AUTUMN 2014 – ISSUE 13

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- Introduction from Professor Anna Dominiczak, Vice Principal and Head of College

As the students return to us it is reassuring to know that the University achieved its best ever result in the National Student Survey this year. The University has seen our student satisfaction rate increase from 89% to 91%, representing the University's highest rating in the history of the NSS. Our College achieved the highest score for overall satisfaction of all four Colleges with an average score of 92.1%. Indeed, 100% student satisfaction rates were reported in: Dentistry; Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry; and, Zoology.

Following this success, the College also performed exceptionally well in the Times / Sunday Times league tables. Some notable highlights include: Dentistry and Nursing are both ranked top in the UK in their subject areas; Biological Sciences is ranked 6th out of 95; Medicine made a considerable leap up the league table to 12th (from 19th in 2013).

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings have recently been published and show that this year the university has moved up to 94th from 117th.

These excellent achievements are the result of the hard work and dedication shown by all staff across the College, and so I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone, on behalf of the College Management Group, for your efforts. (It would, of course, be wonderful to retain this level of excellence next year!)

60% of University staff responded to a University Staff Survey during the summer; thank you, if you were one of them. 90% of respondents reported that the University was a good place to work. The Director of HR, Mrs Christine Barr, recently attended College Management Group to tell us about the work that is being undertaken as a result of the survey outcomes. MVLS HR, in conjunction with the Heads of Schools and Directors of Research Institutes, are progressing College-level activities. Updates on these activities will be shared with you.
Much work is being undertaken in Schools and Institutes and within the College to support impact-related activities. Further information can be found on the College’s research impact webpages. Detailed below are some highlights of current work, including news of an exciting ‘Images with Impact’ competition. I look forward to seeing your entries!

It is pleasing that the new 1,109-bed hospital for adults at the Southern General campus will be called the South Glasgow University Hospital. This reflects our reciprocal working partnership with the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, and our new campus developments including the Teaching and Learning Centre and the Clinical Research Facility. The 256-bed facility for children will retain the Royal Hospital for Sick Children name. Both new hospitals are due to open in 2015.

Finally, College Management Group has made available to staff the minutes from its meetings. The CMG SharePoint site is: https://sharepoint.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/CMG%20Minutes/Forms/AllItems.aspx

You will need your GUID username and password to login.

Best wishes for a productive autumn

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**People**

**Bronze Athena SWAN Awards**

Many congratulations to the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine which has been awarded a bronze Athena SWAN award!

**Prof Dan Haydon**, Director of the Institute, reflected on the award and commented: ‘We are trying to build an Institute in which different ways of doing science can be appreciated and valued. Recognizing and supporting the diversity of ways different people do their science is fundamental to the interdisciplinarity critical to our long-term goals. By doing so not only will we ensure greater equality, but we’ll have an attractive and inspiring research environment in which everyone’s career ambitions can be most effectively realized. The Athena SWAN award is recognition that we are succeeding in this ambition. I’m very appreciative to all the

Dr Michelle Bellingham (far left) and Prof Dan Haydon (far right) are presented with BAHCM’s bronze Athena SWAN award
staff who worked so hard on our application, and more generally to all who have contributed to the
development of the positive and supportive culture within the Institute.’

Breaking news...  The Institute of Health and Wellbeing is delighted to announce that they have just
been awarded the Athena Swan Bronze Award. Thanks go to Professor Sally-Ann Cooper for all the
hard work in pulling together the submission. Congratulations to all concerned!

Congratulations to:

- Dr Andrew Davison, CVR Programme Leader, who has been elected
  President of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. The
  International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV;
  http://www.ictvonline.org/), is the organ of the International Union of
  Microbiological Societies (IUMS; http://www.iums.org/) charged with
  developing, refining and maintaining a universal virus taxonomy.

- Dr Marcello Riggio, Senior Lecturer at the Dental School, who has recently been appointed
  as the new Honorary Secretary of the British Society for Oral & Dental Research (BSODR)

- Prof Markus Meissner, WTCMP Principal Investigator, who has been
  appointed as a member of The Young Academy of Scotland. The
  Academy was established by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2011
  and is the first and (currently) only Young Academy in the United
  Kingdom.

- Dr Jurre Kamphorst, Senior Lecturer in the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Institute
  of Cancer Sciences, who has been awarded a CRUK career development fellowship. He was
  awarded £1.2m for a project entitled ‘The effect of tumour microenvironment on the
  metabolism of pancreatic cancer cells’ which will commence in December 2014.

- Dr Katie Wakeham, Clinical Lecturer in the Institute of Cancer Sciences, who has been
  awarded from the Academy of Medical Sciences a Starter Grant for Clinical Lecturers
  in support of a project entitled ‘The epidemiology and significance of human papillomavirus in
  anal intraepithelial neoplasia and anal cancer’.

The Wellcome Trust focuses on Prof Mike Barrett

The Wellcome Trust featured Professor Mike Barrett, Institute of Infection,
Immunity and Inflammation, in its Researcher Spotlight blog – you can find out
more about Mike here: here and on his University researcher page and by visiting
the Glasgow Polyomics website. Mike has recently chaired a high level discussion
on the urgent need for new drugs and approaches to tackle the rise of
antimicrobial resistance. Further information is available on the University
website.
Columbia University Visiting Scholar position for Senior Investigator Scientist

Dr Linsay Gray, Senior Investigator Scientist in the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit has been granted Visiting Scholar status at Columbia University in the city of New York, the Ivy League university and flagship strategic partner of the University of Glasgow.

The visit centres on collaboration with the Institute for Health and Wellbeing Scientific Advisory Board Chair Professor Sandro Galea’s epidemiology group. The initial project of the collaboration involves the application of novel methodology developed in Glasgow aiming to address the growing problem of non-participation in population-based studies with application to US health survey data. Linsay has delivered a special lecture entitled “Missing in action: Post-hoc accounting for health survey non-response” and has been invited to contribute a session on record-linkage to the Columbia University Systems Science Training Program faculty-fellow seminar series.

"Outstanding" Rhys

PhD student Rhys Grinter has won the Diamond's PhD Investigator Award for Life Science. The award is for ‘an outstanding contribution to a research project’ made by Grinter to his supervisor’s project. Dr Daniel Walker, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, who is Grinter’s PhD supervisor and who nominated him for the award, is working to discover protein antibiotics determine how they work and applying them to combat bacterial infections. The UK’s synchrotron, Diamond Light Source, is one of the most advanced scientific facilities in the world. Further information is available in the full press release.

Conference Prize for Matthew Holmes, Virology Honours Student

Congratulations to Matthew Holmes on his award from the European Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology annual conference for his presentation 'The drug Cidofovir causes a reduction in proliferation of HPV-positive epithelial cell lines' which reported the results of his virology honours project undertaken in Prof Sheila Graham’s lab. Matthew also shared the Virology class prize with Siobhan O’Hara.

British Pharmacological Society Undergraduate Student Award

For the second time in 3 years, a student from the University of Glasgow has been awarded the National Prize for Best Undergraduate Pharmacology Student in the UK by the British Pharmacological Society. John Cassidy graduated M.Sci. Pharmacology in July 2014 with First Class
Honours. John was the top-ranked student in the Glasgow Pharmacology Class of 2014 which led to his being awarded the University’s J. J. Lewis prize for the best overall final year student in Pharmacology, as well as the J. S. Gillespie prize for the best final year research project. John presented a poster on this work at the British Undergraduate Research conference in Nottingham in April 2014.

As part of the M.Sci programme, John spent a year working outwith the university at MedImmune in Cambridge (a subsidiary of the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca), where his project was entitled “Rac1 activation in transgenic models of colorectal cancer”.

John’s British Pharmacological Society award also took into account his record as past President of the UoG Pharmacology Society and his outreach activity. This included being co-founder and Editor of the scientific outreach blog OpenBio.co.uk, a collaborative effort by students across several UK universities “to demystify the world of Biotech, making breakthroughs in the biological sciences intelligible to both other students and the general public”. John also spent several months in 2011 on a research project in the university’s Centre for Cell Engineering on a project which has now been published, and 3 months on an Amgen Scholarship at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich in 2013.

