

# OCDEM BULLETIN



## FOR UNIVERSITY STAFF

WEEK COMMENCING 21st March 2016

Issue No 29

### RESEARCH NEWS



For the second week running Associate Professor Leanne Hodson has received good news regarding funding. This week she was informed that her application for funding from the BBSRC for ‘The effect of fructose on human hepatocyte-adipocyte cellular crosstalk and metabolic health’ was successful. This is excellent news.

### OUTREACH



This week saw members of the McCarthy/Gloyn group inspiring future scientists at Headington School. An article on this very successful event will be in the next edition of OCDEMension

SEMINARS – There are No Seminars This Week

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS –No Grand Round This Week

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## IF You Are Planning A Fellowship Application in 2016 or 2017.....



From April 2016, we will be running a Fellowship Committee within OCDEM that will provide mentorship for junior researchers who are planning to move towards independence through applications for intermediate fellowships, as well as those moving onto senior fellowships. The committee will provide advice, mentorship, coordination and evaluation of evolving fellowship applications. To be of maximum value, we are keen to identify researchers early in the evolution of their plans (ideally at least a year ahead of eventual submission). We are currently compiling a list of names based on a survey of PIs, but, to be sure we have a complete picture, we are keen to invite “self nominations” across OCDEM. So, if you are planning a fellowship application (at intermediate or higher levels) during 2016 or 2017, we encourage you to get in touch (email Mark McCarthy and Fredrik Karpe). It doesn't matter if your plans include fellowship applications to move AWAY from OCDEM: we are still happy to provide advice and support.

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## Funding Opportunities

### **Awards Available to Support Drug Discovery**

# Harrington Discovery Institute



The next call of the Oxford–Harrington Scholarship Programme is now open for applications with a deadline of **4pm on Friday 1 April**.

The Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme supports clinical researchers at the University of Oxford to translate discovery science into medicines that improve human health. This collaboration between the University of Oxford and the Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals in Cleveland will leverage their combined expertise and resources to advance drug discovery projects. The [Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme](#) will provide support to researchers working on novel drug discovery research problems that have demonstrable potential to become new therapies, but may not be far enough along the drug development path to attract committed financial investors. Oxford-Harrington Scholars will have access to the Harrington Discovery Institute's [Innovation Support Center \(ISC\)](#) and its industry-seasoned [drug development experts](#). A dedicated ISC team will be charged with advising on and materially helping the translational and drug development efforts of Oxford-Harrington Scholars.

Further information on the scheme including how to apply can be found [here](#)

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## **James Tudor Foundation**

£60,000 funding for medical research. Deadline Thursday 31 March.

The James Tudor Foundation (<http://www.jamestudor.org.uk/>) has invited an application for funding from Oxford. Projects can be in any area of medical research with a high probability of a positive clinical outcome. Any grant is likely to be in the region of £60,000 over three years, beginning in 2017. The Trustees are keen to see the impact of the Foundation's funds, which should make a notable difference to the project. Ideally a grant would act as seed funding to test a concept before further, larger grants are secured. To be considered as the University's submission to the Foundation, please send a short outline of your project and a budget to Robert Dixon in the Development Office ([robert.dixon@devoff.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.dixon@devoff.ox.ac.uk)) before Thursday 31 March.

# Novo Nordisk Postdoctoral and Clinical Research Training Fellowships



We are currently recruiting four Postdoctoral Research Fellows and one Clinical Research Training Fellow as part of the Novo Nordisk fellowship programme at the University of Oxford.

Applications are invited from basic scientists and clinicians wishing to undertake research with a focus on diabetes. Each fellowship is fully funded for three years. These prestigious fellowships are open to outstanding candidates of any nationality.

Please note that: Applicants for the postdoctoral fellowships must be no more than 3 years post PhD at the start of the fellowship (Autumn 2016), and that the funding provided for the Clinical Research Training Fellowship will only cover home/EU PhD (DPhil) fees

● Postdoctoral Research Fellowship: Grade 7: £30,738 – £37,768 per annum

● Clinical Research Training Fellowship: Grade E64: £31,301 – £50,167 per annum

The following twelve projects are available as part of the fellowship programme:

