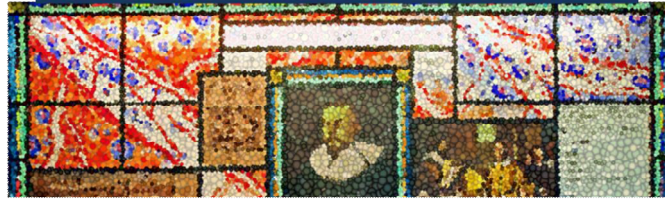


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The WHRI Newsletter



Announcements, awards, events and notices from across the institute

Hello and Welcome...

to the 13th WHRI Newsletter. In this issue, we will be looking forward to our Annual Review and looking back at our second PhD student symposium which took place in January this year. In addition we will look at some of the successes and contributions that WHRI individuals have made over the last few months.

WHRI ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

The WHRI annual Review will take place on
Wednesday the 12th of June 2019.

Keynote Speakers include:

*Ian MacIntyre Award for Excellence in
Endocrinology*

Professor Krishna Chatterjee

University of Cambridge

Derek Willoughby Medal Lecture

Professor Fiona Watt

King's College London

*Outstanding Contribution to Science Lifetime
Award Lecture*

Professor Elizabeth Simpson

Imperial College London

There will also be selected talks and posters from members of the WHRI.

If you would like to present please submit an abstract (No more than 250 words) to j.whiteford@qmul.ac.uk by no later than **Friday the 3rd of May 2019**.

This will be followed by the William Harvey Summer party on the Lawn.

**WHRI New Year Celebration and PhD
Symposium**

On the 23rd of January 2019 we held our new year celebration and PhD symposium. All final year PhD students contributed both posters and talks and we were very grateful to **Prof Mark Caulfield** for giving an amazing lecture on the work of Genomics England. Many thanks for also doing this at such short notice. Congratulations to **Monika Maciuszek** (BP) on winning the best poster prize for her project "Identification, development and evaluation of novel small molecule agonists for Formyl Peptide Receptor 2 (FPR2)". The best talk prize was won by **Michael Preedy** (CP) for his work "Inhibition of phosphodiesterase 2 reverses the development of heart failure by promoting NO/guanylyl cyclase/cGMP signalling". The afternoon was followed by another great party at the Artisan.



The William Harvey Research Foundation Prize in Lay Communication

As a postgraduate research Institute the WHRI expends considerable efforts in training scientists and clinicians in their scientific skills and in communicating their work to other scientists – including funding panels and journal editors. Such skills should always remain at the centre of postgraduate training.

However, an often undervalued and un-taught skill is the ability to communicate to non-scientists. This ability is incredibly important for your science to carry its weight and recognition in society, which ultimately has the beneficial effect of pressuring those funders and editors into supporting your work. At a more practical level though, the skill to engage non-experts in your work can lead directly to financial support for your work. Many of the leading PI's in the WHRI exemplify this ability.

The William Harvey Research Foundation has launched an ambitious campaign to raise £5 million over the next five years, so we can make more funds available on an annual basis to support more WHRI projects and studentships. To realise this, we need to be able to engage effectively with individual donors from non-science backgrounds. Potential donors must be able to understand concisely and quickly what world-leading work we do here, what we have achieved, and how their investment will support further research that fundamentally helps people.

Thus, to encourage lay communication skills the WHRF has launched a new prize aimed at scientific staff in the Institute. It is intended to be simple and quick to enter. The top ranked entries will have the opportunity to pitch their work to a typical panel of philanthropically-minded lay individuals. Hopefully this should be an stimulating exercise for everybody and may reveal to others your special talent.

Please address any enquiries and requests for entry forms to: development@whrf.org.uk

PBL Facilitator training

The annual quota for PBLs to be delivered by the WHRI will be increasing significantly next academic year. As many members of staff as possible are encouraged to do the PBL facilitator training course. The next one is on **April the 5th, 9.30-11.30** in the Boyle Lecture Theatre in the Robin Brook Centre. Training will be given by **Dr Martin Carrier** and **Dr Peter King**.