Mr John Cassidy at graduation 2014

Welcome to new colleagues

In August the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation welcomed Professor Andrew Yates as the new Meston Chair of Mathematical Immunology and Rheumatology. Prof Yates joins us from the Einstein Institute in New York.

Andy trained in theoretical physics and cosmology, but has worked in the area of quantative immunology and the modelling of host-pathogen dynamics for the last 16 years. His current interests in basic immunology include information processing by thymocytes and the induction of central tolerance; lymphocyte homeostasis, with focus on the development and maintenance of T cell repertoire diversity and its decline with age; mechanisms regulating the formation of T cell memory; and estimating the critical densities of immune effectors required at infection sites for immunity. He’s also interested in questions relating to the ecological dynamics of pathogens within their hosts, in particular using
mechanistic models to address questions relating to acute HIV and Malaria infections, as well as broader inter-host epidemiological questions. He works widely with experimentalists and while his group does have purely theoretical projects, they like nothing better than the collaborative process of iterating theory and experiment. Andy also likes to point out that models are always there to be shot down.

The College welcomes three senior administrative colleagues who have recently started in post, namely:

**Mr Alan Connell**, who has taken up post of Director of Operations, and is responsible for College IT and Facilities, amongst other things;

**Ms Ruth Stewart**, Head of Administration in the School of Medicine, who was appointed following the departure of Mr Iain Forster; and,

**Dr Jane Townson**, who joined us from the University's Research Strategy and Innovation Office, to serve as Deputy College Secretary, supporting Dr Carol Clugston and being responsible for College research administration, amongst other duties.

**Society of Cartographers Award**

*Mr Mike Shand* (Geographical Information Systems Analyst, BAHCM) became the fourth recipient of the SOC Society Award for "an outstanding contribution to the Society of Cartographers". Mike has been the SOC Honorary Secretary for 27 years. The award was presented to him in September at the Society of Cartographers 50th Anniversary Conference held in the School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow where the Society was founded in 1964.

**University PhD scholar a "rising star"**

Epidemiologist **Niveen Abu-Rmeileh**, a former University of Glasgow PhD scholar, has featured in a recent edition of The Lancet and been described as "a rising star in the Middle East". Niveen is Director of the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University in the West Bank. Further information is available on the University website.

**Staff extracurricular activities in the School of Life Sciences**

Dr Chris McInerney, Reader in the School of Life Sciences, has a long term interest in natural history, particularly birds, amphibians and reptiles, butterflies and moths. This has resulted in him being elected recently to become President of the Scottish Ornithologists’ Club (http://www.the-soc.org.uk/) and Secretary to the British Ornithologists’ Union Records Committee.
In these roles he has had to represent ornithology in Scotland and Britain with, for example, a recent interview on Radio Scotland about woodpeckers damaging telegraphs poles in Ardnamurchan. His interest in reptiles has resulted in a couple of recent publication in the *The Glasgow Naturalist* and another interview on Radio 4, this time as part of the Living World series. He has given many talks about these subjects around Scotland and hosted many field trips, particularly to do with reptile surveying and conservation. With the latter he has helped with an environmental mitigation plan for a hydroelectric scheme at a site particularly rich in reptiles, which appears to have been successful.

**Memorial service - Sam Galbraith**

Hundreds of mourners attended a special memorial service for Sam Galbraith, the former Labour politician, neurosurgeon and Glasgow alumnus who died at the age of 68. The service, which was held in the Bute Hall on Tuesday 26 August, was led by Rev Stuart Macquarrie. There were warm tributes and contributions from speakers including Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, Professor Sir Graham Teasdale, Professor Sir Harry Burns and two of Sam's political colleagues – Brian Wilson and Alistair Darling. Further information can be found [here](http://www.gnhs.org.uk/gn26_1/mcinerney_reptiles.pdf and http://www.gnhs.org.uk/gn26_1/mcinerney_adders.pdf).

**Research news**

**FUNDING AVAILABLE: Special Impact Accelerator Account (IAA) Call for Proposals: deadline 31 October**

The University has announced a special Impact Accelerator Account (IAA) Call for Proposals, with an application deadline of 31st October 2014, which is specifically targeted at collaborative KE projects and secondments. A main objective is to support industrial relationships that have the potential for further R&D funding, either from the external partner or via a funding scheme, with a particular emphasis on TSB. Proof of Concept (PoC) project applications for spin-out and licensing activities will not be considered for this call. Proposed projects must be linked to previous EPSRC-funded research. The IAA grants, which are non-FEC but still flexible in what they will cover, are generally in the range of £5,000 to £40,000, and the external partners are expected to make significant and meaningful cash and/or in-kind contributions to the project. An assessment of a project’s potential impact will be key in evaluating a proposal. Further information can be obtained from Gordon Meiklejohn, Business Development Manager in MVLS, and Elwood Vogt, Knowledge Transfer Manager & Business Partnerships Manager in Research Strategy & Innovation Office (RSIO).

**FUNDING AVAILABLE: YORKHILL RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME - 2014 Call for Applications Round 2 (Projects), deadline 3 November**

The Yorkhill Research Support Scheme (YRSS), which is supported by funding from Yorkhill Children’s Charity, invites applications for Project Support Grants (<£40k) and Small Project Grants (<£5k) in the
field of children’s health*. Proposals should be submitted to the YRSS coordinator by the deadline which is **midday on Monday 3rd November**. Further details and application forms are available on the YRSS website (www.gla.ac.uk/medicine/childrensresearchsupport), or please contact Dr Jillian Bryce, YRSS Coordinator (Jillian.Bryce@glasgow.ac.uk or call 0141 201 0509).

At least one of the applicants (main or co-applicant) should be based in a West of Scotland academic or healthcare institute. Applications are welcome from all categories of staff involved in medical research including, clinicians, scientists, engineers, psychologists, nursing staff, midwives, allied health professionals and others.

*The phrase ‘children’s health’ has been used in its broadest sense to include the health and well-being of the foetus, neonate, infant, child, adolescent as well as the long-term outcome of a person with a condition originating in childhood.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE: Industrial Partnership PhDs**

The College set up the Industrial Partnership PhD programme to assist academics to create rewarding and ongoing collaborations with innovative industries. The programme provides part funding for PhD studentships working alongside industry. IPP proposals are invited from academic staff for studentships throughout the year. Studentships will be part funded by Industry, Institute or School and by the College Graduate School. Further information can be found on the Graduate School website: [http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/graduateschool/informationforstaff/industrialpartnershipsphds](http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/graduateschool/informationforstaff/industrialpartnershipsphds) Informal enquiries can be addressed to **Professor Jeremy Mottram**, Dean of Graduate Studies.

**POLICY: Open Access Information**

**Publications must be made open access to be eligible for the next REF**

- It is increasingly important to make publications open access. Both from the perspective of complying with funder regulations and also for the next REF.
- For any publication published from 1st April 2016 onwards to be eligible for submission to the next REF, it must have been deposited in an institutional or subject repository within 3 months of acceptance for publication.

**Charities Open Access Fund**

- New £12-million Charities Open Access Fund will be available from 1st October 2014 onwards to support open access costs for any publications funded by Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK, the Breast Cancer Campaign, Arthritis Research UK, Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, and the British Heart Foundation. See details on the Wellcome Trust website at [http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/Charity-open-access-fund/index.htm](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/Charity-open-access-fund/index.htm)

**Easy to make your publication open access**

- Lots of support is available from the Library making it easy to get your publication made open access – if you contact the Library with details of your publication, they will do all the work of looking into whether there is funding available (including the new Charities Open Access Fund), checking the publishers copyright regulations and ensuring that your
publication is made open access. Just contact research-openaccess@glasgow.ac.uk as soon as your paper has been accepted for publication and they will take this forward for you. Further details on their webpage at http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/openaccess/

- So for all new publications you have – just send details as soon you receive the acceptance from the publisher to research-openaccess@glasgow.ac.uk and they will help you with all aspects.

POLICY: Are you an RCUK award holder?

