Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Faculty and Research Update for 2015. The previous annual year culminated in truly momentous style, with the long awaited results of the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) being announced. Our lead story in this edition provides a faculty overview of these results and gives some insight into how these will affect the next 5 years of research within Health and Life Sciences at Oxford Brookes.

There has been a significant amount of research activity in the Faculty over recent months, hence this slightly longer issue. All four departments have been actively involved in various projects, events and consultancy jobs, which all showcase the expertise of our professional community. Other main stories relate to the recent 3D printing project of microscopy data, where cell biology has been brought into new dimensions to enhance learning (page 7) and the latest initiative to develop and improve physical education for primary school children (page 12).

Our regular features introduce us to two new research staff (page 8) and overview the various projects ongoing in our consultancy centres (page 9). Our many research events have continued in abundance over recent months and appropriately represent all stages within a researcher’s career; from the Postgraduate Symposium (page 14) to the launch of a new research group (page 8) and the continuing AHSC staff seminar series (page 9).

To keep future editions of this Update interesting and relevant we require a constant supply of news stories so please keep sending them to: fhls-news@brookes.ac.uk. You can also keep up-to-date with the latest HLS news on our web page: www.hls.brookes.ac.uk/news.

Linda King,
Associate Dean, Research and Knowledge Exchange
Life after Prostate Cancer

Clinical Health Care researchers will play a key role in the largest ever study into the impact of prostate cancer

In November 2014, researchers in the Clinical Health Care (CHC) department announced their contribution to a large scale national study on Prostate Cancer, in collaboration with five other UK institutions. The project is jointly funded by Prostate Cancer UK and the Movember Foundation, who have committed £2.2 million to the research. The aim is to comprehensively assess men's quality of life following prostate cancer diagnosis and treatment, in order to gain a detailed understanding of the repercussions which matter most to these men and their families. The study will be led by academics from Leeds University and Queen's University Belfast, working in close collaboration with Southampton University, Oxford Brookes and Public Health England. It is hoped that the results will improve decision making for men regarding investigation and treatment options, and directly affect the clinical care and support offered to both the patient and his family.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer amongst men in the UK. Furthermore, the number of affected individuals is increasing. Treatment may impact physically, psychologically and socially, affecting quality of life for these men and their families. This project aims to establish what the most important issues are to men living with or beyond this disease and how clinical care can be tailored to meet the needs of anyone affected, whether directly or indirectly.

Beginning in 2015, the researchers will survey as many men as possible in all four UK countries who are between one and three years beyond diagnosis (approximately 115,000 people). In addition, a control group of men from the general population will also be surveyed to determine general population levels of relevant symptoms. Finally, a sample of the men who complete the survey and their partners, will also be interviewed. Men will be identified through UK Cancer Registration Systems and questionnaires will be used which have proven to be informative in national and international studies. Professor Eila Watson from Oxford Brookes Department of CHC is a member of the survey development team and with colleagues from Southampton will be taking a lead on the qualitative aspects of the study:

This is a very exciting initiative. It's great news that men with prostate cancer are now living for longer, but we need a better understanding of the issues men face in the years following diagnosis and treatment and the impact prostate cancer has on their quality of life. This study will give us the opportunity to ask men of all ages and backgrounds, from all over the UK what things are really like for them, what issues are most important, and where any gaps in services and support are - thus allowing us to improve care for men diagnosed in the future.

Professor Watson's research focusses on cancer survivorship, the impact of cancer on the family, the role of primary care in the delivery of cancer care and both professional and patient education. Dr Obrey Alexis, a senior lecturer at Oxford Brookes will also join the team as an advisor, in relation to the involvement of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) men in the study. Dr Alexis has expertise in conducting research with BME groups, has a specific interest in prostate cancer and has links with Black African and Caribbean prostate cancer support groups. The combined expertise of the team offers a wealth of experience and knowledge in both prostate cancer research and collecting and analysing patient reported outcomes. It is hoped that results will shed light on areas of clinical care that require attention and have the potential to heavily influence required changes in service provision.

Milly Farrell

Movember Foundation stands for constructive change and aims to challenge the status quo, with the result of driving significant outcomes from the conversations generated and funds raised.

Movember encourages men to grow moustaches and the community to support them by creating an innovative, fun and engaging annual Movember campaign, that results in:

• Funding for the Movember Foundation’s men’s health programmes
• Conversations about men’s health that lead to an awareness and understanding of the health risks men face and men taking action to remain well.

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Milly Farrell
The REF is the system used for assessing the quality of research in UK Higher Education institutions. 154 HE institutions submitted to the REF in December 2013 and the results were published on 18th December 2014.

So the REF2014 is almost over. We know how our Units of Assessment have performed but we will not know until March how this translates into funding for the next 5-6 years. As the individual Unit of Assessment reports detail, we have improved significantly over RAE 2008; a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our submissions – the researchers and research teams, Research Leads (who were also Unit of Assessment of Coordinators), Heads of Department and Research Office staff. Generally, we have more 4* outputs and impact than the REF prediction, but not quite such good environment ratings. Environment is not just physical estate and facilities (which, for many, will improve considerably between now and the next REF) but PhD completions and grant income. So we need to think how we improve these as well. What follows is an overview of our results and then each Unit of Assessment Coordinator provides a summary of what the results mean for us, particularly in starting to think about a new research strategy for 2020.

Prof Linda King
Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Transfer

Oxford Brookes TOP THREE UoA by GPA: English, History, AHP & Nursing
Oxford Brookes TOP THREE UoA by POWER: Architecture, History, Biology

### Comparison of how our research across the university was rated in 2008 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>FTE</th>
<th>Power (GPAxFTE)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>4* 3* 2* 1* UC</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>497.36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 RAE</td>
<td>7.97 28.4 41.64 19.67 2.31</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector 2008</td>
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<td>2.66</td>
<td>718.45</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 REF</td>
<td>14.38 44.66 34.66 5.64 0.67</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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REMINDER OF HOW THE REF WORKS:
Staff were submitted to one Unit of Assessment (UoA) and up to four outputs (for us almost entirely journal articles) were graded 4* 3* 2* 1* UC. We submitted between 2 and 4 Impact Case studies per UoA dependent on number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff submitted and these were also graded on the same 5 point scale. Finally a summary of our Research Environment together with HESA data for grant income and PhD student completions was also scored on the same 5 point scale. The individual profiles for Outputs (weighted 65%), Impact (20%) and Environment (15%) were then combined to give an overall grade profile and this was then averaged to give the Grade Point Average (GPA). Power provides a measure that takes into account both GPA and FTE (GPA x FTE) and is considered a better comparator than GPA alone. Some league tables have also used Research Intensity as a measure, which involves GPA x percentage of eligible staff submitted.

