Hello and Welcome...

to the 11th WHRI Newsletter. In this issue, we will be look back on our New Year Celebration, some cold weather at CHSQ and looking forward to Summer!

WHRI Post Graduate Symposium and New Year Celebration

On the 24th of January 2018, the WHRI held its New Year Celebration featuring a Symposium where the Institute's PhD students presented their work. The quality of the research and presentations was incredibly high and reflects very well on both the students and the Institute as a whole. The difficult task of picking the best one was given to the PGR committee. Congratulations to Alessandra Nerviani (EMR) who gave a talk entitled “TAM receptors in rheumatoid arthritis: focus on synovial expression and association with disease severity” and won the best talk prize. Also congratulations to Anna Barkaway (CMR) who won the runner up prize with her talk “Age-related systemic inflammation supports aberrant neutrophil transendothelial migration”.

The afternoon was followed by a great epic party at the Artisan and we are very grateful to the PGR committee for organising.
Publications of Note

Humby, F,........Pitzalis, C., (EMR) “A multi centre retrospective analysis evaluating performance of synovial biopsy techniques: arthroscopic vs. ultrasound guided vs. blind needle biopsy.” Arthritis Rheumatol (Feb 2018)

Altamimi, A.S,..........et al. (EMR) “Symmetric molecules with 1,4-triazole moieties as potent inhibitors of tumour-associated lactate dehydrogenase-A.” J Enzyme Inhib Med Chem (Dec 2017)


Colas, R.A.,............Dalli J. (BiochemPharm) “Impaired Production and Diurnal Regulation of Vascular RvDn-3 DPA Increases Systemic Inflammation and Cardiovascular Disease.” Circ Res. (Feb 2018).


Gimelli, A.,............et al., (Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging) “Strategies for radiation dose reduction in nuclear cardiology and cardiac computed tomography imaging: a report from the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI), the Cardiovascular Imaging Network (CIN) of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS), and the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT).” JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. (Nov 2017).
Committee of European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), and the European Society of Cardiovascular Radiology (ESCR).” Eur Heart J. (Jan 2018).

Stephenson E.,........et al. (Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging) “Ineffective and prolonged apical contraction is associated with chest pain and ischaemia in apical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.” Int J Cardiol. (Jan 2018)


Harvey, N.C.,............et al., (Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging) “Calcium and Vitamin D Supplementation Are Not Associated With Risk of Incident Ischemic Cardiac Events or Death: Findings From the UK Biobank Cohort. J Bone Miner Res (Jan 2018).


Stephenson E.,............et al., (Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging) “Ineffective and prolonged apical contraction is associated with chest pain and ischaemia in apical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Int J Cardiol. (Jan 2018)


Wen, G.,........Xiao, Q. (Clin Pharm) “Genetic and Pharmacologic Inhibition of the Neutrophil Elastase Inhibits Experimental Atherosclerosis.” J Am Heart Assoc. (Feb 2018).


Recent Grant Awards

EMR has secured the appointment of a new clinical fellow via the EPSRC funded PAMBAYESIAN grant to underpin a digital health initiative in patients with rheumatoid arthritis through a collaboration between EMR and the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Mohey Elshikh (EMR) has secured £18,000 from Barts and the London Charity to look at PAD4 Inhibitors: Novel therapeutic approaches to treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and £10,000 from the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology to look at the biological impact of blood pressure-associated genetic variants in the natriuretic peptide receptor C gene on human vascular smooth muscle.
the development of a novel platform for self-generated therapeutic anti-tumor necrosis factor antibodies.

**Dr James Pittaway (Endo)** has been awarded Bart’s and The London Charity Academic Clinical Fellowship.

**Dr Sasha Howard (Endo)** has received an NIHR fellowship and **Dr Nikolina Kyprianou (Endo)** has obtained a Society for Endocrinology Early Career Award.

**Valeria Scagliotti (Endo)** has received a Society for Endocrinology Early Career Award.

**Sian Henson (TMT)** has received a grant from the Rosetrees Trust for £18,000.

**Jesmond Dalli (BiochemPharm)** has secured £300K from Metagenics Inc.

**Dianne Cooper/Lucy Norling (BiochemPharm)** have secured an Arthritis Research UK PhD studentship ~£140K

**Stefan Petersen** has secured a British Heart Foundation Clinical Research Training Fellowship (Zahra Raisi Estabragh): “Broken bones and broken hearts: relationships between osteoporosis and cardiovascular structure and function in UK Biobank” £231,716

HDR-UK pan London grant (**David van Heel QMUL lead, Mike Barnes, Steffen Petersen** and others co-applicants).

**Ken Suzuki (CMR)** has secured a Company co-development fund grant (KANEKA; £50k and £150k).

**Sussan Nourshargh, Regis Joulia** and Mathieu- Benoit Voisin (CMR) have been awarded a BHF Project grant: ~£240k.

**Fiona Lewis (CMR)** has been awarded £50K from Barts and the London Charity.


2018-2021 NIHR RfPB Award. The BYPASS-CTCA Study **Dan Jones**. £387,640

**Dr Julia Ramírez** was awarded a Standard European Marie Curie Fellowship in January 2018, with a duration of 24 months starting in 2019. €183,454,80. This award will support the analysis of genetic variants with T-wave morphology parameters derived from the electrocardiogram signal at **Professor Patricia Munroe’s** group.
Institute researchers:

**Dr Julie Borgel**, a 12-month period for research on,

“Trauma induced DNA methylation signatures – a novel prognostic biomarker and therapeutic target for post-traumatic acute and chronic immune dysfunction”;

**Professor Francesco Dell’Accio**, 12-month period for research on,

“The mode of action of a new therapeutic target tyrosine kinase receptor in osteoarthritis”;

**Dr Fiona Lewis**, 12-month period for research on,

“Exosomal microRNAs as diagnostic biomarkers of heart failure”;

**Professor Mauro Perretti**, 12-month period for research on,

“The development and characterization of pro-resolving therapeutics as novel anti-inflammatory drugs”;

**Professor Chris Thiemermann**, three-year period for research on,

“The role of MIF in trauma-associated haemorrhagic shock”;

**Dr Mathieu-Benoit Voisin**, 12-month period for research on,

“The investigation into the dynamics of neutrophil trafficking and function within the lymphatic system during the development of arthritis by multi-photon confocal microscopy.”

