

## RDM Newsletter – March 2016



Welcome to this edition of the RDM newsletter, which aims to bring you relevant news and information from across RDM.

I am delighted, and relieved, to let you know that our resubmission for our Athena Swan award was successful. As this is an advance notification made to enable BRC bids, with the actual announcement of results not due until April, we are asked to not publicise the award. I therefore ask that there be no public/external announcement or news coverage until the official announcement of results. Although no great public fanfare at this point, this is hugely welcome news and I am indebted to everyone for their efforts and most of all to Lynn Clee, Brid Cronin and Nathalie Marten who held it all together when we had such dispiriting news last autumn. Now we have the right outcome I look forward to continuing

the real work of achieving progress on the ground.

In this edition of the newsletter you'll find information regarding the latest academic matters, awards and prizes, Athena SWAN and graduate studies updates, and much more.

I would like to thank the speakers, poster presenters and attendees at the RDM Annual Symposium, which took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February in the Said Business School. The day was a great success with our largest audience yet. The talks were of excellent quality and covered a diverse range of research areas. Congratulations to the poster prize winners: Mr Florian Bonkhofer (Patient lab) who won the best student prize for his poster entitled "Establishing a novel Runx1 BAC-transgenic zebrafish for the detailed analysis of haemogenic endothelium" and to Dr Ayman Al Haj Zen (Bhattacharya lab) who won the best non – student prize for his poster entitled "The retinoid agonist Tazarotene promotes angiogenesis and wound regeneration.

Please do continue to send us articles you think should be included in the newsletter, particularly relating to awards and prizes or research achievements that you are excited about. Information should be sent to [Ruth McCaffrey](#).

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Watkins  
Head of Department

Who to contact for more information:

Comments about the newsletter  
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## **Academic Matters**

### **Clinical Tutor, NDCLS**

Dr Jenny Lorton will be stepping down as the Clinical Tutor in NDCLS at the end of March. We would like to thank her for making the Laboratory Medicine course such a success and wish her well in her retirement. Dr Tim Littlewood will be standing in for Jenny while a replacement Clinical Tutor is recruited.

### **Clinical Lecturer, Cardiovascular Medicine**

The post was re-advertised and interviews are scheduled for mid-April.

## **Administrative staff**

### **Leavers**

Some but not all of you will be aware that Erin Gordon has decided to move on after 10 years with NDCLS, to a Departmental Administrator (DA) post in the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies effective 28 March 2016. Jenny Hayward, Deputy Administrator in the WIMM, left at the end of January to a DA position in the Department of Economics. My PA Kathryn Smith moved to a post in NDM at the beginning of February, after 11 years working with me in CVM/RDM. I am sorry to see them go but thank them for their contribution, and wish them all well in their new positions.

### **Trainee administrators**

Mark Evans' and Nat Martens' two year training periods as trainee administrators are nearing their end, and I'm pleased to say we have found placements for both of them in RDM. Nat has moved to the WIMM to take up a finance/project officer position and from 1 April Mark will move full-time to NDCLS as Interim Administrator. I would like to thank them both for their important contributions to RDM..

### **New appointments**

We have appointed two new trainee administrators who start on 16 May. Dr Serena Cerritelli joins from the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics where she has been providing administrative support for the Oxford Parkinson's Disease Centre, Oxford ARUK network and the Wade-Martins research group. Miss Felicity Green joins from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit within the Nuffield Department of Population Health where she is Personnel and Finance Assistant. The trainees will provide administrative support to RDM and its Divisions.

Mrs Jeanette Ferguson joins on 13 June as my PA and Executive Assistant.

Dr Emma O'Brien joins on 3 May to a newly created post as RDM's Public Engagement and Communications Officer. Emma is currently the Science Communications Officer at Alzheimer's UK.

Dr Bryony Graham has been appointed as Public Engagement and Communications Officer in the WIMM, commencing 1 April. She will work closely with Dr Emma O'Brien.

I welcome them all to RDM and look forward to working with them.

## Awards and Prizes

Congratulations to all those who have received awards and prizes on their well-deserved achievements. Details of all major awards and prizes notified to us can be found on the [Latest News](#) section of the RDM website.

