in Early Target Discovery

The SGC was formed in 2003 with the open access ethos as its core tenet and has since catalysed research in new areas of human biology and drug discovery by focusing to a large extent on less well-studied areas of human biology and disease. The SGC, strongly supported by its pharmaceutical industry partners, places all its research output and reagents, including industry-standard small molecule chemical inhibitors (probes) in the public domain without restriction on use. These are used widely to interrogate protein targets and signalling pathways to further our understanding of disease mechanisms, for instance.

The establishment of a precompetitive and patent-free consortium has had many advantages; some were obvious and others unexpected. What was clear at the outset was that adhering to open access principles allowed cross-leveraging of public and private funds to explore novel areas of human biology in an organised way, thus reducing duplication and sharing the risks and costs that no single institution could bear alone. It was also clear that it would place the emphasis on the science and on accelerating the transfer of knowledge to the scientific community, rather than on commercial interests. The SGC has disseminated tens of thousands of cDNA clones and thousands of samples of several chemical inhibitors, with hardly any transactional costs. Hundreds of academic papers report the use of SGC-generated reagents, and across the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, SGC reagents are used daily to advance internal drug discovery programs.

What was less appreciated was the extent to which the consortium's position would resonate with the academic and clinical communities. The SGC collaborative network now comprises of scientists in hundreds of institutions around the world—all of whom have committed to the open access principles and who contribute their ideas and results to the public domain. The value of this collaborative network and of the network of academics making discoveries with SGC chemical probes is difficult to quantify, but a rough comparator is the fact that industry typically budgets hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund and manage even a single collaboration. Given that the SGC collaborates with over 300 different laboratories and has disseminated over 4,000 samples of chemical probes so far, one may argue that its open-access network provides hundreds of millions of dollars of value.

Open Access Drives Faster Pioneering Science

Epigenetics is an exciting area of biology that has gained a large degree of attention over the last few years, holding a vast potential for drug discovery [13]. However, despite there being more than 400 proteins known to be involved in epigenetic regulation [14], as of 2010, only one target family, histone deacetylases (HDACs), comprised of more than 20 proteins, had been targeted by cell active inhibitors in the public domain.

Appreciating that the other proteins and protein families implicated in epigenetic regulation were likely important, in 2005, the SGC began to purify them and solve their 3-D structures. In 2009, after having made significant progress, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) approached SGC with the “outside-the-box” idea to design highly-potent, highly-selective inhibitors of these proteins using structure-guided methods and to provide them to the community without restrictions. The concept was that these probes would be rapidly used by the community to help define the roles of the proteins in human biology, as exemplified by past experiences with similar approaches in the field of probes for nuclear receptors [11]. With funding from the Wellcome Trust and the Ontario government, and medicinal chemistry expertise from industrial partners, the project was launched and focused on underexplored protein families such as lysine demethylases (KDMs; [15–19]), histone methyltransferases (HMTs; [20–24]), and Bromodomains [25–27] (full list of SGC probes: www.thesgc.org/chemical-probes/epigenetics).

The open access model provided the framework to receive invaluable advice from scientists at GSK about the bromodomains protein family. Based on insights from GSK scientists, we initiated a collaboration on the role of the BRD4 bromodomain in NUT midline carcinoma—an incurable rare cancer. Within 11 months, a small molecule called SGCBD01 (aka JQ1) was designed, synthesised, and used to show that inhibition of BDR4 promoted both differentiation and apoptosis of patient-derived primary cells [28,29].

The rapid progress made with bromodomains is a testament to the power of open access, but the true value of open science emerged once SGCBD01 or JQ1 and additional probes by GSK (I-BET) [30] and Pfizer (PFI-1) [31] were distributed to the community. Within half a year, these compounds were used by the community to link bromodomains to septic shock [30], leukaemia [32,33], multiple myeloma [34], cardiac hypertrophy [35,36], HIV infection [34,37,38], and MYC regulation [34,38].

Open Access Generates Pioneering Drug Programmes and Clinical Studies Quicker—for Everyone

Discoveries based on the use of small molecule probes are highly valued by industry and academia, and experience shows that availability of potent, specific, drug-like chemical compounds (probes) increases the chances of final success in drug discovery programs [11]. The probes enable the definition and validation of targets and pathways, using experimental systems that resemble final and approved therapeutic modalities, in its cellular context [39]. The aim of the SGC in producing open-access chemical probes was to spur and accelerate innovative drug discovery (Fig 1). The breadth, depth, and reproducibility of numerous studies enabled by high-quality BET bromodomains chemical probes led to the registration of the first clinical trial aimed at this class of proteins by GSK in April 2012 (Clinical Trial Registration: NCT01587703), 16 months after the seminal publication on targeting BRD4 histone reader with SGCBD01 or JQ1 (28). Currently, there are twelve clinical trials with BET bromodomains inhibitors registered (Table 1).

