OCDEM BULLETIN

FOR UNIVERSITY STAFF

ISSUE NO 106 WEEK COMMENCING 18 SEPTEMBER

SEMINARS

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

There is no Wednesday Seminar this week.

FRIDAY SEMINAR

There is no Friday Seminar this week.

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

There is no Medical Grand Rounds this week

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer.

OCDEM will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 29th September at 10.30 in the Info Café area.

Any donations of baking would be very much appreciated and if you would be willing to help on the day then please contact the OCDEM A Team. If you are not a baker then please come along on the 29th of September and support a very good cause

In the News

ACE TRIAL PRIMARY RESULTS PRESENTED AT THE 53RD EASD ANNUAL MEETING IN LISBON

People with coronary heart disease and impaired glucose tolerance are at increased risk of future cardiovascular events, and of developing type 2 diabetes. In 2006, 37.3% of Chinese adults hospitalised for coronary artery disease had impaired glucose regulation, a major risk factor for diabetes.

The ACE trial (Acarbose Cardiovascular Evaluation) is the largest cardiovascular disease prevention outcome trial in people with coronary heart disease and impaired glucose regulation in China. It was designed to determine whether acarbose, an alphaglucosidase inhibitor licensed in many countries for the treatment of impaired glucose tolerance, could reduce the risk of further cardiovascular events and whether the rate of development of diabetes in this high-risk population could be lowered.

Launched in 2009 and completed in April 2017, the ACE trial was a placebo-controlled, cardiovascular outcomes trial involving 6,526 patients with coronary artery disease and impaired glucose regulation from 176 hospitals in the Peoples Republic of China. Participants were randomised to receive acarbose 50mg, or matching placebo, orally three times daily with meals. The primary endpoint was a five-point composite outcome of cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, hospitalisation for unstable angina or hospitalisation for heart failure in the two groups of patients. The median length of follow-up was five years.

The trial did not demonstrate superiority for the primary endpoint, with no reduction seen with acarbose in the risk of major adverse cardiovascular events. It did, however, show a significant 18% reduction in the incidence of new-onset diabetes with acarbose, compared with placebo, with a number needed to treat of 41 to prevent one case of diabetes.

The study is published today in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology entitled, "Effects of Acarbose on Cardiovascular and Diabetes Outcomes in Patients with Coronary Heart Disease and Impaired Glucose Tolerance: A Randomised Controlled Trial" [doi: 10.1016/S2213-8587(17)30309-1]. A slide deck summarising the presentation can be downloaded here [www.ACE-study.org/], and a Chinese version here.

Professor Rury Holman of Oxford University, Chair of the study, commented "ACE provides reassurance that acarbose may be used safely to improve blood glucose levels in people with coronary heart disease and impaired glucose regulation with no impact on rates of cardiovascular complications or heart failure". "The reduced incidence of diabetes seen with acarbose in the ACE trial may, however, help reduce cardiovascular risk in the longer term by delaying the onset of diabetes in the high-risk population studied."

ACE was designed, run, and analyzed independently by the University of Oxford Diabetes Trials Unit in collaboration with Professor Changyu Pan (Professor in the Endocrinology Department at the PLA General Hospital in Beijing), and Professor Dayi Hu (Chief of the Intervention Centre at Peking University People's Hospital in Beijing). It was sponsored by the University of Oxford with funding provided by Bayer AG.

In the News

EXSCEL PRIMARY RESULTS PRESENTED AT THE 53RD EASD ANNUAL MEETING IN LISBON

Diabetes is a widespread and increasing problem currently affecting 30.3 million Americans, 4.5 million people living in the United Kingdom, and 422 million people worldwide. In 2015, an estimated 1.6 million deaths worldwide were directly caused by diabetes. There is a clear need to improve health outcomes, particularly for cardiovascular events, which represent the greatest burden in terms of morbidity and mortality.

The EXenatide Study of Cardiovascular Event Lowering (EXSCEL) was among the largest ever carried out in type 2 diabetes, setting out to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a once-weekly extended-release formulation of exenatide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist. The drug works by mimicking a hormone in that reduces blood sugar levels after meals but its impact on heart disease is unknown.

