

THE PULSE

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES **THE PULSE** A round up of newsworthy headlines within your Faculty Issue 1 May 2018

A message from our PVC Chris...



I hope you like this first edition of our new-look newsletter, 'The Pulse' – which will depict aspects of our work across Faculty. Our goal is to deliver news content more regularly and, in due course, to move to an online format.

As part of our commitment to improve communications we have had briefing sessions with all academic colleagues, with further sessions scheduled to meet with professional support colleagues (admin, clerical and technical) and research colleagues. The Deans, Director of Operations and myself have also attended School Boards giving us an opportunity to update on developments and to take questions, so hopefully staff found these useful – they certainly were for us.

There are a lot of changes coming. I've met our newly appointed Vice Chancellor and President , Professor Ian Greer on a number of occasions and very much look forward to working with him. Ian brings significant experience from his work with partners in Manchester and, being a medic, has considerable interest in our Faculty. James O'Kane, Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, retires from Queen's after 24 years' service. James' knowledge of the University and the HE Sector is second to none, and I am sure you will join me in thanking him for the guidance he has given, and in wishing him and his family all the very best in this next chapter of his life.

We have also been looking at opportunities to expand the intake to our undergraduate medicine programme. The Bengoa Report set out the direction of travel for changes in the delivery of healthcare in Northern Ireland, and the Department of Health is conducting a workforce planning exercise to propose the number of doctors required to be trained to deliver this model in future years. Following positive feedback from the Department of Health on our Strategic Business Case, we have now appointed consultancy firm RSM UK to work with us in developing a detailed business case. However, the Department of Health has advised that there is no funding identified for any expansion at this time, but the work currently being undertaken by RSM will ensure Queen's will be ready to take advantage of any opportunity should it arise.

Finally, we are interested to hear your views so please forward comments to: pvc-mhls@qub. ac.uk

Best wishes,

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Duchess of Gloucester meets prostate Cancer patients at Queen's CCRCB



Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester visited the Movember Centre of Excellence based within the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology (CCRCB) on Friday 22 September 2017 to learn about the groundbreaking prostate cancer research taking place.

The Duchess of Gloucester, who is the royal patron of the men's health charity, Prostate Cancer UK, was introduced to patients and researchers leading on revolutionary projects at the Movember Centre of Excellence, one of the Charity's major research programmes. Professor David Waugh, Director of CCRCB said:

"Our mission in the Centre is to translate our scientific discovery to inform how best to treat patients in the clinics. In this regard, our research has a direct impact in improving patient outcomes and their quality - of - life. We are delighted to welcome the Duchess of Gloucester to the Centre and to introduce her to our prostate cancer research team, patients and their families to experience first - hand how our research makes a real difference to people's lives."



'The royal visitor was told of the "great progress" being made "with some really exciting research" as she met men already benefiting from clinical trials.'

prostatecanceruk.org



A visit from Professor William C. Campbell, Nobel Laureate

As a Faculty, we were delighted to welcome Professor William C. Campbell, Nobel Laureate, to deliver a prestigious lecture in The Great Hall on Tuesday 21st November 2017.

A capacity audience gathered to hear Professor Campbell's lecture, 'Finding Ivermectin: A Medication for the Control of River Blindness and other Parasitoses'.

Professor James McElnay, Acting President and Vice - Chancellor, welcomed the audience and introduced Professor Campbell. Following the lecture, Professor Chris Elliott chaired an excellent question and answer session before Professor Campbell was invited to a poster display in the Graduate School hosted by Professor Aaron Maule and the Parasitology Research Group.

Professor Campbell was brought up in Donegal, schooled in Campbell College Belfast, and then moved to the USA to begin his career as a research biologist and parasitologist at the Merck Institute for Theraputic Research. He is known for his work in discovering a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworms, for which he was jointly awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

He helped discover a class of drugs called avermectins, whose derivatives have been shown to have 'extraordinary efficacy' in treating River blindness and Lymphatic filariasis, among other parasitic diseases affecting animals and humans.



