

Blizard Research Committee (BRC)

Monday 12 June 2023, 2.00 pm, Large Cloud and MS Teams

MINUTES

Present:

Prof William Alazawi (WA)	Dr Neil McCarthy (NM)
Carlos De Oliveira (CDO)	Prof Denise Sheer (DS)
Dr Natalie McCloskey (NMC)	Prof Cleo Bishop (CB)
Prof Kenny Linton (KL)	Prof Xavier Griffin (XG)
Prof Silvia Marino (SM)	Prof Mary Collins (MC)

Part 1: Preliminary items

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The BRC approved the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9th May.

3. Matters Arising

None

Part 2: Agenda Items

4. Bioinformatics Forum – James Boot

- James Boot delivered a presentation on different ways to support the bioinformatics forum and proposed three different scenarios: bronze, silver and gold, each option corresponding to different resources level. The gold option gathered more attention from the Committee. It includes, *inter alia*, the creation of a committee and a post to support Bioinformatics. MC proposed a Bioinformatics fellow rather than a post recruitment to make it more attractive with minimal turnover.
- MC also encouraged applicants to put this supportive Bioinformatics post in their grant applications.

5. Laboratory Management Structure – Claire Cox

- MC informed the Committee that a discussion on the laboratory structure is a bit premature at this stage as there is an idea being discussed with NMC. The Committee will be updated later on this point.
- CC provided with a quick update on the Laboratory team and its composition.
- MC also mentioned that budget will be discussed after August when the financial year is over.

6. Update and timetable for RCIF 2023

- CB informed the committee about some underspent budget. The FMD expects the next RCIF call to be more coordinated at the faculty level.
- MC proposed that recruitments go through Cleo for the next call, if eligible.
- CB will look at equipment / ideas of equipment from the Blizzard Horizon Scanning Committee to put together for the next RCIF call. The list will be circulated ahead of the next BRC in July.
- MC suggested that CB should talk to Adrian Martineau who is putting a Barts Charity bid for equipment and to Claudia Langerberg as Director of the PHURI to see if there's anything to put in the Blizzard.

Part 3: Standing Items

7. PGR Report

- KL updated the committee on the starting date of the new Research Administrator, Molly Ramalhos, who is joining the Blizzard on Monday 26 June to support PGR students for 0.8FTE of her time and research for 0.2FTE.
- KL informed the committee of a company offering £300K for PhDs. Five applications from the Blizzard out of all the applications from all the faculties have been submitted.
- MC asked NMC to check whether SBBS students received emails with general information.

8. Grant Report May 2023

- WA presented figures of the grants report for May 2023. WA stated that the institute is closing the gap in terms of applications. However, WA noted that 80% of the applications are still submitted by 1/3 of our headcount.
- XG asked the committee about the purpose of these metrics as they doesn't capture all the activity. WA informed XG that the main point of this monthly grant report is to get a sense of which direction the institute is going in. MC also added that the FMD captures these metrics in the same way and they match with the institute's data.
- WA also noted that whiteboard sessions are getting used back by colleagues.

9. Overspend on grants

- None reported. This point will be removed from the agenda for following BRC meetings. NMC will update the Committee if there's any update.

10. Honorary Staff Appointments

- The committee approved all the four applications submitted, with caveat that one these applications is not clinical.

11. Recruitments in progress

- MC provided the committee with an update on recruitment, and so did XG and SM for their respective Centres.

12. Fellowships / Major Grant Initiatives

- WA updated the committee with feedback on the large bids meeting held in the morning ahead of the BRC. WA mentioned the large MRC bid in Neuroscience, Surgery and Trauma that is in the pipeline with discussion at the faculty level ongoing.

Part 4: Other business

13. Any other business

- DS raised a question regarding the way MDTs operate. MC informed that it would be more relevant to bring this question into a further BRC meeting as these cross-cutting themes will be revised and reformulated by the faculty.
- XG informed the committee of the new Extremity Trauma Reconstruction Cluster in NST with a first network meeting that already took place in last May and the organisation of a sandpit in the pipeline.

Date of the next meeting: 31 July 2023

DRAFT

Outstanding action list

Meeting date	Ref	Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Outcome