We look forward to hearing from our beneficiaries on the progress of their work and personal development, with a view to using these case studies to target further funding for the grant pool.

In the future, the Foundation would like to support a wider range of projects and research areas across the Institute. Therefore, the fundraising campaign we are preparing is an important initiative, so that the Foundation can make more funds available on an annual basis to support more projects and more researchers. Your help in making this happen will be greatly appreciated.

To hear more about the Foundation please contact Kuki Taylor, Development Manager, kuki.taylor@qmul.ac.uk.

**Congratulations**

**Mihai Podaru** (CMR) won the best poster prize at this years William Harvey Day.

**Filip Zemrak** has been appointed with the prestigious Darzi fellowship at Barts Health NHS Trust. Filip Zemrak was shortlisted for AHA Early Careers Award with his work entitled: “Left ventricular trabeculation is not associated with heart failure: A MESA substudy”.
Professor Márta Korbonits (Endo) was the recipient of The Lady Estelle Wolfson lectureship for 2018, Royal College of Physicians; Hadden Lecture Prize 2017, Irish Endocrine Society; Harrison Lecture Prize 2017.

Robert Beal (CMR) was awarded his PhD in December and is now doing a Post-doc at UCL.

Dr Ida Pernicova (Endo) Awarded PhD (Korbonits)

Dr Rebecca Gorrigan (Endo) – Awarded PhD (Chan)

Events and media appearances


Social Media associated with Rhys et al 2018:


http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-4945218/BMI-rise-4-change-structure-heart.html

New WHRI Members

Dr Peter McCormick has been appointed Senior lecturer in Endocrinology and is interested in GPCRs in Health and Disease.

Ms Shani Austin Williams, Ms Roberta De Matteis, Mr Issa Beegun, Dr Zuhair Yusuf and Dr Stella Man have all joined BiochemPharm.

Bunny Saberwal (Adv Cardiovascular Imaging) new clinical research fellow in the group (PhD student)
Dr Masafumi Fukumitsu; Research Fellow joins Ken Suzuki’s team in CMR.

Tom Mitchell has joined CMR to do his PhD with Dr Tom Nightingale.

A big WHRI welcome to all of you!

Departing WHRI Members

Dr Ross King (CMR) has taken up a role at the BHF and will be sorely missed.

Satoshi Kainuma (CMR) is leaving CMR to return to Japan.

Dr Francesca Mazzacuva, Dr Dijue Sun are leaving Biochem Pharm

Introducing your Mental Health First Aiders

Elizabeth Carroll and Kuki Taylor (William Harvey Research Foundation) are available for WHRI staff and students should you have a query or require mental health support. As trained Mental Health First Aiders, Kuki and Liz are a point of contact if you, or someone you are concerned about, are experiencing a mental health issue or emotional distress. Though not therapists or psychiatrists, Kuki and Liz can give you initial support and signpost you to appropriate help if required. If there is an emergency please call 999.

Both are based on the second floor of the John Vane Science Centre and their contact details are below:

Kuki.taylor@qmul.ac.uk

e.carroll@qmul.ac.uk

Please note Kuki and Liz work part-time.

Upcoming Events

William Harvey Research Institute Annual Review 2018

Date: Wednesday 27th June 2018

Time: 09:30 – 17:30

Derek Willoughby Lecture Theatre, Charterhouse Square Campus
Including award lectures from Prof Brigitta Stockinger (The Crick Institute) and Prof Tim Warner (The Blizzard Institute, QMUL).

Followed by a Party on the Lawn.

EVOluTION – European Vascular Interventions and Therapeutic Innovation Network

EVOluTION is a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network (ITN) PhD programme coordinated by Mauro Perretti and managed by Annabelle Scott at the WHRI. It has been designed to provide multidisciplinary training for 11 PhD students (3 of which are based at the WHRI) on various aspects of drug discovery and development including: preclinical and clinical research, commercial and business opportunities and intellectual property.

The network has now been running for over a year and is making great progress. The consortium has held two events in the Netherlands and Ireland and the final event of the year will be the Summer School, taking place at Charterhouse square on “The quest for Innovative Targets on Drugs”.

To find out more about the activities of this Innovative Training Network please visit the website (https://www.qmul.ac.uk/evolution/) and take a look at the second newsletter, published in January https://www.qmul.ac.uk/evolution/media/evolution/EVOluTION-newsletter-3-Jan-2018.pdf.

Lets talk hearts

Free heart talks for the general public. Next talk will be on 26 March 2018 at 3pm at the Idea Store Whitechapel, speakers will be Paul Wright, Amitava Banerjee and Chris Primus. For more information please email letstalkhearts@qmul.ac.uk
Barts and Queen Mary Science Festival

Free festival open to all but particularly aimed at secondary schools/young people interested in science and medicine. Online registration is now open and can be found at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/barts-and-queen-mary-science-festival-20th-june-2018-tickets-39330759360

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

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