

### WELCOME

#### From Professor Alastair Buchan, Head of the Medical Sciences Division and Dean of the Medical School

Summer is finally here and I hope you are all taking the opportunity to enjoy the good weather with your colleagues, friends and families. For those of you journeying near and far, I wish you safe travels and happy holidays.

I want to thank you for all your efforts and hard work during the academic year as August brings 2012–2013 to a close. I also want to thank you for all the positive comments we received after our inaugural issue of *OxfordMedSci News*, and encourage you to keep sending in suggestions so we can continue to improve this e-newsletter and make it as useful as we can.

*OxfordMedSci News* aims to reduce email traffic by bringing together important and useful information that was previously sent out from many sources in multiple emails, so please be sure to click through to avoid missing out on news and opportunities. In particular, please see the new [Opportunities and Updates](#) section, which lists funding opportunities and specific research related updates.

Perhaps especially at this time of the year we should try to find the time to reflect on and celebrate our successes, which have been many and varied across the division over the year. Our academics, students, support staff, research groups and departments received numerous awards and accolades, a number of innovative research initiatives and collaborations started up, and our research continues to grow in strength and international impact. To learn more about our remarkable achievements, please see [In the News](#).

Finally, *OxfordMedSci News* aims to showcase the division's diversity (and it truly is diverse – our first issue went to over 8000 staff and students, across sixteen departments), by introducing a different lab in each issue. Therefore, if you'd like your lab or research group to feature in a future edition, please contact [communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk)



### SIXTY SECONDS WITH ...

#### Dr Bríd Cronin, Athena Swan Coordinator

We talk to Dr Bríd Cronin, Athena SWAN Coordinator, about her role, the Athena SWAN Charter, and her inter-departmental cycling adventures...

#### Tell us a little about your role

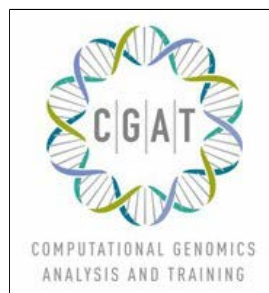
My role is to help Departments in the Division to prepare applications for Athena SWAN awards. This involves advising on the requirements for the awards, sourcing and analysing staff and student data, carrying out staff and student opinion surveys, suggesting possible actions to improve the environment for all, and providing support for the implementation of action plans across the division.

[Read more...](#)



### LAB TALK: MRC UNIVERSITY UNITS

In July 2013, the Medical Sciences Division welcomed two new research units into the fold. The [Medical Research Council \(MRC\) Functional Genomics Unit](#), directed by Prof Dame Kay Davies, and the [MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit](#), directed by Prof Peter Somogyi, became University of Oxford/MRC university units. [Read more about the new MRC university units...](#)



In this issue of Lab Talk, we speak to Drs Rebecca Bryant (Research Manager) and Andreas Heger, (Technical Director) from the [Computational Genomics: Analysis and Training \(CGAT\)](#) programme in the MRC Functional Genomics Unit.

#### Tell us a little about CGAT

CGAT is not your standard lab. In fact, it's unique! CGAT's mission is to train biologists in computational genomics, in particular in NGS (next-generation sequencing) analyses. We do this by providing in-depth training over three years for our Genomics Training Fellows. [Read more...](#)

### ATHENA SWAN NEWS

#### In this issue:

- Equality and Diversity for Academics: Factsheets
- Developing a career in academic medicine
- Government consultation on women in STEM

### LIBRARY NEWS

#### In this issue:

- Find us
- Research Skills Toolkit shortlisted as an example of Best Practice
- Martindale is now available online
- Open Access Update
- New Leadership Books

### USEFUL LINKS

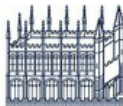
Find out more about what's happening across the Division:

- [In the News](#)
- [Current Seminars and Events](#)

Do you have news or events that you would like to promote? If so, please contact [Alison](mailto:alison)



[Read more...](#)



Bodleian Libraries  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## INFORMATION SECURITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

### [Information Security Guidelines](#)

All staff and students working with confidential, sensitive or restricted data have a responsibility to keep this data secure and ensure that the integrity of the data is maintained. This is to prevent (1) **data loss** and (2) **unauthorised access**. Please read the following documents for further guidance: [MSD Information Security Guidelines](#), [Information Security Memo for Staff](#), [Information Security Encryption Flow Chart](#) (University network only)



### [Social Media Guidelines](#)

Guidance notes for staff and students who use or are planning to use social media to communicate professionally (includes [Social Media Guidelines](#), [Key Points to Note](#), [Strategy Template](#), [Resources](#), [Media Consent Form](#)) (University network only)

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS WANTS YOU TO TAKE PART IN ITS FUTURE

All MSD staff and students are invited to become members of the Trust and can stand for election to the Council of Governors. Information sessions to answer any membership queries will take place in September.