Research Councils UK (RCUK) are asking most award holders to provide details of outputs of their research via a web based system. You will receive an email from admin@researchfish.com if you are expected to make a return. The library can assist with entry of publications information. Read more at: www.gla.ac.uk/services/openaccess/otheroutputs/ Inquiries about the University approach to this exercise can be sent to research-outcomes@glasgow.ac.uk

POLICY: Research Council Grants and in vivo mammalian science

The Research Councils are to tighten up on the details required in grant applications concerning in vivo mammalian studies. Professor Mandy MacLean represented the MRC as a panel member of the non-clinical fellowship panel at a workshop in London on 2nd September to discuss ‘improving peer review of in vivo research proposals’. Here she reviews some of the presentations which highlight how grant applications can be improved.

The meeting started with a review from Dr Frances Rawle (MRC) on MRC cross-board working group and revised animals guidance. One third of MRC grant applications and, across UK research funders, 20-24% of applications involve working with animals/animal models. Applicants however often ignore the applicant guidance provided concerning the details requested, especially around experimental design and statistics and justification of animal numbers. In particular the avoidance of bias through randomisation and blinding is often not discussed. There will be updated guidance on these issue issued by the MRC in October-November 2014. A delivery plan for reducing the use of animals in research to ensure research and testing using animals is safe and reasonable was published in February 2014 by the Home Office, BIS and Dept of Health.

Professor Malcolm Macleod from the University of Edinburgh discussed the importance of good experimental design and the implications of getting it wrong. He is a co-author on a series of papers published in Lancet this year on ‘Biomedical research: increasing value, reducing waste’. This should also apply to publications. A survey was done on 1173 publications from the top five UK Universities from 2009-10 and only one of these gave all four of these pieces of information. Only 15% reported randomisation of animals, 17% reported if the experiments were blinded, only 10% described inclusion and exclusion criteria and less than 3% reported statistical justification for the number of animals used. Clearly the Research Councils are concerned about this and it was noted that the NIH currently withhold 10% of research grant funding until work is published. They encourage publication of negative results and there was some discussion of Research Councils providing an open access forum to facilitate this.
Dr Nathalie Percie du Sert, NC3Rs discussed the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines and described an interesting 'Experimental Design Assistant' which is a web-based tool which will guide researchers through the design of their experiments, helping to ensure that they use the minimum number of animals consistent with their scientific objectives, methods to reduce subjective bias, and appropriate statistical analysis. This will be available by the end of the year and should be very helpful in preparing grant applications.

Professor Hazel Inskip, University of Southampton was on the MRC Panel to review Animal Research Guidelines and discussed what a good application looks like and the common pitfalls. She emphasised the importance of including information on effect size, what the primary outcome of the research was, if the measurements are normally distributed, what statistical power was to be applied and an accurate determination of the n value. Also the inclusion of information on randomisation of animals, blinding of experimenters and blinding of analysis. She provided a very useful ‘good example’ which I am happy to provide anyone upon request.

So to summarise, I would recommend that anyone preparing a Research Council grant application or a publication involving in vivo studies should consider implementing the suggestions made above immediately as this will become obligatory soon and will influence peer review.

Publications discussed:

http://www.nature.com/news/announcement-reducing-our-irreproducibility-1.12852


http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/experimental-design-assistant-eda

http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines

RESEARCH IMPACT:

As part of the College's participation in the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)'s Excellence with Impact competition, a team from the BBSRC will make their second visit to the College on 6th November to hear about our ongoing progress in developing and delivering the College's impact agenda. The team will meet a wide variety of colleagues including BBSRC-funded students, postdocs and staff, Sparking Impact Award holders, and the School / Institute Impact Champions to learn about some of the ways we are already engaging with our external research users and also about how the College and University are supporting activity that seeks to ensure that our excellent research is shared with, used by and developed with external agencies.

Further information about our participation in the BBSRC Excellence with Impact competition can be found here: http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/researchimpact/bbsrcexcellencewithimpact/

Our research impact strategy is available via http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/researchimpact/ourstrategy/

One of the ways the College is supporting impact is via a recently developed online ‘Moodle’ hub for academic staff. Moodle is an open source learning platform that is already used within MVLS for
teaching. The ‘Impact’ moodle has been developed to provide researchers with a place where they can not only learn about impact and view best practice examples (e.g. summarised REF case studies) but also where researchers can develop an impact strategy for their own research. There has been a strong sense that researchers are eager to understand how they can ‘do’ impact better and to this end the moodle tool enables researchers to ensure they are embedding impact from the outset of their research and provides practical tools and resources to enable them to do this along the lifespan of the research. Furthermore the moodle provides a step-wise support tool that walks researchers through the process of creating high quality ‘Pathways to Impact’ statements, which are required for some grant applications, and provides resources and exemplars to facilitate this. The moodle will be launched within the next few weeks to all MVLS research and teaching staff.

School and Institute Impact Champions have recently undertaken within their areas an impact survey of academic staff to highlight the impact strengths and to identify in which areas further work would be beneficial to support staff in the development of impact-related plans associated with individual’s research strategies. The School and Impact Champions will be supported in developing localised impact plans based on these results by their management teams and the College Impact Theme Leaders.

STOP PRESS! Images with Impact competition STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

Images with Impact competition – closing date Friday 7 November

Do you have any images that show off your research, or the impact of your research? Or perhaps you have exciting images that showcase the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS)? Could you create a stunning image which would help visualise your work and its impact, or display the College to its best advantage?

We are holding an image competition with two categories. We are looking for eye-catching, high-quality images which either:

A. Bring research to life and capture people’s attention, whether it be microscopic subjects such as parasites or waterbears (tardigrades) or an image which highlights the application of your research in its wider social or environmental context

Or

B. Presents aspects of life and activity in MVLS that showcase the College to the wider world. This could be anything and is open to your interpretation, including for example, education, people, places and things … Let your imagination run wild!

Your winning image could feature on the front of this year's College Christmas card, as well as being used on the University and College’s website and marketing materials. You could also win a £50 book token or Amazon voucher.

The competition is open to everyone in MVLS, including staff and students. The deadline for submission is Friday 7 November.

If you would like to take part, please find submission details and full terms and conditions at: http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/researchimpact/imageswithimpactcompetition/

The competition is open to all. So, give it a go! We’re looking forward to seeing what you come up with! If you have any questions please contact: mvls-feedback@glasgow.ac.uk
Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology awarded £8.3 million from the Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology (WTCMP) has just been awarded £8.3 million in funding from the Wellcome Trust over the next 7 years. This core funding will allow the Centre to recruit new researchers and expand its research areas.

Prof Andy Waters, WTCMP Director said “The Wellcome Trust continues to recognize the significant impact on human health caused by tropical parasitic disease and its renewed support of the WTCMP reflects the quality of the contribution made by its scientists. The award with additional support from MVLS and the University will enable further improvements to the infrastructure and recruitment of additional scientists. Our challenge is to produce world-class science and training for the next generation of molecular parasitologists. Our findings should be translated into therapies and communicated to all walks of the public”. Further information is available [here](#).

Silent Signal Project

Two MVLS researchers are involved in an exciting and innovative public engagement project called Silent Signal. Silent Signal explores how research into genetics, immunology and epidemiology is advancing our understanding of how the human body communicates internally. It comprises six collaborative projects that will produce animated works for exhibition online and in the gallery, with associated events and educational resources.

Dr Paddy Brock, at the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine and Dr Megan MacLeod, at the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation are each involved in collaborative projects with artists [boredomresearch](#) (based at the NCCA, Bournemouth University) and [Eric Schockmel](#) respectively. By creatively exploring cutting edge research the projects will
reflect on what the future applications and impact of current research might be for us all; where medical advancements could boost our response to infection, exploit our genetic code to treat health and behavioural problems, or predict how medicinal interventions could save large populations from fatal diseases. Produced by Animate Projects with support from the Wellcome Trust.


We can eliminate rabies, say researchers

Scientists say rabies can be eliminated if governments, communities and health organisations work together. Rabies, if left untreated, is a 100% fatal neurological disease spread to humans through the bite of an infected animal, most commonly dogs. Work undertaken by Dr Katie Hampson, Dr Tiziana Lembo, Prof Sarah Cleaveland and colleagues has received a lot of exposure including articles in Science and The Conversation. Further information is available on the University news pages.

£650K boost for NF-B research.

