



Queen's University Belfast Social Charter Newsletter

September 2021. VOL 31

Clinical trial provides new approach for people with eye disease to increase NHS capacity

A UK-wide study, led by Queen's University Belfast, has shown how a new surveillance pathway for people with stable diabetic eye disease is safe and cost-saving, freeing up ophthalmologists to evaluate and treat people requiring urgent care.

The new health care surveillance pathway may help ophthalmic units across the world to improve their capacity whilst saving patient's sight. It is already having a positive impact on the re-design of NHS services across the UK, having been implemented successfully in several hospitals.

The EMERALD research study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), has been published in leading journals including Ophthalmology, BMJ and NIHR's Health Technology Assessment.

The new pathway can save £1390 per 100 patients, and the real savings are the ophthalmologist's time, which can then be redirected to the evaluation of people at high risk of visual loss.

"The important data from the EMERALD study has helped us to significantly increase the numbers of people with diabetic retinopathy being seen in 'imaging/grading' pathways. This has hugely increased our follow-up capacity, whilst allowing ophthalmologists' time to be directed to the people with diabetic retinopathy who need treatment or further assessment."

Dr Clare Bailey, consultant ophthalmologist at the Bristol Eye Hospital

Research with Impact:

Smiling can build relationships even after someone has been untrustworthy, researchers find

A certain type of smile can help to restore trust in relationships after someone has been uncooperative or untrustworthy, according to new research by Queen's University.

Dr Magdalena Rychlowska from Queen's University has been analysing how three different types of smiles can influence social judgments and trust in difficult situations where there could be conflict.

The smiles – reward, dominance and affiliation – all have different characteristics. A reward smile is encouraging and gives signals that a person is happy, whereas a dominance smile reinforces superiority or status of the person who smiles. An affiliation smile builds and maintains social bonds.

Dr Rychlowska carried out five studies, with more than 900 participants involved. These examined how participants reacted to reward, dominance, and affiliation smiles after their group was treated badly by a member of a different group during an economic game.

To view videos of the three types of smiles developed as part of the research, click on the happy face!



Research with Impact:

New research finds pet dogs can predict their owner's epileptic seizures

New research led by Queen's University has shown that dogs can predict epileptic seizures, offering a warning sign to owners that has the potential to save lives.

Epileptic seizures are associated with a specific smell which is detectable by pet dogs. The study analysed the reaction of dogs to odours and found that the dogs could predict when a seizure was imminent.

A reliable early warning system to make people with epilepsy aware of an impending seizure has the potential to save lives, reduce injury, provide an opportunity for medical intervention and return a sense of independence to those living with unpredictable seizures.

"We hypothesized that, given the extraordinary sense of smell of dogs, a volatile organic compound exhaled by the dog's epileptic owner may provide an early warning trigger mechanism to which make dogs react before the seizure. The results have shown pet dogs to be a reliable source to detect an on-set seizure."

Dr Neil Powell, School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast



Education with Social Purpose: All-Island Schools Virtual Open Day

In collaboration with the Northeast Cancer Research & Education Trust (NECRET), the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RSCI) and Queens University, are hosting a virtual open day for students considering a future career in medicine or medical research, on **Saturday 25th September 2021, 2.30pm - 4.00pm.**

This initiative, incepted by NECRET, is specifically designed to inspire and enthuse the next generation of cancer medical and research professionals.

On the day, students will hear from national and international leaders in cancer care, treatment, and research, who will highlight the emerging and exciting pathways and opportunities available in this area.

The event is open to all students but is primarily geared towards Yr12 upwards (NI) and transition and fifth year students (RoI).

For more information, and to register, click on the image below.

ALL-ISLAND SCHOOLS
VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

LEARN ABOUT THE
MEDICAL CAREERS
COMBATING
CANCER

SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2.30PM - 4.00PM

Queen's Open Learning short course programme to resume face-to-face teaching

Queen's University's Open Learning short course programme is due to return to face-to-face format in late September, COVID-19 regulations permitting.