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Oxford University Hospitals   
NHS Trust

## OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

### [Important Updates](#)

[Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards](#) These awards require a draft letter of Institutional Support. This draft must be submitted to Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood ([matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk)), 14 days preceding relevant Wellcome Trust deadline

[Clinical Excellence Award Schemes](#) Now accepting applications (for new and renewal application): Internal deadline 5pm, Friday 16 August 2013

[The Vice Chancellor's Diversity Fund](#) A new fund to promote diversity in senior research and academic posts – focusing first on the under-representation of women

[Oxford Research Staff Society](#) Recently launched to provide research staff with a voice and networking opportunities. Join the mailing list, email [researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk)

### [Funding Opportunities](#)

[Medical Research Fund](#) To support research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division. 2013–2014 deadlines announced

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[The Sir Jules Thorn Award for Medical Research](#) To support translational biomedical research: Internal process and deadlines announced

[Now open: The 2nd Oxford Targets call](#) Developing novel antibodies against potential therapeutic targets in collaboration with UCB–Pharma: Deadline Friday 13 September, 2013

[Shionogi Science Programme 2013](#) Funding available for collaborative projects in drug discovery

### [Studentships](#)

[MRC Toxicology \(ITTP\) Studentship Competition for Oct 2014 Intake](#) Now Open: Internal deadline 12pm, Monday 25 November 2013

### [Engagement Opportunities](#)

[Oxford Sparks](#) Engaging the public with Oxford Science. Supporting scientists at Oxford sharing their research with the public via animations, blogs, podcasts, social media and other digital formats.

[Oxfordshire Science Festival](#) Interested in public engagement? Oxfordshire Science Festival is looking for volunteer scientists

[Royal Society Pairing Scheme for MPs, Civil Servants and Scientists 2013](#) Call for applications, deadline Monday 26 August

# Opportunities and Updates

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# Sixty Seconds with ...

Dr Bríd Cronin, Athena SWAN Coordinator



We talk to Dr Bríd Cronin, Athena SWAN Coordinator, about her role, the Athena SWAN Charter, and her inter-departmental cycling adventures...

## **Tell us a little about your role.**

My role is to help Departments in the Division to prepare applications for Athena SWAN awards. This involves advising on the requirements for the awards, sourcing and analysing staff and student data, carrying out staff and student opinion surveys, suggesting possible actions to improve the environment for all, and providing support for the implementation of action plans across the division.

## **But what is Athena Swan? And why is it important?**

The [Athena SWAN \(Scientific Women's Academic Network\) Charter](#) recognises commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia.

The beliefs underpinning the Charter are:

- The advancement of science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine is fundamental to quality of life across the globe
- It is vitally important that women are adequately represented in what has traditionally been, and is still, a male-dominated area
- Science cannot reach its full potential unless it can benefit from the talents of the whole population, and until women and men can benefit equally from the opportunities it affords

Departments can apply for Athena SWAN awards at three levels, bronze, silver and gold, with each level of award requiring further evidence of the impact of initiatives to support women's careers.

Four departments in the Medical Sciences Division currently hold Bronze awards; Biochemistry, Clinical Neurosciences, Experimental Psychology and Primary Care Health Sciences. Nine further departments are awaiting the outcome of their submissions, made at the end of April.

The Medical Sciences Division is committed to providing an inclusive environment which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected, to assist them in reaching their full potential. Athena SWAN awards provide a useful mechanism to achieve this goal. Athena SWAN received a major boost in 2011, when the Chief Medical Officer announced that the National Institute for Health Research would only expect to shortlist medical schools for biomedical research centre and unit funding if the school holds a Silver Athena SWAN award.