We are pleased to announce that the BBSRC has awarded over £650K to fund research in MVLS aimed at determining the function of Bcl-3. This nuclear protein regulates the survival, proliferation and function of immune cells by controlling gene expression induced by the NF-B family of transcription factors. The project, devised by Ruaidhri Carmody, Robert Nibbs and Carl Goodyear from the Centre for Immunobiology in 3Is and Karen Keeshan from the Paul O’Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre, will exploit and integrate state-of-the-art technologies across the college to examine the function of Bcl-3 at the molecular, cellular, and whole animal level.

Shine 2014 award from the Health Foundation

A team from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and MVLS has had their project chosen to be part of the Shine programme from the independent health care charity the Health Foundation. Through Shine, the Health Foundation is supporting 23 teams with outstanding, innovative ideas that aim to tackle the current challenges within the health service.

The initiative involves piloting a recovery programme, InSPIRE (Intensive care Syndrome: Promoting Independence and Return to Employment), a five-week rehabilitation and support programme for intensive care unit survivors and their families. Over the course of 15 months, the project team will be developing and testing their innovation, putting it into practice, and gathering evidence about its impact and effectiveness. The project is led by Dr Tara Quasim, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Anaesthesia & Critical Care in the School of Medicine, with the support of the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland. Tara said ‘We are delighted to be given this fantastic opportunity by the Health Foundation. ICU survivors have persistent physical and psychological problems as a direct result of
their intensive care stay, which can have an impact all aspects of their life. We hope that this innovative programme will navigate patients in their recovery, by giving both patients and family members access to appropriate services and support.

New PLoS Pathogens paper from Dr Rob Gifford: Larger Mammalian Body Size Leads to Lower Retroviral Activity

Retroviruses have been invading mammalian genomes for over 100 million years, leaving traces known as endogenous retroviruses (ERVs). Early genome sequencing studies revealed a marked difference in the activity of retroviruses among species, with humans largely containing inactive lineages of ERVs, while the mouse contains numerous lineages of active ERVs. We explore the hypothesis that life history traits determine the activity of ERVs in mammalian genomes, and show that larger mammals have fewer ERV copies over recent evolutionary time (the last 10 million years) compared to smaller mammals. This association is determined by body size independently of any confounding variables. We build a mathematical model that shows that ERV abundance in genomes decreases with larger body size and increases with horizontal transmission. Retroviral integration can cause cancer, and our analysis suggests that larger bodied animals control ERV replication in order to postpone cancer until a post-reproductive age. This is in line with a long-standing observation that cancer rates do not fluctuate among mammals of different body size, a phenomenon known as Peto’s paradox, and opens up the possibility that larger animals have evolved mechanisms to limit ERV activity.

- Teaching news

Head of College Scholars List Scheme

Professor Jill Morrison, Dean of Learning and Teaching, writes ‘The Head of College Scholars List Scheme is now entering its third year and I am about to invite a new cohort of the top undergraduate students in second and third year across the College to join it. The Scheme was very successful last year with over 150 students from all subject areas involved and over 30 submitted applications for summer research studentships. The reports of the summer studentships are now being received and all of the students who have reported so far have described how their experiences of the Scheme and the studentship have cemented their wish to pursue a research career.

I am very grateful to the College Academics who have convened small groups with the students in the Scheme and supervised the summer studentships. I am now looking for more volunteers to help with the Scheme. The commitment is no more than two meetings with a small group (4 – 8) of
enthusiastic, academically bright students, on two occasions. The meetings are usually held during January and February at a time and place chosen by the academic. The students particularly value hearing about the academic’s research and career. Other colleagues have arranged visits to their labs but the content is entirely up to the academic. There is more information about the Scheme on the College website at www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/headofcollegescholarslistscheme/. If you would like to help, please contact me by email - jill.morrison@glasgow.ac.uk’

From Bench to Bedside: Cancer Sciences in the 21st Century

The new MSc in Cancer Sciences was launched on 17th September. The Institute of Cancer Sciences are pleased to welcome 24 students from around the world onto our programme, which takes a “bench to bedside” approach, enabling graduates to work within a multidisciplinary environment of world-leading scientists and cancer-specialists.

We were very fortunate to welcome three visiting speakers, Christine Gundry, Lynn Murray from the Think Pink Scotland cancer charity, and Gillian Hailstones from Maggies’ Centre Glasgow. They told the students about their personal experiences of cancer and of supporting cancer patients. Their stories were inspirational and very moving, and reminded us all why cancer research is so important.

Classes for the MSc Cancer Sciences will mainly be held in the new Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre at Garscube, which was officially opened in the spring. We are very grateful to our colleagues in schools and institutes across MVLS for their contributions to this exciting new programme.

The programme directors are Katherine West and Torsten Stein. Website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/cancer : twitter feed: @GUcancersci

Glasgow Dental School student exchange with Sun Yat Sen University School of Stomatology

Six senior students from Sun Yat Sen University (SYSU) School of Stomatology, Guangzhou in China visited MVLS in May for a four week visit. They worked with staff and students of Glasgow Dental School as part of a formal exchange programme that has been established this year. Six fourth year dental students then left Glasgow in June to spend four weeks...
at Sun Yat Sen University in fulfilment of the elective study component of the BDS degree programme. This dental-undergraduate-students exchange program is the first between universities in China and the UK. It is a milestone in the history of Chinese stomatological education and is significant for the internationalization of stomatological education at SYSU.

- **Administration news**

**Managed Print Deployment**
Some time ago the University implemented a new policy regarding printing to help meet commitments in terms of carbon footprint, through saving on power and reduced volumes of printed materials. Some of you will have been involved in meetings to agree the number of devices required to meet print volumes and where you would like machines to be located.

Managed printing will shortly be deployed across MVLS and for a short period of time a fairly large volume of equipment will be delivered which Canon Engineers will install. Key contacts have been appointed in each area for the Canon Team to go to and local IT staff will be present during the roll out to ensure that the deliveries go to the right places and to help with any issues that may arise. The installation of the equipment should be fairly smooth, but with an initiative of this size it is inevitable that there will be snags that need to worked around, or other issues that might take a little longer to resolve. It’s important that we bear this in mind and work with our partners to resolve these.

Once in place the equipment will be managed by a team of Canon specialists who are located on site. They will service the machines and handle any ongoing issues that emerge. In the event that you do encounter an issue, this should be reported to service desk in the same way you would with any other fault and the team will respond promptly.

It is important that all colleagues are aware of what is happening, so please disseminate this information via normal communications channels (team meetings etc.). Your support is essential to the success of this project and is greatly appreciated. A series of FAQs are available [here](#).

**SMS-IC website launch**
Stratified Medicine Scotland - Innovation Centre (SMS-IC) is delighted to welcome visitors to their recently launched web site [www.stratmed.co.uk](http://www.stratmed.co.uk)

The £20M Centre, that was led by MVLS, is a partnership between Health Science Scotland and industry, and brings together experts from academia, industry and the NHS to rapidly develop safer, more effective therapies and diagnostic tools for chronic diseases.

Developed by MVLS IT, the web pages are part the Centre’s evolution from its temporary home at Inchinnan Business Park, to a purpose built facility at the South Glasgow University Hospital, opening in 2015.
The MVLS IT Project and Design & Communications Teams worked closely with the SMS-IC communications group, the University’s Corporate Communications and Central IT Services, to develop corporate ID, branding, letterheads and print materials, in addition to design and construction of the full web site.

The Chief Operating Officer for SMS-IC Dr Mark Beggs said: “I am extremely impressed with the capabilities and enthusiasm of the MVLS IT team. They have delivered a very professional product and have been a great team to work with”. Andy Jenkins, MVLS IT Project leader, said: “The SMS-IC launch project has provided us with an opportunity to contribute to a high-profile forward looking initiative. It has been an enjoyable and stimulating experience for all team members and has allowed us to showcase our skills and experience”.

- Dates for your diary

**Parasite Critters, 6-17 October 2014**

WTCMP’s ongoing Crafty Critters activity has moved into a new phase with critters being sent in from all around the UK for our end of project exhibition in the Hunterian museum during Biology week in October. Our many donated parasites will adorn the balcony of the Hunterian Museum for a week, creating a huge parasitic craft-bomb. After the exhibition the parasites will be distributed to researchers and health workers worldwide as teaching aids. A series of events are planned over the time of the exhibition, details can be found [here](#).