The Open Learning programme provides the opportunity to try something exciting and new, and offers a flexible approach to learning.

The new programme for Autumn and New Year offers a dynamic menu of new courses including 'Teaching English to Migrants' – offering skills to potential teachers of English, 'Understanding Refugee Resettlement and Asylum', 'Migration in Literature and Film' and 'The First Americans'.

For more details, click **here!**

Breaking Boundaries to Produce New Knowledge: Amphibian foam used for drug delivery for first time

Amphibian foam has been used in drug delivery for the first time by researchers, which could help to combat the rise of antimicrobial resistance.

The team from Queen's University Belfast, the University of Strathclyde, and the University of Glasgow found that the foam, found in frogs nests, has the potential to offer benefits to topical, vaginal and rectal drug delivery. It provides a controlled - release delivery, which minimises risk of infection and antimicrobial resistance, while the organic form also reduces risk of allergy.

The researchers collected foam from wild túngara frogs, which protects this species from the elements in its native Trinidad, including extreme temperatures as well as harmful bacteria.

As the foam offered protection in these extreme conditions, the researchers hypothesised that it could offer a more durable system for drug delivery.

Disruptive Innovation for SMEs

The InterTradelreland All Island Innovation Programme, delivered in partnership with InterTradelreland, Queen's University Belfast, NUI Galway and University College Cork presents 'Disruptive Innovation for SMEs', taking place on **28 September 2021 at 12.00pm**.

The event features Dr. Matthew Anderson, Professor of Disruptive Leadership at KEDGE Business School and Visiting Scholar at Queens University. Dr Anderson is also co-founder of strategic consulting partners The Why Elephant in Paris.

Matthew will share some simple, and fast-flowing tips from recent work in disruptive innovation. He will pay particular attention to specific - often neglected - issues of leveraging Purpose and Power in innovation.

For more information, and to register, click on the image below.



Dr Matthew Anderson
Co-Founder The Why Elephant and
Adjunct Professor of Disruptive Leadership
KEDGE Business School, Paris

 **28 September, 12pm**  **Online**

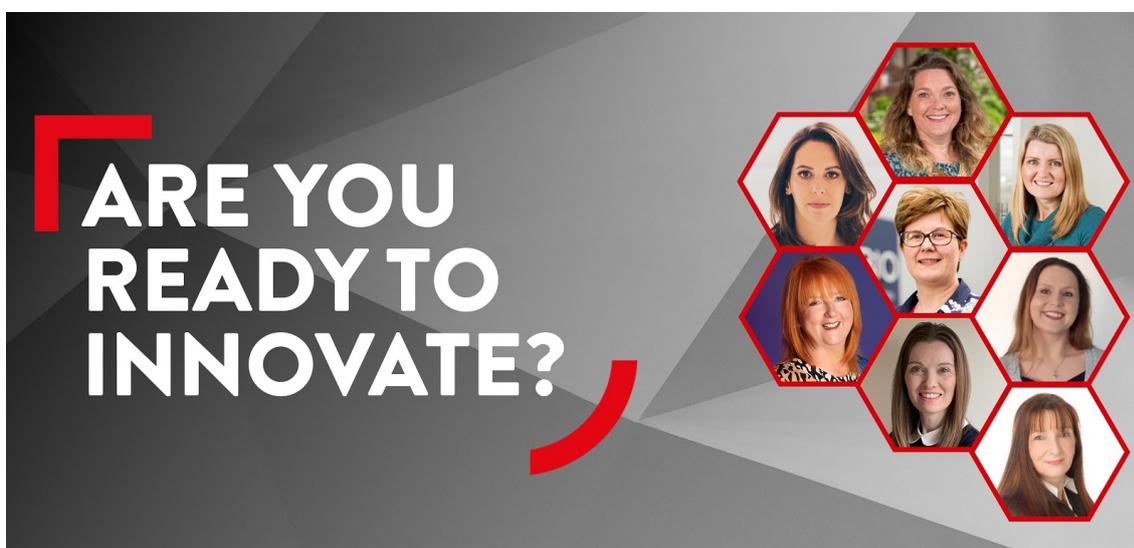
Equality and Excellence: **QGI Innovation & Entrepreneurship Masterclass**

Are you ready to innovate?