## **What's currently at the top of your to do list?**

Six departments from the Division are applying for awards in November. I'm currently reviewing draft applications and plotting data for this round. I'm also providing support, in the form of workshops, to implement common actions across the Division e.g. personal development reviews, mentoring and creating a supportive, inclusive culture. The University of Oxford must also renew its Athena SWAN Bronze award this November; I have been contributing to the working group for this submission which is led by colleagues from the [Equality and Diversity Unit](#).

## **When you aren't diligently dealing with Athena Swan matters, what keeps you busy?**

To clear my head, I love to stay active and be outside. I'm lucky that I get to cycle between departments several times a week but I cycle a bit further on weekends. I also run around Oxford making the most of the parks and open spaces, I dance and occasionally lift heavy weights. When my body needs a break too I read whatever I can get my hands on.

To find out more about the [Athena SWAN \(Scientific Women's Academic Network\) Charter](#), please see <http://www.athenaswan.org.uk/>

# MRC University Units

In July 2013, the Medical Sciences Division welcomed two new research units into the fold. The Medical Research Council (MRC) Functional Genomics Unit (FGU), directed by Prof Dame Kay Davies, and the MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit (ANU), directed by Prof Peter Somogyi, became University of Oxford/MRC university units.

The MRC has been undertaking – in partnership with relevant universities – a process of transferring some of its units to the full management of a partner university; a process that has already seen the MRC Molecular Haematology Unit and Human immunology Unit at the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine become University of Oxford university units. This aim of these transfers is to increase the value and quantity of science conducted in the MRC's research units by maximising the resources available for research, for example by reducing administration costs and by leveraging extra funds.



The transfer to a university to form an MRC university unit occurs only where there is a shared long-term vision for science between the unit and the university and a clear strategic challenge which cannot be met with ordinary MRC grants.

Peter Robbins, head of the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics (DPAG) which will host the MRC Functional Genomics Unit (FGU) commented: “The Department and the MRC FGU have always enjoyed a close working relationship. The expertise present within the MRC FGU has contributed enormously to the work of the Department, and within the Department, we like to think that our experimental groups have supported the mission of the MRC FGU and provided insights that otherwise would not have been possible. The close association of the MRC FGU with DPAG really does work extraordinarily well, and the transfer of the Unit into the University and Department was a very logical next step. For the Department, however, it really hasn't been such a large leap as it might first appear to someone outside, simply because we are so used to working closely together and benefitting from each other's expertise.”

The MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit (ANU) will be part of the Department of Pharmacology. Head of the Department, Antony Galione said: “The Department of Pharmacology is delighted to foster an ever-closer relationship with the MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit (ANU) through its transition to an MRC University Unit. First under David Smith's, and now Peter Somogyi's directorship, the Unit has rightly gained the reputation as the world's pre-eminent centre for the structural, pharmacological and in vivo electrophysiological analysis of mammalian neuronal circuitry. This world-class research will continue from 2015 under the Directorship of Peter Brown. The Department is proud to be associated with such distinguished researchers from the MRC Unit, and looks forward to working together towards a common vision of research excellence. Future collaborations will build on the productive interactions that the ANU and Department have enjoyed in the past and will tackle some of the most important human neurological diseases.”

**Find out about the two new university units at:**

**[MRC Functional Genomics Unit](#)**

**[MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit](#)**

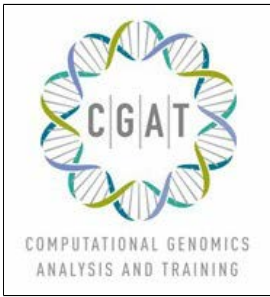
## **Related Links:**

Don't miss two new videos that explain the history, achievements and current activities of the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM):

- [WIMM Introduction for a Scientific Audience](#)
- [WIMM Introduction for a Lay Audience](#)

# Lab Talk

In this issue of LabTalk, we speak to Drs Rebecca Bryant (Research Manager) and Andreas Heger, (Technical Director) from the Computational Genomics: Analysis and Training (CGAT) programme in the MRC Functional Genomics Unit



## Tell us a little about the Computational Genomics: Analysis and Training (CGAT) lab

CGAT is not your standard lab. In fact, it's unique!