Principal Investigator	Project Title
<i>Prof Damian Tyler</i>	Assessing the Cardiovascular Impact of Novel Diabetic Treatments Using Hyperpolarized Magnetic Resonance
<i>Prof Angelyn Bethel, Prof Louise Bowman &amp; Prof Simon Griffin</i>	Can electronic health records improve the efficiency of large clinical trials?
<i>Dr Michael V Holmes, Prof Mark McCarthy &amp; Prof Cecilia Lindgren</i>	Causal effects of lowering low density lipoprotein cholesterol through combination therapies on adiposity, glycaemia and risk of diabetes: 2x2 factorial Mendelian randomization of >1.5M individuals
<i>Professor Jonathan Emberson &amp; Prof Richard Peto</i>	Diabetes, glycaemic control and health-related outcomes in Mexico City
<i>Prof Dame Fran Ashcroft &amp; Dr Duncan Sparrow</i>	How does maternal pre-gestational diabetes increase the risk of having children with heart defects?
<i>Dr James Cantley &amp; Prof Heidi de Wet</i>	Investigating lipid metabolism in islet $\alpha$ -cells and gut L-cells, as a nutrient sensing mechanism controlling hormone secretion
<i>Dr Constantinos Christodoulides &amp; Prof Fredrik Karpe</i>	Investigations into the role of <i>TCF7L2</i> in human obesity and metabolic dysfunction
<i>Prof Leanne Hodson &amp; Prof Fredrik Karpe</i>	Mechanisms by which weight gain impairs adipose tissue function
<i>Dr Reshma Ramracheya &amp; Prof Patrik Rorsman</i>	Role of peptide tyrosine tyrosine (PYY) on pancreatic islet secretion and in Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery
<i>Prof Jeremy Tomlinson &amp; Prof Fredrik Karpe</i>	Understanding adipose tissue dysfunction as a driver of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
<i>Prof Jeremy Tomlinson, Prof Leanne Hodson &amp; Dr Garry Tan</i>	Understanding improvements in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Defining the impact of very low calorie diet and bariatric surgery on lipid flux.
<i>Prof Angelyn Bethel, Prof Louise Bowman &amp; Prof Jemma Hopewell</i>	Using statistical techniques to inform a risk-based approach to clinical trial management

Further information on the projects, the fellowship programme and details on how to apply can be found at: [www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/novo-nordisk-fellowships](http://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/novo-nordisk-fellowships)

Enquiries should be directed to: [ruth.mccaffrey@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.mccaffrey@rdm.ox.ac.uk)

The closing date for receipt of applications is: Midday on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016.



## New NIHR funding opportunities available

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The following new funding opportunities are available:

### Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme

An NIHR and Medical Research Council partnership

- 16/33 - Mechanisms of action of health interventions
- 16/35 - Foetal and maternal health outcomes in chronic disease
- 16/36 - Immunotherapy for Type 1 diabetes
- 16/43 - Clinical efficacy of novel biosensing technologies
- 16/44 - Non-invasive transcranial stimulation

[Find out more](#)

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### Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation Programme

An NIHR and Medical Research Council partnership

- 16/34 - EME Researcher-led

[Find out more](#)

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### Obesity Themed Call

We are still accepting applications for research into the evaluation of interventions or services for the **prevention and treatment of obesity** in adults and children.

Issues of particular importance for this call include the prevention of type 2 diabetes and increasing levels of physical activity.

[Find out more](#)

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### Other NIHR funding opportunities

For a list of all current NIHR funding opportunities, please visit the NIHR website.

[View all funding opportunities](#)

## Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund (deadline: noon, 11 April 2016)

This Seed Fund is an internal grant scheme for **Public Engagement with Research** activities. Potential Public Engagement with Research activities are many and varied and could include:

- Developing / piloting new Public Engagement with Research projects
- Improving existing Public Engagement with Research activity
- Collecting robust evidence of the value, outcomes or impact of existing Public Engagement with Research activity

Grants are typically expected to be around £1,000 to £2,500 and the Principal Applicant must be a researcher employed by the University of Oxford (co-applicants can include other researchers, research students, teaching staff, public engagement officers and research facilitators). The deadline for applications is **noon on 11 April 2016** and funding for this scheme must be spent by 31 August 2016.

[Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund Guidelines](#)  (410kb)

[Public Engagement with Research Seed Fund Application Form](#)  (41kb)

This scheme is part of the University's Research Councils UK [Catalyst Seed Fund Award](#), which aims to improve institutional support for Public Engagement with Research.

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### **New website to help researchers find study participants**

Researchers conducting studies within the OUH Foundation Trust can now advertise for volunteers via the OUH [Trials Seeking Volunteers pages](#).

To submit a request to advertise your study please go to: <http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/research/researchers/trials-form.aspx>

If you are conducting studies outside of the OUH Trust and would like to advertise for volunteers please contact [Alison Brindle](#).

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### **Online learning community for aspiring PIs**

A new online community for Oxford postdocs considering becoming Principal Investigators has been developed by the Oxford Learning Institute. The community is designed to share useful links and resources on key topics such as Proposal writing and Making the transition to research independence, and will be a place where aspiring PIs can share their ideas and seek advice and support from each other. To join the community simply email [bill.dunn@learning.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bill.dunn@learning.ox.ac.uk) and he will send you an invitation.

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### **VIRTUAL STAFF ADVISORY GROUP**

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

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

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

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

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/staff-advisory-group](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/staff-advisory-group)

Next term's survey will be on the impact of hidden disability in the workplace. If you would like to join the virtual Staff Advisory Group, please email [sara.smith@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sara.smith@admin.ox.ac.uk).

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# Easter Cake Parade

To celebrate Easter and raise some money for Sobell House - lets get baking!

**Wednesday 23rd March 2016 in Lecture Theatre at 10:30am**

Hope to see you all there with loads of yummy cakes!!



## Visitors from overseas: a guide for Academics

### Purpose of this guide

Visitors coming to the University from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) are required by the Home Office to enter the UK under an immigration category appropriate for their intended activity.