Pint of Science is Back!

SAVE THE DATE!
QMUL's Pint of Science 2019, May 20th-22nd



Tickets go on sale April 8th 2019
<https://pintofscience.co.uk/events/london>

Recent Grant Awards

BHF Project Grant £290k (**Suzuki, Perretti, Mathur, Lewis**)

European Commission IMI 3TR grant - £1,975,903 (€2.3M) – PI **C Pitzalis**

Janssen Sjogren's Collaboration - £432,289 – Joint PIs **M Bombardieri** and **C Pitzalis**

Petersen SE. CRTF for Dr Zahra Raisi Estabragh. Broken bones and broken hearts: relationships between osteoporosis and cardiovascular structure and function in UK Biobank. British Heart Foundation

Petersen SE. euCanSHare: An EU-Canada joint infrastructure for next-generation multi-Study Heart research Horizon 2020 – EU.

Petersen SE and **Barnes M** (local PI). London Medical Imaging And AI Centre for Value-Based Healthcare. Innovate UK.

Dr James Pittaway MRC Clinical Training Fellowship (Endo).

James Nicholson, Early Career Prize from Endocrine Society (10K)(Endo)

Helen Storr (Endo): Screening for stunting in East London – Co-applicant Large Barts Charity grant £499,186.00 (Feb 2019)

British Society for Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes (BSPED) Research and innovation Award. Title: Adrenal rescue of Familial Glucocorticoid Deficiency using donor specific reprogrammed cells in mice (£10,000)

Sumana Chatterjee (Storr group) just awarded Barts Charity Clinical Fellowship Functional Characterisation of Novel LZTR1 Gene Variants in Patients Presenting with Short Stature, Features of Growth Hormone Insensitivity (GHI) and Noonan Syndrome (NS)

Publications of Note

Ntalla I....Munroe PB....(CP) "Multi-ancestry genome-wide gene-smoking interaction study of 387,272 individuals identifies new loci associated with serum lipids.. Nat Genet. (Mar 2019)

Twohig JP... Jones SA. (EMR) "Activation of naïve CD4+ T cells re-tunes STAT1 signaling to deliver unique cytokine responses in memory CD4+ T cells." Nat Immunol (Jan 2019).

Humby F... Pitzalis C. (EMR) "Synovial cellular and molecular signatures stratify clinical response to csDMARD therapy and predict radiographic progression

in early rheumatoid arthritis patients." *Ann Rheum Dis.* (Mar 2019)

Hensor EMA, ...Pitzalis C, Emery P, (EMR) "IACON consortium, PEAC consortium, Conaghan PG, Morgan AW. Validity of a 2-component imaging-derived disease activity score (2C-DAS28) for improved assessment of synovitis in early rheumatoid arthritis." *Rheumatology* 2019;

Ntalla I, ... Munroe PB...(CP) "Multi-Ancestry Genome-Wide Association Study of Lipid Levels Incorporating Gene-Alcohol Interactions." *Am J Epidemiol.* (Jan 2019)

Ntalla I, ... Munroe PB..(CP ")Multi-ancestry study of blood lipid levels identifies four loci interacting with physical activity." *Nat Comms.* (Jan 2019)

Voisin MB ... Nourshargh S. (CMR) "Neutrophil elastase plays a non-redundant role in remodeling the venular basement membrane and neutrophil diapedesis post-ischemia/reperfusion injury." *J Pathol.* (Jan 2019)

Al Zoubi S,...Thiemermann C. (TMT) "Linagliptin Attenuates the Cardiac Dysfunction Associated With Experimental Sepsis in Mice With Pre-existing Type 2 Diabetes by Inhibiting NF- κ B." *Front Immunol.* (Dec 2018)