It is interesting to note that until early 2015, nine out of ten trials (GSK’s being the exception) were registered by either a small biotech or start-up company. In one notable example, the clinical candidate (CPI-0610) used in three different trials was developed in partnership

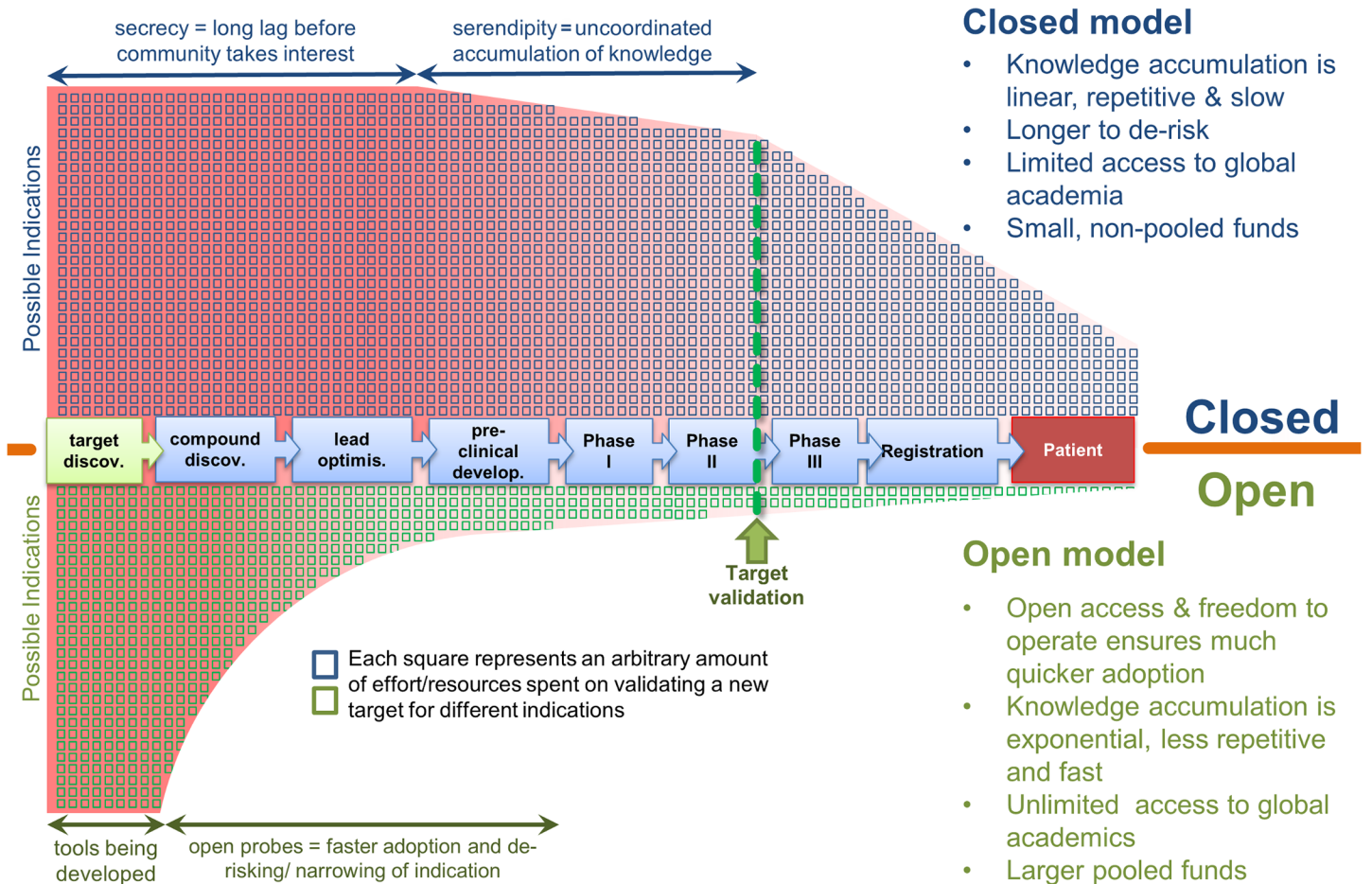


Fig 1. Open science accelerates identification of the best targets and drug indications, in the correct patient population. The Closed (upper half) model is compared to the Open (lower half) model; the availability of open access chemical tools for novel proteins and the freedom to operate enable the global community to explore different indications and diseases in parallel and quickly share back through publications. The breadth and depth of the studies in the open model lower the risks of failure in subsequent stages in a typical drug discovery programme, allowing the scientists to focus on the most promising indications, whilst reducing the level of effort (open squares), wastage, and duplication engendered by secrecy of the closed models.

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with a nonprofit, patient-driven organisation—the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society. As such, one could argue that the open model is challenging the established system by enabling a wider range of groups to easily and quickly access innovation. This leads to a more efficient route to attract incentives and rewards, especially in the fragile interstice of “valley of death” in drug discovery.

Open Access Invigorating Patient-Driven Research—The Most Transformative Impact

The open access model has had system-wide impact in biomedical science and drug discovery. This is tremendously exciting, but what we are now interested in exploring is whether we can make a much bigger impact if the open access model is combined with the determination and focus of patient-driven initiatives.

Open access initiatives and patient and disease foundations share a common focus—to advance science toward a cure. For most patients and their families, issues of ownership and profit are irrelevant. This holds especially true for foundations of untreatable or rare conditions

Table 1. Clinical trials targeting bromodomains and registered on ClinicalTrials.gov (National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health, United States), as of 1 January 2015.