### DEFINITIONS USED:
- **GPA**: Grade Point Average (average of 4*, 3*, 2*, 1*, Unclassified UC)
- **FTE**: Full-time equivalent staff submitted
- **Power**: GPA x FTE
- **UoA**: Unit of Assessment
- **Impact Case Study**: A summary to show the impact of research on society. Each UoA had a minimum of two case studies and then one for every extra 10 FTE submitted above the critical threshold (so 15+ FTE = 3 and 25+ FTE = 4)

### REMINDER OF HOW THE REF WORKS:
Staff were submitted to one Unit of Assessment (UoA) and up to four outputs (for us almost entirely journal articles) were graded 4* 3* 2* 1* UC. We submitted between 2 and 4 Impact Case studies per UoA dependent on number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff submitted and these were also graded on the same 5 point scale. Finally a summary of our Research Environment together with HESA data for grant income and PhD student completions was also scored on the same 5 point scale. The individual profiles for Outputs (weighted 65%), Impact (20%) and Environment (15%) were then combined to give an overall grade profile and this was then averaged to give the Grade Point Average (GPA). Power provides a measure that takes into account both GPA and FTE (GPA x FTE) and is considered a better comparator than GPA alone. Some league tables have also used Research Intensity as a measure, which involves GPA x percentage of eligible staff submitted.
Once again, our submission to UoA 3 received a very positive assessment with an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.96. This was the third highest GPA in the University, with only English and History achieving higher GPAs. Overall, 85% of our outputs (publications) were assessed as at least internationally excellent (3* or 4*) with 15% assessed as world leading (4*). We received an even higher assessment for our Impact, with 90% assessed as at least internationally excellent (3* or 4*) with 40% assessed as world leading (4*). Throughout preparations for the REF 2014, the University had placed its emphasis on achieving a good GPA, so our success in doing so is particularly gratifying.

Compared to the RAE 2008, we have raised our GPA from 2.05 to 2.96, an increase of 44%, and raised the proportion of outputs assessed as at least internationally excellent from 10% to 85%, an increase of 750%. The number of individuals submitted declined, however, from 15 (14.3 FTEs) in 2008 to 12 (10.2 FTEs) in 2014. This was a consequence of the University setting a strict requirement that only those individuals for whom an external advisor had a predicted GPA of at least 2.75 could be returned to the REF. This was a very high bar and was the price we paid for our high GPA.

In terms of rankings in the league tables, Oxford Brookes ranked 37th amongst the 79 institutions that submitted returns in AHP and Nursing only, based on GPA. This is similar to the ranking of 29 of 70 institutions submitted to the AHP unit of assessment in RAE 2008 – putting Brookes in the top half of the league tables in both cases. While this may be the most appropriate way of assessing our position and change in position in relation to other groups of AHPs and nurses, there have been changes to the Unit of Assessment to include Dentistry and Pharmacy – health professions very different from AHPs and nurses, with a very different research tradition – as well as a proliferation of measures of assessment. This means that if all institutions which submitted to any of AHP, Dentistry, Nursing or Pharmacy components of UoA 3 are included and a measure of research strength based on multiplying GPA by the FTEs submitted (Power) is used, our ranking falls to 79 out of 94.

The overall picture for applied health research – which is perhaps a better way to describe the Brookes research submitted to Unit of Assessment 3 – is similar to that for the University as a whole: we have held our own as the sector as a whole has improved. With our partnership with Oxford University and the two local NHS Trusts in the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Centre, our opportunities for collaborating in world leading applied health research are higher than ever before. We will need support from the University in pursuing these opportunities but our aim for the next REF must be to raise our ranking. Research in this area is dispersed across all four Departments in the Faculty and in departments in other Faculties as well. Amongst the challenges we face in raising our performance, in terms of both the quality of our work and the numbers of researchers working at the highest levels, is that of fragmentation across departments. Applied health research draws on many disciplines and it is a strength that our researchers are embedded in a range of academic contexts. But we must also provide institutional structures which bring us together into a vibrant, stimulating and productive applied health research community.

Prof Mary Boulton, Research Lead, Clinical Health Care and coordinator for UoA 3

Staff in the department were entered into three different Units of Assessment (UoA) in REF 2014. Four staff (three from Public Health, one from Psychology) were entered to UoA 3 (Allied Health Professionals, Dentistry, Nursing & Pharmacy). One member of staff from Psychology was entered in UoA 25 (Education).
The majority of staff (14.7) were entered to UoA 4 (Psychology, Psychiatry & Neuroscience). In the 2008 RAE we entered 13.2 FTE to the Psychology UoA so the number of staff submitted went up this time. Our Grade Point Average (GPA) also went up from 2.00 to 2.57. This was remarkably close to the university prediction of 2.58, based on some notable success with grant applications and the appointment of research active staff since RAE 2008. One clear indicator of improvement was in the amount of work rated as 3* and 4*. This increased from 25% in 2008 to 54% in 2014, demonstrating a significant improvement in the quality ratings of our research.

The University strategy for selecting outputs was to include papers considered to be at least 3*(on the basis that 75% of funding will go to 4* and 25% to 3* with no other categories funded). It proved hard to gauge how the panel would rate some of our research, as opinions differed amongst external reviewers. Our GPA for outputs (at 2.49) was slightly lower than predicted, with slightly more outputs than expected being rated as 2* but more rated as 4*.

The impact of research undertaken by staff was also judged in REF2014 and for this our submission included two case studies: ‘Assessing the Viability of Electric Vehicles for Daily Use’ (Harris & Burgess) and ‘Improving identification and support of individuals with handwriting and movement difficulties through development of two tests: Movement ABC-2 and DASH’ (Barnett). Our GPA for impact was 2.6, much higher than predicted, with 60% rated 3* and 40% 2*. The research environment is also assessed separately and we achieved a GPA of 2.88, with an impressive 88% rated as 3*, reflecting our grant success in the assessment period.

Our overall position compared to others in UoA 4 (as determined by GPA calculations) is 51. This is the same as in 2008 although, since there were more entries (82) in UoA 4 this time, our relative position has increased by 5%! More importantly, since 2008 our ‘research power’ (GPA multiplied by the number of FTE submitted) has increased by 43%.

These results reflect strategic decisions regarding recruitment, commitment to research by staff and the high quality of their work. Our goals for the next assessment period will be to build on our achievements, increase the number of successful grant applications and the quality of publications and to work on demonstrating the impact of the research that we do.

Prof Anna Barnett Research Lead, Psychology, Social Work & Public Health and coordinator for UoA 4

Unit of Assessment 5; Biological Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UoA 3</th>
<th>% 4*</th>
<th>% 3*</th>
<th>% 2*</th>
<th>% 1*</th>
<th>% UC</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>FTE</th>
<th>Power</th>
<th>% 3/4*</th>
<th>UK position</th>
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<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>22.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>25.60</td>
<td>68.41</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>33/44 (0.75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 ended well for BMS with the award of the major HEFCE grant for redeveloping our teaching facilities and a very satisfying result for UoA 5 in the REF. We submitted 26 researchers including anthropologists from HSS. Compared to the 2008 RAE, we doubled the percentage of 4* research (trebled once impact is taken into account) and trebled the percentage of 3* rated research with 58% being world leading or internationally excellent. We doubled the number of researchers submitted and managed to get 80% of our impact rated at 3* and 4* thanks to the long term impact of work by Nigel Groome, David Fell, Linda King and Munira Kadhim.