CGAT's mission is to train biologists in computational genomics, in particular in NGS (next-generation sequencing) analyses. We do this by providing in-depth training over three years for our Genomics Training Fellows. Our Fellows are trained in all aspects of computational genomics and, once proficient, they put their skills to practical use by collaborating on projects in the field. CGAT collaborates with scientists across the UK on a variety of projects in a number of areas such as immunology, lincRNA, prostate cancer, osteoarthritis and epigenetics. On leaving CGAT, Fellows will return to their original disciplines and take on a leading research role by being able to combine both wet-lab and dry-lab methods.

Genomics is a very fast-moving area, with novel data sets and analyses appearing weekly, and interpretation methods developing and evolving continuously. The challenge for us is to gain biological insight from these very large and complex data sets.

An important distinction to make is that CGAT is not a bioinformatics core group or service, but works as a scientific collaborator on these projects – aiming to provide equal input to the design, interpretation and publication of a study under a joint-first authorship model.

CGAT is headed up by a Director (Prof Chris Ponting) and a Technical Director (Dr Andreas Heger), who are supported by three other senior staff—a Lead Scientist, a Research Manager and a Bioinformatics Systems Administrator. In addition, there are eight post-doctoral Genomics Training Fellows—the people who we train in NGS analyses. These are biologists from a variety of disciplines—human genetics, immunology, cell biology and developmental biology.



## Why is the work of CGAT important?

The CGAT programme is very important because it addresses the UK's acute shortage of skills and capacity in the interpretation of high-throughput genomics. By providing biologists with deep training in NGS analyses, CGAT is, today, training the trainers of tomorrow.



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

We will have a number of different things going on in CGAT during any given day. The Genomics Training Fellows will always be working on their projects, but this is interspersed with a variety of other activities—weekly and monthly training meetings; group meetings (where we catch up on one another's research); a weekly journal club; and training activities such as Open University courses and MOOCs (open online courses).

## How has being at Oxford helped CGAT?

We benefit from being hosted by the MRC Functional Genomics Unit in Oxford in a number of ways – we share joint divisional meetings with other groups in the Unit, and we benefit from the Unit's strength in genome annotation and comparative genomics. However, our aim is to collaborate with scientists across the UK (not just those in Oxford) and we are currently working with scientists from a number of institutions up and down the country.



## How do you see your field developing in the next ten years? What are the obstacles (technical or otherwise) to getting there?

Genomics is highly versatile and informs many other fields such as immunology, genetics and ecology. With ever-increasing sequencing capacity, adoption of NGS methods, and a continually-growing body of data, the interpretation skills shortage is not going to disappear. Instead, it will become even more acute. In addition, storage of the growing body of data is increasingly becoming a problem.

## Useful Links:

[Computational Genomics: Analysis and Training \(CGAT\)](#)

[MRC Functional Genomics Unit](#)

Would you like your lab/centre/unit to feature in a future issue of Lab Talk? For further information, please contact [communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:communications@medsci.ox.ac.uk).



# Athena SWAN News

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3. [Government consultation on women in STEM](#)

## Equality and Diversity for Academics: Factsheets

Four short factsheets designed to help raise awareness among academic staff of their responsibilities in the area of equality and diversity. Issues covered are: the legal framework; inclusive practice; pastoral care; and promoting good relations.



For more information, please see <http://www.ecu.ac.uk/publications/e-and-d-for-academics-factsheets>

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## Developing a career in academic medicine

**Monday 30 September 2013, 12:00 – 18:00, Emmanuel College, Cambridge**

Are you interested in expanding your professional network? Are you looking for career development support?

'Developing a career in academic medicine' is a unique event hosted by the Academy of Medical Sciences that will give clinical academic trainees the soft skills and networking opportunities to propel your career forward.

The event will feature a keynote talk by Professor Peter Piot FMedSci, Director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, on his inspiring career. Professor Patrick Maxwell FMedSci, Regius Professor of Physics, University of Cambridge, will chair the event.

You will:

- Learn about how to take advantage of the recent changes in the NHS.
- Discover how to leverage your network for career success.
- Network with senior academics from across clinical disciplines.

Email [mentoring@acmedsci.ac.uk](mailto:mentoring@acmedsci.ac.uk) or call 020 3176 2160 to register to attend.

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## Government consultation on women in STEM

The Science and Technology Committee has agreed to hold an inquiry into women in academic STEM careers and seeks written submissions on the following matters:

- Why do numbers of women in STEM academic careers decline further up the career ladder?
- When women leave academia, what careers do they transition into? What are the consequences of scientifically trained women applying their skills in different employment sectors?
- What should universities and the higher education sector do to retain women graduates and PhD students in academic careers? Are there examples of good practice?
- What role should the Government have in encouraging the retention of women in academic STEM careers?