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**MVLS Industry Day, 27 October 2014**

Registration for MVLS Industry Day, which will take place on Monday 27th October 2014, is open!

With focus on key industry sectors, the main aim of the day is to create a forum for discussion and engagement between our academics, the life research communities and the life science industries.
Please note that all academics wishing to participate in the day must register via http://mvlsindustryday2014.meeting-mojo.com/.

With keynote presentations from Dr Julia Brown, Sector Portfolio Director, Life Sciences at Scottish Enterprise, and Dr Klaus Lindpainter, Chief Scientific Officer, Analytical Technologies at Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., together with interactive workshops and partnering opportunities we aim to generate a creative space which enables networking and collaboration.

The day has been designed to be inclusive of all our academics; from those who are thriving in this area to those who have yet to explore industrial collaborations and need guidance on where to begin.

Each Institute and School will be represented and will be showcasing the scientific excellence with their offering to industrial partners. For more information on specific content, please contact your Institute Industry Day Champion (details of which can be obtained from Jacqueline Coffield).

Invitations for this event have gone out to organisations in all key sectors and supported by central networks and associations. We encourage you to invite your industrial contacts along to Industry Day. However, if you would prefer us to make contact on your behalf or ensure that a particular area is represented, please contact the College Research & Business Development team (mvls-rbs@glasgow.ac.uk).

Further details of the day programme can be found at our website http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/industryday2014/industrydayprogramme/.

40 years of the Glasgow Coma Scale, 29th October 2014
The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) is a neurological scale used by medics around the world to record the conscious state of a person and it is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2014. The simple measurement was originally developed by University of Glasgow Professors Sir Graham Teasdale and Bryan Jennett while working in the Institute for Neurological Sciences at the Southern General Hospital in 1974.

The GCS then progressively became an integral part of clinical practice and research across the world. A recent review in The Lancet found that the GCS is in use by neurosurgeons and other disciplines in more than 80 countries worldwide. The review also noted it was the most frequently quoted paper in clinical neurosurgery.

More information can be found at: www.gla.ac.uk/research/infocus/projects/headline_360390_en.html

To celebrate the anniversary, we have organised a special event on 29th October 2014 at our Wolfson Medical School Building, sponsored by Digby Brown LLP. Professors Anna Dominiczak, Sir Michael Bond and Sir Graham Teasdale will host. If you are interested in attending the event please contact Laura Morton on 0141 330 3878 or laura.morton@glasgow.ac.uk
We all use evidence in what we do on a daily basis. Most of us, if we take the time, are probably able to make a judgement about the quality of that evidence. But how many of us in our busy schedules are able, systematically, to ensure that that judgement is soundly based, relies on the most up-to-date research, is free from bias, and that appropriate conclusions have been reached about what the evidence is telling us? This talk asks the big question about how we, as a community, can better organise ourselves to get to the heart of answering these questions, so that busy clinicians can get on with the day job. And have a bit of fun along the way.

Nick Royle is Executive Director of RCVS Knowledge, an independent charity that partners with the RCVS to provide a specialist library and information service to the practising veterinary community.

All staff and students are warmly invited to attend.

Professor James McCall Memorial Lecture: 31st October 2014 at 5:30pm
Sir Charles Wilson Lecture Theatre
A tale of two lives: rural vet and research scientist

This year’s lecture, ‘A tale of two lives: rural vet and research scientist’, will be delivered by Professor Elizabeth Simpson, Emeritus Professor of Transplantation Biology at Imperial College London.

‘It happens to a lot of people, their starting-out track being transformed into something they hadn’t imagined. Imagination is important. Mine was fed by early interests in the natural world, plants and creatures, bird’s-foot-trefoil, ants and the wonderfully arranged interiors of rabbits, leading to compassion for animal species in addition to humans. At 12 I told my parents I wanted to be a vet.

‘Being exposed to science teaching at university opened amazing new doors. I was introduced to ideas about how things work, but these change as new evidence emerges, affecting the practice of medicine. That fitted into my tendency to challenge everything....’

The lecture will be followed by an informal drinks reception in the Hunterian Museum at the conclusion of Professor Simpson’s presentation.

All staff and students are warmly invited to attend.
Two special events have been planned to celebrate 50 years of the Midspan Studies, Scotland’s largest and longest epidemiological cohort studies, based in the Institute of Health and Wellbeing. With support from NHS Health Scotland, an all-day scientific symposium is being held at Glasgow Concert Hall on Friday 31st October, highlighting research findings from the last ten years, including findings on smoking, alcohol, obesity, cancer, heart disease, vitamin D, air pollution, genetics, ageing, respiratory impairment and health inequalities. Professor George Davey Smith of Bristol University will sum up the day. Then on the morning of Saturday 1st November there will be a public meeting at Renfrew Town Hall, from 11.00-13.00. Both meetings are free to attend but registration is required for the Friday scientific symposium. Please see links for more information: Midspan Symposium and Midspan Programme.

Science for Society Conference, 8th November 2014

On November 8th 2014 the Glasgow Insight into Science & Technology (GIST) will be hosting a conference entitled ‘Science for Society’ at the University. The theme will be “Science in Policy-Making: The Role of Evidence-Based Policy in a Modern World”.

This conference will feature a poster competition for early career researchers and research students. The top 10 posters will be presented at the conference where a winner will be selected by a panel of judges. Posters will then tour the city, visiting the University of Strathclyde, the Glasgow Science Centre, Glasgow Skeptics and various local libraries. It will be an excellent public engagement and outreach opportunity, and your research will receive lots of public exposure. A wide variety of research can be useful for evidence-based policy and so we welcome contributions from all areas of science. For more information visit: www.the-GIST.org/conference. Questions and/or submissions should be sent to editor@the-GIST.org.

Key Dates: Abstract and title submission deadline - 17/10/2014; Poster submission deadline - 24/10/2014

2nd BSI Leukocyte Migration Affinity Group Meeting, 10th – 11th February 2015

After a successful inaugural meeting in Glasgow in 2013, the BSI Leukocyte Migration Affinity Group is pleased to announce their next meeting to be held on 10-11 February 2015 at the Medical School at the University of Birmingham. The meeting, entitled “Leukocyte Migration in Health and Disease”, will feature talks by internationally renowned researchers, including David Adams (Birmingham), Philippe Bousso (Paris), Nancy Hogg (London), Bernhard Moser (Cardiff), Sussan Nourshargh (London), and Bin-Zhi Qian (Edinburgh), and short presentations by 10-15 postdocs/students selected from submitted abstracts. Registration opens soon at https://www.immunology.org/Leukocyte-Migration. The group was established at Glasgow University in 2012 by Darren Asquith, Chris Hansell, Megan MacLeod, Clive McKimmie and Rob.
Nibbs. Graeme O’Boyle (Sunderland) and Helen McGettrick (Birmingham) have since joined the committee, and Helen will be hosting the Birmingham meeting. All involved in the LMG look forward to seeing you in Birmingham in February!

**Events**

**Introduction to Microbiota Research Glasgow 2014**

On September 29th the Boyd Orr Centre for Population and Ecosystem Health, the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine and Glasgow Polyomics hosted an Introduction to Microbiota Research Glasgow 2014.

Instructive “best practice” talks from visiting speakers were interspersed with short talks describing some of the exciting work already going on in Glasgow. Topics addressed included the importance of sample handling by Alan Walker of the University of Aberdeen, microbiome analysis by Mick Watson of Edinburgh Genomics and metagenomics data analysis by Chris Quince of the University of Warwick. Talks from University of Glasgow researchers included Simon Milling describing some of his research on the interaction between gut microbiota, dendritic cells and ankylosing spondylitis, and Lieve Desbonnet highlighting possible links between gut microbiota, brain function and behaviour.

The 80 attendees on the day included both interested clinicians and experienced microbiota researchers, some of whom came from as far afield as Poland, Belfast and the Netherlands. For those interested who missed the event, Mick Watson’s informative slides on microbiome analysis are available to view on [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net).

**Explorathon and European Researchers’ Night 2014**

For the first time Glasgow took part in European Researcher’s Night on 26th September. Several members of the Institute of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation delivered activities as part of the festivities.