So how did we compare with other Biology submissions? Compared to 2008 there appeared to be a swing away from the Biological Sciences UoA with only 44 Universities rising to the challenge compared with 52 in 2008, a low number considering there are well over 100 biology related Departments in the UK. Based on Grade point average times FTE submitted (the ‘Research Power’ rating) we came 35 out of 44 of the best of the post ’92 Universities. However, when the percentage of eligible staff is also taken into account, a new league table based on so called “research intensity tables” can be constructed which could be considered to be a better reflection of the research capacity of individual units and departments. Here we leapt five places to 30th overtaking a number of well-established Biology Departments in the old university sector. This is a result we can justifiably be proud of and reflects the concerted efforts put in by staff in the old School of Life Sciences and the new BMS Department over the past 6 or so years.

Building on this result is not going to be easy. Where can we make significant improvements to do even better in the next REF? Obviously an increase in the percentage of 4* and 3* papers would be ideal. This can in part be achieved by creating more time for PIs to undertake and manage their research programmes and groups. To do this we need to greatly improve our “Research Environment” rating, mainly by increasing external income, especially that bringing with it Full Economic Costs and with the associated additional overhead income for the Department and Faculty. Last year in Biology we won £2.5 million of external funds which is an excellent start for the first year of this current REF period. Alongside this our PhD completion rates need to significantly improve so we achieve better than 80% of our submissions being within 4 yrs.

Prof Chris Hawes Research Lead, Biological and Medical Sciences and coordinator for UoA 5
Miniature to Massive:
Oxford Brookes’ researchers create 3D models to explain the world of microscopy

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the Biotechnology and Biosciences Research Council (BBSRC) who have invested a staggering £5.5 billion in UK bioscience research since they were established in 1994. Researchers from the department of Biological and Medical Sciences at Oxford Brookes were selected by the BBSRC to help celebrate this anniversary at a three day public science festival in London last November. In total, twenty Universities and Science Institutions were represented at the festival, each invited to design an exhibition showcasing their latest bioscience research in an accessible format, which people of all ages could enjoy. The festival itself was a triumph, with over 6,500 visitors to the event, resulting in a bustling public celebration of science.

Dr Louise Hughes and Professor Chris Hawes, from the Bioimaging Unit at Oxford Brookes, were successful winners of one of these twenty BBSRC grants and went on to display their latest microscopy work at the festival. Louise’s ground-breaking idea was to bring the miniature world of microscopy into three dimensions. This was done by imaging a range of viruses and cells with microscopes at the Bioimaging Unit, compiling this data into a 3D format on the computer and then feeding these images into a 3D printer, thereby producing plastic models as exact enlarged replicas of what was viewed under the microscope in the lab. Louise explains:

“Being able to see microscopic structure is a fundamental aspect of understanding biology, without it our understanding of cells and tissues would be far behind what we know today. Using 3D electron microscopy techniques I can image and model miniature structures and can convert these models into data that 3D printers can use and generate sculptures of these structures which are several million times their normal size.”

These 3D replicas proved to be of great interest to the many hundreds who visited our exhibition at the BBSRC festival last November. However, the potential of Louise’s idea did not end here, as one month prior to the festival Louise and her team embarked on a novel idea to bring microscopy to blind and partially sighted people. Those with visual impairments are usually excluded from this aspect of science, given that the technology is so sight reliant. Once again funded by the BBSRC and with thanks to training from the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), the team set out to teach groups of adults with sight loss about their work.

During a one day event in London’s Tower Hamlets last October, sessions were hosted in small groups and participants were encouraged to feel and hold viruses such as Hepatitis B and parasites such as African sleeping sickness. Louise talked through the structure of these microscopic organisms and explained how the final 3D model could be created. Several participants commented on the rarity of such an opportunity and just how informative they found the session to be. As a result of her efforts to engage blind and visually impaired people in science, Louise was awarded a prestigious New England Biolabs, Passion in Science Award last November and was invited to collect her award at a ceremony in Massachusetts, USA.

The impact of her idea has now gathered further momentum and looks set to be taken into local schools in 2015, which will literally bring a whole new dimension to science education.

Milly Farrell

The Society for Experimental Biology (SEB) has agreed to the proposal to create a Special Interest Group (SIG) entitled ‘Nuclear structure and organisation’, with Dr Katja Graumann as Group Convenor. SEB Special Interest Groups are supported by the Society to bring together an international group of scientists working in a specialist area, with funding for Symposia and biennial sessions as part of the Society’s Annual Main Meeting. The SIG will be based in the successful Plant Nucleus Consortium, coordinated by Katja and Prof David Evans, which has members in the USA, Europe, Japan and New Zealand: http://bms.brookes.ac.uk/ipnc

Dr Sue Vaughan has been awarded £472,200 by the BBSRC for her project to develop novel electron microscopy technologies to understand the three dimensional ultrastructural organisation of basal body biogenesis. This part of the cell is responsible for assembling a structure called a cilium or flagellum, which facilitates movement in some cells such as sperm cells. This project will use scanning electron microscopy technology to answer some fundamental questions in basal body/centriole biology, as well as maintaining Oxford Brookes’ role as a leading centre of microscopy in the UK.
Who’s New in HLS Research?

Professor Debra Jackson

The new Professor of Nursing, Debra Jackson, joined the department of Clinical Health Care in January. Prof Jackson is a seminal figure in healthcare research and will be leading research programs at OBU in:
- adolescent and family health, with a particular focus on parenting,
- work force development and adversity, with a particular focus on leadership and workplace culture.

Supported by Health Education Thames Valley, Debra will be working collaboratively between the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences and its partners in the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre to increase capacity for nursing research.

The Faculty’s Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean, June Girvin, commented on Debra’s appointment at the end of 2014: ‘We are looking forward to Debra joining the Faculty in the New Year. Her track record in nursing research and her global reputation as a scholar will make a significant contribution to the Faculty. We hope to be developing a stronger framework for nursing research in Oxford with our partners in the AHSC* and Debra has a major role to play in that. This is an exciting appointment to our academic team and starts the New Year on a really positive note.’

Debra comes to Oxford from the University of Technology, Sydney and is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing; and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Xi Omicron). Debra is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Nursing and Clinical Case Reports, and sits on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Child Health Care, Nursing Inquiry, and Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dr Joanna Grogono

Jo joined the cardiorespiratory research group as a Clinical Research Fellow in December 2014. Jo will be investigating the use of inhaled furosemide on breathlessness in patients with chronic heart failure. She will also investigate its effect on experimentally induced breathlessness in healthy volunteers. The project has been awarded a grant from the British Heart Foundation.