Find out more about the enquiry at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news/130625-women-in-stem-careers/>

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# Library News

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## Find us

### Bodleian Health Care Libraries

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/medicine/contact>

[✉hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

#### Cairns Library (John Radcliffe Hospital)

Accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Phone 01865 221936

#### Knowledge Centre (Old Road Campus)

Accessible 9am–6pm Monday to Friday

Phone 01865 225815



### Radcliffe Science Library

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science/contact>

[✉enquiries.rsl@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries.rsl@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

Opening hours:

Term-time: Monday – Friday 8:30am–10pm, Saturday 10am–4pm, Sunday 11am–5pm

Vacation: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 7pm, Saturday 10am – 2pm

Phone 01865 272800

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## Research Skills Toolkit shortlisted as an example of Best Practice

The Research Skills Toolkit, designed and run jointly by Bodleian Libraries and IT Services, has been shortlisted as one of 15 examples of best practice in information skills training for postgraduate students in the UK by the Research Information and Digital Literacies Coalition (RIDLS). The full report and short list are available on the project website at <http://rilads.wordpress.com>. Bodleian Health Care Libraries staff provide 4 Research Skills Toolkit sessions per year, and have about 30 postgraduates attending each session.

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## Martindale is now available online

We are pleased to inform you that we have bought 8 new resources from MedicinesComplete, including Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference. These are all listed in SOLO for easy off-campus access.

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## Open Access Update

The RCUK Open Access Decision Tree is now available at <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/decision-tree>

Also added is a page on meeting Wellcome Trust requirements – it includes a list of FAQs, which help to explain which kinds of papers are covered by the policy and more detailed information about how to comply: <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/meeting-wellcome-trust-requirements-for-open-access-at-oxford>

To keep up to date with what's happening and to contact us with any queries (online form, email or 'live chat') visit the Open Access website: <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk>

The **next Open Access Oxford workshop is on Wed 14th August**, 14.00–15.00 at the Radcliffe Science Library – book at

<http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk/detail/TZW7>

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## New Leadership books

As part of our efforts to support the various leadership initiatives in the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, we provide a wide range of leadership and management textbooks which are also available for all members of the University to borrow.

The list of leadership and management books held at the Cairns Library and Knowledge Centre is available online:

<http://tinyurl.com/ouhleadershipmanagement> and you can also search SOLO for a specific title.  
If there's a book you need that we haven't got please let us know: [✉ hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hcl-enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)  
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### **Parallel Universe poetry competition 2013**

The Radcliffe Science Library, in association with the Museum of the History of Science, is currently running the 2nd Parallel Universe Poetry Competition, on the theme of Science and Medicine. The closing date is 13 September 2013 and entry is open to all members of Oxford University.

Further details and an entry form can be found at

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/science/poetry-competition-2013>

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# Oxford University Hospitals wants you to take part in its future

Oxford University Hospitals wants you to take part in its future



All MSD staff and students are invited to become members of the Trust and can stand for election to the Council of Governors. Information sessions to answer any membership queries will take place in September.

## What is the membership scheme for?

To enable staff to ask questions on Foundation Trust membership, and what it means, we will have tables at all Trust sites before the Staff Governor Sessions take place on:

Wednesday 4 September	11 - 3pm	Atrium, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre
Friday 6 September	11 - 3pm	West Wing, John Radcliffe Hospital
Wednesday 11 September	11 - 3pm	Main entrance, Churchill
Thursday 12 September	11 - 3pm	Level 2, John Radcliffe Hospital

Please come along to find out more.

The Trust's application for Foundation Trust status has now been passed to the NHS Trust Development Authority (TDA). The timings of the next stage of the assessment process will not be known until September at the earliest. We expect to be able to start the process of elections to our Council of Governors once we have approval from the TDA to move on to assessment by Monitor, the Foundation Trust regulator. We therefore anticipate elections to our Council of Governors taking place at the end of this year, or beginning of next.

## Staff Governor Information Sessions

Before the election process begins for election to our Council of Governors, we have organised governor information workshops to inform staff members who might be interested in standing as governors about the role and the election process.

There is no commitment involved, these sessions are simply intended to provide you with more information and offer an opportunity for you to ask questions about the role.

