Hello and Welcome...

to the fourth edition of the WHRI newsletter. We begin by congratulating Drs Abigail Woodfin and Mohey Eldin El Shikh for having their research feature on the covers of scientific publications Blood and the JOI (pictured below). Abigail's paper illuminates the importance of ICAM-1 in regulating neutrophil function in response to endotoxemia, while Mohey's work highlights the role interactions of the B-cell marker LLT1 and its ligand CD161 - found on dendritic cells - have on B cell maturation. Full references below

Publications of Note


Llibre, Alba,. El Shikh, Mohey Eldin (EMR), et al. "LLT1 and CD161 Expression in Human Germinal Centers Promotes B Cell Activation and CXCR4 Downregulation." The Journal of Immunology (2016) (pictured above)


Sordi, Regina, et al. (TMT) "Artesunate Protects Against the Organ Injury and Dysfunction Induced by Severe Hemorrhage and Resuscitation." Annals of surgery (2016).

Woodfin, Abigail, et al. (Microvascular research) "ICAM-1 expressing neutrophils exhibit enhanced effector functions in murine models of endotoxemia." Blood (2015) (pictured above)

Grants & Awards of Note

Dr David Gould (Bio Pharm) was awarded an ARUK project grant for £165K which will start in June 2016, duration 3 years.

Dr James Whiteford (Microvascular Research) was awarded an ARUK project grant for £190K
which started Jan 2016, duration 3 years. Dr Whiteford was also awarded a WHRF grant of £26K which started Jan 2016 duration 12 months.

**Dr Katja Kostelnik** (Microvascular Research) was awarded a WHRI cofund fellowship of ~£70k for 29 months.

**Dr Qingzhong Xiao** (Clin Pharm) was Awarded a BHF Project Grant of £230k which started Feb 15th 2016, duration 3 years.

In Jan 2016 **Dr Giovanna Nalessa PI and Francesco Dell'acco** were awarded a William Harvey Foundation Grant of £25k entitled "Modulation of the calcium calmodulin kinase II (CaMKII) pathway as a new therapeutic strategy for the treatment of osteoarthritis".

### Upcoming Events

**The 2nd meeting of the London Inflammatory Network**  
**May 20th.**

Scheduled speakers include Professors Derek Mann (U. of Newcastle) and Erika Pearce (Max Planck Institute)

To register click here

**Let's Talk Hearts - Hearts and Minds**  
**15th March**

‘What does meditation have to do with the heart and how are stressful events linked to
abnormal heart rhythms?’
These topics and others are to be discussed at the upcoming Let’s Talk Hearts event hosted by QMUL at the Idea Store Whitechapel.

Speakers will be Malcolm Finlay (QMUL) and Richard Ang (Barts Health Trust).

To register please email letstalkhearts@qmul.ac.uk or ring 07572 768985.

Congratulations

To Nick Goulding who has been appointed Director of Academic Development for the Institute.

As Nick explains "This is a new role for WHRI and I will be responsible for several strands of academic life; helping new post-docs on the early rungs of the career ladder; advising candidates seeking promotion to Senior Lecturer, Reader or Professor; supporting new academics and enabling staff to obtain career-progressing qualifications such as the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice and Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. I will also have a role in performance management of staff as well as disciplinary and contractual matters.”

If you would like advice or help with any of these issues contact Nick on 02078822118 or n.j.goulding@qmul.ac.uk

To Lana Brockbals (Clin Pharm) who was awarded the Brian Widdop Prize at the LTG (formally the London Toxicology Group) annual meeting for her presentation of the work she carried on cocaine analysis .

To Laura Hernandez Ramirez (Clin Pharm) who has been selected to speak at this year's ENDO meeting in the "Best of JECM 2016” session on her JCEM manuscript entitled “Landscape of Familial Isolated and Young-Onset
Pituitary Adenomas: Prospective Diagnosis in AIP Mutation Carriers

To **Thomas Hoefer** (Clin Pharm) who won the 2016 Karl Link Early Career Investigator Award in Thrombosis from the American Heart Association journal 'Arterioscler Bio'. His paper, “Drug-free platelets can act as seeds for aggregate formation during antiplatelet therapy,” was selected as the most outstanding paper published during 2015 in the Thrombosis section of the Journal.

To **Sasha Howard** (Endocrinology) who won first prize for best oral presentation at Academy of Medical Sciences Spring meeting yesterday
Date: 26 February 2016 (pictured below).

To **Meixia Ren** for winning the Young Investigator prize at the British Hypertension Society Annual Scientific Meeting

To **Helen Warren** for winning the James V. Neel Young Investigator Award at the International Genetic Epidemiology & Statistics conference, Baltimore, USA
To

- Badr Aljohani (Clin Pharm)
- Claire Haresnape (Clin Pharm)
- Hanqing Zhao (Clin Pharm)
- Jem Lane (Clin Pharm)
- Giulia de Rossi (Microvascular)
- Meixia Ren (Clin Pharm)
- Rosie Zhang (Clin Pharm)

For Each passing their PhD vivas

WHRI in the Media

Clinical Pharmacology's Professor Mark Caulfield (pictured below) appeared on the BBC to discuss the recent success of the 100,000 Genomes project in diagnosing children with rare genetic conditions. For further info on this story click [here](#).

New WHRI Members

**Alejandro Costa** who won a Marie Curie Cofund fellowship to work on the interaction between AIP, the somatostatin pathway and the imprinted developmental regulator gene ZAC1. Co-Pi Marika Charambous (Endocrinology)
Edoardo Predillito and Valentina Pucin who have begun PhDs in EMR

Estefanía Muñoz Atienza has recently joined the Microbiota in Rheumatoid Arthritis Team headed by Prof. Costantino Pitzalis (EMR) and Prof. Mike Curtis (Institute of Dentistry).

Fabio Argentina and Elisa Chisari have joined as technicians working with the EMR laboratory core team.

Ioanna Ntalla a postdoctoral statistical geneticist working jointly in Professor Patricia Munroe and Professor Panos Deloukas groups (Clin Pharm).

Joanna Peel has joined the EMR Clinical Trials Team as a Clinical Trials Manager.

Dr Lukas Martin, has begun a post doctoral fellowship funded by the DFG (German Research Society) (TMT).

Sara Maria Caxaria has joined Professor Francesco’s Dell’Accio’s team in EMR as a postdoctoral research fellow to study the role of chemokines in osteoarthritis.