Dolly's legacy: Cloning pioneer Professor Sir Ian Wilmut delivers the Barcroft Lecture



Dolly. Her name is still shorthand for a landmark in the science of cloning.

Born in July 1996, this perfectly normal - looking sheep grabbed headlines around the world. A team of researchers in Scotland had painstakingly taken the nucleus of an adult mammary cell from a sheep's udder and placed it into the casing of a developing sheep egg. The resulting embryo went on to be born as Dolly, who took global stardom in her four-legged stride.

While cloning had been used for biomedicine and agriculture since the 1970s and 1980s, the 1990s ushered in Dolly, kick-starting intense media interest. "We were surprised at how quickly public interest developed and lasted," said Professor Wilmut before his



Following his lecture, Professor Wilmut receives the Barcroft Medal from Professor Pascal McKeown.

lecture. "I still get asked about it all the time, 20 years on." When Dolly was born (after more than 270 attempts at the cloning procedure), she changed the game by opening up new ways to control the genetic makeup of mammals.

Professor Sir Ian Wilmut, who led the research team at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh University that produced Dolly, was in QUB last November to deliver the Barcroft Lecture in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences.

Professor Wilmut spoke to a packed audience of more than 300 staff and students about the history of cloning and the need to ensure that patients can access the benefits of new technologies emerging from the field.

Following his lecture, Professor Wilmut was awarded the Barcroft Medal by Professor Pascal McKeown, Acting Head of School.

RESEARCH NEWS

23 pieces of coverage on Dr Suneil Jain's study about testing for prostate cancer received including The Daily Mirror, Medical Xpress and EcancerNews.

Over 200 articles on Professor Chris Elliott and Dr Marie Cantwell on their research from the Institute for Global Food Science surrounding nitrate - free bacon. The article was covered in the Huffington Post, The Daily Mail, The Guardian, The Grocer and also international publications and websites including Food Navigator and Newsweek.



Over 70 items of media coverage

on Professor El Karim's research on how aspirin may be used to treat tooth decay including The Mail Online, The Daily Express and The Sun (NI and Eire).

34 items of media coverage

generated from Professor Nigel King's research on skin cancer tattoos to enable medical students to develop a greater empathy for their patients. The article was covered by the BBC, ECancer Medical Science and The Independent.

GRANTS AWARDS

In the first 8 months of this financial year (2017/18), the Faculty has **received 180 new research awards worth £23.5M**. Within this, there are a number of substantial awards in excess of £0.5M (see table below). The Faculty is currently on track to meet the research income/expenditure target of £42M this year, with current expenditure at £26M and a contribution to overheads of £3.7M.

D Waugh	Invest NI	Establishing a Precision Medicine Catapult Centre of Excellence in Northern Ireland	£ 5,834,664
J Woodside	Invest NI	AFQCC – Flagship Derry/Londonderry as the nexus city for food, education, trust and health	£ 749,906
N Scollan	Invest NI	AFQCC – Flagship Food Futures SMART Sustainable Agri-Food Production	£ 749,733
F Kee	MRC	Using Game Theory to assess the effects of social norms on adolescent smoking in schools	£ 724,284
R McMullan	INI Randox	Development of an Enteric Multiplex Array	£ 592,788
M Tunney	INI Randox	Development of a Urinary Tract Infection Multiplex Array	£ 535,065
R Donnelly	Wellcome Trust	Microneedles: Bypassing the Gastrointestinal Microbiota to Circumvent Antibiotic Resistance	£ 506,250

Erskine House Tree crowned Tree of the Year!

Following on from our Erskine House tree Launch event on the 18th October 2017, we have pleasure in telling you that the Erskine House Tree won this year's Woodland Trusts (Northern Ireland) tree of the year competition.



The Erskine House Tree topped the Northern Irish shortlist with 1732 votes. The wonderful tree is located next to the Belfast City Hospital, providing a moment of tranquility for both doctors and patients passing by. The tree's history is remarkable as in 1966 Greek doctor Dimitrios Oreopoulos undertook kidney research at Queen's University and took his knowledge to Canada where he developed a new form of kidney dialysis. He was rewarded with seeds from the Plane Tree of Kos; just one of those tree seeds survived – the great Erskine House Tree.