Before joining the cardiorespiratory group, Jo was a Cardiology Registrar working at the John Radcliffe Hospital, with 2 years of training remaining before applying for consultant posts: ‘I decided to take time out of my clinical training to expand my knowledge and skills in research. Through my supervisor, Dr Dwight, who is a heart failure specialist at the John Radcliffe Hospital, I heard about this project with Dr Moosavi at Brookes and jumped at the opportunity, as it links perfectly with my long-term plan of being a heart failure specialist. I have done some research previously, such as when I was an undergraduate student at Imperial College, where I did a lab based project looking at muscarinic receptors in the bladder. Another example of a more clinical project I worked on was assessing the effect of cabergoline on heart valves in patients with hyperprolactinaemia. I will be taking a lead role in running this clinical trial and this will enable me to gain skills that allow me to continue to be active in research once I return to finish my cardiology training in 3 years’ time.’

Cardiorespiratory Research Group

November 2014 saw the very successful launch of the Cardiorespiratory Research Group, organised by Dr Moosavi (Senior Lecturer in Clinical Physiology). The day was well attended with speakers and attendees from both near and far. World Renowned Respiratory Physiologist, Dr Robert Banzett (Bob) came all the way over from Harvard University, Boston and gave a fascinating talk on breathlessness, initially starting with the history of breathlessness and then moving onto current research into ‘air hunger.’

Dr. Kyle Patterson, an anaesthetist from the Nuffield Department of Anaestheticsiology, started the afternoon session with a presentation on cutting edge research in neuro-imaging of respiratory control, with an incredible picture of the Peri-Aqueductal Grey (PAG) region of the brain. Dr. Helen Walthall, co-leader of the Cardiorespiratory Research Group then gave a great presentation on her research into patients’ perspectives of breathlessness in chronic heart failure with the aim of developing a Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM). This was followed by a talk on the exciting prospects offered by deep brain stimulation and its effects on autonomic and respiratory control by Mr. Alex Green, a neurosurgeon from Clinical Neuroscience at Oxford. Dr.Mona Bafadhel, a Senior Clinical Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine within Professor Ian Pavord’s group at the Nuffield Department of Medicine research building then provided a thought provoking talk about research into biomarkers of COPD. Short talks were rounded off by a presentation on psychological modulation of breathlessness by Dr. Moosavi.
These presentations were followed by a reception in the Abercrombie building with poster displays of the current research occurring in this area at Brookes. It was a fantastic day and the feedback received from all was excellent, with everyone looking forward to next year.

Joanna Grogono

From left to right: Kyle Patterson, Bob Banzett, Shakeeb Moosavi and Emmanuel Debrah at the launch event.

**AHSC Staff Seminar Series**

Following the launch of the Oxford Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) in March of last year, the faculty hosted a series of short talks by leaders of some of the AHSC’s six core themes. The most recent seminar was given by Professor John Geddes and Professor Clare MacKay from Oxford University last November. Professor Geddes is currently the Head of Department of Psychiatry and also the lead for theme 6 from the AHSC, titled ‘Cognitive Health; Maintaining Cognitive Function in Health and Disease’. Geddes and Mackay provided a thought provoking seminar covering the range of their work and the future for cognitive health research in Oxford. The session instigated much dialogue between speakers and audience, which focused on the potential of collaborations between Oxford Brookes and other AHSC partners.

This event was the third in the AHSC staff seminar series, which follows talks from Prof Chas Bountra (lead for theme 2; ‘Building Novel NHS, University and Industry Relationships’) and Mr Mike Denis (lead for theme 1; ‘Big Data: Delivering the Digital Medicine Revolution’). This AHSC will combine Oxford’s world leading NHS Trusts and academic institutions to work together towards translational research, training and clinical expertise to address 21st century healthcare challenges.

Milly Farrell

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**Centres and Consultancy Update**

**Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation (CEEC)**

**Phase 1 Habitat Survey Toolkit**

With the support of funding from the HEIF Innovation Fund, CEEC has developed a commercial iPad application aimed at ecological consultants. Developer **Rowan Jones**, Project Manager **James Watkins** and Centre Director **Tim Shreeve** have created a digital version of the Habitat Phase 1 Survey Protocol. Phase 1 is a key element in planning and development and allows early stage assessment of the value of habitats. It is undertaken by consultants, as well as wildlife organisations, local authorities and others across the UK. Until now the process has been largely paper and pencil based, with notes made by hand in the field before being translated into digital maps when surveyors return to their offices.

Phase 1 Habitat Survey Toolkit includes the full JNCC phase 1 assessment handbook and allows users to leave behind paper maps and forms, and pens and pencils. Users can create fully colour coded, spatially referenced habitat maps in the field removing the need for pre and post survey data gathering, data editing and data transformation. Maps, data, photographs and notes from the app can be exported with minimal need for post surveying data collation, editing or transformation. The Toolkit also includes detailed information including photo references, distribution maps and ecology on more than 900 key UK species including plants, birds, mammals and insects.

The Toolkit will be sold, initially through the Apple App Store, on an annual licence basis.

Initial interest since early stage adverts were launched in December 2014 has been very high with over 500 visits to the toolkit website in the first month alone.

**James Watkins**
EiE - ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE UPDATE

EiE is a consultancy unit in the dept. of BMS helping organisations reduce energy, water, and waste

FoodWISE project to launch

EiE has won a second contract delivering FoodWISE, a support programme for food industry businesses in the south east of England. There will be two launch events in January 2015 - one in Oxford and one in Brighton. Eligible participants will receive 12 free hours of support to not only help manage food waste but ensure costs from energy and water use are also reduced.

Do you know a local restaurant or other food business which could benefit from FoodWISE support? Contact: eie@brookes.ac.uk

Food waste fact:
Food waste collected from Oxford goes to the Cassington Anaerobic Digestion Plant where gases from decomposing food waste are captured and burned to generate electricity and sent to the National Grid. The plant can take 50,000 tonnes of food waste and generate 2.1 megawatts of electricity per year (that’s 2,100,000 Watts!). See: www.youtube.com/embed/QX5MU_IrNZ4

100th community building energy audit:

EiE has carried out the 100th energy audit in the Enrich programme that provides energy efficiency support to Oxfordshire community buildings including village halls, community centres, church halls, and sports pavilions. The project is in its third year and is run with TOE2 (Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment). Enrich has received extremely positive feedback and helped revitalise a number of communities all around the county. EiE volunteers will be analysing the feedback data from the audits to find ways of improving uptake of cost savings actions even further.

On-line training programme expands in 2015:

This autumn EiE opened 4 on-line training workshops for organisations on energy and waste mainly aimed at primary and secondary schools; we have 17 delegates from schools including facilities managers, finance staff, and school governors. In 2015 more training will be added aimed at a wide range of businesses and include such topics as green procurement, carbon accounting, renewable energy, and motivating good environmental behaviour. For more information on current training workshops, please visit EiE’s training pages: www.brookes.ac.uk/eie/about-us/training.html.

