Hello and Welcome...

to the 8th WHRI Newsletter. In this issue we will be reflecting on our New Year Celebration, some great news for Tim Warner and look forward to our Annual Review on the 7th of July 2017.

Congratulations to Prof. Tim Warner

Professor Tim Warner has been appointed as Director of the Blizard Institute. Tim has worked in the William Harvey Research Institute since 1992, becoming Professor of Vascular Inflammation in 2000. Most recently he has been Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Research in the School and Deputy Director (Research & Innovation) of QMUL’s Life Science Initiative. Tim was also WHRI’s very first PhD student, registered in 1986 a few months before the WHRI laboratories opened on the third floor of the John Vane Science Building.
New Year Celebration 2017

On Friday the 3rd of February the WHRI held its annual New Year Celebration and featured 15 talks from the Institute’s postgraduates and young post-docs. The standard of the science presented was exceptional and after very stiff competition we congratulate Miss Melissa Hayman (TMT) for giving the best postgraduate talk describing her research on reticulated platelets and Dr Clare Dent (Endocrinology) for giving the best Post-Doc talk on the Role of Dlk1 in Placenta Function and Development. The afternoon really exemplified breadth of the research activities across the Inflammation, Cardiovascular and Endocrine themes and showed that the future of the WHRI is very bright. At the end of the afternoon Profs Mark Caulfield and Amrita Ahluwalia presented Prof Mauro Perretti with a gift from all at the WHRI to thank him for his amazing contribution to the WHRI and to wish him well in his new role. The afternoon’s science was followed by a celebration in the Shield which was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to Dr Claire Dent (below left) for winning Best Post Doc Oral presentation, and Melissa Hayman (below right) for winning the Best PhD oral presentation prize.
We would like to thank the PGR committee for all their hard work in organising the party after the scientific part of the day. They did a great job, and everyone who attended enjoyed themselves! Thanks to Hefin Jones for presenting the quiz!

**PGR committee members:** Harriet Allan, Anna Barkaway, Will Hull, Lisa Romano, Grace Salsbury, Valeria Scagliotti, Anne-Sophie Thorup, Louise Topping

**Grants & Awards of Note**

Having gained a distinction in his MSc in Clinical Endocrinology, Avinaash Maharaj (Endocrinology) was awarded a PhD fellowship (£125,000) from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to work with Lou Metherell (Endocrinology).

**Dr. Bombardieri and Prof. Pitzalis (EMR)** were awarded a Horizon2020 grant of £283,927 as part of the HarmonicSS consortium.

**Prof. Pitzalis (EMR)** was awarded £500,000 to support a collaboration with BMS to map the molecular profiling of the RA synovium to the development of new drugs for difficult to treat patients.
Dr. Simon Lack, C Barton & Dylan Morrissey (SEM) were awarded £30,000 by the Rosetrees Trust to explore hip electromyography during physiotherapy rehabilitation exercises in individuals with and without patellofemoral pain.

Dr. Jesmond Dalli (Biochem Pharm) was awarded a Grants4Indications Grant from Bayer (~€0.1M )

Prof. Fulvio D'Acquisto (Biochem Pharm) was awarded a Centre for Public Engagement large award for a project titled: “Continuing Professional Development course to establish the Young Mind Science Knowledge Network”

Dr. Maria Gonzalez Nunez (Biochem Pharm) has been awarded a Marie Sklodowska Curie individual fellowships to join Dr. Aksoy’s group in Centre for Biochemical Pharmacology.

Publications of Note


**Mauro, C.,….Marelli-Berg, F.M.** (Biochem Pharm) “Obesity-Induced Metabolic Stress Leads to Biased Effector Memory CD4+ T Cell Differentiation via PI3K p110delta-Akt-Mediated Signals” Cell Metabolism (Jan 2017).