### **Three RDM PIs are recipients of Principal Fellow Awards from the NIHR Oxford BRC and BRU.**



Congratulations to Prof Adam Mead, Associate Professor of Haematology, Prof Graham Ogg, Professor of Dermatology and Prof Jeremy Tomlinson, Professor of Metabolic Endocrinology, who are recipients of Principal Fellow Awards from the NIHR Oxford BRC and BRU. In total 15 Principal Fellow Awards were made out of 50 applicants. The Awards are aimed at attracting, recognising, developing and retaining outstanding researchers, whose research will have a direct benefit on NHS care. Each Fellow receives £15,000 per year for 3 years to support their research.



### **David Clynes, a postdoc in MHU, has been awarded a Children with Cancer UK Research Fellowship.**

This Fellowship scheme aims to support outstanding scientists seeking to develop a career in childhood cancer research and aims to identify ‘research leaders of the future’ providing them with the support they need to achieve their full potential. The Fellowship includes funding for a defined five year programme of work.

David’s research interest centres around a subset of cancers that adopt a specific telomere lengthening mechanism known as the **Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (ALT)** pathway, which is thought to involve Homologous recombination (HR) mediated copying of telomeric templates. An important prediction is that ALT positive cancers are susceptible to specific therapeutic treatments. This is particularly important because a variety of clinically difficult to treat pediatric cancers, including currently untreatable brain tumours, such as Glioblastoma Multiforme and Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas elongate their telomeres via the ALT pathway. David’s research will explore the molecular mechanisms underlying the ALT pathway with a view to identifying novel druggable targets and small molecule drugs for the rational design of more effective cancer therapies.



### **Dr Svetlana Reilly awarded a BHF Intermediate Basic Science Research Fellowship**

Congratulations to Dr Svetlana Reilly who has been awarded a BHF Intermediate Basic Science Research Fellowship. Svetlana will carry out her research “MicroRNA-mediated proarrhythmic mechanisms in Atrial Fibrillation” in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. Svetlana has been supported by the BHF Centre of Research Excellence as an Intermediate Transition fellow over the last 3 years and has developed her research programme with the support of Prof Barbara Casadei and her research colleagues in the group.



### **Associate Prof Charalambos Antoniades awarded a BHF Senior Clinical Research Fellowship**

Congratulations to Charalambos (Charis) Antoniades, who has been awarded a prestigious BHF Senior Clinical Research Fellowship for his research programme “Exploring new links between adipose tissue and vascular redox state”. Charis is Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and an honorary consultant with OUH. Charis also runs the innovative BHF CRE training programme on the development of basic skills in cardiovascular research.

**Jenny Lortan and Felicity Bennett, administrators for NDCLS, have been awarded Teacher of the Month January 2016**

The Medical School regularly invites Oxford medical students to recognise excellent teaching by making nominations for 'Teacher of the Month'. For January 2016, the fourth year students nominated 'the organisers of the Laboratory Medicine course as Teachers of the Month 'for running such a large course so smoothly, and for clearly spending a great deal of effort making sure we have the right resources and are well supported'.

**Litchfield Lectureship**

I am delighted to congratulate Jackie Boulwood as her nomination, Professor Lucio Cocco has been awarded a Litchfield Lectureship with Title to come and visit NDCLS-RDM.

**Grant & Funding Matters**

**Co-ordination of Fellowship applications within RDM**

Just a reminder that RDM now provides support to researchers applying for Fellowships. Full details can be found on the RDM website (<http://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/find-funding>).

**Researchfish reporting**

Many funders use Researchfish to collect outputs on grants in the place of written annual reports. The annual submission period in Researchfish for grants awarded by the UK Research Councils, CRUK, the BHF and a number of other charities has now closed. We are pleased to report that all RDM grant holders submitted their outputs in time. Thank you to everyone. This is important as funders will begin to impose sanctions on the University if researchers fail to meet the reporting deadlines. Further information on Researchfish is available on the [Researchfish web page](#).

**Grant Writing Workshop – 29 June 2016**

Following the success of the RDM Grant Writing Workshop held in September 2015, another Grant Writing Workshop is planned for **29<sup>th</sup> June 2016** (venue TBC). Places on the course are limited to a maximum of 24 people. To sign up for a place on the workshop please email Ruth McCaffrey ([ruth.mccaffrey@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.mccaffrey@rdm.ox.ac.uk)) a copy of your CV and a short paragraph explaining why you want to do the course. This must be received by 29<sup>th</sup> April and you will be notified shortly afterwards if you have a place. Priority will be given to researchers with concrete plans to submit a grant application in the coming months. Please note that if you are offered a place on the workshop, that there will be a significant amount of preparation in advance of the workshop (typically reading 3-5 grant applications). The more time you invest in advance, the more value you will get out of the workshop. Past participants have found the course very useful. Here is some of the feedback from last years workshop:

"I found the course really useful and enjoyable and will certainly recommend it to colleagues. The mock panel exercise was extremely insightful in terms of how the review process works and what makes a good proposal ("keep it simple and easy to understand")."