The sessions will be run on an informal basis and will include:

- general information about the NHS and the Trust
- introduction to key people within the Trust
- a general overview of the role of governor
- commitment requirements

Session dates and times are as follows:

Monday 23 September	2 - 3.30pm	Conference Room, John Radcliffe Hospital
Wednesday 25 September	5.30 - 7pm	Cancer Room 3, Churchill
Wednesday 2 October	2 - 3.30 pm	Training Room, Horton
Monday 7 October	2 - 3.30 pm	Lecture Theatre, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre
Tuesday 8 October	2 - 3.30 pm	Cancer Room 3, Churchill
Monday 14 October	5.30 - 7pm	Training Room, Horton
Wednesday 16 October	5.30 - 7 pm	Conference Room, John Radcliffe Hospital
Monday 21 October	5.30 - 7pm	Lecture Theatre, NOC

If you would like to come along and find out more, **please register** to book a place at one of the sessions by either emailing [ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk) or calling (7) 43491.

**Want to become a member?**

You can join on-line at [www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/ft) or email [ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk) with your contact details and a membership form will be sent to you.

# Important Updates

## Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards

These awards require a draft letter of Institutional Support. This draft must be submitted to Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood ([matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk)), 14 days preceding relevant Wellcome Trust deadline



All Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards (New and Senior) require a detailed letter of support from the Head of the Division. The process for generating this supporting letter is that a draft letter should be submitted to the Associate Head of Division (Research), Professor Matthew Wood ([matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.wood@dpag.ox.ac.uk)), for review and approval prior to obtaining the Head of Division's signature.

Draft letters should be submitted for approval no later than 14 days preceding the relevant Wellcome Trust deadline to ensure timely Divisional review and approval.

## Clinical Excellence Award Schemes

Now accepting applications (for new and renewal application): Internal deadline 5pm, Friday 16 August 2013

Following approval from the Department of Health the online application system for national clinical excellence awards has now opened. If you wish to apply for a national level award (bronze, silver, gold or platinum) you should access the system at

<https://www.nhsaccea.dh.gov.uk>

The website also provides you with the guidance documents to help you to complete Part 1 of the on-line application form. For Part 2 (the Employer section) to be completed, you must enter the email address of the employer on the form. For applications from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust consultant or Honorary Consultant staff, you should use [mndo.business@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:mndo.business@ouh.nhs.uk) for this purpose, and we will ensure that the Employer section is completed.

**It is essential that you complete and return Part 1 of the on-line application form AND provide a citation from your Divisional Director or Head of Department by 17.00 on Friday 16 August 2013.** The reason for this is to allow sufficient time for the Trust's ranking committee to review all the applications prior to submitting a ranked order to the ACCEA and also to complete the Employer section of the form. The process of ranking the applications is considered very important by the ACCEA, and anyone who submits outside this time scale will not be able to be considered by the Trust's ranking committee and will therefore be at a disadvantage.

Following completion of the Employer section, the application will need to be authorised by the Chief Executive and will then be electronically returned to you, to make the final submission. **The application must be submitted by you to the ACCEA in its final, complete form by Friday 27 September 2013 at 17.00.** Please note that the automated system will shut down at this point and it will not be possible to amend or submit applications after this date for any reason.

For those considering an application, you should review carefully whether you meet the criteria before submitting your application. This information can be found in the Applicant's Guide to the scheme on the ACCEA's website here. Please make sure you read this carefully before applying. In addition, on receipt of an application, the Medical Director's office will check you have:

- Completed and submitted an annual appraisal for 2012/13 in line with Trust requirements
- Agreed a job plan for 2012/13 with your clinical director and submitted this to my office in line with Trust requirements
- Fulfilled your Statutory and Mandatory Training requirements
- Met your contractual obligations and complied with the Private Practice Code of Conduct.

If you have any queries, please contact [mndo.business@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:mndo.business@ouh.nhs.uk)

## The Vice Chancellor's Diversity Fund

A new fund to promote diversity in senior research and academic posts – focusing first on the under-representation of women



A £1m fund has been established for the advancement of diversity among academic and research staff at Oxford.

One of the primary aims of the new fund, which will be made up from both divisional and central contributions, will be to address the under-representation of women in senior research and academic posts.