NCT Number	Title	Conditions	Molecule	Sponsor or Collaborators	Phases	First Received
NCT01587703	A Study to Investigate the Safety, Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Clinical Activity of GSK525762 in Subjects With NUT Midline Carcinoma (NMC) and Other Cancers	Carcinoma, midline	Drug: GSK525762	GlaxoSmithKline	Phase 1	3 April 2012
NCT01713582	A Phase I, Dose-finding Study of the Bromodomain (Brd) Inhibitor OTX015 in Haematological Malignancies	Acute leukaemia, other hematological malignancies	Drug: OTX015	OncoEthix	Phase 1	22 October 2012
NCT01949883	A Phase 1 Study Evaluating CPI-0610 in Patients With Progressive Lymphoma	Lymphoma	Drug: CPI-0610	Constellation Pharmaceuticals, The Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society	Phase 1	10 September 2013
NCT01987362	A Two Part, Multicenter, Open-label Study of TEN-010 Given Subcutaneously	Solid tumors	Drug: TEN-010	Tensha Therapeutics	Phase 1	5 November 2013
NCT02157636	A Phase 1 Study Evaluating CPI-0610 in Patients With Previously Treated Multiple Myeloma	Multiple myeloma	Drug: CPI-0610	Constellation Pharmaceutical, The Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society	Phase 1	28 May 2014
NCT02158858	A Phase 1 Study Evaluating CPI-0610 in Patients With Acute Leukaemia, Myelodysplastic Syndrome, or Myelodysplastic/Myeloproliferative Neoplasms	Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML), Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), Myelodysplastic/Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MDS/MPN)	Drug: CPI-0610	Constellation Pharmaceuticals, The Leukaemia and Lymphoma Society	Phase 1	5 Jun 2014
NCT02259114	A Phase IB Trial With OTX015, a Small Molecule Inhibitor of the Bromodomain and Extra-Terminal (BET) Proteins, in Patients With Selected Advanced Solid Tumors	NUT midline carcinoma, triple negative breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer with rearranged ALK gene/fusion protein or KRAS mutation, Castrate-resistant Prostate Cancer (CRPC), pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma	Drug: OTX015	OncoEthix	Phase 1	3 October 2014
NCT02296476	A Trial With Dose Optimization of OTX015 in Recurrent Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) Patients	Glioblastoma multiforme	Drug: OTX015	OncoEthix	Phase 1 Phase 2	3 October 2014
NCT02303782	A Study Assessing tOTX015 in Combination With Azacitidine (AZA) or AZA Single Agent in Patients With Newly-diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) Not Candidate for Standard Intensive Induction Therapy (SIIT)	AML	Drug: OTX015, Drug: Vidaza (azacitidine)	OncoEthix	Phase 1 Phase 2	24 November 2014
NCT02308761	A Dose Escalation and Cohort Expansion Study of TEN-010 in Patients With Acute Myeloid Leukemia and Myelodysplastic Syndrome	AML, MDS	Drug: TEN-010	Tensha Therapeutics	Phase 1	14 November 2014

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

NCT Number	Title	Conditions	Molecule	Sponsor or Collaborators	Phases	First Received
NCT02369029	An Open-label, Non-randomized, Multicenter Phase I Dose Escalation Study to Characterize Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics and Maximum Tolerated Dose of BAY 1238097 in Subjects With Advanced Malignancies	Neoplasms	Drug: BAY1238097	Bayer	Phase 1	17 February 2015
NCT02391480	A Phase 1 Study Evaluating the Safety and Pharmacokinetics of ABBV-075 in Subjects With Advanced Cancer	Advanced cancer, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, AML, multiple myeloma	Drug: ABBV-075	AbbVie	Phase 1	12 March 2015

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such as *Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva* (FOP; “Stone Man Syndrome”) and Adult Polysaccharide Body Disease (APBD).

Could marrying the SGC open-access approach to drug discovery with the dedication and focus of disease foundations result in faster advances? We believe so.

FOP United Kingdom, the foundation supporting research into FOP, worked with the SGC and its collaborative network on structure-based development of inhibitors for ACVR1, a kinase for which specific mutation has been identified of the disease [40,41], as well as for the understanding of mutant phenotypes [42]. Molecules from this partnership are now being optimised for future clinical studies.

Most recently, the SGC and CHDI Foundation have teamed up to discover and characterise new drug targets for Huntington’s disease (HD). In this first partnership of its kind, both have explicitly agreed not to file for patents on any of the collaborative research and to make all reagents and knowledge available without restriction [43]. This is a pioneering move by CHDI and establishes a template for how patient-orientated funders can help the research community develop new drugs—in fact, the Ontario Brain Institute has already entered into a similar agreement with the SGC, to further research on Rett’s syndrome.

Finally, participation of patients and disease foundations is also pivotal for the establishment of anonymised primary cell and tissue open platforms. This will accelerate generation of robust, clinically meaningful assays to profile molecularly-targeted probes using phenotypic and biomarker readouts linking novel targets to new indications [39].

Open Access and Potential Pitfalls

One curious behaviour is that the scientific community has been giving a disproportionately large focus on earlier tools rather than exploring other open probes available so far, probably reflecting the established risk aversion we encounter in biomedical research [44]. Therefore, even though open access can accelerate investigation of novel biology, it is important for the community to be aware of this trend and to cover more efficiently all the novel tools and target areas that are being enabled by open initiatives.