In the Glasgow Science Centre, Jagtar Nijjar and Louise Bennett were part of a group running a Rheumatosphere session at Explorathon. They spoke
about some of their work in inflammatory arthritis, and with ultrasound undertook imaging on hands and joints from members of the public, and showed the sorts of things that can be done in the lab with biopsy samples from patients. The Glasgow Science Festival ran a table demonstrating a variety of activities and featured WTCMP’s Crafty Critters activity. More details can be found here http://www.explorathon.co.uk/glasgow

For the second year, WTCMP have been selected for the line-up for European Researcher’s Night in the Natural History Museum in London. Jane Munday, Pieter Steketee and Mhairi Stewart will be delivering activities in a special session with the parasitology researchers from the Natural History Museum.

University of Glasgow Tenovus-Scotland Symposium 2014: Cardiovascular Inflammation - To the Heart of the Problem

The 2014 University of Glasgow Tenovus-Scotland Symposium was held in the Wolfson Medical School on September 15th. This was a joint initiative between the Institutes of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences and Infection, Immunity & Inflammation to promote collaborative interactions in the cardiovascular inflammation area. The meeting was attended by over 100 delegates, with presentations from internationally renowned basic and clinician scientists from Glasgow and other UK centres of excellence in cardiovascular research. These included the host Institutes’ Directors Professors Rhian Touyz and Iain M’Innes, Dr. Gillian Gray (Edinburgh), Dr. Jason Johnson (Bristol) and Professor Ziad Mallat (Cambridge). Subjects ranged from a discussion of clinical links between rheumatoid arthritis and vascular dysfunction through to elegant studies of the molecular basis of inflammation in several models of cardiovascular disease. The multidisciplinary nature of the symposium made for a successful event and an extremely engaging day of science. The symposium concluded with the presentation of the 2014 Tenovus Medal to Dr. Joseph Boyle, a British Heart Foundation Senior Clinical Research Fellow at Imperial College, London.

Scout Science Day

On 13th September, 220 scouts, girl guides and their leaders descended on the Wolfson Medical Building for a Science Day organised specifically for them by members of WTCMP and the Glasgow Science Festival team. Activities included Crafty Critters, Build a Virus, Chromosome Matching, Sierpinski carpets, skull detective, CSI, and K’Nex challenge.
Applications for the one day event were over three times our maximum capacity and unfortunately many troops were disappointed not to be able to attend.

**Immunobiology Fellows, Post-doc and PhD student day 2014**

Going from strength to strength, this year’s Immunobiology Fellow, Post-doc and PhD student day took place at the Dental School on 29th August. With more attendees and more talks from the Centre’s students and post-docs than in the previous two years, the meeting was an unqualified success. This year’s external speaker, **Jessica Strid** from Imperial College London, gave an in-depth scientific talk weaving together data from her PhD with more recent studies that examine antibody-mediated protection from tumours.

In the afternoon, Jessica joined **Andrew Platt** from the Contract Research Organisation, Quintiles, and **Derek Gilchrist**, an Immunobiology post-doc currently translating his science into a potential new treatment for tendinopathy, in an interactive careers session. A clear highlight of the day, the three scientists provided realistic but encouraging advice for finding the scientific career that was right for each of us. The symposium was made possible by generous support from the Centre for Immunobiology, Almac, BioLegend, LifeTechnologies and Primer Design.

**Visit to Glasgow from a delegation of Chinese rheumatologists**

In late August 2014, **Prof Iain McInnes** and **Dr Stefan Siebert** hosted a delegation of Chinese rheumatologists on a visit to Glasgow University. The trip, which was arranged jointly with the Asia Pacific League of Associations for Rheumatology (APLAR) to help foster partnerships for the future, was delivered with support from staff from the NHS and Glasgow Caledonian University.

The programme shared updates and best practice on medical and strategic approaches to the diagnosis, treatment and management of rheumatologic diseases, and will continue to support the development of a Centre of Excellence for rheumatology in the region.
It included visits to Glasgow Polyomics, and the Rheumatology Day Ward and Clinical Research Facility at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. There were lectures on strategic and patient centric approaches to disease management, the pathogenesis of rheumatologic diseases, the benefits of working in a multi-disciplinary team, running clinical trials and biobanking.

In addition, the programme included workshops and practical sessions on ultrasound techniques, the use of biological treatments and strategies for creating efficient clinics.

ScienceGrrl Glasgow Awards Ceremony

Alana Hamilton, Lilach Sheiner, Mhairi Stewart and Nikki Mamczur of WTCMP, were among the members of a team recently honoured for their charity fund-raising efforts under the ScienceGrrl banner.

ScienceGrrl is a broad-based, grassroots organisation celebrating and supporting women in science; a network of people who are passionate about passing on our love of science on to the next generation.

ScienceGrrl does a huge amount of work including reports to Westminster and reaching out to kids from socioeconomically deprived areas. In Glasgow members come from all the HEIs, industry, government and the NHS. They also admit guys - it’s not girls only! They are official partners in Glasgow City of Science.

ScienceGrrl Glasgow meets regularly and the lead is Mhairi Stewart from WTCMP who can be contacted through the ScienceGrrl website (http://sciencegrrl.co.uk/about/chapters-local-connections/glasgow-chapter/) or via twitter @scienceartreach

A large-scale event is planned for International Women’s Day next year - a science ceilidh for 300 or so people at the Glasgow Science Centre.

In April this year a team of 12 ScienceGrrl Glasgow members walked in the Glasgow Kiltwalk. KiltWalkers covered either Marathon distance, a half marathon or a Wee Walk with their wee walkers raising over £1800 for children’s charities in Scotland.

On 21 August the Kiltwalk organisation presented ScienceGrrl Glasgow with a cheque for over £900 to fund activities in Glasgow to inspire kids with science. After discussions the Glasgow activists will be using the funds to bring science to children in hospitals in the Glasgow area.

Newsflash! Call for proposals to deliver science activities to children in Yorkhill hospital

Thanks to the efforts of the ScienceGrrl Glasgow team in the 2014 Glasgow KiltWalk, we are extremely proud to announce a series of public engagement grants. We are seeking proposals to deliver science activities to children in Yorkhill hospital, especially those in isolation. This is a hugely under-served audience, and a challenging one to design activities for. BUT NOT AS CHALLENGING AS YOU MIGHT THINK!
Let your imaginations run free – how could you bring science and a little ray of fun into the lives of sick kids?

It gets better… You will be doing an amazing thing that will bring smiles to children, parents and staff, but you will be working for yourself too. Those of you who do not have experience in grant applications, budget management, time and project management and public engagement development and delivery on your CV’s will be able to legitimately say that you have.

Grants are only open to ScienceGrrl members. If you aren’t a member, membership only costs £5 a year. For full terms and conditions, a copy of the application form and some further notes on our audience and extra considerations that will have to be taken into account, get in touch with us through Facebook or one of the other contacts below.

Contact Us! Twitter: @scienceartreach | Facebook: ScienceGrrlGlasgow | Or through the ScienceGrrl web form here

Visit of the Tanzanian Commonwealth Games Team to the Boyd Orr Centre for Population and Ecosystem Health

In August, researchers from the Boyd Orr Centre for Population and Ecosystem Health took great pleasure in hosting a lunch for a visiting delegation from the Tanzanian Commonwealth Games team. The Boyd Orr Centre, which as many in the College will know, is an interdisciplinary research centre that focuses on the study of environmental, human and animal health with an aim of combating infectious diseases. Much of this work involves collaborative research on tropical diseases in partnership with Institutes from endemic settings in sub-Saharan Africa; with a particular focus in Tanzania.

Dr Heather Ferguson, who organised the visit, said “Having enjoyed many years of interaction and friendship with the people of Tanzania, who have made us feel so welcome in their home; we were delighted to extend a hand to members of the Tanzanian Commonwealth team and make them feel welcome in our home.”

Joining the Boyd Orr Centre researchers were Mr Leonard Thadeo, the Chef du Mission of the Tanzanian Commonwealth Games Team, and Director of Sports Development in the Tanzanian Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports; Dr Juma Mwanandi Mwankemwa, Tanzanian Commonwealth Games Team Doctor and Chairman of the Tanzanian Special Olympics and Tanzanian
Special Needs Sports Association; **Ms Magdalena Ruth Alex Moshi**, freestyle swimmer and Health Sciences student at the University of Adelaide; and **Mr. Zaidi Khamisi**, the Judo coach for the Tanzanian team.

