Hello and Welcome...

to the 15th WHRI Newsletter. In this issue, we will look back at our New Year Celebration, reflect on the achievements of our staff and students and look ahead to our Annual Review.

New Year Celebration and PhD Symposium

On the 15th of January 2020 we celebrated the New Year with our annual PhD Symposium. We had ten really excellent talks from our 3rd year PhD students and were privileged to here a lecture from Prof Anne Ridley, who was the recipient of the WHRI Outstanding Contribution to Science Award. Congratulations to Angelica Gualtieri (Endo) who won the best talk prize, Lisa Romano (Endo) and Hannah Law (BP) who jointly won the best poster prize, and James Whiteford (CMR) who won the Supervisor of the year award. The afternoon was then followed by a party at the Artisan.
Save the Date...Annual Review 2020

Our Annual Review will take place on the 24th of June 2020. The program will include the John Vane Award Lecture to be given by Prof Nick Morrell from Cambridge. We will also have the opportunity to hear from some of our new faculty and the day will be followed by a party on the lawn.

Competition now open: Lay Communications Prize 2020

Prize value: £200

Deadline Wednesday 6th May

The William Harvey Research Foundation (WHRF) is offering a Prize in Lay Communications to be awarded to a WHRI scientist at the William Harvey Annual Review Day on 24th June 2020.

The judging panel will consist of communications and PR experts as well senior scientists.

Like last year, the winner and finalists will also be filmed discussing their research and involved in marketing activities on behalf of the Foundation: https://www.williamharveyresearch.com/our-impact/our-impact.

“The WHRF Lay Communications Competition provided a fantastic opportunity to share my research with a highly impressive panel from a variety of disciplines. The process was a great learning opportunity and prompted me to consider the importance of public engagement and clear
communication of research activities. It was a pleasure to compete alongside my colleagues and an honour to be selected as the 2019 inaugural WHRF Lay Communications Prize Winner.” Zahra Raisu Estabragh, 2019 Prize Winner.

DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM HERE

Celebrating our female Researchers

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall hosted a reception at Clarence House on the 18th February to celebrate the women who are leading the way in arthritis research and as holders of Versus Arthritis Fellowships Elisa Corsiero and Elena Ponterini from EMR and Dr Lucy Norling from BP were lucky enough to attend the event.

Further details can be found at :-

17 June 2020 Barts and Queen Mary Science Festival

10.30am-3pm, The Octagon Queen’s Building, Queen Mary University of London’s Mile End campus

Features talks and exhibition stands on science and medicine; open to all but particularly aimed at older secondary school children/young people interested in a career in science and medicine. Organised with the help of Barts NIHR PPAG (Public and Patient Advisory Group). Registration is now open and can be found at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/barts-and-queen-mary-science-festival-17-june-2020-tickets-78438093449

This is the 10th year of Barts and Queen Mary Science Festival, for more information about the history of the festival see https://www.qmul.ac.uk/whri/patient-public-engagement/barts-and-queen-mary-science-festival/

For enquiries re 2020 festival please email sciencefestival@qmul.ac.uk

New Horizons in Genomics Event 10-11th September 2020

For more details click here

Congratulations to....

Professor Chris Thiemermann who was awarded the inaugural ESS Honorary Membership, their lifetime achievement award at The World Congress of the World Federation of Shock Societies in Chania in October 2019. Shireen Mohammad from TMT won the YIA. Caroline O’Riordan and Nikita Patel won Travel Fellowships for Best Talk and Best Poster.
Michael Preedy (TMT) in Adrian Hobbs’ team is about to take up his BHF Fulbright Scholarship at Yale with Prof. Bill Sessa (April).

Anthony Thaventhiran (TMT) was awarded the BMA Foundation for Medical Research “Lift into Research” Grant at the British Medical Association awards ceremony attended by Prof Parveen Kumar and Prof Steve Thornton.