**Salles J.I., … Perini JA.** "Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor-2 Polymorphisms Have Protective Effect against the Development of Tendinopathy in Volleyball Athletes." PLOS ONE (Dec 2016)


**Warren, H.,….Caulfield M.** (Clin Pharm) "Genome-wide association analysis identifies novel blood pressure loci and offers biological insights into cardiovascular risk." Nature Genetics (Jan 2017)
Barzilai S., Nourshargh S, Alon R. (Microvascular) "Leukocytes Breach Endothelial Barriers by Insertion of Nuclear Lobes and Disassembly of Endothelial Actin Filaments." Cell Rep (Jan 2017)

Congratulations

Dr Egle Solito (TMT) has been invited (the only UK speaker) to present at the Cerebral Vascular Biology Melbourne 2017.

Rodrigo Azevedo Loiola (TMT) won a BPS bursary to attend Pharmacological aspects of microvascular cell-cell signalling and CVS disease meeting where he was also selected for an oral communication.

Gareth Purvis (TMT) won the BPS Oral Communication Prize, awarded for the best oral communication presented at Pharmacology December 2016.

Professor Charles Hinds (TMT) has been invited to present a keynote lecture (“Precision medicine for sepsis; is genomics the answer?) at the British Journal of Anaesthesia Research Forum/Anaesthetic Research Society meeting in April 2017.

Dr Simon Lack, Dr Christian Barton, Dylan Morrissey and student Oliver Sohan (SEM) won the prestigious BritJournalSpMed (top journal in field) prize for the Best Injury and Illness Systematic review: Lack et al (2015). Proximal muscle rehabilitation is effective for patellofemoral pain: a systematic review with meta-analysis. This is the third time SEM have won this prize.

Dr Dylan Morrissey (SEM) received his FHEA award.

Dr Magdalena B. Flak (EMR) was awarded a Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowship

Nick Goulding (Biochem Pharm) has been elected PFHEA – principal fellow of the higher education academy – first person in WHRI, 5th in QMUL

Helen Warren (Clin Pharm) has been promoted to Lecturer in Statistical Genetics

Ken Suzuki (Microvascular) is appointed as a member of BHF Project Grant Committee and has also been appointed as Collaborative Professor of Osaka University, Japan.

Congratulations to Dr Alexia Rossi (Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging) who was selected as a runner up for The Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SSCT) SOAR Award 2016 with her abstract entitled "Dynamic CT Perfusion Imaging: Perfusion Parameters And Analysis Approach".

Events and media appearances

Professors Bader and Knight were attendees at the IRC celebration day, testing their muscle activation at a Laboratory demonstration in the Human performance laboratory. Jack ShihFan Tu (PhD student) set up the challenge and Dylan Morrissey (SEM) had to referee as they are friends,
but a little competitive!

Prof Costantino Pitzalis (TMT, Lead for the MATURA Consortium) and Prof Anne Barton, University of Manchester (Co-lead) chair the MATURA annual scientific symposium held in the Derek Willoughby lecture theatre in January. Eighty consortium members from industry and academia attended, the event was awarded 5 CPD points.
Ten Church of England vicars paid a visit to WHRI hosted by Nick Goulding (Biochem Pharm) to experience clinical and genomic research first hand. These visits form part of a national initiative to help scientists and faith leaders engage in dialogue and enhance understanding of ethical issues in medicine.

Fulvio D’Acquisto (Biochem Pharm), Aoife Monks (School of Drama) and Qasim Aziz (Wingate Institute) will be hosting a public engagement event titled “Life is Shit, Shit is Life” at the Wellcome Collection on Sunday 19th of February. This event is supported by the Wellcome trust and is a follow-up of an on-going interdisciplinary initiative between QMUL medical school and Humanities. Please follow the links for more information

www.life-is-shit.co.uk

WHRI at the QMUL Engagement and Enterprise Awards 2017

We had two shortlisted finalists in this year’s QMUL engagement and Enterprise Awards. Suzanne Eldridge (EMR) was shortlisted for the Interact Award, which recognises the partnerships, collaborations and community connections that are essential to public engagement;

To see Suzanne talking about her project entitled ‘Muscling in’ click here:

Giulia De Rossi and James Whiteford (Microvascular) were shortlisted for the Proof of Concept Award, to hear them talk about their project click here:

New WHRI Members

Dr Sherine Awad has joined the Korbunits group (Endocrinology) to take up a role as a Bioinformatician.
Mr Tony Christopher has joined as senior technician and will work part-time in the Human Performance Laboratory (SEM).