Dr Heather Ferguson gave a brief overview of the Centre’s research activities in Tanzania, including bacterial zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, malaria mosquito control, foot-and-mouth disease, rabies elimination, and conservation. Both sides discussed the role sport can play in health education and Mr Thadeo described the efforts of the Tanzania Football Federation to champion malaria control, using football as a vehicle for engaging and educating fans on how to avoid the disease. The meeting highlighted the common ground we all share, and provided new connections for future health advocacy work in Tanzania.

### 10th anniversary of the NC3Rs: July 2014

**Professor Susan Barnett**, Professor of Cellular Neuroscience in the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, visited the House of Lords to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs).

The **NC3Rs** is an independent scientific organisation that supports the UK science base by driving and funding innovation and technological developments that replace or reduce the need for animals in research and testing, as well as leading on improvements in welfare where animals continue to be used. It promotes robust and ethical scientific practice through collaborating with research funders, academia, industry, regulators and animal welfare organisations, both in the UK and internationally. [More information about the work of the NC3Rs.](#)

### Successful summer school

The Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde ran the Integrated Mammalian Biology in vivo neuroscience summer school in the pre-clinical laboratories of the WSI building (Institute of Neuroscience & Psychology) and organised by **Drs Chris McCabe** and **Leanne McKay**.

This intensive week long summer school, funded by the British Pharmacological Society and the Physiological Society, is aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students who want to learn in vivo...
research techniques in the field of neuroscience.

A total of 15 students from across the UK and Ireland were accepted to attend the summer school where they received a mixture of taught courses and hands on experience of practical techniques such as behavioural testing, in vivo surgery and MRI scanning.

The course received excellent feedback with all students finding the course enjoyable and invaluable for their future careers in research.

Another Great Year for Glasgow Science Festival

From 5-15 June, staff and students from across MVLS played a valuable role in making biology accessible and fun to diverse audiences as part of Glasgow Science Festival.

Highlights included the ever-popular ‘Science Sunday’, which transformed the Wolfson Medical School into a jamboree of hands-on science for over 1300 visitors. Among the activities were fishing for PIT-tagged cuddly animals, a CSI “whodunnit”, and a “guess the MRI-scanned fruit” challenge. Over in the Hunterian Zoology Museum, visitors explored nature’s athletes, from jumping tree frogs to diving birds.

This year’s adult programme was a big hit, with sharks, crocheted parasites and DNA dinners among the attractions. Drs David Bailey, Shaun Killen and Deborah McNeill led a marine biology themed Q&A following a special screening of Jaws at the GFT. Parasitologists Dr Mhairi Stewart, Rebecca Devlin, Robyn Kent and Catarina Marques mixed science with art at “Crafty Critter” workshops, with beautiful results.

The “Mystery Menu: DNA Dinner” in Stravaigin led by Drs Tanita Casci, Graham Hamilton and other Glasgow Polyomics researchers proved hugely popular, with guests attempting to guess the (rather unusual!) species contained in their meals before the results of a table-top DNA sequencer.

Festival director Dr Deborah McNeill said: “We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year’s festival our best ever. Over the past eight years, the festival has gone from strength to strength, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of our students and staff.”

Glasgow Science Festival runs public engagement projects throughout the year and is currently seeking researchers interested in public engagement as part of the community-based project, CLAN. If you would like to be involved then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Dr Deborah McNeill: Deborah.Mcneill@glasgow.ac.uk
• From Institutes

Institute of Health and Wellbeing

The Institute of Health and Wellbeing has published its 2013 annual report, available via: http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_351237_en.pdf

Congratulations to our colleagues on their recent promotion:

Dr Sarah Barry – Robertson Centre

Dr Ross White – Mental Health and Wellbeing

Professor Jonathan Cavanagh – Mental Health and Wellbeing

Dr Jim Lewsey – Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment

Dr Daniel MacKay – Public Health

Professor Helen Minnis – Mental Health and Wellbeing

Congratulations to Professor Helen Minnis

Professor Helen Minnis was appointed Guest Professor at the Gillberg Neuropsychiatry Centre, University of Gothenburg in June, and has also recently been awarded promotion to Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Helen’s research has focused on Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) and other Maltreatment-associated psychiatric disorders. She has developed the first standardised assessment tools for Reactive Attachment Disorder in school-age children and her screening instrument, the Relationship Problems Questionnaire (RPQ) is now available in five languages (English, Swedish, German, Spanish and Dutch). She is now leading a randomised controlled trial of a preventative intervention aiming to improve the mental health of young maltreated children coming into foster care.

10,000 in Big C test

Scientists are bidding to sign up 10,000 Scots to take part in a 10-year study into lung cancer. The researchers want to carry out a blood test on half of the recruits — smokers and ex-smokers aged 50 to 75. The two groups will then be followed for a decade to see if the test helps spot the symptoms.

Head Injury Link to Reoffending, Experts Call for Increased Awareness

Professor Tom McMillan, together with other witnesses gave evidence on head injury and offending to the Justice Committee at Holyrood in August. This in part follows from preliminary epidemiological research at the University of Glasgow on head injury in prisoners in the Glasgow area. The Committee has reviewed this evidence and agreed to
write to the Scottish Government highlighting the main points raised during the evidence session and inviting the Government to respond.

GU student receives TEDMED Frontline Scholarship 2014
Miss Siobhán O’Connor, a first year PhD student undertaking a joint doctoral degree between the University of Glasgow and University College Cork, Ireland received a prestigious TEDMED Frontline Scholarship that will enable her to attend the world-renowned TEDMED event this September. Commenting on her award Siobhán says, “I can’t believe I was selected for a TEDMED Frontline Scholarship this year as there are a limited number of places and it’s very competitive. I think the novelty of my doctoral research and my multidisciplinary background in nursing and informatics is what interested the judging panel. It was always a dream of mine to attend TEDMED, I’ve been watching it online for years, so to be there to experience it in person will be really exciting. I have to say a big thank you to my supervisors Professor Frances Mair, Professor Kate O’Donnell and Dr John O’Donoghue for supporting me.”

Glasgow Science Festival Public Engagement Internship
Arlene McGarty is a second year PhD student researching physical activity and children with intellectual disabilities. As part of the MVLS graduate school training Arlene signed up for the Glasgow Science Festival Internship, which supports students to develop public engagement skills. The internship was a useful training experience, developing skills required to communicate specialised scientific research to the public. Also, working with students from different research areas gave Arlene a greater awareness of the opportunities and benefits that can come from inter-disciplinary collaboration for public engagement.

Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine

New research highlights the impact of human activity on Serengeti migrations

Have you ever received a text message from a wildebeest in the Serengeti? We know a man who has. A recent study, led by Dr Grant Hopcraft in the Boyd Orr Centre for Population & Ecosystem Health and BAHCM, used high-tech GPS collars equipped with mobile phone technology to track and analyse how wildebeest and zebra make decisions during their great annual migration.

The group’s findings suggest that although wildebeest and zebra migrate together, they move for very different reasons: wildebeest are constantly looking for fresh grazing, whereas zebra balance their need to get access to good food against the relative risk of being killed by a predator. However, the results also show that both species are driven, above all else, by the need to avoid the threat of humans and human development.
“The impact of humans trumps everything else,” said Dr Hopcraft, “When these animals encounter areas of high poaching, both species attempt to exit the area as soon as possible by moving a long way and in straight lines, regardless of the food. It appears as though these animals can detect risky areas and respond accordingly, which means if we want to protect migrations we need to focus on managing humans and not the animals.”

The findings on the impact of human behaviour come at a time when the Tanzanian Government has been considering a national highway through the Serengeti to create a trade route from Dar es Salaam and other Indian Ocean ports to Lake Victoria, offering access to countries such as Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and Rwanda. If built, the road is likely to carry as many as 3,000 vehicles across the Serengeti every day.

“A road would have catastrophic effects on how these animals migrate. It would separate their dry season refuge from their wet season calving grounds.”

East Africa desperately needs new transport connections, which are essential for trade, education and access to healthcare. However, leading conservation bodies are advocating for an alternative route that passes to the South and would better achieve these objectives whilst also preserving the one of the world’s most spectacular migrations.