"I have to say that the quality, content and delivery of the course were outstanding and I learnt a lot from it. The part where we role-played as the review committee really helped me to appreciate the sort of things reviewers might look out for. Hope the course will continue to be held, and I certainly would encourage others to attend."

**New MRC tool about the HRA approval process**

The MRC have launched a new tool: HRA Approval – What you need to know (<http://www.highlights.rsc.mrc.ac.uk/HRAApproval/index.html>). The tool helps you navigate the definitive guidance from the [Health Research Authority](#), mapping the steps in the process and incorporating tips.

## Open Access related information

### **Act on Acceptance – HEFCE’s post 2014 REF Open Access Policy**



HEFCE has introduced a new policy on Open Access that states that, from 1 April 2016, to be eligible for submission to the next REF, researchers must deposit a copy of the ‘Author Accepted Manuscript’ in an institutional or subject repository on acceptance for publication. In Oxford’s case this means that when you’ve had a journal article or conference paper accepted for publication, you need to ‘Act on Acceptance’ and deposit the ‘author accepted manuscript’ into Oxford’s repository, ORA, within 3 months of acceptance. Failure to do so from 1 April 2016 will make your research outputs ineligible for the next REF.

Depositing is easy and you do it via Symplectic (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/awards/symplectic/>)

The Bodleian team will check copyright and licensing conditions, create an ORA record and make the full-text available after the embargo period has ended (typically 6 months for papers published via the green open access route). To deposit your ‘Author Accepted Manuscript’, log into your Symplectic account and click on “Deposit your work” and follow the simple steps. Any Oxford author on the manuscript can deposit the paper (hence all researchers now have a Symplectic account). Further information can be found on the University Open Access website (<http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/>) or email: [openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) or contact Ruth McCaffrey ([ruth.mccaffrey@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.mccaffrey@rdm.ox.ac.uk)) if you have questions.

**IMPORTANT: you must still comply with your funders’ Open Access requirements. Act on Acceptance does not replace the funders’ requirements, it is an additional step.**

**We have previously run a workshop on Open Access and Acting on Acceptance. If there is sufficient interest, we will happily organise another. Please email Ruth McCaffrey if you are interested.**

### **ORCID iDs and Research Councils**

The Research Councils have recently announced that their grants system will be ready to start capturing ORCID identifiers (ORCID iDs) in 2016.

The ORCID iD gives researchers a unique digital identity which can be kept throughout their career. This allows them to keep an on-going record of their scholarly activities even if they change research organisation or leave academia. In the short-term, an ORCID iD should ensure correct assignment of research outputs by allowing them to be unambiguously linked to their creators. It also increases the chances that a researcher’s work is discoverable. In the longer term, it should bring about efficiency improvements by saving time and duplication in grant applications and enhanced reporting of research outputs to funders as well as improved analysis of outcomes. The Wellcome Trust now requires lead applicants to provide an ORCID identifier when submitting a relevant grant application.

All researchers, including DPhil students, are encouraged to obtain an ORCID ID.

To apply for an ORCID iD or if you already have an ORCID iD and wish to link it to the University of Oxford, go to ORCID at Oxford (<http://ox.libguides.com/orcid>)

## Athena SWAN



### Silver Award Application

I am delighted, and relieved, to let you know that our resubmission for our Athena Swan award was successful. As this is an advance notification made to enable BRC bids, with the actual announcement of results not due until April, we are asked to not publicise the award. I therefore ask that there be no public/external announcement or news coverage until the official announcement of results.

Although no great public fanfare at this point, this is hugely welcome news and I am indebted to everyone for their efforts and most of all to Lynn Clee, Brid Cronin and Nathalie Marten who held it all together when we had such dispiriting news last autumn. Now we have the right outcome I look forward to continuing the real work of achieving progress on the ground.