Dr Regis Joulia has joined the Nourshargh group as a Post doc (Microvascular).

A big WHRI welcome to all of you!

Departing WHRI Members

We wish all the best to Catherine Pickworth (Microvascular), who has passed her PhD Viva and takes up a post at Cancer Research UK.

Robert Beal (Microvascular) has taken on a Post Doc position at UCL.

Dr Giovanna Nalesso (EMR) moved to a lectureship in the department of PRE-CLINICAL ANIMAL SCIENCE & VETERINARY PRE-CLINICAL SCIENCES at Surrey University

Dr Simon Lack (SEM) passed his PhD viva and has a lecturership in SEM at QMUL to convene the MSc in SEM (Physiotherapy route).

Congratulations to Craig Styles (Endocrinology) on Passing his PhD, Craig has now gained an NIHR Clinical Lectureship.

New Equipment

Endocrinology has upgraded their confocal microscope to an LSM880 with AiryScan, which allows for near super-resolution imaging (140nm). This is available for use by all WHRI members and the wider SMD (cost £25 per hour). Bookings can be made through iLabs following a training session. Please contact Emma Duncan (e.j.duncan@qmul.ac.uk) or Paul Chapple (j.p.chapple@qmul.ac.uk) for training.

The Human Performance Lab (SEM) has new posable motion capture wall mounts which will facilitate dynamic motion capture.

Upcoming Events

Prof Chris Thiemermann (TMT) is organising the ‘12th John Vane Memorial Symposium on Prostacyclin Science & Pulmonary Vascular Disease’, which will be held at the Royal Society on March 17-18th. The programme includes a host of world-leading clinician scientists including Mark Gladwin & Marc Humbert and will feature a patient-focussed debate led by Pisana Ferrari (CEO of Pulmonary Hypertension Association Europe) and Genesis Rothblatt.

The MRC Regulatory Support Centre is working with the MHRA to deliver a workshop on Devices and In Vitro Diagnostic regulation on Wednesday 3rd May in central London (time to be confirmed). http://www.mrc.ac.uk/regulatorysupportcentre

Barts and Queen Mary Science Festival 21st June 2017. Barts and Queen Mary Science Festival
will take place this year on Wednesday 21st June. This festival, is free and open to all but particularly aimed at secondary schools. To register please go to: https://bartsandqueenmarysciencefestival21june2017.eventbrite.co.uk

If you would like an exhibition stand or if you are interested in helping with this event please email sciencefestival@qmul.ac.uk

“Autophagy in inflammation and cancer” steering group will be commencing a joint meeting in SMD starting in spring 2017. Interested research groups/scientists are encouraged to make contacts with the organisers Prof Sussan Nourshargh (Microvascular) and Dr Ezra Aksoy (Biochem Pharm).

The next meeting of London Inflammation Network will be held on Monday 13th March in the Lister and Young seminar room. The network is organised by QMUL Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. Please follow the link for more information. http://dharmacon.gelifesciences.com/about-us/london-inflammation-network/

WHRI ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

WHRI Annual Review Day will be held on Friday 7th July 2017 at the Derek Willoughby Lecture theatre at CHSQ. There will be talks during the day from both internal external speakers followed by the Annual Summer Party!

Keynote Speakers

Ian MacIntyre Award for Excellence in Endocrinology

Professor Ashley Grossman
Emeritus Professor of Endocrinology
University of Oxford

Derek Willoughby Award for Excellence in Inflammation

Professor Iain McInnes
Director of the Institute of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation
University of Glasgow

Sir John Vane Lecture Award for Excellence in Pharmacology & Inflammation
Professor Bruce Cronstein
Paul R. Esserman Professor of Medicine
New York University

We will circulate a doodle poll closer to the time, but we look forward to seeing you all there!

Help Wanted!

Healthy volunteers wanted for clinical study:

Are you Male, Fit and Healthy?

Aged 18-45?

Non-smoker?

On no medications?

Professor Ahluwalia’s group are looking for healthy volunteers for a study looking at the effect of dietary nitrate on blood vessel function

Your time and travel expenses will be compensated

To express interest or to receive further information, please contact:

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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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