We are delighted and humbled how the Erskine House tree, and what it represents, connected with so many people. Many thanks for all of your support.

TOP 50 spot in QS world rankings for the School of Nursing and Midwifery

The School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queen's has claimed a place in the top 50 of the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2018, details of which were announced at the end of February. The QS Rankings by Subject identifies the world's strongest universities in 48 individual subject areas. In 2017, Queen's University's School of Nursing and Midwifery was ranked 51-100 and has now moved up to the top 50 in the 2018 rankings.

Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, Professor Chris Elliott, welcomed the announcement. He commented: "I am delighted that the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Queen's has been ranked in the top 50 of the QS World University Rankings. "As a world-class university, it is pleasing that we are being recognised for research and teaching on the global stage. This reflects our continued commitment to making a positive impact on wider society locally, nationally and globally."

Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Donna Fitzsimons, said: "This assessment by the highly - respected QS World University Rankings recognises our excellence as an institution and as a School.

This is such good news for our team here in Queen's and the wider Nursing and Midwifery workforce in Northern Ireland."

Research Innovation Prize Winner



Research Innovation Prize winner: Dr Denise Fitzgerald (School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences) -'Harnessing the immune system to repair the brain'

Dr Fitzgerald joined the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences in 2009. Since then she has successfully established a cutting-edge research programme in Neuroimmunology.

In 2016 Denise secured Northern Ireland's first Wellcome Trust Investigator Award.

She has established new experimental models, trained postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students and published seminal papers as senior author.

Denise recently published a four-year research study identifying a new role for immune cells in supporting brain repair in Nature Neuroscience.

This landmark work has opened new frontiers in the fields of neuroscience, immunology and regenerative medicine and delivered a unified, multidisciplinary and completely novel research programme here at Queen's.

School of Pharmacy World Rankings

The School of Pharmacy at Queen's has been ranked in the top 100 Schools of Pharmacy in **the world**, in the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2018. This is the second year in a row in which the School has maintained its standing. The ranking is based on academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper and h-index. Professor Carmel Hughes, Head of School said 'This assessment demonstrates the quality of the work that is undertaken across all our activities and is a fantastic affirmation for the wonderful work that is done by all our staff. We have an outstanding reputation for our teaching and research which helps attract outstanding students and staff.

We are determined to maintain and, indeed, improve upon this ranking in the years ahead.

Congratulations to our Staff Excellence Award 2017 Winners and to all of those shortlisted!

Shortlisted...



Achieving Ambition Dr Michael Williams



🗘 Outstanding Leadership Dr Denise Fitzgerald



Peter Griffin

Dementia Friends, School of Nursing and Midwifery



🔀 Lifetime Achievement



International Women's Day 8th March

School of Pharmacy

The School of Pharmacy was delighted to welcome Dr Claire Thompson, Deputy Chief Scientist of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society who talked about her career to date at an International Women's Day (IWD) lecture "Career Pathways and Entrepreneurship within the Pharma Sector".

Claire spoke openly and with great enthusiasm about her career in the Pharmaceutical Industry, taking on large Pharma, and being an entrepreneur.

Claire's presentation was inspirational sparking good discussion amongst many of our scientists in training, and staff.

She is also running a Women in Leadership meeting in London on the 27th June which will be relevant to all professionals across healthcare.



Prof Carmel Hughes and Dr Rebecca Craig

School of Biological Sciences

This year the School of Biological Sciences celebrated the hard work and contribution made by female staff members across different levels within the School. Six women were nominated by their peers and colleagues and posters were made to showcase their accomplishments in the past year. The posters were unveiled during a well attended get together by school colleagues. The women acknowledged were:

1. PhD Student Mairead Connor Irish Microbiology Society's Young Microbiologist of the Year 2017

2. PhD Student Mairead Campbell Society of Feed Technologists award recipient 2017

3. Post-Doctoral Fellow Debbie Cox Research published in Nature Communications **4. Post-Doctoral Fellow Kristina Cwiklinski** Research published in Molecular Cell Proteomics

5. Administrative Staff Catriona Toner

For all her management skills in helping the ongoing transition to the new SBS building

6. Technical staff Jacqui Marshall

For all her hard work in supporting both School and teaching lab activities.