Andrikopoulos P,...Thiemermann C, Yaqoob MM. (TMT) "The MEK Inhibitor Trametinib Ameliorates Kidney Fibrosis by Suppressing ERK1/2 and mTORC1 Signaling." *J Am Soc Nephrol.* (Jan 2019)

Kieswich JE,...Thiemermann C, Yaqoob MM. (TMT) "A novel model of reno-cardiac syndrome in the C57BL/ 6 mouse strain." *BMC Nephrol.* (Dec 2018)

Bubb KJ, Aubdool AA, ... Hobbs AJ. (TMT) "Endothelial C-Type Natriuretic Peptide Is a Critical Regulator of Angiogenesis and Vascular Remodeling." *Circulation.* (Mar 2019)

Moyes AJ, ...Hobbs AJ. (TMT) "C-type natriuretic peptide co-ordinates cardiac structure and function." *Eur Heart J.* (Mar 2019)

Hobbs AJ, Moyes AJ... (TMT) "Neprilysin inhibition for pulmonary arterial hypertension: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, proof-of-concept trial." *Br J Pharmacol.* (Feb 2019)

Voisin MB, Nourshargh S. (CMR) "Neutrophil trafficking to lymphoid tissues: physiological and pathological implications." *J Pathol.* (Apr 2019)

Whiteford JR, Arokiasamy S, De Rossi G. "Translating the matrix." *Br J Pharmacol.* (Jan 2019)

Lewis-McDougall FC,... Ellison-Hughes GM. (CMR) "Aged-senescent progenitor cells contribute to impaired heart regeneration." *Aging Cell.* (Mar 2019)

Barry, S,...Korbonits, M. (Endo) "Tumor microenvironment defines the invasive phenotype of AIP-mutation-positive pituitary tumors." *Oncogene* (2019).

Mancini A, ...Dunkel L. (Endo) "EAP1 regulation of GnRH promoter activity is important for human pubertal timing." *Hum Mol Genet.* (Jan 2019).

Oulès B,...Watt FM. (Endo) "Mutant Lef1 controls Gata6 in sebaceous gland development and cancer." *EMBO J.* (Mar 2019).

Maharaj A,...Guasti L. (Endo) "Isolated glucocorticoid deficiency: Genetic causes and animal models." *J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol.* (Feb 2019)

Papathomas TG,...Guasti L, Walch AK. (Endo) "Novel methods in adrenal research: a metabolomics approach." *Histochem Cell Biol.* (Mar 2019)

Maharaj A, ...Metherell LA. (Endo) "Predicted Benign and Synonymous Variants in CYP11A1 Cause Primary Adrenal Insufficiency Through Missplicing." *J Endocr Soc.* (Oct 2018)

Bruschetta G,...Chan LF. (Endo) "Overexpression of melanocortin 2 receptor accessory protein 2 (MRAP2) in adult paraventricular MC4R neurons regulates energy intake and expenditure." *Mol Metab.* (Dec 2018).

Stojanovic, M.,...Korbonits, M. (Endo) "Circulating aryl hydrocarbon receptor-interacting protein (AIP) is independent of GH secretion." *Endocrine Connections*. (2019)

Castinetti, F.,...Baudin, E. (Endo) "Natural history, treatment, and long-term follow up of patients with multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2B: an international, multicentre, retrospective study. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol* (2019).

Robinson R, ..., Glocker B. (ACI) "Automated quality control in image segmentation: application to the UK Biobank cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging study." *J Cardiovasc Magn Reson* (Mar 2019)

Petersen SE, ... Black N. (ACI) "Using patient-reported outcome measures for primary percutaneous coronary intervention." *Open Heart* (Feb 2019)

Petersen SE, ... Piechnk S, (ACI) "Independent Left Ventricular Morphometric Atlases Show Consistent Relationships with Cardiovascular Risk Factors: A UK Biobank Study." *Scientific Reports* (Feb 2019)

Biasioli L, ... Piechnik SK. (ACI) "Automated localization and quality control of the aorta in cine CMR can significantly accelerate processing of the UK Biobank population data." *PLoS One* (2019)