In November, the Functional Food Centre exhibited at Food Matters Live; a new event dedicated to food, health and nutrition. This is the first time that the food and drink industry, retailers, food service providers, government, and those working in nutrition and health have been brought together in a single event to tackle one of the most important challenges of our time - the relationship between food, health and nutrition.

This inaugural event was held in London’s Excel arena and attracted thousands of attendees from the fields of food and drink manufacturing, food service, retail, research, nutrition, public health and policy. Across the three days there were standing-room only audiences in the conference and seminar sessions, and a vibrant exhibition showcasing the latest innovations. Numbered amongst the vast international crowd were celebrities, government ministers, leading research scientists and staff and students from Oxford Brookes University. The Functional Food Centre exhibited in the Research Pavilion alongside other UK Universities and research institutions. A passing branding consultant commented on our stand being very impactful as well as giving us free advice on how we can further get our message across. There was a constant stream of visitors to our stand including current clients from both home and abroad, prospective clients enquiring about our services and prospective students for our Nutrition courses. The stand was manned by the Functional Food Centre team - many thanks to all who helped and made this a very successful event for us. Preparation and attendance at this event took a lot of time and effort so was it worth it? You bet it was - it was a lot of fun, we met great people and the icing on the cake is that the testing schedule operated by the commercial arm of the Functional Food Centre is currently full and we are operating a waiting list. We are hoping the commercial success will be mirrored in future student enquiries and recruitment, so we will definitely be attending next year.

Catch our very own:
Dr Miriam Clegg on the Channel 4 Food Unwrapped Diet Special Programme aired on 4th January 2015. Miriam appears with celebrity chef Matt Tebbutt explaining the role of gastric emptying in making you feel fuller for longer. www.channel4.com/programmes/food-unwrapped/on-demand/59510-014

Ann Fraser
The CLEAR (Clinical Exercise and Rehabilitation) unit continues to provide its much valued support delivering exercise for adults and children with a range of disabilities. The unit is located in the Sports Centre at Cheney Lane. In the last year, supported by the community physiotherapy service and Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, two pilot schemes were run providing satellite ‘Kids CLEAR’ clubs in Marlborough School and Wheatley, enabling a wider reach for the provision of the Centre’s rehabilitation services to the community. These pilot schemes were a great success and led to the award of grants to continue this work in the two schools and to extend the service to more Oxfordshire schools. Now Ofsted has recognised the contribution that these clubs make to pupils from Marlborough School’s Omerod Resource Base (which provides specialist secondary support for students with Communication and Interaction Difficulties and Physical Disabilities).

A recent Ofsted report of Marlborough School, stated that: “students from the Ormerod Resource Base attend the CLEAR Unit on a part-time basis. This provides these students with highly specialised clinical exercise and rehabilitation support. There is detailed, effective and frequent communication between staff of the resource base and staff at the university. Consequently, these students make good progress.”

This is a fantastic endorsement of the work done by the staff and students in the Centre for Rehabilitation.

“Have a go” sports days have been a regular and essential feature of the clinical exercise provision for the ‘Kids CLEAR’ clubs for some time. These “Have a go” sports days are run in conjunction with the Sports Coaching team at Brookes and the Oxfordshire Sports Partnership (OSP). The fun packed day allows the children to “have a go” at a number of different sports laid on by this collaborative team and supported by local sports clubs and coaches. In 2013 the team worked together to develop a formula and then successfully routed 30 young people into a “have a go” sports day. The learning from this work was that these days provide an exit for the kids into local sports clubs in their own communities and hopefully will lead to a lifelong participation in sport. These exciting results have led to the partners working together to plan more “have a go” days with explicit exit routes to sports in the local areas and another successful day was held in October 2014.

Building on this success, the OSP are now working on branding these “have a go” days and using them county wide as part of the national campaign to encourage regular/lifelong participation in sport.

Ann Fraser

Centre for Rehabilitation

New research theme adopted by the Movement Science Group

The population in Europe is ageing, with an increasingly large proportion living with a chronic condition and disease, which lead to cognitive and physical changes. These changes can have an effect on the person’s mobility, including automobile driving, which has been adopted by the International Classification of Functioning and Disability and Health framework. Losing the ability to safely participate in on-road driving can have significant consequences on people’s quality of life, and also their access to much needed health-care in these populations.

The Movement Science Group has consequently started a new research stream looking at safe participation in on-road driving in collaboration with the Regional Driving Assessment Centre (RDAC) and the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment at Oxford Brookes University.

This research topic will be investigated from several angles. Firstly, in collaboration with the Faculty of TDE, we have created a driving simulator based on a Mini Cooper. The driving characteristics are modelled accordingly, creating a realistic driving feedback system in which highly sensitive cognitive, physical and technical measurements can be taken. In addition to the driving simulator, in collaboration with the RDAC, we will assess both control participants and people with neurological conditions during an on-road assessment, gathering car performance, cognitive and participant on-road performance as judged by a driving instructor. These two elements of the project will eventually form the basis of an intervention specifically aimed at those with neurological problems to maintain their ability to safely participate in on-road driving.

More recently, we have gained access to a database held by the RDAC in which there are 5000+ datasets related to people with a form of a disability, who were assessed by a qualified driving instructor and an occupational therapist on cognition and physical ability. Within a small sample, only looking at the cognitive screening, we did find clear cut-off points in which we could predict the on-road driving outcome (e.g. pass, fail or review) in those with Dementia, Brain Injury, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s and those who survived a Stroke. Currently we are exploring the full database to detect trends, which could not only predict the outcome of an on-road driving assessment, but also guide intervention or treatment strategies to improve these problem areas.

If you would like to participate in any of the studies mentioned, please get in touch with Bryony Sheridan bsheridan@brookes.ac.uk or Dax Steins dax.steins-2011@brookes.ac.uk for more information.

Patrick Esser

February 2015  11
The successful Inside Track Mentoring Programme had its second annual launch event in October. Colleagues from Sports Science, Sport & Exercise Science and Sport, Coaching & Physical Education welcomed even more students and guests this year.

This programme, unique for Brookes, creates a platform for third year students from our three Sports courses to meet professionals from the industry. It provides a valuable opportunity for our students to gain advantage in their career search by having a mentor from industry for the duration of their final year at Brookes. Students benefit from the knowledge and experience of people who are already in the careers they aspire to. They can also share their career dilemmas and look for guidance from those who have already walked that path.

The launch event began with a welcome from Danny Newcombe, the founder of the programme, followed by an inspirational talk given by Sarah Winkless, a former Olympian and bronze medal winning rower. The event concluded with a speed networking session at the end of which each student is matched with a mentor.