With this in mind, the priorities over the coming months will include actions around

- Zero tolerance of harassment and bullying – including training for senior staff and group leaders, raising awareness of what constitutes bullying behaviour, highlighting the roles of RDM harassment advisors and promoting the support services available to staff and students
- Career Development Committee – further information can be found in the Career Development & Training section of the newsletter
- Launch of the second RDM staff and student survey, scheduled for mid-May

## Equality & Diversity

As the University is a public sector employer, it has specific obligations in relation to equality, including:

- Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
- Collecting and publishing equality information
- Setting equality objectives
- Engagement with people with protected characteristics

Given the increase in diversity across the university, RDM will be running a series of short information articles in the newsletter on key elements of diversity to improve awareness and encourage discussion.

If anyone has any queries on any equality topic, please contact your local HR representatives.

### Sexual Orientation

Increasingly people are more open about being gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans, both within and outside the workplace, and the Department supports a person's decision to declare (or not) their sexuality. Equality legislation and University policy provides that no student or member of staff will be treated less favourably on grounds which include sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

The University has a LGBT support group, promoting and supporting equality across the Collegiate University.

Information on the group can be found at

<https://www1.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/sexualorientation/informationforstaff/>.

Oxford University LGBT Staff Network meets at the University club on the first Thursday of the month from 6pm.



The University is a proud member of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme which is Britain's good practice employers' forum on sexual orientation. Further information can be found at [http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at\\_work/diversity\\_champions\\_programme/default.asp](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_work/diversity_champions_programme/default.asp).

For further information on Sexual Orientation, please go to <https://www1.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/sexualorientation/> or contact your local HR representatives.

### **Compulsory online training courses - reminder**

Further to my e-mail of 1 February, a reminder that two online training courses on Equality & Diversity and Unconscious Bias, are **mandatory for all staff in RDM, and should be completed by 1 May 2016**.

The Equality & Diversity course takes around 30 minutes to complete and can be accessed by following this link [http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar\\_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/EQU/ONLI&page=3&id=925](http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/EQU/ONLI&page=3&id=925), while the Unconscious Bias course takes 15 minutes to complete and can be accessed here: [http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar\\_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/DIV/ONLI&page=3&id=1026](http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/seminar_desc.php?cat=az&ls=&cc=MAN/DIV/ONLI&page=3&id=1026).

**Important:** Please note that in order for the system to register that you have completed these courses, it is essential to get to the very last screen before exiting the modules. On this screen, you will be able to select the option to print a certificate and I encourage you to print a copy for your records. There is also a facility to bookmark your place in the training courses and come back to them at a later time.

Many of you have already completed these online courses or have attended a training session on Unconscious Bias, and I can confirm that you will not be required to complete the same training again if you have completed these courses in the last 3 years. If you are unsure about whether you have completed these courses, please contact your local personnel officer who will be able to clarify this for you. Staff who have completed the NHS Equality & Diversity training course in the past three years and are able to provide evidence to their local personnel officers are also exempt from completing the University's Equality & Diversity training module.

Please note that students who are not members of staff will be unable to access the on-line training. Arrangements for training students will be notified in due course.

If you have any specific queries about the training, please contact your local personnel officer, who will be able to advise you further.

I hope that you will find the training valuable. We will monitor completion of the courses and send a reminder in due course to those who have not completed.

## Graduate Admissions and the RDM Scholars Programme

As of 8<sup>th</sup> March, 196 applications have been received for the DPhil in Medical Sciences. The department has made a total of 31 offers. 9 applicants turned down their offers, leaving 22 live offers.

The vast majority of applications were received for the main Departmental studentship schemes: the [RDM Scholars Programme](#) and the [WIMM Prize Studentship](#). A total of 180 applications were considered for those programmes. The RDM Scholars Programme interviewed 26 candidates; the WIMM Prize Studentship interviewed an additional 24 candidates.

Following interview, offers of RDM Scholarships were made to 4 applicants. We have nominated an additional 2 candidates to the Graduate School Scholarship Competition (GSSC), which allocates funding to the strongest candidates in the Medical Sciences Division. In addition, the WIMM Prize Studentship scheme made 7 offers to RDM candidates, 4 students have been recruited to Industrial CASE Studentships, 1 Clinical Research Fellow has been appointed and we have made another 4 offers to candidates who do not currently have funding, but are applying for external scholarships or fellowships. As some of the offers we have made are dependent on candidates securing funding we do not expect all of these offers to be converted into students on course. This information is summarised in the table below.