Expanding the Open Access Ecosystem

The main tenets of precompetitive, patent-free and open-access research have enabled the establishment of a new dynamic ecosystem, not confined to biomedicine alone. The open access ethos ensures a high degree of crosstalk between sectors, including more than 300 academic

groups, government agencies, biotech companies, start-ups, entrepreneurs, lawyers, economists, social scientists, and patients, all working together to expand the impact of open access drug discovery (S1 Fig). The last ten years have been exciting and rewarding with a future that looks bright and even more promising—for science, for patients, and for society as a whole; what are you waiting for? Join us!

Supporting Information

S1 Fig. The SGC super network. The SGC’s Open Access model is transformative and encourages crossfields, cross-sector interactions to accelerate drug discovery and advancement of basic biology. This has resulted in the establishment of a network of collaborations and projects, covering a wide range of initiatives implemented alongside strategic partners. For a full overview of the SGC’s scientific coverage, please refer to www.thesgc.org.

- **Human tissue platforms and Inflammation:** exploring biology of novel proteins using patient-derived primary cells and tissues.
- **Target Enabling Packages (TEPs):** generating open access “toolkits” (structures, assays, proteins, chemical starting points, etc.) to allow exploration of novel, genetically validated targets.
- **Structural parasitology & neglected diseases:** using structure-based methodologies and science to advance development of novel treatments [<http://www.thesgc.org/sddc>].
- **Rare diseases:** expanding the understanding of structure and function of the associated proteins as well as the effects of disease mutations [<http://www.thesgc.org/science/rare-diseases>].
- **Patient & disease foundations:** working together with focused networks of disease specialists to further increase knowledge in structural biology and functional and chemical spaces around implicated proteins [Dolgin, Nat Med 2014].
- **Kinase inhibitors for human & plant sciences:** facilitating the cross-sector use of open-access chemical probes targeting basic biology [Knapp et al., Nat Chem Biol 2013].
- **Open clinical proof-of-concept:** expanding the precompetitive, patent-free model towards phase II clinical proof-of-concept [Norman et al., Sci Transl Med 2011a, 2011b].
- **Start-ups & incubators:** creation of open access toolkits for pioneer biology and dynamic entrepreneurial communities have already resulted in creation of independent start-ups.
- **Ethics & economics:** open-access model has created new paradigms around the philosophy and practical and economic aspects of discovering novel treatments and medicines.
- **Governments & policymakers:** availability of a model that can expedite drug discovery and reduce its cost is of interest for governments, always under pressure to address societal healthcare needs.

(TIF)

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Important Updates

Attention staff working on OUH NHS sites: Parking, Transport and Travel Survey

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The OUH NHS Foundation Trust recognise that access to the JR, NOC and Churchill hospitals and parking can be problematic for patients, staff and visitors. This adversely impacts on patient care and the efficient operation of the hospitals. To develop solutions for improving access by bus, bike, on foot, taxi and car the Trust needs more information about how staff travel to and from work and have written a staff car parking, travel and transport survey which they are asking their staff to complete.

University staff make up a large proportion of people working at the JR, NOC and Churchill. Staff are encouraged to respond to this survey to ensure their voices are heard as the Trust develops its policies and measures to improve access. Improving access to the Headington hospitals is a key measure in the University's Transport Strategy and so the University is working with the Trust on these issues. In tackling transport and parking issues whilst ensuring that our interests are protected. The information collected from the survey will be very useful in informing this work.

The Trust's survey should take 5 mins to complete and its responses are anonymous, unless you choose to give your contact details. The survey is available to complete at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8NPCMMS> until the end of February.

For more information about the survey watch [this video message](#) from Mark Power, Director of Organisational Development and Workforce.

RCUK & CRUK Researchfish Outputs Collection 2016

Collection dates: 1 February – 10 March 2016

The Research Councils and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) are running their next research outputs collection round in early 2016. The submission window will be open on the Researchfish system from 1/2/16 to 10/3/16. During this time all PIs and students who are in receipt of funding from the Research Councils, and all PIs who hold CRUK funding, will be expected to submit a comprehensive record of their outputs on Researchfish. *(NB requirement to report outputs for PIs is: life-time of an award and 5 years thereafter; and for students: lifetime of studentship and 3 years thereafter.)*

Sanctions for non-compliance

- Sanctions will apply to PIs who do not complete their submission by 10/3/16. *(Sanctions will not apply to students.)*
- RCUK policy – **from 2016 sanctions apply across all research councils.** Current grant monies held by a PI are stopped and PI is prevented from making further applications until a submission is made.
- CRUK policy – grant monies stopped at institutional level if the University submission rate is below 90% of CRUK funded PIs (reinstated once the 90% threshold is reached).

Further information: on [RCUK](#) and [CRUK](#) sanctions policies.

Oxford Researchfish Support Team

Research Services have established a support team to help answer any questions that you might have about the collection. Please use the generic email address for the team in the first instance, which is:

[✉researchfishoxford@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:researchfishoxford@admin.ox.ac.uk)

Supporting information about the Researchfish collection can be found at:

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/sponsors/researchfish/>

Wellcome Trust Visit, Tuesday 15 March 2016

Open Forum

Dr Kevin Moses, Director of Science and Dr Anne-Marie Coriat, Head of Research Careers at the Wellcome Trust invite Oxford colleagues to join them to discuss issues around the health of science in the UK.

Time: 2.30pm – 3.30pm, 15 March

Venue: Large Lecture Theatre, Sherrington Building, DPAG, Sherrington Rd, Oxford OX1 3PT



Funding Opportunities

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](#).