The intention is to use the fund to support a broad range of initiatives, such as providing training in the avoidance of unconscious bias in recruitment, or offering support for staff returning to work after a period of maternity leave or time out caring for relatives.

The University has long been committed to increasing diversity among its academic and research staff. Oxford currently holds an institutional Athena SWAN Bronze Award, and the aim is to use the fund to help deliver a lasting change in culture across the collegiate University together with the measurable benefits that are the expectation for an institutional Silver Award.

More information about the new fund is available on the Equality and Diversity website at <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/thevice-chancellorsdiversityfund/>. Further details will be made available in Michaelmas term, including how the fund may be used and the process

for applying.

## Oxford Research Staff Society

Recently launched to provide research staff with a voice and networking opportunities. Join the mailing list, email [researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk)



The University of Oxford Research Staff Society (OxRSS) is a collective voice for researchers employed by the University of Oxford. We also organise social and professional networking activities across departments and divisions. To join the mailing list, please email [researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:researchstaff-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk)

For further information, please see <http://www.oxrss.ox.ac.uk/>

# Funding Opportunities

## Medical Research Fund

To support research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division. 2013–2014 deadlines announced  
The Medical Research Fund supports research conducted in the clinical departments of the Medical Sciences Division.

Awards are made via three funding schemes towards the overall goal to promote work in the field of medical research and to extend medical research training opportunities.

The **bridging salary support scheme** accepts applications to augment existing externally funded research activity, by providing short-term (typically 3 months) funding to cover salary costs needed in order to retain experienced research staff between external research grants, and by providing a limited scheme to support maternity leave costs.

The **startup research funding scheme** accepts applications for small (up to £10k) awards in order to enable investigators to obtain pilot data to be used to support larger scale applications for external research funding in future. All non-staff research costs, including equipment, are eligible. Priority will be given to those applications that demonstrate matching funding from other sources. This scheme will not normally provide research support for students.

The **pre-fellowship scheme** accepts applications for short-term (up to 3 months) funding to cover the salary costs of clinicians who will shortly begin an externally funded research training fellowship at Oxford.

Please email applications to the secretary of the MRF Committee [mrf@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mrf@medsci.ox.ac.uk) by the deadlines listed below. Awards will only be made with start dates that fall after than the relevant deadline; retrospective applications will not be considered. When emailing your application, please copy in your departmental administrator to demonstrate that your department is aware of the application.

### **2013–2014 deadlines:**

Michaelmas Term: Monday 28 October 2013

Hilary Term: Monday 27 January 2014

Trinity Term: Monday 28 April 2014

Summer Long Vacation: Monday 28 July 2014

For further information, please see <http://intranet.medsci.ox.ac.uk/processes/research/mrf-medical-research-fund>

## John Fell Fund

Application deadline 12pm, Wednesday 9 October 2013



The next deadline for applications to the Fund will be Wednesday 9th October 2013 (noon). This deadline applies to both Main and Small award schemes under the John Fell Fund. The John Fell Fund is intended to foster creativity and a proactive approach to research opportunities in all subject areas, and particularly interdisciplinary fields. It will make seedcorn and start-up grants, and provide staff and funds to stimulate

applications to external agencies. As the Fund is intended to complement external funding bodies, it will not duplicate the purposes of those bodies.

**Medical Sciences Divisional contact:** [jff@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jff@medsci.ox.ac.uk)

For more information, please see <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/pras/jff>

## The Sir Jules Thorn Award for Medical Research

To support translational biomedical research: Internal process and deadlines announced



Each year the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust offers a single award to support a programme of translational biomedical research. Each institution can submit one bid only and is tasked with identifying their bid from amongst their departments. The competition offers a grant of up to £1.5 million over a maximum of five

years. Full details of the scheme can be found at <http://www.julesthorntrust.org.uk/index.php/programmes/medical-research.html>

Individuals wishing to be Oxford's preferred bid need to provide the Divisional Office with an expression of interest no later than **noon on Monday 9 September 2013** in order that a preferred applicant from the Division can be identified and provided with sufficient time to finalise their expression of interest for submission to the Trust no later than 2 October 2013.

The expression of interest should consist of no more than 2 pages of A4 summarising the proposed research, and explaining why it would be suitable for a translational study, the timescale for clinical applicability, the unmet need which is to be investigated and how the research will meet that need PLUS a one page CV for the principal investigator, including main publications.