	Applications Received		Offers Made						
	Number	% of Total	RDM Scholars	GSSC Nom'n	WIMM Prize	Other Funding	No Funding	Live Offers (total)	Withdrawn
CVM	24	12.2%	1	0	0	2	2	5	2
IMD	40	20.4%	0	0	3	1	0	4	0
NDCLS	35	17.9%	2	0	0	1	1	4	3
OCDEM	21	10.7%	1	0	0	1	0	2	1
WIMM-NDCLS	54	27.6%	0	2	4	0	1	7	2
WIMM-Non-RDM	20	10.2%	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Non-RDM	2	1.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>

RDM Graduate Admissions Summary as at 8th March 2016

We have been set a target of recruiting 32 students this year by the Medical Sciences Division, so we are currently somewhat short of our target. Please therefore continue to encourage applications subject to your own supervisory workload, the candidates being of sufficient quality and the likelihood of obtaining funding.

The quality of applicants was very high for both the RDM Scholars Programme and the WIMM Prize Studentship and we have an excellent cohort of students due to start in October.

My thanks indeed to all those involved in shortlisting and interviewing the candidates and to those who administered the process.

## Career Development and Training

### **RDM Career Development Committee**

The remit of the RDM Career Development Committee (CDC) is to support the career development of all staff and students across RDM. Details of the CDC membership can be found on the RDM website (<http://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/rdm-career-development-committee>). This section of the website will be developed in the coming months. There is now a CDC email address: [cdc@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cdc@rdm.ox.ac.uk). Please use this address to send any ideas, suggestions or request for specific training courses to the committee.

Upcoming events organised by the CDC include:

### **Talk on applying for Fellowships, by Hugh Watkins**

Wednesday 20th April 2016, 10 am to noon

Venue: Seminar Rooms A & B, Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, Old Road Campus.

Attendance is free but you must register in advance by emailing Hannah Ellis ([hannah.ellis@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.ellis@rdm.ox.ac.uk)).

Hugh will deliver an overview on applying for fellowships. This will be followed by Ruth McCaffrey giving an overview of the support RDM can provide to fellowship applicants as well as information on internal funding opportunities and Mark Evans will talk about what your local admin team need, budgets and deadlines.

### **Grant Writing Workshop, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Full details can be found in the Grants and Funding section of this newsletter

### **Career Day**

Following the success of the Career day in 2015, another similar day will be organised for later in 2016. Further details will follow in due course.

### **WIMM Post-Doc Association**

The WIMM Post-Doc Association runs a career seminar series. Details can be found on the WIMM website (<http://www.imm.ox.ac.uk/wimm-science-career-seminars>). The seminars promote a range of careers options available to researchers. The seminar series is organised by Diu Nguyen [diu.nguyen@imm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:diu.nguyen@imm.ox.ac.uk) and Margarida Rei [margarida.rei@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:margarida.rei@rdm.ox.ac.uk), please contact them for further information.

### **RDM mentoring schemes**

The RDM mentoring scheme has been running for two years and is available to all staff and students. It received very positive feedback in the 2014 staff survey.

Mentoring is a powerful personal development tool, which can be an effective way of helping you to progress in your career and life more generally.

**All staff and students can [register to be mentored](#).**

You may also be interested in participating in the scheme as a mentor. Becoming a mentor allows you to give something back by passing on your experience and knowledge to help other members of the Department.

All staff and graduate students with at least 12 months experience in RDM or within the University can [register to be a mentor](#).

The RDM mentoring scheme matches mentors with relevant experience(s) with a mentee who wishes to benefit from their experience. Where possible mentees will be offered a choice of mentor. Mentoring matches will be made from across the divisions of RDM wherever possible.



The [RDM Mentoring Scheme Handbook](#) provides all the information necessary about the mentoring scheme.

Questions about the mentoring scheme should be directed to the [mentoring coordinator](#).

Further information is available at <http://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/mentoring>

### **Divisional Mentoring Scheme**

The Medical Sciences Division runs a peer mentoring scheme for research staff, which involves the formation of mentoring circles comprising 3-4 members of research staff matched with one, more senior, researcher or academic.

Mentoring circles aim to support the development of research staff across the Division by:

- Encouraging self-reflection
- Increasing networking opportunities through peer circles
- Providing access to mentors outside of the researcher's home department

Mentors often gain as much as their mentees from the process and find that it provides an opportunity to review their own experience.

For more information and application forms please go to [www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/mentoring-circles](http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/mentoring-circles)

Deadline for applications 5 April 2016.