Returning Carers' Fund

The Returning Carers' Fund will be open for applications in Hilary and Trinity terms. The Fund supports women and men to re-establish their research careers after a break (of at least 6 months) for caring responsibilities. Those currently on leave can also apply for support to be spent 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/. The Hilary term deadline is **Friday 4 March**.

Oxford – Celgene 2016 Translational Research Fellowships Launch Meeting

Tuesday 23 February, Kennedy Institute, Old Road Campus

Celgene and Oxford University have entered into an agreement to fund up to four, three year Translational Research Fellowships per annum. The goal of the programme is to provide a research and training interface for clinicians and research scientists to facilitate skills transfer between Oxford and Celgene and to combine resources to translate innovative science into new therapies. The first set of Fellowships for 2015 have been allocated, and suitable candidates have been appointed or are being sought for a start in 2016.

An Inaugural Symposium will be held on February 23 when many of the Celgene senior scientists will be in Oxford to describe Celgene core strengths and interests, and what they are seeking from Fellowship projects. This symposium is open for registration to any Oxford University researchers interested in the research partnership. There will be an opportunity to meet the Celgene scientists and to informally discuss possible projects.

[More information and details on how to register \(login required\)](#).

Staff development opportunity – Erasmus funding for training abroad

Deadline 17 February

The Erasmus programme is designed to encourage student and staff mobility for study and work, and to promote co-operation amongst universities across Europe. Through the programme the University receives funding to support staff in undertaking training opportunities, offering the chance to share good practice, acquire practical skills and discover new ways of working.

All staff across the collegiate University are eligible to apply, and training may be in the form of job shadowing, observation, attendance at workshops or courses. Staff are able to arrange their own training opportunity by approaching the institution of their choice, or a number of Universities also offer specific staff training events covering a wide range of areas, and full details can be found using the [Staff training week search tool](#). Please note, in general, conferences are not eligible for funding unless there is a training element.

The duration can be between 2 and 7 days, and must take place before the 30 September 2016 in another Higher Education Institution or any other appropriate organisation in an eligible Erasmus country.

Grants for staff training are provided as contributions towards subsistence and travel and depend on the country visited, duration and distance travelled. Once the application and selection process has been completed, the full grant will be paid to the successful applicants before the start of the mobility, once the relevant paperwork has been returned. Any additional costs for the trip must be paid by the staff member.

It is the responsibility of the staff member to organise the proposed training period and to approach the proposed host institution/organisation, and a draft proposal must be agreed in advance of submitting an application.

Before submitting an application, staff members **must** have:

- The support/agreement from their line manager in the form of a completed reference. Placements are not usually considered as annual leave.
- Contacted a suitable host institution/organisation and arranged a proposed placement.

More information including eligible countries and how to apply can be found on the [Erasmus+ staff training website](#). The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 17 February 2016**. A selection panel will be convened to consider applications, and all applicants will be informed of the outcome by the end of February.

Questions about the scheme should be directed to erasmus@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership Awards

Outline bid deadline 7 March

The Leverhulme Trust has released details of a funding call for [Research Leadership Awards](#). These awards support talented scholars who have launched a university career but who need to build a research team of sufficient scale to tackle a distinctive research problem. Applicants will have held a university post for at least two years, but will not yet have developed their academic career such that the trajectory of their research contribution has become firmly established. Each award will be for the sum of between £800,000 and £1 million. Applications are restricted to one per institution. Those wishing to apply for this scheme should submit an outline bid comprising the candidate's CV (1 page), a two-page programme and a statement from your Head of Department forming a reference and regarding research strategy to your divisional contact **by 4pm on Monday 7 March 2016**.

Divisional Contacts:

MSD: [Ellen Meek](#)

MPLS: [Martin Edmunds](#)

SSD: [Sharron Pleydell-Pearce](#)

HUM: [Andrew Fairweather-Tall](#)

ASUC/GLAM: [Charles Shaw](#)

Bids will be ranked by the division and presented to a central panel (chaired by the PVC for Research and Innovation) due to convene on 23 March 2016. The outcome of this review process will be announced on 25 March 2016. The nominated applicant will then need to submit their application to Research Services by 4pm on 3 May 2016 for submission to the Leverhulme Trust at 4pm on 10 May 2016. This full application should consist of a ten-page statement of the intended research, CV for the group leader, an estimated total budget (no provision for replacement teaching or for overhead expenditure), the names of two referees external to the University of Oxford, and a statement by the University of its research strategy insofar as this impacts on the group's work and intended allocation of resource to the group.

Engagement Opportunities

Save the Date! The Conversation training coming soon

Feb, March – Introductory sessions, short workshops, drop-in clinics and in-depth day long masterclasses

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Interested in writing to increase the profile of your research and engage with wider public audiences? The University has teamed up with The Conversation to offer a range of training opportunities to researchers and academics. There is something for everyone on offer; from introductory sessions, to short workshops, drop-in clinics and in-depth day long masterclasses.

For more information and dates, please see <http://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/content/join-conversation-training-and-information>

3 Minutes, 1 Slide...Your Thesis!

Enter the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition and put your communication skills to the test



An 80,000 word thesis would take 9 hours to present; would you be able to explain yours in just 3 Minutes? The 3MT competition challenges doctoral candidates to present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance in just three minutes.

The exercise aims to cultivate your academic, presentation, and research communication skills, and to support your capacity to effectively explain your research concisely – in three minutes – to a non-specialist audience.