Mairead Connor

Mairead Campbell

Debbie Cox

Kristina Cwiklinski

Catriona Toner

Jacqui Marshall

International Women's Day 8th March

School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences

The School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences held their annual coffee morning for International Women's Day to celebrate and acknowledge the hard work and excellence of their female colleagues and students across different levels within the School through poster presentations.

As part of IWD, Gender Equality Committee members suggest a charity linked with women and / or children either locally or internationally that they would like to donate the proceedings to. This year the committee selected a local charity Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid with a focus on female trafficking.



"An impressive total of £419.97 was raised for Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid" The coffee morning was held at two sites, the inner atrium of the WWIEM in the Health Sciences Campus, and the foyer of ICS-A in the RVH campus.

Heather from Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid was in attendance to promote the charity and final year medical students from Queens University Academic Medicine Society (QUAMS) were available with their poster on female trafficking, along with other posters celebrating the research success of staff and students.

An impressive total of £419.97 was raised for Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid from both sites.

International Men's Day - 20th November

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Last November, a 1 hour International Men's Day event was hosted by the School of Nursing & Midwifery on Monday 20th November 2017 in SPACE, Students Union. The soap box event focused on men's health, highlighting the research conducted in the School of Nursing & Midwifery, such as Sexual Health of Young Men and Traumatic brain injury among young men in prison. The event was well received by those in attendance.



Professoriate Lunch – 4th December 2017 Professor Michael Brown

Every year the School of Nursing & Midwifery host two professoriate lunches for Early Career Researchers (ECRs),

The lunches are an informal get together, providing an opportunity for ECRs to engage with the host Professor. Professor Michael Brown held a lunch in early December 2017, during which ideas, tips, and suggestions were exchanged between ECR's on career development. Michael gave an overview of his career to date, the opportunities that came his way, and what he believed benefited him most throughout his career.

See upcoming events for details of the next lunch scheduled for 3rd May 2018.



Women's early Career Academic Network (WeCAN) – 15th March 2018

- Mentoring for Success - Denise Price



The second WeCAN event for SMDBS was held on Thursday 15th March 2018 in the Basement Seminar Room, WWIEM.

Denise Price from EPS who recently held the role of QGI Acting Director and one of the Mentoring Champions in QGI, gave an overview of the Mentoring Scheme. There were almost 50 people in attendance from all staff groups within the School, and Denise provided data on its success to date.

The Mentoring for Leadership Programme was piloted in 2016 / 2017 and, currently has almost 20 mentors and mentees, and a programme for Professional and Support Staff will be piloted in the 2018 / 2019 academic year.

EVENTS

Studentindustry networking event success

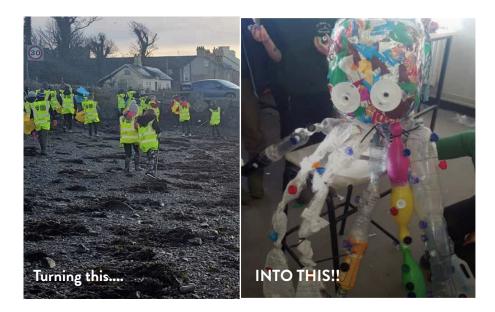
A 'Meet The Agri-Food Employers' networking event at Riddel Hall in December 2017 was a great success, with 17 employers and over 200 Agriculture and Food Science delegates.

The fun, informative event was organised by the School of Biological Sciences and Institute for Global Food Security to



develop student awareness of career opportunities within the sector, and for companies to promote work placement and graduate opportunities. The event included a 'speed networking' session between undergraduates and employers, and a Dragons Den - style poster competition, which gave Masters students the opportunity to pitch research ideas to an audience of industry and academic experts. Employers present included ABP, Cranswick Foods, Dale Farm, Deli-lites, Devenish Nutrition, Diageo, Dunbia, Finnebrogue, Kerry, Mash Direct, Moy Park, Thompsons and Wilson's Country. Research, government, trade and lobby organisations such as AFBI, DAERA, Northern Ireland Food and Drink and the Ulster Farmers Union were also represented.