Louis Quane, 3rd Year student from Sports Coaching and Physical Education commented after the event: “It’s something I’ve never done before. It allows people who haven’t necessarily got a connection to industry to network with professionals. Tom, the guy I came here with, already has two links and he’s been trying to find placements for ages. He got a squash placement and a school placement within 1 conversation. Can’t beat that can you! “

Last year 30 students and professionals took part. This year the number has risen to 40. Most of our students who benefited from the 2013 scheme are already in employment alongside their industry mentors and the few that are not employed are in various stages of acquiring a job.

Adi Baldry

Boing is a new primary school physical education programme. It is a collaboration between Boing Kids Ltd., P.L.A.Y.S social enterprise and the Oxford Brookes University Sport, Coaching and Physical Education undergraduate degree. The coming together of these organisations is based on a shared goal of changing the landscape of physical education; innovating the way it is delivered, the principles it is founded upon and the impact it can have on the lives of children and young people.

Through this collaboration, Boing has emerged as a curriculum time physical education provision programme. It is designed to provide primary school children with the very best physical education which is grounded in research into children’s learning and physical development and innovative coaching pedagogies delivered by Oxford Brookes University coaching students.

Boing will be responsible for delivering physical education for the Blackbird Academy Trust which is a collection of three primary schools in Oxfordshire. This totals nearly a thousand children across Key Stage one and two, experiencing Boing as their physical education from January 2015. Guided by the overall aim of developing more physically literate children and reaching one million primary school children by 2024, Boing is a multi-faceted organisation and multi-layered in its approach to achieving this aim.

It will focus on developing physical literacy through active play and a constructivist approach to learning. Boing aims to dramatically increase the quality of the physical education primary school children receive in the U.K by providing a physical education in its fullest sense; that is a holistic education of the physical body, rather than an education focused on sporting proficiency. We believe this education is based on the development of physical literacy via the pedagogies of play, constructivist learning theory and theories of childhood. It is the role of the Boing research group to better understand that relationship, evidence and articulate it and assist in the practical development Boing based on those articulations.

Whilst driven by research and scholarship Boing is very much focused on the delivery side of its operation and providing each child with an individualised and
holistically developmental physical education. Moreover, Boing acts as a training academy for Oxford Brookes students. The P.L.A.Y.S academy has been set up as a training ground for Oxford Brookes students to gain extra coaching qualifications and develop their practical application of highly innovative and challenging pedagogical ideas. It is students within the P.L.A.Y.S academy that then deliver Boing within the Blackbird Academy Trust schools serving not only to give the children access to young and developing expert coaches but also affords the coaches the chance to add value to their degree and make the most out of their university experience.

At Boing we believe that a complete overhaul of the physical education system to one focused on fun and physical literacy is our best chance of tackling some of the key societal issues around physical activity and health; that of obesity, physical inactivity and physical activity dropout rates. According to leading academics physical literacy has been identified as the key with which to unlock the door to physical activity. Proven positive correlations between physical literacy and increased physical activity are apparent in key studies with the conclusion drawn that if children develop heightened levels of physical literacy they will be more motivated and able to participate in physical activity with confidence and efficacy. Despite this, physical literacy levels, and provision within which to develop physical literacy are lower than they should be and Boing is the first step to changing that via a research driven, but applied, approach.

**Vision**

The overarching vision of Boing is to deconstruct the current model of primary school physical education and reconstruct one which is more empirically and theoretically robust. As a starting mantra for Boing we advocate a new conception of physical education and physical activity provision built around three central pillars:

- Let kids be kids; physical activity should be about exploration and active play, not structured parameters and competitive agendas
- Develop physical literacy not sporting proficiency; physical activity should be about developing physical literacy, not learning sporting proficiency
- Develop the whole child; in tandem with physical activity should be an education about nutrition and diet

**Brookes Alumnus wins Enterprise Award**

In September 2014, Cheshire based business Jigsaw Medical, founded and run by former Oxford Brookes student Chris Percival, was delighted to win Best Enterprise in the Northern Heats of the Lloyds Bank Enterprise Awards. Jigsaw Medical, founded by Chris while he was still a student in 2012, provide comprehensive medical staffing solutions for a number of healthcare areas, as well as a range of training and medical services for the commercial, media and events sectors.

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The award, one of three categories open to students and recent graduates across England and Wales, recognises the business which demonstrates innovation within its first two years and shows potential to become a recognised business within its respective sector over the next five years.

Jigsaw Medical, founded by Chris while he was still a student in 2012, provide comprehensive medical staffing solutions for a number of healthcare areas, as well as a range of training and medical services for the commercial, media and events sectors.

Events covered by the company to date have included the Tour de France Grand Départ over the summer and the Virgin STRIVE Challenge last August, where clients as famous as Richard Branson and his son were in their care.

Chris, who completed his degree in Paramedic Emergency Care at Brookes in 2013, described his business’ success as “an exceptional achievement for the whole team which provides recognition of our ethos as a business and our staggering growth.” He continued, “we are determined to make Jigsaw a great place to work and develop the business as a team.”

As well as a cash investment of £5,000 and local one-to-one business mentoring, the prize-winners also qualified for the national award of Best Enterprise at the Grand Final on October 15, where they were formally recognised as one of the top new businesses in the UK.

**Will Roberts**
This year the faculty’s research symposium ran one session from two branches; Health and Psychology, Sport and Health Sciences as one branch and Biological and Medical Sciences as the other. It took place in the John Henry Brookes building main lecture theatre which made it a more conference like atmosphere.

This meant the talks were interesting and very varied from structural protein biology to electric car driver image.

The winning talk from BMS was from Daniel Leite ‘The Duplication and divergence of miRNA in the spider Parasteatoda tepidariorum’, and from Health and Psychology the winner was Sarah Camp, with her talk on ‘Does spatial attention ever play a role in object substitution masking’.

The posters were just as varied and just as professional in standard. This year’s winners were Thomas O’Leary from Sport and Health Sciences on ‘The reliability of magnetic stimulation for measurements of neuromuscular function in the knee extensors’ and I (Hanna Wickenden) was selected as the winner representing BMS for my poster titled ‘Mapping the UK Sand Martin flea hybrid zone using male claspers’.

It was a stimulating day for all!

Hanna Wickenden

The Athena SWAN team, led by Professor Linda King, has had a busy few months culminating in the Faculty’s Silver Award application going through to Athena SWAN at the end of November. Thanks in large measure to the 120 academics and contract researchers in the Faculty who responded to our working practices survey and to our Focus Group volunteers, we had plenty of feedback to consider in preparing the submission.

An Athena SWAN submission begins with a detailed analysis of the last three years’ data on male/female numbers across all career levels from undergraduate enquirers through to Level 4 Professor. Perhaps not surprisingly, the data confirmed that each of our departments perform well in line, or indeed exceed, national benchmarks.

Our submission then described the Faculty’s working practices with an emphasis on the policies and processes that ensure everyone has equal opportunities. One of the ‘good practice’ examples we included is our investment in supporting and developing a career pathway for the best contract researchers to be promoted to Early Career Research Fellows and then into permanent lectureships. Coincidentally, this pathway has had significant benefits in recent years for female STEMM researchers.