### **Oxford Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education**

The Oxford Learning Institute are beginning to recruit for the 2016/17 Oxford Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. The course is designed for academic staff across the University with at least three years of successful teaching experience and an interest in enhancing students' learning experiences. The course can be particularly useful for anyone involved in developing a new course or making changes to existing courses or assessments. It focuses on building a cadre of future educational leaders able to provide educational advice and guidance within their departments, faculties or colleges.

For detailed information and application forms, please visit the Oxford Learning Institute website at <http://www.learning.ox.ac.uk/support/teaching/programmes/diploma/>.

Applications for the course should be received by the PG Diploma administrator at the Oxford Learning Institute no later than 17.00 on Monday 28 March 2016.

If you have questions or would like advice on teaching development programmes available to staff, please contact Claire Brewer, on 01865 286813 or [diploma.administrator@learning.ox.ac.uk](mailto:diploma.administrator@learning.ox.ac.uk), in the first instance.

### **Bioinformatics Training courses, at the University of Cambridge**

Computational Genomics Analysis & Training (CGAT) is hosting the Genomics Analysis Toolkit Workshop (GATK) on 18-19 April 2016 at the MSTC, South Parks Road, Oxford. This workshop will focus on the core steps involved in calling variants with the Broad's Genome Analysis Toolkit, using the "Best Practices" developed by the GATK team. You will learn why each step is essential to the variant discovery process, what are the operations performed on the data at each step, and how to use the GATK tools to get the most accurate and reliable results out of your dataset. In the course of this workshop, we highlight key functionalities such as the GATK workflow for joint variant discovery in cohorts, RNAseq-specific processing, and somatic variant discovery using MuTect2. We also preview capabilities of the upcoming GATK version 4, including a new workflow for CNV discovery.

Speakers: Soo Hee Lee, Larson Hogstrom and Geraldine Van der Auwera from The Broad Institute of MIT & Harvard.



The workshop is composed of one day of lectures (including many opportunities for Q&A) and one optional day of hands-on training. Further details and registration is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-genome-analysis-toolkit-gatk-workshop-2016-oxford-university-tickets-21031214930>

This is a free event – registration is required. Each day is ticketed separately.

**Recent Training: One Day Manager**

RDM hosted a One Day Manager course in November 2015, run by the Oxford Learning Institute. The course was aimed at new or inexperienced managers, and covered objective setting, giving feedback and having difficult conversations with staff.

RDM will run the course again next year and several members of staff have already expressed interest in attending in the future. To register your interest, please email [cdc@rdm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cdc@rdm.ox.ac.uk) .

## Public Engagement

### **New Public Engagement and Communications Officer in RDM**

Dr Emma O'Brien has been appointed to the newly created post of Public Engagement and Communications Officer in RDM. Her role will be to develop and implement a public engagement and communications strategy in RDM, to support researchers in delivering public engagement events and to improve the internal and external communications in RDM. Emma will work closely with all the Divisions of RDM and with Alison Brindle (MSD Divisional Communications Manager) and Naomi Gibson (MSD Public Engagement Coordinator).

### **Public Engagement with Research review**

Introducing Dr Rafael Wlodarski who started in the New Year as the Public Engagement with Research Project Officer in Research Services to support Oxford's [Catalyst Seed Fund](#) activities. Rafael is in the process of conducting a review of PER - the goal of this review is to gain a better understanding of PER activities and PER support across the University including the current PER-related training being provided in different divisions and department; and to identify PER case studies and examples of best practice. If you feel that you have any input that you would like to share on this topic, please feel free to contact him on [rafael.wlodarski@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rafael.wlodarski@admin.ox.ac.uk).



### **Oxford Sparks launch new website**

We are pleased to announce that Oxford Sparks has recently launched its new website – <http://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/> The site includes:

- 'Discover' section - with over 400 resources from across the University that are public-friendly
- Public engagement training programme
- Articles on public engagement on the 'For Researchers' section of the site
- And much, much more!

Please also note that this content is free for you to use however you like (so long as you credit it as coming from Oxford Sparks). If you have any resources, training opportunities or events you'd like to add to the website, or any suggestions for improving the site, please contact Michaela Livingstone ([michaela.livingstone@mpls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michaela.livingstone@mpls.ox.ac.uk))

### **Pint of Science 2016: Recruiting Volunteers**

Pint of Science is an annual festival that happens over three consecutive evenings simultaneously in multiple cities around the globe. Researchers come and explain their research to the public in the comfort of a pub! The 2016 edition will take place on **23 – 25 May 2016**.