Petersen SE,...Watkins H. (ACI) "Progression of myocardial fibrosis in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: Mechanisms and clinical implications." *EJH Cardiovascular Imaging / European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Imaging* (Oct 2018)

Woodbridge SP, ...Petersen SE. (ACI) "Physical activity and left ventricular trabeculation in the UK Biobank community-based cohort study." *Heart*. (Feb 2019)

Althunayyan A,...Bhattacharyya S. (ACI) "Mitral valve prolapse." *Expert Rev Cardiovasc Ther*. (Nov 2018)

Zhang L,...Frangi AF.(ACI) "Automatic Assessment of Full Left Ventricular Coverage in Cardiac Cine Magnetic Resonance Imaging with Fisher Discriminative 3D CNN." *IEEE Trans Biomed Eng*. (Nov 2018)

De Innocentiis C,... Gallina S. (ACI) "Athlete's Heart: Diagnostic Challenges and Future Perspectives." Sports Med. (Nov 2018)

Congratulations

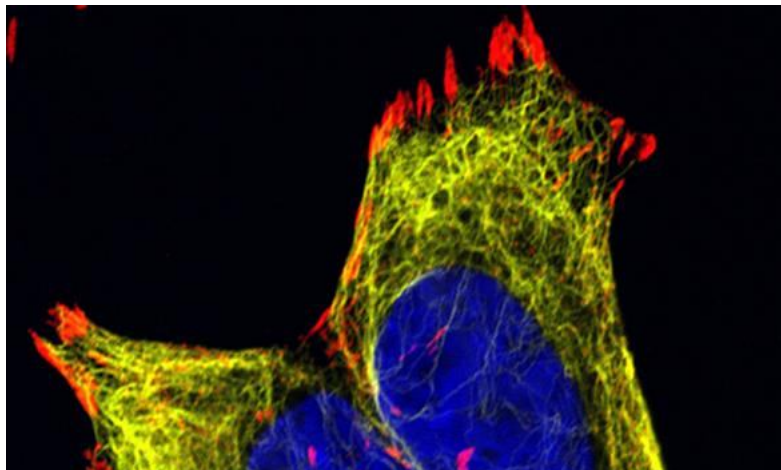
Dr Julia Ramírez (CP) was awarded Runner up (£200) at the Best Poster Award – at the "A to Z of Sudden Cardiac Death Conference" in London in December 2018.

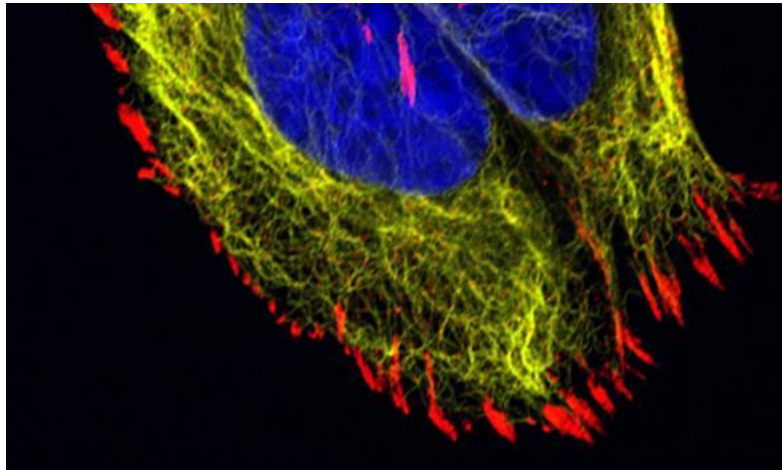
Dr Julia Ramírez (CP) started her Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship in March 2019. For the next 24 months, she will study the impact of genetics and electrocardiogram biomarkers on cardiovascular risk at Professor Patricia Munroe's group.