Lauren Callender (TMT) received her PhD December 2019 and has secured a post-doctoral position at AstraZeneca.

Madeeha Sheikh (TMT) awarded a fellowship from Guarantors of Brain to participate to the CVB Miami; she was selected to give a short talk.
Egle Solito (TMT) was invited speaker at the CVB Miami (USA)

Egle Solito (TMT) was invited to give a Plenary Lecture at the BBB Signal Transduction in Wurzburg, Germany.

Dr Parjam Zolfaghari, Professor Nick Goulding and Dr Martin Carrier from Queen Mary's William Harvey Research Institute (WHRI) were one of several winners at the Queen Mary Education Excellence Award and President and Principal's Prizes for 2019/20.

Grace Salsbury (Chapple Group), Olivia Morris (Korbonits Group), Alessandra Mancini (Dunkel Group) and Julia Appelhans (all from Endo) on passing their PhDs.

James Whiteford (CMR) received the British Journal of Pharmacology 2019 Editors' Performance Award.

Marta Korbonits (Endo) – elected to be Member of the Hungarian Academy of Science

Marta Korbonits (Endo) – KROC Visiting Professorship Award, Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Ashley Grossman (Endo) Endocrine Society Outstanding Mentor Award

Peter McCormick (Endo) - Two Case Awards from Bart’s Charity

Peter McCormick (Endo) - A proof of concept award

Peter McCormick (Endo) - A China Talents Program Visiting Scientist award to fund three years of collaborative work

Ashley Grossman (Endo) - Endocrine Society Outstanding Mentor Award

Sasha Howard’s (Endo) best price for the BSPED science award

Nikolina (Endo) best clinical abstract BSPED
Kenneth Fung (ACI), Winner of Young Investigator Award at ARTERY19 conference for the presentation titled - "First genome-wide association study of cardiovascular magnetic resonance derived aortic distensibility reveals 7 loci"

Dr Gemma Pugh (SEM) has been shortlisted for an unprecedented 3 (three) QM Teaching Awards as nominated by students. This includes recognition for her efforts in Academic Support, Employability Enhancement as well as the prestigious overall Teacher of the Year award.

Dr Valetina Cipriani (CP) on being made a Lecturer

Grants & Awards of Note

BHF Programme Grant Renewal (2020-2025; Advancing MSC-Dressing therapy for myocardial repair; £1,264k)
Ken Suzuki (CMR) with Mauro Perretti, Anthony Mathur, Michael Barnes, Federica Marelli-Berg, Rakesh Uppal, Tom Nightingale, Fiona Lewis.

BHF Project Grant (£230k) “Controlling the haemostatic response: Novel regulatory mechanisms for Von Willebrand factor secretion from endothelial cells” Tom Nightingale (CMR)

BHF Project Grant (260K) “Induced pluripotent stem cells regenerative potential in cardiovascular disease” Fiona Lewis (CMR)

BHF Clinical Research Training Fellowship no. FS/20/16/34945 - Aemun Salam £263,904 “Therapeutic utility of targeting C-type natriuretic peptide to maintain endothelial integrity and offset pulmonary oedema and acute lung injury” in Adrian Hobb's Lab (TMT).

Project grant (£188k) from Diabetes UK for Sian Henson (TMT).

NIHR Global Health Policy & Systems Research Award: £100,000; 2019-20 for Rupert Pearse (TMT)

Neil Dufton (CMR) Barts Charity Small grant (£45k).
Elisa Corsiero (EMR) was awarded a Versus Arthritis Career Development Fellowship which commenced on in January 2020.

Michele Bombardieri (EMR) has been awarded a MRC grant on metabolic regulation of tertiary lymphoid organs with the University of Birmingham with total funding of £650K of which £250K comes to QMUL.

Myles Lewis (EMR) has been awarded Versus Arthritis PhD scholarship (in collaboration with Francesca Capon, KCL)

Sotiria Manou-Stathopoulou (EMR) has been awarded Medical Trust of St Bartholomew’s Hospital Trust PhD Clinical Research Fellowship.