Launched in 2009 and completed in April 2017, the EXSCEL trial was a Phase IIIb/IV, double-blind, placebo-controlled, global cardiovascular outcomes trial involving 14,752 patients with type 2 diabetes in 35 countries. Participants - who were eligible with or without additional cardiovascular risk factors or prior cardiovascular events - all received usual type 2 diabetes care and were randomized to receive subcutaneous injections of 2mg exenatide once-weekly, or a matching placebo. The trial compared the risk of major adverse cardiac events (MACE) - a composite endpoint of cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction or non-fatal stroke - in the two groups of patients. The median length of follow-up was 3.2 years.

The trial met its primary safety objective of non-inferiority for MACE. The efficacy objective of a superior reduction in MACE did not reach statistical significance, although a prespecified analysis suggested all-cause mortality was lower with exenatide than placebo.

The results were presented today at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) 53rd annual meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. They were also published simultaneously in the New England Journal of Medicine entitled "Effects of Once-Weekly Exenatide on Cardiovascular Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1612917]". A slide deck summarising the presentation can be downloaded here [www.EXSCEL-study.org].

EXSCEL was run jointly by the DCRI and the University of Oxford Diabetes Trials Unit (DTU).

"The study results show that exenatide had no adverse effects on cardiovascular health, meaning that the drug could have an acceptable CV safety profile in people with type 2 diabetes who may have a wide range of existing cardiovascular conditions," said the DTU's Director Rury R. Holman, who co-led the study. "There did not seem to be any increase in the risk of hypoglycemia, acute pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, or medullary thyroid carcinoma."

"It's encouraging for the field of diabetes to see these results in patients similar to what we see in clinical practice can have a potentially lower risk of death from all causes with the convenience of once-weekly dosing," said the DCRI's Adrian F. Hernandez, MD, MHS, Holman's co-leader on the trial. "This confirms the importance of carrying out large studies to evaluate impacts on cardiovascular outcomes. EXSCEL largely mirrored what we've learned from other studies of this class of medications - that they are safe and may have outcomes benefits."

In addition to Holman and Hernandez, co-authors on the EXCSEL paper were Angelyn Bethel,MD, from the DTU, and Robert Mentz, MD; Vivian Thompson, MPH; Yuliya Lokhnygina, PhD; and Neha Pagidipati, MD, MPH, from Duke and DCRI.

VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

THEME COORDINATOR AND FACILITATOR FOR NIHR DATABASE

Grade 7: £31,604 - £38,833 p.a.

THIS IS A READVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

We are seeking an enthusiastic Theme Coordinator and Facilitator for NIHR Database to work within a research team headed by Professor R Thakker, FRS, at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM), at the University of Oxford Churchill Hospital site.

The successful applicant will work on a project funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Rare Disease Translational Research Collaboration (TRC).

The NIHR has established a Rare Diseases Translational Research Collaboration (RD TRC) to increase research collaborations that will lead to improved diagnosis, treatment and care for people with rare diseases.

The postholder will oversee the collection, processing and storage of data and samples. The successful candidate will work closely with the support staff and the research team to ensure that all the requirements for the study are in place, necessary regulatory and ethics approvals are obtained and the clinical study meets the governance criteria. The Theme Coordinator and Facilitator for NIHR Database will be responsible for preparing and presenting status reports as well as preparing regular updates and promotional materials for all stakeholders.

Candidates should have experience in using databases, be knowledgeable in research theory and practice and competent in data organisation. The successful applicant should be educated to masters level in a relevant discipline or have equivalent knowledge and experience. Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills are essential to this post. GCP training and knowledge of NIHR landscape and rare disease initiatives would be an advantage.

This position is full-time, fixed-term for 12 months.

Please quote ref 130886 on all correspondence. You will be required to upload a CV and supporting statement as part of your online application.

Only applications received before 12.00 midday on 6 October 2017 can be considered. Interviews will be held on 17 October 2017.

VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS

Grade 7: £31,604 - £38,833 p.a.

We are seeking an enthusiastic postdoctoral research assistant in Functional Genomics to work within a vibrant research team headed by Professor R Thakker, FRS at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM), at the University of Oxford Churchill Hospital site.

The successful applicant will join an interdisciplinary team from the Thakker laboratory investigating the mechanisms of G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) signalling that involve the calcium-sensing receptor, and their aetiology in human disorders of calcium and glucose metabolism.

The postholder will have responsibility for designing and implementing projects to define the molecular mechanisms for calcium-sensing receptor, a GPCR, dysfunction using a range of human, in vitro and in vivo preclinical models.

Candidates should have a PhD in molecular biology, human genetics, biochemistry or a closely related field or be close to obtaining one. Relevant laboratory experience in genetics, mammalian cell culture, complex molecular cloning, transfection of mammalian cells, siRNA knockdown and over-expression in mammalian cell lines is essential for this post. Experience studying pre-clinical models would be an advantage.

The position is full-time, fixed-term until 30 September 2020 in the first instance and funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Please quote ref. 130982 on all correspondence. You will be required to upload a CV and supporting statement as part of your online application.

Only applications received before 12.00 midday on 6 October 2017 can be considered. Interviews will be held on 17 October 2017.

VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH FACILITATOR - OXFORD METABOLIC HEALTH

Grade 8: £39,992 - £47,722 p.a. (pro rata for part-time)

THIS IS A READVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

We are seeking a Research Facilitator to support the coordination and promotion of metabolic research across the University of Oxford, as part of Oxford Metabolic Health (OMH). OMH brings together researchers from multiple University departments to enable strategic integration of research activities in metabolism, diabetes and obesity.

The postholder will provide critical administrative and scientific support for OMH. Responsibilities will be varied and range from strategic input into research direction, liaison with the internal and external scientific community, support for recruitment efforts and funding applications, coordination of meetings and workshops, and development of a website.

The postholder should have a thorough understanding of the full cycle of research funding, and experience of project management in academic and/or industrial settings. A scientific background is essential, and experience of metabolic research would be beneficial. Candidates should have extremely strong communication and organisational skills.

The position is full-time however, part-time work at a minimum of 0.60 FTE would be considered. This post is funded for 2.5 years by the John Fell Fund.

Appointment of suitable candidates at Grade 7 (£31,604 - £38,833 p.a., pro rata for part-time) may be possible with some amendment to the job specifications.

Please quote 130924 on all correspondence. You will be required to upload a CV and supporting statement as part of your online application.

Only applications received before 12.00 midday on 13 October 2017 can be considered.

VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS
Grade 7: £31,604 - £38,833 p.a.

We are seeking an enthusiastic postdoctoral research assistant in Functional Genomics to work within a vibrant research team headed by Professor R Thakker, FRS at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM), at the University of Oxford Churchill Hospital site.

The successful applicant will join an interdisciplinary team from the Thakker laboratory investigating the mechanisms of G-protein coupled receptor (GPCR) signalling that involve the calcium-sensing receptor, and their aetiology in human disorders of calcium and glucose metabolism.

The postholder will have responsibility for designing and implementing projects to define the molecular mechanisms for calcium-sensing receptor, a GPCR, dysfunction using a range of human, in vitro and in vivo preclinical models.

Candidates should have a PhD in molecular biology, human genetics, biochemistry or a closely related field or be close to obtaining one. Relevant laboratory experience in genetics, mammalian cell culture, complex molecular cloning, transfection of mammalian cells, siRNA knockdown and over-expression in mammalian cell lines is essential for this post. Experience studying pre-clinical models would be an advantage.

The position is full-time, fixed-term until 30 September 2020 in the first instance and funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Please quote ref. 130982 on all correspondence. You will be required to upload a CV and supporting statement as part of your online application.

Only applications received before 12.00 midday on 6 October 2017 can be considered. Interviews will be held on 17 October 2017.

VACANCIES IN THE DEPARTMENT

CLINICAL TRIAL MANAGER

Grade 7: £31,604 - £38,833 p.a.