Prof Atholl Johnston (CP) has been to the Department for Transport's Drug Driving Risk Offender Panel. This follows on from his involvement with the Department of Transport's (DfT) Expert Panel on Drug Driving that led to the enactment of the Section 5A drug driving offence, resulting in some 10k convictions last year.

Congratulations to **Professor Emeritus Peter Venezis** on receiving the 2019 James Malcolm "Taffy" Cameron Forensic Medical Sciences Award for his leadership and pioneering contributions to the field of forensic medical sciences in the UK and around the world. For link click [here](#)

Lisa Romano (Endo) won a prize in the British Society for Cell Biology image competition. She came second out of 1000 entries (Image below)





Daniele Mauro (EMR) successfully passed his PhD viva on 22nd January 2019

Valentina Pucino (EMR) successfully passed her viva on 8th February and has taken up a Clinical Fellow position at Birmingham University Hospital as from 1.3.19

Anne-Sophie Thorup (EMR) transitioned from PhD student to Postdoctoral Research Assistant within EMR

Dr Chiara Giacomassi and **Dr Alessandra Nerviani** (EMR) have been appointed as Clinical Academic Lecturers funded by NIHR and Versus Arthritis respectively.



Professor Dell'Accio and **Dr Suzanne Eldridge** attended the 'Cartilage Biology and Pathology Gordon Research Conference' in Galveston Texas.

<https://www.grc.org/cartilage-biology-and-pathology->

[conference/2019/](#) on the 17th-22nd March where Suzanne won the best poster prize in the post-doc group (\$600).

Professor Alberto Mantovani (EMR) American-Italian Cancer Foundation (AICF, New York) Prize for Excellence in Medicine (Nov. 2018).

Nay Aung has been shortlisted for 'Young Investigator of the Year' award EuroCMR 2019. "Genetic architecture of left ventricular phenotypes derived from 17,000 CMR studies in the UK Biobank population imaging cohort". Presentation in May, EuroCMR, Venice 2019.

Ashwini Maudhoo (MSc student) **Lou Metherell** and **Li Chan** supervisors (Endo). Missplicing due to a silent exonic substitution in the T-box transcription factor TBX19 resulting in Isolated ACTH deficiency. Selected as 1 of 10 Featured Clinical Case for SfE BES 2018 Glasgow.

Dr. Pilar Cacheiro and **Dr. Valentina Cipriani** (CP) have recently attended the 13th Genomics of Rare Disease 2019 conference held at the Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, UK (<https://bit.ly/2WHUe89>). Dr. Cacheiro presented the latest results from the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (IMPC, <http://www.mousephenotype.org/>) about leveraging cross-species data on gene essentiality to identify candidate developmental disorder genes. Dr. Cipriani discussed the methodological approach and some preliminary results from the application of the rare disease variant prioritisation tool Exomiser (<https://github.com/exomiser/Exomiser>) at scale to the data from the UK 100,000 Genomes Project (<https://www.genomicsengland.co.uk/>). Exomiser can effectively leverage the ontology-based phenotypes from patients and animal models and improve the diagnostic yield for Mendelian disease.

Claire Macdougall (BP) got her PhD January 2019

Trinidad Montero-Melendez (BP) awarded the "LSI Seed Fund Award"

Prof Costantino Pitzalis gave the opening lecture at the European Workshop for Rheumatology Research.

Dr Francesca Pugliese was recognised Fellow of the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (FSCCT)

The paper by **Tamara Girbl** in *Immunity*, 2018, from **Prof Sussan Nourshargh's** team (CMR) has received the prestigious Servier Award in Microcirculation. This award is given every two years by the European Society for Microcirculation and European Vascular Biology Society to an outstanding publication on microcirculation/vascular biology in basic or clinical research (<http://esm-evbo2019.org/registration/travel-awards/>).



Events and media appearances

Channel 5 News filmed **Sian Henson** (TMT) and her team on 9th November. Click [here](#) to see more.