Dr. Ezra Aksoy (BP) has received a Barts Charity Small Project grant investigating IBD stratification strategy linked to key anti-inflammatory pathway biomarkers. The group has been awarded a global Marie Curie-Sklodowska fellowship from the European Commission.

MRC – Fellowship – James Blackburn (Endo) (295K)

Barts & the London Charity – Peter McCormick (Endo) (£147K)

Barts & the London Charity – Marta Korbonits (Endo) (£140K)

ESPE/Merck – Helen Storr (Endo) (£118K)

Carles Gaston-Massuet (Endo), 2020 India Global Engagement Research Initiation Scheme (GERIs)

Sare Betul & Carles Gaston-Massuet (Endo) (ESPE Early Career Scientific Development Grant)

Publications of Note

Owen-Woods C., Joulia R......... Nourshargh S. (CMR) “Local microvascular leakage promotes trafficking of activated neutrophils to remote organs”. JCI (2020)
Arokiasamy S,........Whiteford JR. (CMR) “Syndecan-3 in inflammation and Angiogenesis” Front Immunol (2020)


Pereira BI,......Henson SM,.....Akbar AN (TMT) “Sestrins Induce Natural Killer Function In Senescent-like CD8+ T Cells.” Nat Immunol (2020)

Callender LA,.........Henson SM (TMT) “Mitochondrial mass governs the extent of human T cell senescence.” Aging Cell (2019)

Haines, RW,.....Prowle JR (TMT) “Elevated urea-to-creatinine ratio provides a biochemical signature of muscle catabolism and persistent critical illness after major trauma” Intensive Care Medicine (2020)


Gutierrez del Arroyo A,.........Ackland GL (TMT) “NMDA receptor modulation of glutamate release in activated neutrophils.” EBioMedicine (2019)


Wall J, .....Thiemermann C,.....Brohi K. (TMT) “Modeling Cardiac Dysfunction Following Traumatic Hemorrhage


Zub E,………Solito E, Marchi N (TMT) “The GR-ANXA1 pathway is a pathological player and a candidate target in epilepsy.” FASEB (2019)


Elisa Corsiero,……….Costantino Pitzalis, Michele Bombardieri. (TMT) “Heavy and light chain affinity maturation and/or Fab N-glycosylation influence immunoreactivity towards NET antigens in RA synovial B-cell clones.” J Immunol (2020)


Chatterjee S, Metherell LA, Storr HL. (Endo) “GHR gene transcript heterogeneity may explain phenotypic variability in GHR pseudoexon (6Ψ) patients.” Endocrine connections (2020)


Pernicova I, Mártá Korbonits, M (Endo) “Metformin to reduce metabolic complications and inflammation in patients on systemic glucocorticoid therapy: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, proof-of-concept, phase 2 trial” Lancet Diabetes Endocrinology (2020)


Botta J, McCormick PJ, Howell LA (Endo) “Design and development of stapled transmembrane peptides that

Määttänen P, ..........Dalli J, Sherman PM. (BP) “Plant- and Fish-Derived n-3 PUFAs Suppress Citrobacter Rodentium-Induced Colonic Inflammation.” Mol Nutr Food Res. (2020)


Mohammed Y. Khanji,...........Steffen E. Petersen (ACI). Association Between Recreational Cannabis Use and
Cardiac Structure and Function. JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging (2020)

Nay Aung, MD, Steffen E. Petersen, (ACI) “Prognostic Significance of Left Ventricular Noncompaction.” Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging. (2020)


Lorenzoni V, Turchetti G; EVINCI Investigators. (ACI) “Correction to: Cost effectiveness analysis of stand alone or combined non invasive imaging tests for the diagnosis of stable coronary artery disease: results from the EVINCI study.” Eur J Health Econ. (2019)


evaluation of the ischemic burden. ULYSSES study." J Cardiovasc Comput Tomogr. (2020)


