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**To:** James Whiteford

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# The WHRI Newsletter



Announcements, awards, events and notices from across the institute

## Seasons Greetings...

And welcome, to the third edition of the WHRI newsletter. We begin by congratulating **Professor Amrita Ahluwalia**, who has been awarded the 2015 Prize for Research by the WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Campaign. The award was presented by Her Royal Highness The Princess

Royal at a ceremony earlier this November. This is one of several accolades the WHRI has received this year recognising the institute's commitment to advancing the careers of women in science.





Professor Ahluwalia pictured third from the left

We also congratulate **Professor Federica Marelli-Berg** who has been awarded a British Heart Foundation personal chair in cardiovascular Immunology, the position comes with funding in excess of one million pounds.

## Professorial Recruitment at the WHRI

As part of a major strategic investment of £10.3 million in cardiovascular translational research, funded by The Barts Charity, WHRI is recruiting a;

- **Director of the Barts Cardiovascular Clinical Trials Unit**
- **Chair of Cardiovascular Genomics**
- **Chair of Heart Failure**
- **Chair of Cardiovascular Device Innovation**

In addition, and supported by Arthritis UK, the Centre for inflammation and Therapeutic Innovation (CiTI) is recruiting;

- **Arthritis Research UK Chair in Inflammation Sciences**

## Publications of Note

**Cheung, Kenneth, et al.** (Bio Pharm) "CD31 signals confer immune privilege to the vascular endothelium." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112.43 (2015). This article was also the subject of a [PNAS commentary](#).

**Headland, Sarah, et al.** (Bio Pharm & Exp Med Rheum) "Neutrophil-derived microvesicles enter cartilage and protect the joint in inflammatory arthritis." *Science Translational Medicine*. (2015).

**Hernández-Ramírez, Laura C. et al.** (Endocrinology) "Landscape of familial isolated and young-onset pituitary adenomas: prospective diagnosis in AIP mutation carriers." *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism* 100.9 (2015).

**Stone, Ian S. et al.** (Barts and The London NIHR Biomedical Research Unit) "Lung Deflation and Cardiovascular Structure and Function in COPD: A Randomized Controlled Trial." *American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine* (2015).

## Grants & Awards of Note

**Dr. Ezra Aksoy** (Bio Pharm) has been awarded an MRC New Investigator award of £680K, duration three years.

**Jesmond Dalli** (Bio Pharm and the QMUL Lipid Mediator Unit) has been awarded a Sir Henry Dale Fellowship by the Wellcome Trust and The Royal Society of £970 K. Started Sept 2015, duration 5 years and an ERC Starting Grant. €1.9 million Starting March 2016, duration 5 years.

**Tom Nightingale** (Microvascular Research) has been awarded a BHF project grant for £200K starting Feb 2016, duration 3 years.

**Tim Warner & Adrian Hobbs** (TMT) BHF Project Grant "Control of thrombosis by endogenous pathways of platelet inhibition and relevance to anti-platelet therapy". Awarded £233k, duration 3 years.

## Upcoming Events

The winter meeting of the **London Vascular Biology Forum** will take place on the **9th of December** 2015 at Kings College

London. Details to follow.

The first meeting of the newly created **London Inflammation Network** will take place on **Friday 8th January 2016**. Details on the event and registration can be found [here](#)

## Congratulations

To **Feng Yang** (Clin Pharm) who was awarded Winner of the Binks Trust Award at the British Atherosclerosis Society (BAS) Autumn meeting, 11th Sept 2015, Cambridge.

To Professor **Fulvio D'Acquisto** (Bio Pharm) for his recent nomination as associate editor of the Journal [Frontiers For Young Minds](#) and for receiving funding to establish the East London Young Researcher Network (ELYRN).

To **Hanqing Zhao** (Clin Pharm) and **Ken Cheung** (Bio Pharm) who passed their PhD viva's this October.

To visiting PhD student in TMT, **Plinio Ferreira** who received a travel grant to attend Eurothrombosis 2015, 'in recognition of outstanding scientific work'.

To clinical PhD student, **Rebecca Knowles** (TMT), her oral presentation at Eurothrombosis 2015; was placed in the top 10 from 160 abstracts.

To Post Doc **Ross King** (Microvascular Research) who recently won the Wellcome trust funded "[I'm A Scientist, Get Me Out of Here!](#)". An X Factor-style science communication competition between researchers, where the students are the judges.

**Dr. Sasha Howard** (Endocrinology) who won the Henning Andersen award for the best basic science abstract presented at the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Annual Meeting, Oct 2015.

To **Professor Sussan Nourshargh** (Microvascular Research) who has been recently appointed as a Medical Trustee of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and also as a member of the charity's new Advisory

Council.

In recognition of both her research and mentorship of young researchers **Professor Nourshargh** has also been awarded the 2016 Gabor Kaley Prize from the American Societies of Microcirculation and Physiology. She will deliver a prize lecture at the 2016 Experimental Biology Meeting in San Diego.

The **Centre for Endocrinology** received multiple accolades at the November 2015 Annual meeting of the British Endocrinology Society:

- **Dr. Sasha Howard** - best basic science oral communication award
- **Dr. Craig Stiles** - best basic science poster award
- **Dr. Eirini Meimaridou** - highly commended; basic oral communication award
- **Dr. Ariel Poliandri** - highly commended; basic science poster award
- **Dr. Dominic Cavlan** - highly commended; basic science poster award
- **Dr. Sayka Barry** - featured poster

## WHRI in the Media

Research carried out by **Fulvio D'Acquisto's** group (Bio Pharm) investigating the immune system's influence on mouse olfaction has been recently featured in an article by [New Scientist](#) magazine.

Professor D'Acquisto has also had his most recent paper examining the effect of 'massage like stroking' on the immune response covered by several [popular science](#) websites.

**James Whiteford's** (Microvascular Research) most recent paper examining sex specific immune responses in mice has been the subject of an article by the life sciences magazine [News Medical](#).

Prime Minister David Cameron has bestowed the **Pint of Science** festival with the [Points of Light award](#) "for bringing scientific debate to the pub." The QMUL chapter of Pint of Science has been expertly coordinated by PhD student **Giulia De Rossi** over the past 3 years.

# New Equipment

The QMUL Lipid Mediator Unit recently acquired a Sciex Triple Quadrupole mass spectrometer, a Shimadzu LC system and a Biotage ExtraHera solid phase extraction system. This equipment that will be dedicated to the identification, structure elucidation and quantification of bioactive lipid mediators.

# New WHRI Members

## Clin Pharm

BHF-funded Research fellow, **Dr Weiwei An**, who recently started work in Qingzhong Xiao's group.

MRC/College-funded PhD Student, **Mr Stuart Pearce**, who recently started his PhD study in Qingzhong Xiao's group.

## Bio Pharm

**Dr. Maria Gonzalez Nuñez** has joined the Mucosal Immunity and Signalling group headed by Dr Ezra Askoy as a postdoctoral researcher.

Her research will be funded by the MRC.

**Dr Romain Colas**, a postdoctoral fellow who recently joined the Dalli group is investigating the role that pro-resolving mediators play on regulating joint inflammation.

# Alumni

**Juliana Toller Kawahisa** who has spent the last 6 months working in Biochemical Pharmacology is heading back to São Paulo in Brazil to finish her PhD. The lab wishes her all the best and hopes she has fond memories of her time at Biopharm!

**Fu Ng** who is completing his PhD in Clinical Pharmacology and returning to the Royal London Hospital to continue his medical career in the clinic.

*"Fu is probably the smiley-est person we know and we hope he'll visit often!"*



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