Expressions of interest should be sent to Anna Power [anna.power@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anna.power@medsci.ox.ac.uk)

## Now open: The 2nd Oxford Targets call

Developing novel antibodies against potential therapeutic targets in collaboration with UCB-Pharma: Deadline Friday 13 September, 2013

As part of the continuing Strategic Research Alliance between UCB and Oxford we are pleased to launch a call for collaborative projects to develop novel targeted antibodies against potential therapeutic targets. If you are working on a potential target that is accessible for modulation by antibodies, UCB are offering to work in partnership with your research group to develop novel antibodies for use in both pre-clinical and clinical studies, using their in-house antibody technology platforms and drawing on their extensive expertise in this area.

Expressions of interest are encouraged in a wide range of therapeutic areas including autoimmunity, CNS and metabolic disorders as well as for targets that may benefit multiple therapeutic areas. Please note that at this time we are not accepting proposals in oncology (except immunomodulatory targets) and for targets which have a purely diagnostic potential.

If you would like to meet with UCB in advance of the deadline for an informal discussion about your proposal please contact the MSD Business Development Office.

**Expressions of interest should be submitted electronically to [oxfordtargets@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxfordtargets@medsci.ox.ac.uk) by 5pm on Friday 13 September.**

For more information about Oxford Targets, please see <http://targets.medsci.ox.ac.uk/current-call-2>

## Shionogi Science Programme 2013

Funding available for collaborative projects in drug discovery



Shionogi & Co., Ltd. is a Japanese pharmaceutical company interested in working in partnership with academic groups with innovative projects in drug discovery. They have funding allocated to support a number of discrete projects up to £100K per annum. Their interest is in novel target molecules, analytical methods, and technologies for a range of therapeutic indications as well as new drug modalities and formulations.

Application period: 1:00 am 1st October 2013 – 8:00 am 31st October 2013

For more information, please see <http://www.shionogi.co.jp/ssp/>



# MRC Toxicology (ITTP) Studentship Competition for Oct 2014 Intake

Now Open: Internal deadline 12pm, Monday 25 November 2013



Five MRC ITTP 4-year studentships are available to start October 2014 funded by the MRC Toxicology Unit. Through partnerships between academia, industry and government the initiative seeks to build expertise in toxicology and related disciplines that is required to ensure the safe and effective development of drugs, chemicals and consumer products, and to provide better assessment of risk deriving from environmental exposure.

Further information is available here [http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Studentships/ITTP/index.htm#P31\\_2397](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Fundingopportunities/Studentships/ITTP/index.htm#P31_2397)

The application form requires organisational sign off, which is arranged by Clare Hayes. Please email completed applications, signed by the Head of Department to Clare Hayes ([clare.hayes@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:clare.hayes@medsci.ox.ac.uk)) by **12pm, Monday 25 November 2013**. Clare will return the signed forms to the relevant PIs by email, so that they may then submit them to Prof Andy Smith by the competition deadline of Saturday 30 November 2013.

All enquiries should be directed to Prof Andy Smith [ags5@le.ac.uk](mailto:ags5@le.ac.uk) at the Toxicology Unit NOT to MRC head office.

# Oxfordshire Science Festival

Interested in public engagement? Oxfordshire Science Festival is looking for volunteer scientists



## Question today; Discover Tomorrow

Oxfordshire Science Festival is looking for scientists who want to fulfil their public engagement requirements and have some fun sharing science with the public. OSF runs from 7 – 23 March 2014 and attracts around 30000 participants. If you want to find out more then contact Renee on [renee@oxfordshiresciencefestival.co.uk](mailto:renee@oxfordshiresciencefestival.co.uk)

# Royal Society Pairing Scheme for MPs, Civil Servants and Scientists 2013

Call for applications, deadline Monday 26 August



Applications are now open to scientists with an interest in science policy, outreach or science communication activities, a proven ability to communicate their research and at least two years of post-PhD or equivalent professional research experience. The deadline for applications is Monday 26 August 2013.

The scheme has three components:

1. A Week in Westminster (Nov 2013), organised by the Royal Society
2. Constituency / Laboratory Visits
3. Review workshop and dinner (2014)

Further details are available at <http://royalsociety.org/training/pairing-scheme/>

Any questions on the scheme and applications may be addressed to [public.affairs@royalsociety.org](mailto:public.affairs@royalsociety.org)