Cipriani V, .......... Clark SJ. (CP) “Increased circulating levels of Factor H-Related Protein 4 are strongly associated with age-related macular degeneration.” Nat Commun. (2020)


Bell C.G. et al. (CP) 'DNA methylation ageing clocks: challenges and recommendations'. Genome Biology (2019)


Singh S, Munroe PB, Cooper-DeHoff RM. (CP) “Genome-Wide Meta-Analysis of Blood Pressure Response to β1-Blockers: Results From ICAPS (International Consortium of Antihypertensive Pharmacogenomics Studies)” J Am Heart Assoc. (2019)

New WHRI Members

Neil Dufton returns to the WHRI as a Lecturer in CMR.

Sammy El Mansi has joined the Nightingale group (CMR) as a Post-doc.

Capucine Martin (Post-doc) and Max Wills (Clinical Research Fellow) have joined TMT along with Callum O’Keeffe, Theo Stylianou and Chiara Verra (Medical students).

EMR welcomes the following people: Lucrezia Del Zompo - temporary Research Technician, Evi Creebsburg - maternity cover Clinical Trial Data Manager, Tamas Lajtos - Research Technician, Laura Baseley - Clinical trial Coordinator, Teresa Parker - part-time Centre Administrator, Chanelle Evans - Junior Technician, Jacob Wilson - Junior Technician, Anna Surace - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Elisabetta Sciacca - Graduate Research Assistant, Mattia Caliste - Research Technician.

Dr. Luiz Da costa Vancolles has obtained a global EU-Marie Curie-Skłodowska Fellowship and joined Dr. Ezra Aksoy’s group to investigate PI3K role in dendritic cell antigen processing and presentation impact on gut immunity.

Ruoyan Xu has joined Li Chan’s group (Endo) as a post-doc mechanism of melanocortin receptor accessory proteins in adrenal disease and metabolism.
Oniz Suleyman has joined Marta Korbonits group (Endo) as a Research Assistant working on AIP, a gene involved in the development of childhood-onset growth hormone secreting tumours resulting in gigantism.

Charlotte Hall has joined Endocrinology as a Research co-ordinator.

A big WHRI welcome to all of you!

Departing WHRI Members

Gloria Lliso Ribera (EMR) - Clinical Research Fellow & PhD Student – viva passed on 12/02/20 and has started as a Consultant Rheumatologist at the “Unidad de Investigación Hospital Jimenez Diaz” in Madrid.

Hissah Alodaini (EMR) – passed viva on 28/11/2019

Jordyn Allan (EMR) - Trial Monitor & Administrator - returned to New Zealand

Gavri Luhar (EMR) – left on 28/02/2020 to joining Iqvia as a Trial Monitor

Fabio Argentina (EMR) – research technician – left on 28/02/2020

David Collier, Coordinator of Genetics of Endocrine Tumours study. Marta Korbonits group will be leaving His current post in Endocrinology on March 17th 2020.

Dr Joaquin Botta in the McCormick Group (Endo) will be Leaving in April to join Heptares-Sosei in Cambridge in their pharmacology team.

Public Engagement and Media appearances

Peter McCormick (Endo) appeared in a Channel 4 documentary Bill Turnbull: Staying Alive - All 4
This intimate documentary follows journalist and presenter Bill Turnbull as he undertakes chemotherapy, tries cannabis for medicinal purposes and adopts a healthier diet.
https://www.channel4.com/programmes/bill-turnbull-staying-alive

**Khanji M** et al. (ACI) Association Between Recreational Cannabis Use and Cardiac Structure and Function. We received a lot of media interest and the publication is rated #1 from all JACC Cardiovascular Imaging publications based on the Altmetric attention score of 307.


https://academic.oup.com/ehjqcco/pages/best-of#aeaa3305b76f063c0c04

The William Harvey Research Institute
Charterhouse Square
London EC1M 6BQ
United Kingdom

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