The winner of the Oxford competition will go forwards to the semi-finals of the national competition.

The Oxford Competition

Oxford will run a two-stage competition, first at divisional level and then with a University-wide final. The winner of the Oxford Competition will be entered into the national semi-finals, and if they are successful they will go on to the national final in Manchester, with their expenses paid to attend. You can read more about the national finals [here](#). Specialist training will be available for all those shortlisted for the divisional heats.

Last year's Oxford competition final took place on 23rd June 2015. Mark Damazer, CBE, Master of St Peter's College, delivered the key note speech and a packed audience heard fascinating research presentations from students from the Humanities, Medical Sciences, MPLS and Social Sciences Divisions.

We are delighted that last year's Oxford winner was Eleanor Bath from the Department of Zoology with her presentation about fruit fly copulation and aggression. You can see a video of her talk [here](#).

The 2016 3MT Competition

How to apply

Before you apply you are strongly encouraged to make yourself familiar with the rules and the judging criteria, [here](#), and have a look at the 2015 national finalists' talks, [here](#).

If you would like to take part in the competition please send the following to courses@medsci.ox.ac.uk by 17 April 2016:

- a 250-word abstract about your research, aimed at a non-specialist audience
- your name and department/contact details
- confirmation that you have your supervisor's permission to take part in the competition

You should make sure that you are available to take part on the key dates set out below.

Applications will be shortlisted by divisional judging panels and successful candidates invited to take part in divisional heats. 2 candidates will go forward from each divisional heat to the University final.

Eligibility: To be eligible to take part you must have DPhil status, having completed Transfer of Status, and have your supervisor's permission to participate.

Timeline

- 15 March 2016, 3:30pm–5:00pm: 3 Minute Thesis Launch event, where you can find out more about the competition and hear from some of last year's entrants.

- 17 April 2016: Application deadline
- May 2016: 3MT/Presentation training for divisional finalists
- Week commencing 30 May 2016: Divisional heats
- 14 June 2016: University final
- 6 July 2016: National semi-finals (video judging)
- 12 September 2016: National final at the Vitae Conference, Manchester

Please contact courses@medsci.ox.ac.uk if you have any questions.

STFC Public Engagement Fellowships

Funding available for researchers working in STFC research areas, deadline 25 February.

The 2016 call for STFC Fellowships in Public Engagement is now open for applications. **The call closes at 4.00pm on Thursday 25 February.**

The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) currently supports a number of [Public Engagement Fellows](#) carrying out a range of activities.

We Want To

- Support the very best people in STFC's community to undertake extended programmes of the highest-quality, innovative public engagement as a core part of their job role.
- Create a network of highly-skilled practitioners of public engagement with STFC science who inspire and involve colleagues, students, and the public, in their activities.
- Highlight the achievements of STFC science and technology, demonstrating the excitement of research and the value of STEM to the UK.

Our Expectations of Our Fellows

- Delivering a prolonged, thematic programme of public engagement, covering multiple different events and activities during the lifetime of the fellowship.
- Raising the profile of public engagement within their host institution and professional community, including sharing best practice and developing new talent.
- Championing STFC science and technology, including the impact of science and technology on society.
- Regularly interacting with STFC's public engagement and communication teams, including participation in STFC networks, events, and advisory structures when requested.

For more details and how to apply [click here](#).

Nuffield Council on Bioethics Parliamentary Fellowship 2016

Deadline Friday 26 February

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) and the Nuffield Council on Bioethics are offering a PhD student from a UK university the exciting opportunity to spend three months working in Parliament.

The Fellow will be based at the offices of POST at Parliament in London, where they will produce a briefing note aimed at MPs and peers on an area of public policy that raises bioethical issues. The Fellow will interact closely with people and activities in the two Houses of Parliament, engage with a wide range of interested parties as part of their research, and spend time with the Nuffield Council on Bioethics at their offices in London.

Previous Nuffield Council on Bioethics Parliamentary Fellows have produced briefing notes on [biobanks](#) (2014) and global inequalities in health (to be published in 2016).

Applicants can be in any year of study and should be studying a subject that raises or relates to bioethical issues. Bioethics issues arise in a wide range of disciplines, including philosophy, bioscience, psychiatry, medicine, law, social science and theology, so we do not expect you to be based within a bioethics or medical ethics department. As long as you can demonstrate a keen interest in or knowledge of bioethics, then you are eligible to apply.

The Fellow will receive a three month extension to their PhD stipend or, if self-funded, a stipend equivalent to the rate set by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Additional financial support is available to cover travel or accommodation costs if the successful applicant is usually based outside of London

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 26 February 2016.

Download guidance notes for applicants and an application form at: www.nuffieldbioethics.org/about/job-opportunities

For further information, please contact:

Jane Tinkler

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

tinklerj@parliament.uk

020 7219 2841

Call for Soapbox Science 2016 speakers now open!

Applicable for woman working in all areas of science

Now entering its 6th year, Soapbox Science 2016 promises to bring a summer of excitement, fun, and fantastic science. Soapbox Science is growing and expanding to be bigger and better than before! This year they are holding events in more cities around the UK and Ireland than ever before! This includes our first international event in Brisbane, Australia!

Soapbox Science is looking for woman in all areas science, from PhD students to Professors, and from entry-level researchers to entrepreneurs, who are passionate about their work and want to spread the word.