**How can you get involved?** Pint of Science 2016 are looking for volunteers to help run the event and become Event Managers! Duties will include finding speakers and guiding them through the process; helping promote the talks and host the nights. If this has sparked your interest or you have any questions please email [laurienne.gardner@gtc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:laurienne.gardner@gtc.ox.ac.uk)



### **The Conversation: Training sessions now available**

The University of Oxford (alongside many other academic institutions) has recently partnered with [The Conversation](#), an online source of thought-provoking articles written by academics for the public. These articles are often picked up by the national and international press (e.g. The BBC, The Guardian and the Washington Post). This is a fantastic way to get your research noticed (a post which I recently wrote has had over 25,000 views) and also to offer your informed and educated opinion on a whole host of relevant and topical issues.



The University has organised a number of training sessions with the editors from The Conversation which will take place over the next couple of months, including some here on the JR site. You can find more information (including details of how to register for these sessions) [here](#).

### **Factors Affecting Public Engagement by Researchers**

A national survey, commissioned by the top 15 funders of publicly funded research in the UK, has been published that explores the current state of the public engagement with research landscape within higher education across the UK. The results show that there has been a positive shift in researchers' understanding and attitudes to public engagement over the past ten years. The survey finds that researchers are now considerably more personally motivated in this area, yet challenges remain. The findings also suggest that more needs to be done to support, reward and recognise researchers to embed public engagement as an integral part of a research career. Full details on the Wellcome Trust website.

### **The Life Cycle of a Story: From Inspiration to Telling**

Tuesday 19th Apr 2016, 9.30am to 4.30pm, NDM Research Building, Old Road Campus (TBC)

Develop and hone your communications skills by using the power of the story to convey your research in an accessible, compelling and memorable way.

Discover what elements of storytelling and narrative can be used to enhance a profession in the sciences.

Craft compelling and moving stories from your experiences as a scientist using these key story elements: character, conflict, structure, metaphor and description.

Apply these storytelling and narrative skills to working in the sciences: communicating research to a range of audiences (including publics, media and funding bodies); enhancing presentation skills for lectures and seminars; telling scientific stories across a range of media.

The course is led by Robert Holtom, a professional storyteller and consultant who has worked with a range of organisations to help them refine and hone their stories for a variety of audiences.

This course is open to all researchers (inc DPhil students) from MPLS and MSD departments.

Lunch will be provided.

[Register via WebLearn](#)

## News from the Divisions

### Division of Cardiovascular Medicine

#### **Dr. Alexander Liu won the 2015 Journal of American College of Cardiology JACC: CV Imaging Young Author Achievement Award.**

This award is specifically related to his manuscript, "Adenosine stress and rest T1-mapping can differentiate between ischemic, infarcted, remote and normal myocardium without the need for gadolinium contrast agents", published in the January 2016 issue of JACC: Cardiovascular imaging.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1936878X15007706> This award recognizes Dr. Liu, as well as his mentors (Dr. Vanessa Ferreira, Dr. Stefan Piechnik, Prof. Stefan Neubauer) and research program (OCMR, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, RDM, University of Oxford). Alex and his supervisor will formally receive the award at the 2016 American College of Cardiology (ACC) Scientific Sessions in Chicago, with a formal invitation to sit on the dais at the Annual Convocation Ceremony during this year's Scientific Sessions. Dr. Liu is supported by a British Heart Foundation Clinical Research Training Fellowship.

#### **Dr Victoria Stoll won the 2016 SCMR young investigator award, against stiff competition**

Many congratulations to Dr Victoria Stoll, who recently won the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR) 2016 Early Career Award - Translational CMR category on her work, titled: "The kinetic energies of left ventricular 4D flow components correlate with established markers of prognosis and represent novel imaging biomarkers in both ischaemic and dilated cardiomyopathy"

Early Career Award finalists this year all presented very high quality research, and Dr Stoll was selected as the winner of the category consisting of 8 finalists.

### WIMM

The WIMM Day will be held at the Saïd Business School on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

### Oxford Consortium for Single Cell Biology

Single Cell Biology in Oxford: what is available and what is going on?

One-day meeting on 6th May at St Catherine's College. The conference is free but registration is required.

Please contact [liz.cloke@imm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liz.cloke@imm.ox.ac.uk) for more information or to register for attendance.

## Other News

### Data Journal

The first peer-reviewed open access journal dedicated to the publication of negative, null and inconclusive **(NNI) results** covering any scientific discipline.