The working practices survey responses were particularly useful, because they represented a large number of our academics and contract researchers.

An Athena SWAN submission concludes with a three-year action plan setting out how working practices can be further improved, with person responsible and a deadline for each action. Once again the survey results and focus group conversations helped inform this.

Our submission and action plan are now available on the Faculty’s Athena SWAN webpages: www.hls.brookes.ac.uk/ (click on the Athena SWAN logo on the Faculty homepage). These pages also have an overview of the Athena SWAN principles and provide some useful sources of information for Women in STEMM: ‘Useful Links’ goes to various external websites for careers advice and job opportunities, funding opportunities and networks and associations; and ‘Interesting Media’ links to articles, reports and blogs.

The Athena SWAN team will now meet quarterly to review the progress on implementing the action plan. It is anticipated that team membership will rotate so that more people across the Faculty can be involved in improving our working practices, with a normal tenure of two years. The result of the Athena SWAN submission is due in summer 2015.

Angela Robinson
Bridgewater College student wins Volunteer Wild Hero Award

Julie Merrett, studying the Countryside Management Foundation Degree, received this year’s Octavia Hill Volunteer Wild Hero award, for helping children and young adults connect with wildlife. The awards are organised by the National Trust, the Wild Network and BBC Countryfile Magazine.

Julie was nominated by Simon Clarke, Senior Reserve Manager for Natural England. This team is based at Shapwick Heath, where she volunteers and conducts research as part of her Degree. Julie runs events here, amongst other inspirational projects.

Julie said, “I have been involved in voluntary work with the aim of bringing children and adults to connect, appreciate and understand the natural world around them for about the last seventeen years. It’s what I love to do. It means the world to me to have my work acknowledged and appreciated like this.”

Megan James

Negotiating civilian and military lives: Reserves, families and work

Professor Vince Connelly from the Department of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health is part of a multi-disciplinary team of researchers who have been awarded an ESRC research grant for £300,000 to study UK Armed Forces Reservists and their families. In this project Vince will work with colleagues at the Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen to seek to better understand how Reservists, their partners/family members and their employers view and experience the intersecting domains of changing military service, civilian work and family life.

This project has been instigated due to the significant changes currently being made to the organisation of the UK Armed Forces, which are moving towards a ‘whole force’ structure to best integrate Regular (full time) and Reserve (part time) personnel. By 2020, Reservists will make up at least one in four of the UK Armed Forces military personnel and this will require both Regular and Reserve personnel to achieve new ways of working together. This represents a demanding agenda for change and so the ESRC, working with the Ministry of Defence, has commissioned this social science research which will investigate the cultural, social and economic issues that these policy changes may have for Reserve personnel in the context of their military service, their civilian lives and their employment.

Over the next 30 months a variety of research approaches will be used to investigate these issues including qualitative interviews and questionnaire based surveys with Reservists, their employers and their families in order to enrich and inform policy formulation. The findings should also benefit academic research into the changing landscape of work-life balance, by broadening the arena of ‘work’ to more than one employer and multiple work contexts. Furthermore, by providing a detailed insight into the relationships between the cultural (workplace social and relational support) and structural (policies and practices) aspects of non-standard/flexible work, the research will contribute to calls to move the management of work-life initiatives from the margins to the mainstream.

This ESRC funded work builds on Vince’s recent research on the UK military where he led a study on the workplace cultures of the full and part time members of the Army. The work showed that an understanding of the behavioural drivers behind professional identity was important when considering workplace culture. His work was headlined in the recent UK Government White Paper “Reserves in the Future Force 2020”.

Milly Farrell and Vince Connelly
David Foxcroft, Professor of Community Psychology and Public Health, is part of the Children and Families Research Group in the Faculty. A leading prevention scientist, David has recently taken up his elected post as President of the European Society for Prevention Research (EUSPR), and over the last few years has been engaged in a number of high profile international advisory roles. These draw on his research studies and expertise on the prevention of risk behaviours in young people, especially alcohol and drug misuse. David’s research is both led from Brookes and also often undertaken in collaboration with other institutions in the UK and internationally.

The prestigious role of EUSPR President, from 2014-2017, will see David bring together prevention researchers from across Europe, and also create valuable links with the U.S. Society for Prevention Research. EUSPR is affiliated with the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), providing opportunities for further research partnerships. As part of his work to build research capacity in this area, especially for early career researchers, David is leading a European Commission-funded three year project, the Science for Prevention Academic Network (SPAN). This will develop academic mobility and research education and training across Europe. The €595,000 project involves 33 academic partners in 25 European countries, and is closely linked to the strategic plans for EUSPR to develop the science base for prevention policy and practice.

In September 2014, global children’s charity UNICEF sponsored David to attend a mission to Iran to provide expert guidance. The Iranian government has not invested greatly in prevention systems, and there is a huge problem of heroin and methamphetamine use. David offered advice on options for effective policy and practice, and for developing capacity for prevention education and training. This internationally-focused work is further being developed leading up to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in 2016, a key policy making meeting to counter global drug problems.

David is working with his co-authors on a second edition of their prize-winning book Drug Policy and the Public Good (OUP, 2009) described by OUP as bringing “together twelve of the most cited authors in the field of addiction research.” This second edition was initially planned at a World Health Organisation meeting in Istanbul earlier this year.

In December 2014, David was one of four invited international scientists who attended a high profile meeting led by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, to advise the health committee on research evidence for alcohol misuse prevention policy.

David said that he is “very pleased that his research is receiving such strong attention on the international stage, and is having a real impact on policy and practice in many different countries. Support from Brookes has been key to this success, and I am pleased that a number of colleagues, research assistants and research students from Brookes have been able to take advantage of the opportunities for research networking and training provided by both the SPAN project and EUSPR.”

Megan James

Dr Jane Appleton, Reader in Primary and Community Care, has been appointed as one of the inaugural Fellows of the Institute of Health Visiting. She was recognised as “an outstanding role model”, having devoted many years of her career to developing academic health visiting.

Dr Cheryll Adams, Director of the Institute, said that Jane demonstrates “excellence in practice, is a real leader and champion of the health visiting profession, and passionate about improving health outcomes for the children and families in your area.”

Jane has also been appointed Vice-chair alternate of Coventry and Warwickshire NRES Research Ethics Committee. She has been an expert nurse member of the Warwickshire REC since her appointment in 2002.
Bioinformatics Training
A training day on Bioinformatics took place on Friday 28 November 2014 in the John Henry Brookes Building. This intensive, computer-based workshop jointly organised by Dr V. Bolanos-Garcia (Dept. of BMS) and the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) and generously funded by The Wellcome Trust, provided training in state-of-the-art computational methods for the analysis of protein structure and protein function to a group of 20 participants, mostly postgraduate students and junior research staff. During the day Dr John Berrisford, senior staff fellow from the EBI, gave a series on talks of a range of Bioinformatics tools, ranging from those used for the comparative analysis of protein sequences and the prediction of 3D structure, to the atomic resolution analysis of protein surfaces and drug target sites.