This short guide outlines the Home Office rules about visitors coming to Oxford from outside the EEA. We hope you will find it useful when planning visits.

### Why is this important?

Oxford sponsors around 1000 Tier 2 (employees) and Tier 5 (non-employees) research and academic staff as well as many Tier 4 students. To retain our Home Office sponsorship licences we must comply with all Home Office rules – including for visitors.

We also want to ensure our visitors have a trouble free journey to Oxford and are not stopped at the airport to be questioned by immigration officials, or worse, prevented from entering the UK.

A little forward planning and, where necessary, asking advice from your HR Lead (who will in turn seek advice from the Staff Immigration Team, where required), should avoid any breaches of the immigration rules or difficulties for your visitors.

In cases where a visitor does get into difficulty entering the UK, we can contact the Home Office for help, but it becomes much more difficult if the visitor's visa arrangements are incorrect.

### Who do the visitor immigration rules apply to?

Nationals of EEA member states and those already in the UK on a work visa may visit the University without restriction. A list of EEA member states can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea>.

However, anyone who is currently overseas and is not a national of an EEA member state will need to enter the UK with the correct type of visitor visa.

To obtain the right visitor visa a letter of invitation from the host department or college must be issued to the visitor as soon as possible. Depending on their nationality and the nature of the visit, some visitors will need to make a visa application in advance of travel whilst others will need to make their application when they arrive at immigration control in the UK.

Created: 05/03/2016



### What do I need to do?

Before a visit is agreed, contact your department or college HR Lead or department/faculty administrator to check internal processes for visitors in your department. Once a visit is agreed, they will advise the individual (with assistance from the Staff Immigration Team) on the appropriate immigration route for the agreed activity and prepare/direct you to a template letter of invitation to be sent to the visitor for their entry application.

The HR Lead or department/faculty administrator is also required to check and copy the visitor's passport and visa when they arrive at Oxford so visitors should be directed to the relevant person on their first day so that copies can be taken. Copies are required for all visitors who have been issued with a letter of invitation to aid their entry into the UK where the visit is for more than one day.

### Types of visitor visa

There are three relevant visitor immigration categories;

- Business Visitor
- Academic Visitor and
- Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) Visitor.

Home Office rules define permitted activities under each category and there are specific restrictions about any payments and the length of visit (details on next page).

There are no provisions under the visitor immigration routes for non-EEA visitors to work on University research projects or for students to take part in research internships. However, a separate visa route exists (Tier 5) for these categories which may be suitable. Your HR Lead or department/faculty administrator can give you advice on Tier 5.

## Visitors from overseas: a guide for Academics

### What can overseas visitors do at Oxford?

**Academic Visitors** may take part in independent research whilst on sabbatical leave, gather information or advise on an international project led from the UK (i.e. through meetings) give a one-off or short series of talks (provided these are not commercial events and the organiser is not making a profit) or take part in a formal exchange programme. Senior medical doctors may take part in research, teaching and clinical practice. Visitors under this route must be employed by an academic institution overseas; retired persons are not eligible.

**Business Visitors** may take part in business activity such as attending meetings, conferences or interviews, giving a one-off or short series of talks (provided these are not commercial events and the organiser is not making a profit) or gathering information for their employment overseas including planning future research collaborations (but not conducting research).

**Permitted Paid Engagement Visitors (PPE)** may come to give lectures in their subject area (but must not be fulfilling a teaching role) or be an examiner. All PPE visitors must be paid a fee (there is no minimum). Visitors under this route must be employed by an academic institution overseas; retired persons are not eligible. Full details of permitted activity and restrictions of each category can be found at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/acvisitors/business/>

The table below defines some common activities undertaken by visitors to Oxford and potential immigration routes:

Activity	Possible immigration route*	Payment	Max. length of visit
Giving a single or series of lectures/talks	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months
	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
	PPE visitor	Payment of fee required	1 month
	Tier 5	Funding required	2 years
Speaking at a conference	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months
	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
	PPE visitor	Payment of fee required	1 month
Attending a conference	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months
	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
Attending meetings (i.e. to discuss future research collaborations)	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months
Sharing knowledge/experience of techniques, theories etc. but not conducting research on University projects	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
Observe research conducted at the University and gather information and facts to inform own research overseas (but not working on the project)	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months
Advise on a project which is led from the UK (but not working on the project)	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months
Conducting independent research whilst on sabbatical leave	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
Collaborative research on University projects	Tier 5	Funding required	2 years
Viewing University collections not available to the public for independent research	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
Formal exchange of researchers (i.e. a pre-arranged exchange of research personnel between Oxford and another institution on a formal exchange agreement).	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
Senior medical doctors taking part in research, teaching or clinical practice	Academic visitor	None or Expenses only	12 months
Overseas students taking part in research internships	Tier 5	Funding required	2 years
Attending a job interview	Business visitor	None or Expenses only	6 months

\* Please ensure all restrictions and requirements of the immigration route are met. Details can be found at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/acvisitors/business/>. If there is any doubt about the correct immigration route, the HR Lead or department/faculty administrator should discuss with the Staff Immigration Team well in advance of the intended visit.

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/>



Staff  
Immigration  
Team