According to COMETS (CNRS Ethics Committee), **current publications allow access to 10% of all produced scientific data!** In certain disciplines, valuable and important results are unpublished, underexploited or lost, and this is particularly true for negative results that can be completely forgotten. Any result is important for the assessment, improvement or completion of the specific and global knowledge and the stimulation of scientific reflection.

*Data Journal* has been envisioned and designed to highlight the NNI results, going further than the previous attempts at publication of negative results. **Standard article format**, which focuses on the implication of positive results, **is not appropriate**. For NNI results, the core question should be about how these results were obtained. We propose a **new article format** focused on a comprehensive and detailed Materials & Methods section, for a comprehensive understanding of the results. Moreover, just like the art of Haiku, this new format also highlights **the**



**essence of thinking processes and the intellectual intention** through its written sections intentionally wanted short and concise.

Finally, we do not agree with the tendency of quantifying the “value of science” through the development of different metrics used to quantify the productivity and/or the impact of scientific journals, articles or authors. We propose a very simple alternative that focuses on articles and the interest they arouse: **the Interest Number (IN)**.

To know more:

<http://www.data-journal.science>

[https://twitter.com/data\\_journal](https://twitter.com/data_journal)

<https://www.facebook.com/datajournal.science/>

### **Real world data epidemiology: Oxford summer school**

NDORMS is running a one week course on Real World Data Epidemiology in Oxford, from 11-15 July 2016. By the end of the course, delegates will be able to:

- Gain an understanding on the existing sources of routinely collected data for epidemiological research
- Be able to discuss common types of study and designs for the use of such data: a) epidemiological research, b) predictive modelling, c) health economics, d) pharmacoepidemiology, and e) device/registry epidemiology
- Understand relevant issues and learn potential solutions applied to the use of big health data: a) data management and information governance, b) interaction with industry and regulators, c) stats/methods: missing information, bias, confounding, misclassification
- Learn introductory concepts of pharmacoepidemiology and medical device epidemiology using observational, routinely collected or registry-based data

The course is aimed at Pharmacists, clinicians, academics (including statisticians, epidemiologists, and related MSc/PhD students); Industry (pharmacy or device) or Regulatory staff with an interest in the use of routinely collected data for research. Registration will be on a “first arrived first served” basis and a not insignificant fee will be charged:

Early Bird (before 08/05/2016): £850

Late Registration (09/05/2016 to 20/06/2016): £1,100

For more information about the registration process, please contact the [course administrator](#). Further information, about the summer school can be [found here](#).

### **University Club**

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](mailto:reception@club.ox.ac.uk)



### **Guide for staff inviting visitors**

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. A short guide has been put together for those who invite visitors to the University which briefly outlines the visitor categories relevant to Oxford and the actions that are required prior to the visit. It also includes a table of visitor activities and the likely appropriate visitor category. The guide can be found at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/acvisitors/>

### **Innovation in Immunotherapy**

Immunotherapy has been hailed as the biggest breakthrough in cancer treatment for decades. The remarkable clinical efficiency of immunotherapy agents coupled with advances in academic research, growth of biotechs and pharmaceutical partnering all indicate that immunotherapy has the potential to revolutionise modern medicine. Innovation Forum Oxford is bringing together leading experts from academia, industry, the NHS and investors to discuss current trends and the future of immunotherapy followed by networking opportunities. This unique event will take place in Lecture Theatre 2 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

This is a fantastic opportunity to build links between industry, academia and the NHS; we hope you will be able to join us. Space is limited to 300 places. For more details on the event and to reserve your place, please click here: <http://www.inno-forum.org/#!innovation-in-immunotherapy/cjc8q>

### **Randomised Controlled Trial Course 2016: A Guide to Design, Conduct, Analysis, Interpretation and Reporting**

The RCT Course provides a thorough grounding in the principles and practice of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) for the evaluation of healthcare interventions. The course includes talks and practicals to give participants real examples and guidance on the methodology of trials using a problem-based learning approach.

Run by the world-renowned Centre for Statistics in Medicine, the RCT course is aimed at those planning or actively involved in trials, or individuals interested in furthering their knowledge of trial methodology. Applications are invited from clinical and non-clinical researchers and other professionals allied to medicine.

Professor Doug Altman, Director of CSM, is joined by a team of leading experts in clinical trials, to deliver an excellent and relevant course.

More information here <http://www.csm.ox.ac.uk/upcoming-events/rct-course-2016>