For more information, please see http://soapboxscience.org/?page_id=135

(Oxford's event is scheduled for 18 June)



Volunteer Opportunities

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 Capitaio at:

[✉nutrition.study@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nutrition.study@psych.ox.ac.uk)

01865 223 62201865 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

[Call](#)

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[Add to Skype](#)

You'll need Skype CreditFree via Skype

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, 5αR) is important in controlling how the body handles sugar and fat. We would therefore like to demonstrate the effect of inhibiting 5αR on the regulation of insulin, glucose and fat in the body using a drug that inhibits 5αR. 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, [✉thomas.marjot@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:thomas.marjot@ouh.nhs.uk), 01865 857202

OR

Professor Jeremy Tomlinson, [✉jeremy.tomlinson@ocdem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jeremy.tomlinson@ocdem.ox.ac.uk)

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

A bit tense or worried?

The Department of Psychiatry are looking for healthy volunteers aged 18–50 years to take part in a study investigating how a single dose of the medication losartan affects learning and information processing, using simple computer tasks, EEG and MRI. Losartan is currently used to treat high blood pressure. However, it may also enhance the effectiveness of psychological therapies such as Cognitive–Behaviour Therapy. The study involves two appointments of about 5 hours in total.

For more information, please contact us (01865 223627/ [✉caroline.nettekoven@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.nettekoven@psych.ox.ac.uk)). You will be reimbursed for your time.

Version 2, 22/04/2015, MSD-IDREC-C3-2015-832

Vaccines Against Salmonella Typhi

You are invited to take part in a study to investigate how different vaccines prevent infection with Salmonella Typhi.

The study is being run by the Oxford Vaccine Group which is part of the University of Oxford.

If you are aged 18 to 60 yrs old and in good health then you may be eligible to take part in the study. We will provide reimbursement for your time, inconvenience and travel. The total study participation time is 13 to 15



months.

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

If you would like further information please visit:

<http://trials.ovg.ox.ac.uk/trials/vaccines-against-salmonella-typhi>

or contact us:

Telephone: 01865 857420

Email: info@ovg.ox.ac.uk

Vaccines Against Salmonella Typhi; 2014/08; Recruitment text short, REC reference 14/SC/1427, Version 1.0, Dated 20/Nov/2014

Volunteers needed for study of the genetics of social brain function

We are looking for healthy volunteers to improve our understanding of how different genes affect social brain function. Certain genes are involved in the activity of chemicals in the brain – we want to know whether individuals with certain genes process social information in different ways. The study will take up to 1.5 hours of your time. You will be asked to come in for a 30-minute session to collect saliva for genetic analysis, answer questions about your social network, and have your hands digitally scanned (Session 1). You may also be asked to come back (Session 2) to lie still in an MRI scanner for 40 minutes and perform simple social cognitive tasks.

MRI is a type of brain scan that allows us to see how the brain is organised, processes information and performs skills like speech or memory. This scan is safe and does not involve any needles or injections.

Who are we looking for? Healthy individuals over 18 who do not currently use recreational drugs, drug replacement therapy (e.g. methadone), or medication for depression, psychosis or anxiety (Session 1); and who are right-handed, aged 18–45, do not have any metal in their head or body (except fillings) or any metallic implants, are not pregnant (Session 2).

If you are interested and would like more information please, go http://bit.do/genetics_research, or alternatively contact Rafael Wlodarski (Experimental Psychology) on rafael.wlodarski@psy.ox.ac.uk.

Participants will be reimbursed for their time.

Approved by the Oxford Ethics Committee, ref no. MSD-IDREC-C2-2015-026

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 vaccinetrials@ndm.ox.ac.uk or visit the website at: <http://www.jenner.ac.uk/recruiting-trials>



Other Items of Interest

Oxford Immunology Group Annual Meeting

17 March, John Radcliffe Hospital

Theme: Immunotherapy

Confirmed speakers:

- David Wraith (University of Bristol)
- Emma Morris (University College London)
- Xin Lu (Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Oxford)
- Chris Bond (The Centre for Drug Research and Development, Canada)
- Anne Fletcher (University of Birmingham)
- Katja Simon (The Kennedy Institute, Oxford)
- Herman Waldmann (The Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford) will tell us about: "From Campath to Lemtrada, the history of an immunotherapy"

Location: John Radcliffe Hospital Lecture Theatre 2

Time: 9:20 – 17:30

Registration and coffee: from 8:45

Drinks Reception: 17:30 – 18:30

Complimentary lunch, tea and coffee will be served

Registration: Register via the [event page](#) on the British Society for Immunology website.

BSI members: £15 (standard), £10 (students), Non BSI members: £25 (standard), £20 (students)

If you would like your work to be considered for a talk or poster, please submit your 250 word abstract to oxfordimmunologygroup@gmail.com by the **26 February 2016**. For more information go to <https://www.immunology.org/oxford>



AIMday in Digital Health

Industrial networking event, 20 June

We are pleased to announce that Oxford will be hosting a new kind of industrial networking event on the theme of **Digital Health** on 20 June.

Academia Industry Day (AIMday), devised and developed by the University of Uppsala, are innovative academic–industry networking events with a highly focussed and efficient meeting format. The unique AIMday format – a question, one hour, a group of experts – has proven successful in finding useful contacts, collaborations, and new paths to solutions to organizations' questions.