THIS IS A READVERTISEMENT. PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.

The Diabetes Trials Unit (DTU) forms a key part of the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism within the Radcliffe Department of Medicine. The Unit designs, runs and analyses early-phase translational research studies, as well as large-scale multinational clinical outcome trials.

The DTU is looking to expand its Trial Management capabilities with an exciting opportunity for an individual wanting to develop their existing knowledge of clinical trials. Working primarily on early phase, academically led trials run by the Unit's Translational Research Group (TRG) you will provide crucial support to the TRG Project Manager. You will be responsible for; preparing regulatory and ethical submission documents, for planning and co-ordinating your assigned trial(s) throughout their life cycle to ensure successful delivery and to closely monitor progress against key performance indicators. Candidates must have proven clinical trial management experience and excellent organisation and communication skills. They will have experience of working collaboratively and be able to work independently and think analytically. The postholder will also hold a degree.

This is a full-time post, fixed-term for 2 years the first instance. Requests for an informal discussion should be sent to: joanne.milton@dtu.ox.ac.uk.

Please quote vacancy number 131037 in all correspondence.

Only applications received before 12.00 midday on 27 September 2017 can be considered. Interviews are scheduled for 11 October 2017.

OCDEM SAF

The sign-up sheet for the Michaelmas term Friday Seminar Series has been posted outside the kitchen. Final year students who will be confirming during the 2017-2018 academic year, should contact Mandy or Maia once dates have been agreed with their supervisors and examiners.

Graduate students will be given priority for slots, but any other researchers in OCDEM are encouraged to sign-up for a session to inform others about their research projects.

Information about slot times are shown on the sign-up sheet and are summarised below:

1st year student	10 min + 5 min discussion	1/3 slot (book 1/2 slot) (only 2 per session)
2nd year student	20 min + 10 min discussion	1/2 slot
3rd year student	40 min + 15 min discussion	full slot (please book two rows)
Others 20 min or 40 min		1/2 slot or full slot

Hilary and Trinity term dates will be released later.

Any questions please contact the SAF Friday seminar series organisers: Amanda Bennett and Marijana Todorcevic'

DIESEL GENERATOR TEST

Just to remind you that September's standby generator tests will take place on Thursday and Friday this week.

Please note that in ALL cases there will be unavoidable power cuts at the start (about 20 seconds) and at the end (about 15 seconds) of the test.

Areas affected:

Thursday 21st September 10.00 – 12.00 OCDEM Server Room/Ward 7

Friday 22nd September 08.00 – 10.00 OCDEM Main Building

Dates for the Standby Generator Tests for 2017 can be found on the website

https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet/facilities-and-health-safety/facilities/ocdem-planned-maintenance-work

20% OFF BLENHEIM PALACE LIT FEST EVENTS

University staff and students can enjoy a 20% discount on all festival talks at this year's Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film and Music

The Festival, taking place between Thursday 12 and Sunday 15 October, brings a wealth of renowned speakers to Woodstock including Melvyn Bragg, Sue MacGregor, A C Grayling and Justine Picardie.

To take advantage of the discount, simply quote OUBLENHEIM when booking.

There is also a new student ticket price of £6 this year – the 20% code may also be applied to the student ticket price for a further discount.

Tickets includes entry to the park and gardens of the estate and free parking on the day of the event (adult price is normally £15.30).

Keep an eye on Staff Gateway for a competition to win a day out for two people at the Festival on Saturday 14 October.

50% OFF OXFORD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL TICKETS

Oxford Chamber Music Festival (OCMF) are offering a 50% discount to all University Staff and students for the Fata Morgana event on the evening of Wednesday 27th September at 7.30pm.

Hosted by the Sheldonian Theatre, with performances from Dame Evelyn Glennie and composer-in-residence, Latvian Peteris Vasks, the event promises to be a "world-class" experience. Any staff or student under 25 can buy tickets at the door for £5 with their University card, all that is required is a University Card to be shown at the door.

Please visit the OCMF website for more information on the performances and a list of the other concerts taking place.