Marine Art Litter Competition Event



Flying the Flag for Green Impact!

In February 2018, as part of the Northern Ireland Science Festival's (@niscifest) Marine Art Litter Competition, Queen's Marine Biology Laboratory and St Mary's Primary School, Portaferry spent the morning collecting litter from the shore and assembling these amazing art creations!

Well done P5 & P6!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018



Professoriate Lunch - Professor Christine Brown Wilson

The second professoriate lunch to be held by the School of Nursing & Midwifery for Early Career Researchers will take place on Thursday 3rd May.

Professor Christine Brown Wilson, recently appointed, will host the lunch. Christine will talk about her career and attendees will have an opportunity to engage directly with her about her experiences to date.

This event is open to ECRs within the School of Nursing and Midwifery.



An Audience with Professor Natasa Przuji

This will be a unique opportunity to learn about Professor Natasa Przulj's professional life in Biomedical Data Science and the highlights of her career pathway. Open to all SMDBS PhD students, research and academic staff, the event will be held from 11.00am to 12.00pm (with refreshments) in Seminar Room 2, CCRCB.

Further information about Professor Przulj can be found at http://www0.cs.ucl.ac.uk/staff/ natasa/index.html

30 MAY

Gender Equality Annual Lecture – Professor Melanie Welham

The SMDBS Gender Equality Annual Lecture will be held on Wednesday 30th May 2018 in the South Lecture Theatre, MBC. Refreshments available from 2.00pm in advance of the lecture at 2.30pm. Professor Welham is the Chief Executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

Read more about Professor Welham at http:// www.bbsrc.ac.uk/about/governance-structure/ executive/chief-executive/

19 JUNE

An Audience with Professor Vesna Garovic

SMDBS students and academic staff are invited to attend a session on Professor Vesna Garovic's professional life in hypertension and nephrology, with a special focus on women's health and the highlights of her career to date. The 1 hour event is scheduled to commence at 11.30am in Seminar Room 2, CCRCB. Refreshments available.

Go to http://www.mayo.edu/research/faculty/ garovic - vesna - d - m - d/bio - 00027747 to find out more about Professor Garovic.

FACULTY PROJECTS - UPDATE



The Simulation Centre

The Capital Projects Group has given approval for the appointment of a design team to support the delivery of the new Health Sciences Simulation Centre. Indeed, they have asked the Project group to go further by seeking to enlarge and integrate the Clinical Skills Education Centre and an assessment space for OSCE and MMI activity into co-joined spaces. This creates some new challenges but working with colleagues in Estates, a phased approach is being adopted to ensure the Simulation Centre is delivered by the end of 2019.



School of Biological Sciences (SBS)

Work continues on the new SBS build with the contractor currently anticipating a delayed handover in autumn. We are alos looking at opportunities to develop part of Lennoxvale to integrate with the new building. Unfortunately, due to the building set backs, the School will not move in over the summer as had been planned. Instead, there will be a progressive move of research in late 2018 - early 2019 with education and the admin functions relocating during the summer of 2019. The completion of works is critical to other Faculty plans in order to utilise the space SBS freed up in the MBC.



Workload Allocation Model (WAM)

There has been much discussion and anticipation about the creation of a Faculty WAM. This has proven to be quite a complicated exercise, however, we are making steady progress. We are seeking to measure three elements – Teaching – Admin Tasks & PG Supervision. The Teaching element is proving to be the most challenging as we try to retrieve information already in the various systems, therefore we may have to ask staff to fill in an online form to capture this information for our 'first cut'. We have been greatly assisted by the advice of Dr Jose Sousa who leads the Advanced Infomatics CTU.

We hope to have the first iteration in operation at the start of the new academic year.