Oxford AIMday: Digital Health

Oxford's first AIMday will be on 20 June at the University's Mathematical Institute. This AIMday is focussed on engaging with industry to learn about how we can help solve problems in eHealthcare and Big Data. We are particularly keen to hear from you about issues related to:

- Patient Engagement
- Analytics
- Population Health & Epidemiology
- Genomics & Personalised medicine
- M–health & Self–Monitoring
- Image Analysis
- Biobanking
- Meaningful Data
- Linking Data
- Social Care

Digital Strategy at the University of Oxford

Oxford is a world–leading centre of learning, teaching and research and the oldest university in the English–speaking world. The University's reputation in research, education, and engagement will be underpinned by an innovative and holistic digital capability. This event will support the significance, capacity, and impact of the University's research; the variety and distinction of the learning, teaching and student experience that it provides; and will inform its present strategic priorities of interdisciplinary scholarship and global reach.

Registration is currently open to Companies who will submit questions for the academic community. Academic registration will be opening in

the Spring. To find out more about the AIMday please contact Chandra.ramanujan@innovation.ox.ac.uk or Oliver.voss@medsci.ox.ac.uk

7th Annual Oxford Neuroscience Symposium

Wednesday 23 March

The 7th annual Oxford Neuroscience Symposium will be held on **Wednesday 23 March 2016**. The venue will, once again, be the Mathematical Institute which has the largest purpose-built lecture theatres and conference facilities in Oxford, with superb acoustics.



The symposium celebrates the breadth of Oxford's neuroscience research, and will include talks describing the latest developments from our research programmes and poster presentations from all career levels. The guest lecture will be given by Nobel laureate, Professor John O'Keefe from the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at UCL who will be talking on: 'The Hippocampal Cognitive Map: Past, Present and Future'.

Lunch will be provided along with a drinks reception afterwards from 17.30.

A lunchtime workshop 'A guide for young researchers to journal publishing' will be provided by Elsevier.

Further details and the programme can be found [here](#).

Register for free [here](#).

The EQUATOR Network – have we helped you?

Tell us your story!

We would like to know how the EQUATOR Network has helped you to improve your work:

What have you used on our [website](#)?

How have you used it?

How has it helped you?

...and anything else you'd like to tell us!

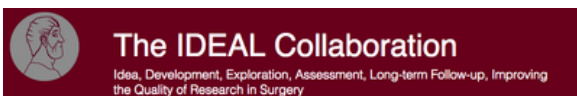
Please send us your stories (whatever length you like!) either through this quick [online form](#) or by emailing lveta.Simera. All respondents will be entered into a draw to win [our textbook](#) signed by Doug Altman. For more information, [see our website](#).

IDEAL Collaboration Conference 2016

Thursday 7 April 2016, St Catherine's College, Oxford

Learn about the latest developments in the scientific methodology for investigating surgery and hear internationally renowned surgical researchers and industry professionals present their recent work.

Find out more: www.ideal-collaboration.net



OUCAGS Forum Events 2016

We're delighted to be able to confirm the dates for this year's series of **OUCAGS Forum events** (formerly known as the Academic Medical Forum). Each event will consist of a morning of presentations

from a range of clinical trainees and DPhil students in different specialties, paired with a series of lunchtime talks and workshops on a range of research-related topics. As always, all are welcome to attend so please feel free to forward these dates to any colleagues who might be interested in attending.

The programme for each event will be available in advance of the date, but for now please put these dates into your diary:

Tuesday 8 March 2016 (Venue: John Radcliffe Hospital)

Wednesday 18 May 2016 (Venue: John Radcliffe Hospital)

Tuesday 12 July 2016 (Venue TBC)

Thursday 22 September 2016 (Venue: John Radcliffe Hospital)

Friday 25 November 2016 (Venue: John Radcliffe Hospital)

Open Access Drop-In Surgeries

11.30–13.30 every Monday of term

ORA and ORA Data staff are again holding weekly drop-ins to provide one-to-one help with all things Open Access and Research Data.

When: **11.30–13.30 every Monday of term** (18 Jan – 29 Feb 2016).

Where: the Centre for Digital Scholarship, on the first floor of the Weston Library.



University Club launches new website

The University club have launched a new website, visit it [here](#).

Did you know as a University staff member you can join the club free of charge? You can benefit from:

- discounted bedroom accommodation
- access to the club's café and bar
- affordable venue hire for meetings and parties
- great offers and promotions

To join simply fill in a [membership form](#) or contact us on T: 01865 271044 or E: reception@club.ox.ac.uk



Survey on supporting good practice in research

Survey closes Monday 22 February

Under the terms of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, the University is now required to submit an annual statement to its governing body on actions taken to support or improve understanding of research integrity (such as providing related training for researchers, mentoring opportunities for new staff and students, induction information). Research integrity is interpreted to mean good practice in research, so covers a range of areas such as research methodology, avoiding plagiarism, writing for publication, research data management, peer review, research ethics, mentoring opportunities etc.

In considering last year's report, the University's Research Committee asked that future statements include more detail about how Divisions, Departments, Faculties and Doctoral Training Centres approach this area and the support they offer to their researchers.

To facilitate the collection of such information, Research Services have prepared a short online survey available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/rsintegritysurvey>. This seeks (brief) information about the support offered to a) research students and b) research staff to promote good practice in research. There is also the opportunity to state if further support, information or training in these areas would be welcomed.