In March **Sven Van Eijl** (CP) participated in his son school science fair (Bessemer Grange Primary School in Camberwell). People had the opportunity to see if they could taste the difference between normal and placebo beetroot juice, measure nitrate levels in "urine", and get their blood pressure measured before and after exercise. The event was very well attended and people gave very positive feedback.



Prof Atholl Johnston advised on, and is appearing in three "Murder, Mystery and My Family" programmes coming to the BBC. These are:

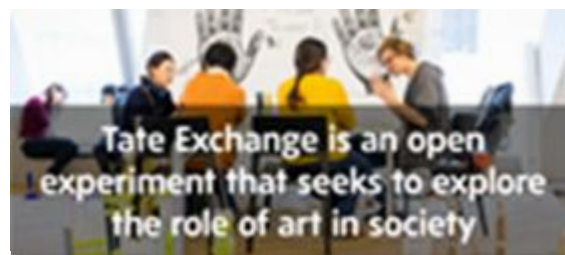
Richard Brinkley Episode 3, Wednesday 27th March 2019
at 9.15am

Sarah Chesham Episode 8, Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 9.15am

Ethel Major Episode 10, Friday 5th April 2019 at 9.15am

These will be available the next night on BBC Two at 18:30 and on the BBC IPlayer

EMR has been selected to participate to the QMUL TATE Exchange with a project "Creating without constraint: arthritis and art" on Tuesday 11th – Sunday 16th June, at the Blavatnik Building, Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG



Follow EMR on Twitter :- @EMR_QMUL or at https://twitter.com/EMR_QMUL

Barts and Queen Mary Science Festival 19 June 2019. The Octagon on Queen Mary University of London's Mile End campus.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/barts-and-queen-mary-science-festival-19th-june-2019-tickets-51512537386>

New WHRI Members

Dr Christopher Bell (CP) has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Functional Genomics with a research focus on Human Epigenomics, working with **Prof. Patricia Munroe**. His research investigates and integrates large-scale Epigenomic and Genomic data in order to understand the pathophysiology of common and chronic human diseases, including type 2 diabetes, obesity and cardiometabolic disorders.

Ms Farah Ahmed (CP) has recently joined Prof. Patricia Munroe's team.

Dr Kizuku Yamashita (post-doc) joining Ken Suzuki's team in CMR.

Dr Shafaq Sikandar joined EMR on the 1.10.18 on a 5 year ARUK Career Development Fellowship



Dr Amy MacBrayne joined EMR in October 2018 to undertake a 2 year MD in digital health with a focus on RA supported through the EPSRC PAMBAYESIAN grant.

Other new EMR staff are **Dr Federico Colombo** (Postdoctoral Research Fellow), **Emily Harvey** (Clinical Trials Practitioner), **Beatriz Fernandez Fernanadez** (Technician), **Aurora Bono** (Technician)

Ana Carolina Estevao (Circle Cardiovascular Imaging) has joined Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging as Research Assistant.

Since October 2018 **Magnus T. Jensen** and **Martina C DeKnegt** have joined Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging as clinical post-doctoral researchers.

Stefano Sartini has joined the Lewis group (CMR)

Dr Katia Mariniello started in February 2019 as a Parts Charity PDRA in the Guasti lab (endo).

Dr James Pittaway starting soon (MRC CRTF to undertake a PhD in the Guasti lab, Endo).

Chris Smith, Post-doctoral researcher investigating genes for primary adrenal insufficiency PDRA in the Metherell lab (Endo).

Departing WHRI Members

Goodbye to **Mr Nobuhiko Sato** (Return to Kaneka Corp) and **Dr Vanessa Machado** (maternity cover to Dr Laura Fields) from CMR.

And finally....EMR relative of William Harvey!

It has recently emerged that the EMR lab manager, **Becki Hands**, is related to William Harvey who is her great-uncle 9 /10 times removed via her maternal grandmother!!

Although William Harvey never had children himself he did have two brothers so the family name would have passed via his brothers and their male offspring.

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If there's something you would like included in the next newsletter please send an email to James Whiteford at j.whiteford@qmul.ac.uk



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