If so, why not join the Queen's Gender Initiative (QGI) for a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of female innovators, entrepreneurs, mentors & investors from across our business community?

The QGI Innovation & Entrepreneurship Masterclass takes place on **Thursday 7 October 2021, 2.00pm - 4.30pm** and will offer panel discussion, insight, knowledge and invaluable advice to those with an idea or interested in an entrepreneurial opportunity.

More information is available by clicking on the image below.



Queen's offers over 800 DfE funded places on courses across priority economic areas

Queen's University Belfast is offering over 800 free places to upskill and retrain people across a range of priority economic areas through postgraduate certificates, postgraduate diplomas and shorter courses.

The Department for the Economy will fund the places through its 'Skill Up' Flexible Skills Fund and follows the success of previous Department funded COVID-19 response postgraduate certificates in 2020, which helped people impacted by furlough or job loss due to the pandemic.

These courses are open to all applicants and not dependent upon having been impacted by furlough or job loss due to the pandemic.

The courses on offer are in areas including Software Development, Advanced Manufacturing Engineering, Green Technologies, Leadership and Management, and Health, and have been created to suit a wide range of needs including online, on campus and blended learning options.

Sustainability: Code Red for Humanity

'Code Red for Humanity' is the first podcast in a mini-series has been released and is available to download at The Charter Podcast page.

Code Red for Humanity features Dr Donal Mullan from Queen's University's School of Natural Built Environment. It focuses on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report and is available by clicking on the image below.



Civic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue: New report finds proposed UK government amnesty cannot deliver truth for victims of The Troubles

A team of legacy experts based at Queen's University and the Belfast-based human rights NGO, the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), have released a detailed report on the UK government's recent 'Command Paper on Legacy'.

Since 2013, this team has produced a range of technical briefings and reports designed to help inform public debates on dealing with the past.

The new report 'Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past: The Model Bill Team's Response to the NIO proposals' draws upon the team's extensive international and local experience on dealing with the past to produce a detailed response to the government's proposals.

"The effect of the proposed UK government amnesty would be to prevent not only criminal prosecutions but also to close down current or future investigations in the civil courts, in coronial inquests or Police Ombudsman investigations – all of which would be closed off to families. I have been working on amnesties around the world for almost twenty years and I have analysed almost 300 amnesties related to conflict and peace from 1990 until 2016. The proposed UK amnesty would offer the broadest form of impunity of all the amnesties surveyed."

Professor Louise Mallinder, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast



Recognising and Rewarding Contributions from Staff and Students: Children's book by Queen's writer described as 'The best animal adventure since Watership Down'

The children's book 'Wolfstongue', written by Dr Sam Thompson, Lecturer in Writing from the School of Arts, English and Languages at Queen's University, has been described by The Times as "The best animal adventure since Watership Down".

The children's debut by the Booker-longlisted novelist is an engrossing, thoughtful, beautifully written story about humans and animals, voice and power, neurodiversity and acceptance.

Wolfstongue tells the story of a boy with speech problems - inspired by Sam's own son - who enters a hidden world of talking animals. He befriends a family of wolves who have been enslaved by foxes, and the boy must face his struggle with words to win back the wolves' freedom.

The book has also been awarded 'Book of the Month' by BookTrust's 'Bookmark: Disability and Books' Scheme, and was one of Amanda Craig's 'best new children's books of the summer' in the New Statesman.



'Bad Bridget' collaborating with National Museums NI

An exciting collaborative project between Bad Bridget and National Museums NI has been made possible through AHRC Follow on Funding.

The project involves an ambitious exhibition at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, which will explore Bad Bridget themes. The exhibition will open in spring 2022 and remain in situ for 2 years.

There are also plans for associated online content, a community programme and an education programme.

Well done and good luck to all involved!