In the afternoon the participants were invited to talk about their own research projects in round-table discussions which was followed by ad-hoc mini-tutorials. These activities provided an opportunity for the deeper analysis of proteins underpinning ongoing research in the BMS. The participants praised the event highly.

Examples of feedback provided by the participants are:
“I found the topics very interesting and felt I learnt a lot during the day”.

“it was very useful to have hands on practice”.

“it was an interactive, intellectually stimulating and an innovative day to be introduced to some of the cutting edge technologies available”.

The organisers are grateful for the support provided by OBIS, Prof. Linda King and Milly Farrell throughout the event.

Victor Bolanos Garcia

Grant Success
Second-year PhD student, Shelley Harris, has been awarded a £2,000 Practical Skills Grant from the Society of Endocrinology.

In January 2015, she visited the laboratory of Dr Sean Limesand, University of Arizona, USA to learn how to isolate and analyse fetal ovine pancreatic islets. These studies in vitro will investigate the effects of hormones on cell proliferation in pancreatic islets and will complement her findings that beta-cell mass is increased by thyroid hormone deficiency before birth.

Shelley is a BMS PhD student supervised by Dr Alison Forhead and Dr David Meredith.

Biosciences receive £4.1m funding boost
Oxford Brookes University has been awarded more than £4.1m by the Higher Education Funding Council England (HEFCE), to invest in new facilities in the biosciences. The investment, which will be matched by Oxford Brookes, is part of a Government initiative to develop STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) provision in UK Universities.

Speaking about the award, Professor David Evans, Head of the Department of Biological and Medical Sciences said: “We are delighted to see this investment in our facilities. It will help us build on our already successful bioscience programmes, increasing the opportunities of students to prepare for employment in the thriving bioscience sector, with industry-standard laboratories and up to the minute equipment, linked to our state of the art research laboratories. This award recognises the quality of our inclusive teaching and learning environment and the commitment of our students.”

The award, won in competition with other Universities, will enable Oxford Brookes to respond to the increase in demand for science by developing facilities that will support an increased flow of highly employable graduates into industry. Brookes is one of 73 UK institutions which have benefitted from the extra £200 million funding for teaching capital projects during 2015-16.

David Evans
Date for the Diary!

Brookes’ Annual SCIENCE Bazaar

Discover how your body works, explore the gory history of plagues, boils and other grisly bits, learn about animals, and race our Rocket Cars… Just some of the exciting activities for families at the Science Bazaar. 2015 will be even bigger and better!

Saturday 21 March

Join us at the new John Henry Brookes Building, and explore our amazing activity zones. Will you complete them all to collect the prizes?

Meet our researchers, find out about their work and have a go at doing real science yourself. Prepare to be surprised and amazed at our free science day for the whole family.

The Science Bazaar returns with a mix of old favourites and new fun activities aimed at children aged 5-15 (and their adults!):

• Boils ‘R Us: Get gory wounds and diseases from our medical makeup artist

• Rocket Car Derby: Build and race your own rocket car – watch it fly

• Simbulance: Treat your patient in our simulated ambulance

• Magic of Movement: Learn magic tricks, and find out how our research helps children

• Become an egghead!: Explore the weird and wonderful world of eggs

• Chromosomes and Radiation: Do you have the XX Factor? Have a go at modelling chromosomes and see what happens when they get hit with radiation

And many more…

Just drop in at the Headington campus for this FREE event. There’s no need to book.

Please note: there is no parking available at this event. Oxford Brookes is easily accessed by bus. For travel info see: www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/visit-us

If you are keen to get involved in this year’s Science Bazaar we are recruiting eager volunteers now! Please email Milly Farrell (millyfarrell@brookes.ac.uk) or Anne Osterrieder (a.osterrieder@brookes.ac.uk) to register an interest
## Research awards

**Research Grant Awards 01 September to 31 December 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Award Value</th>
<th>Awarded Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Using SBEM and cellular electron tomography to study the basal body/pro-basal body linker</td>
<td>Biotechnology &amp; Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)</td>
<td>VAUGHAN SE</td>
<td>£472,200</td>
<td>02-Sep-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology, Social Work &amp; Public Health</td>
<td>A digital media intervention tool to reduce alcohol misuse in adolescents</td>
<td>Alcohol Research UK</td>
<td>DAVIES EL</td>
<td>£4,930</td>
<td>04-Sep-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology, Social Work &amp; Public Health</td>
<td>Trends in drinking in the UK</td>
<td>Joseph Rowntree Foundation</td>
<td>SMITH LA</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
<td>11-Nov-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Rehabilitation, Sport &amp; Health Sciences</td>
<td>Fit to Study</td>
<td>Wellcome Trust and Education Endowment Foundation</td>
<td>DAWES NH</td>
<td>£318,771</td>
<td>13-Nov-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology, Social Work &amp; Public Health</td>
<td>Stay With Your Midwife</td>
<td>Thames Valley Strategic Clinical Network</td>
<td>SMITH LA</td>
<td>£20,830</td>
<td>22-Dec-14</td>
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**Awarded** £867,670

The following events can be booked online here, unless otherwise stated: www.brookes.ac.uk/events www.brookes.ac.uk/openday

### Events

**ALCOHOL: why is it bad for me?**
Dr Alastair Reid, Consultant Psychiatrist
Tuesday 17 February, 18:00 - 19:00
Jane Ashley Lecture Theatre, Headington Campus, Marston Road site

**WHAT DOES GOOD END-OF-LIFE CARE LOOK LIKE?**
Planning ahead and understanding your choices
Speakers: The Oxfordshire community matron team
Wednesday 1 April, 18:00 - 19:00
Jane Ashley Lecture Theatre, Headington Campus, Marston Road site

**THE BROOKES Athena SWAN LECTURE:**
Buds, bubbles and bottles – breaking barriers in brewing
Professor Katherine Smart, Group Chief Brewer for SAB Miller PLC
Wednesday 22 April, 18:00 - 19:00
JHB Lecture Theatre, John Henry Brookes Building, Headington Campus

**HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES ANNUAL RESEARCH LECTURE**
Sir John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford
Tuesday 9 June, 18:00 - 19:00
JHB Lecture Theatre, John Henry Brookes Building, Headington Campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University-wide Applicant Day</td>
<td>Sat 7 March</td>
<td>9:00-16:00</td>
<td>All campuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS Faculty Applicant Day</td>
<td>Weds 15 April</td>
<td>Times TBC</td>
<td>Headington Campus, Headington Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Open Day</td>
<td>Sat 6 June</td>
<td>9:00-16:00</td>
<td>All campuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS Undergraduate Careers Event</td>
<td>Mon 20 April</td>
<td>17:00-20:00</td>
<td>John Henry Brookes Building, Headington Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>