Faculty Plan

We are working on the creation of a Faculty Plan which will be our business plan from 2018/19. Aligning with the Corporate Plan, it will allow Schools to build their own delivery plans to coordinate our activities and deliver on the corporate goals. More information coming soon.

A tribute to Professor Liam Murray

by Professor Frank Kee, Centre for Public Health, SMDBS



As many of you will know, our dear friend and colleague Professor Liam Murray, Centre for Public Health, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family early on the morning of Friday 12th January 2018 following a brave battle with his final illness.

The huge attendance at his funeral two days later in Loughbrickland was testament to how many people thought so highly of Liam.

At the request of Liam's wife Mary Lou, I delivered the eulogy and paid tribute to Liam on behalf of everyone who knew him. Many adjectives describe how Liam's character stood out from the crowd, such as noble, humble, inspiring, collegial, fair-minded, generous, scholarly, respectful, approachable, dependable – a gentle man and a real gentleman.

I recall Liam's outstanding career, from the early days when we first worked together at the Northern Health Board's Public Health Department in Ballymena, until latterly when Liam's brilliance as an academic was recognised internationally.

Over those years people would readily acknowledge that Liam was a man who knew how to get things done, someone who took his job, but not himself, seriously.

Liam moved to Bristol in 1994 to take up a post as a Lecturer/ Registrar in Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Bristol, returning to Northern Ireland in January 1997 as a Senior Registrar in Public Health, at the Western Health Board, joining QUB later that year as a Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology and Public Health. By then his real leadership qualities were in plain sight, for it was no time at all before other academics threw their lot in with him, sensing the no-limits potential of any team led by Liam.

His influence was transformative, for so many of those he nurtured are now leading their own groups and have taken root in places like the National Institute of Health or in leadership positions in their home countries. In the drive for globalisation he notched up thousands of air miles travelling to the US or latterly to destinations like Vietnam and Malaysia. However, despite these long and time consuming trips, Liam would never contemplate travelling business class, but everyone knew he deserved First Class.

Anyone reflecting on it might recognise Liam in the character played by Jimmy Stewart from the movie 'It's a wonderful life' - a man who couldn't or wouldn't acknowledge the quietly transformative effect that he was having on those around him. Thank you Liam for sharing a wonderful life with us and setting an example to us all.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Mary Lou and their daughters Lois and Evelyn, and all the Murray family.

A tribute to Dr John Quinn

by Professor John McGrath, Deputy Head of School, SBS



John joined Queen's having been awarded an MRC Training Fellowship in recombinant DNA technology, to study the mumps virus. In 1984 he was appointed to a Lectureship in the then Department of Botany where he started a new research field, the microbial metabolism of organophosphonates. It was in this area that John built an international reputation over his academic career, discovering a number of new pathways for organophosphonate degradation and thus contributing significantly to our current understanding of the biogeochemical cycling of phosphorus. This was recognised in his promotion to Reader in 1999 within the School of Biological Sciences.

John contributed extensively to academia both within the University and externally. He was an active member of the Microbiology Society and the Royal Irish Academy, serving on the latter's National Microbiology Commission. Within the University John acted as an Advisor of Studies for Microbiology, Chaired the Postgraduate Research Committee, and represented the School on the University Scholarships and Awards Committee. John was an avid reader with a keen interest in history and dialect. Even here he found a way to incorporate microbiology, touring Northern Ireland's historical societies with his talk on 'Typhoid Mary'.

John was a popular teacher and mentor who took great satisfaction from the success of the students who passed through his laboratory. Many graduates are keenly aware of John's role in seeing them successfully complete their degrees and find employment, which at times even involved him transporting them to exam halls or job interviews. John's compassion for students, his reasoned advice



for fellow colleagues which often involved an obligatory cup of tea, and willingness to make time for people even on his busiest days were his hallmark.

John was one of life's true gentlemen, and is fondly remembered and deeply missed by all his colleagues both within Queen's and beyond.

John is survived by his wife Mary and his daughters Helen and Lucy.



If you have any news that you would like featured in our next edition, please contact: pvc-mhls@qub.ac.uk