Further information is available in the full press release with a brief discussion of the study with BBC Radio Scotland.

BBSRC and DBT research project on epidemiology of tick borne disease, host resistance and novel pathogen vaccines

A new project funded by the BBSRC and the Department of Biotechnology (India) as part of the Farmed Animal Disease and Health programme (FADH) started on October 1st 2014. The UK project team involves Profs Rowland Kao, Brian Shiels, Andy Tait and Drs Stephen Larcombe and William Weir from BAHCM, and Prof Liz Glass from the Roslin Institute, Edinburgh. The India team involves Nagpur Veterinary College, Madras Veterinary College and Veterinary College & Research Institute, Namakkal. The lead investigator of the Indian team is Dr Sunil Kolte (Nagpur Veterinary College).

Tick borne infections cause major diseases that result in huge losses in livestock productivity over much of the world. In India major losses are generated from transmission of Babesia and Theileria parasites, with Theileria infection, in particular, making it almost impossible to farm more productive European breeds of cattle. There are three main aims of the project: 1) generate information on the molecular epidemiology of tick borne parasites in selected regions of India to develop a predictive model of disease control; 2) investigate pathogen resistance in native breeds of cattle at the level of molecular genetics; 3) determine the impact of antigen diversity on the inclusion of molecules in a vaccine to block disease transmission. All three objectives are designed to provide greater knowledge of tick borne disease in India that can help inform novel strategies for control. An initial project meeting is planned for November 2014 at Nagpur Veterinary College.
Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences

Congratulations to our colleagues on their recent promotion:

**Jesse Dawson** – Reader

**Christian Delles** – Professor

**Sandosh Padmanabhan** – Professor

**Martin McBride** – Senior Lecturer

REMOVAL diabetes trial fully recruited

On June 25th the REMOVAL Investigators were delighted to hit the recruitment target for this Glasgow-led clinical trial in type 1 diabetes. The study - led by Chief Investigator **Professor John Petrie** - started in December 2011. 500 participants have now been recruited: each will be followed up for three years with trial close-out in early 2017.

REMOVAL - Reducing with Metformin Adverse Vascular Lesions - is funded by a 5 year Strategic Research Agreement worth $6M from the US Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in New York. It is one of the largest trials ever to be conducted in the field of type 1 diabetes.

The aim is to study the effect of metformin on the structure and function of large and small blood vessels. It is hoped that the drug, already widely used in type 2 diabetes, may help people with type 1 diabetes to control their weight, reduce their insulin dose, improve their sugar control and prevent complications.

REMOVAL has 23 international sites across Australia, Canada, and Europe with clinical trial coordination from the Robertson Centre for Biostatistics and sample storage via the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Biorepository. It also involves academic collaboration with University College London and the University of Wisconsin as well as Industry Collaboration with Merck Pharmaceuticals (Germany) and Itamar Medical (Israel).

Once results are available, REMOVAL may change clinical practice as well as international treatment recommendations in type 1 diabetes.

Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation

Congratulations to **Harry De Koning** on his successful promotion to Professor.
3Is publish in Nature Immunology: Macrophage biology in the intestine deciphered.

Work from Prof Allan Mowat’s group in the Centre for Immunobiology in 3Is has recently been published in Nature Immunology1, one of the most prestigious immunology journals in the world. The study has changed our understanding of intestinal macrophages, the largest population of macrophages in the body. These cells are involved in many crucial homeostatic functions, but are also important in diseases like Crohn’s disease. Their origins and properties have been a source of much recent controversy, and Allan and his group have conclusively shown that these cells need to be constantly replenished by monocytes from the blood. This is quite different from what happens with macrophages in other organs, where hard-wired embryonic precursors self renew in situ. However it makes sound biological sense that the ever-changing environment of the intestine needs continuous surveillance by cells with inherent plasticity. What started as a PhD project became an international collaboration and joint first authors Alberto Bravo Blas and Calum Bain from Allan’s lab travelled to London, Marseille and Philadelphia to complete parts of the study. Their long nights in FACS facilities in Glasgow across the world have been handsomely rewarded with the publication of their work in an excellent journal. 1. Bain, CC, Bravo Blas, AA et al. Nat Immunol. 2014 doi: 10.1038/ni.2967.

Development of 3-D tissue-engineered models of the bovine and ovine respiratory tracts to study host-pathogen interactions

Dr Robert Davies, Senior Lecturer in the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, in collaboration with Dr Catherine Berry and Dr Richard Burchmore, has been awarded grants from the NC3Rs and BBSRC (the latter an industrial partnership award with MSD Animal Health) to develop 3-D tissue-engineered models of the bovine and ovine respiratory tracts. This approach involves the culture of primary airway epithelial cells recovered from the respiratory tracts of freshly killed cattle and sheep and their subsequent differentiation into a polarized, pseudostratified epithelium by growing at an air-liquid interface. The engineered epithelium will not only have a structure that closely mimics that of native tissue (containing ciliated and non-ciliated epithelial cells, goblet cells, Clara cells, etc) but will also physiologically resemble the in vivo environment. The differentiated airway epithelial tissue will subsequently be used to study the molecular interactions of key bacterial and viral pathogens involved in bovine and ovine respiratory disease. The award of these grants has allowed the recent appointment of Dr Yvonne Adams and Dr Nicky O’Boyle who will be supported by Erin Sutherland.
Glasgow Chamber of Commerce – Glasgow Business Awards 2014: Award Winning Excellence in Communications

The Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology (WTCMP) has scooped a prestigious award in the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2014. The team from WTCMP and the Institute of Infection Immunity and Inflammation won first prize in the “Excellence in Communications” category. The awards ceremony organised by Glasgow Chamber of Commerce is held every year and the cream of Glasgow talent compete for these prestigious awards.

Prof Andy Waters, WTCMP Director said “This is a timely and well-merited recognition of the energetic public engagement and communications programme that has been a hallmark of WTCMP life. We are renowned in many circles for our diverse and original activities that seek to engage all walks of the public and educate them into the problems we tackle the reasons why and the ways in which we do it. Spearheaded by Alex Mackay, Dr Tansy Hammarton, Dr Mhairi Stewart, Prof Mike Barrett and Dr Sonya Taylor our programme has been active for nearly a decade and this award is massive recognition of WTCMP and our Institute’s excellent work”

Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology – New Fellow

WTCMP is delighted to welcome a new Wellcome Trust-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Postdoctoral Fellow to Glasgow. Dr Musa Hassan research integrates genetics, genomics and computational approaches to elucidating the molecular mechanisms that modulate macrophage response to Toxoplasma gondii, a ubiquitous intracellular parasite. Dr Hassan is also interested in understanding the molecular networks that define individual differences in macrophage response to immune factors, such as cytokines. Having completed the first phase of the fellowship in the laboratory of Prof. Jeroen Saeij at MIT, he now joins the laboratory of Prof Markus Meissner at WTCMP for the final phase of his fellowship.

Prof Andy Waters, WTCMP Director said “WTCMP welcomes Musa as he joins to start an increasingly independent career in parasitological research. As a WTMIT fellow Musa has high international profile and WTCMP represents an ideal location for him to develop his future. He joins a vibrant Toxoplasma research initiative and we look forward to helping him gain awards to assist him in the next phase of his career”
CVR researchers in the media spotlight

The devastating Ebola virus outbreak, the largest Ebola outbreak in history and the first in West Africa has been the subject of intense media coverage. A number of CVR researchers, including Dr Emma Thomson, Prof Richard Elliott and Dr Alain Kohl contributed to television and radio interviews and newspaper articles about the virus and the disease it causes.

We like to move it….CVR relocation to the Sir Michael Stoker Building

On 15th September, the MRC – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research’s relocation to a single site on the Garscube campus began in earnest. Over the course of three weeks, all 180 CVR staff and students have been involved in the move which sees the CVR occupy interconnected lab and office space in the Sir Michael Stoker Building, Sir Henry Wellcome Building, Botham and Jarrett buildings.

Dr David Bhella awarded an MRC project grant

Congratulations to Dr David Bhella, CVR Programme Leader, who has been awarded a three year project grant from the MRC for a new study: ‘A structure analysis of the intact virion and replicative complexes of human respiratory syncytial virus’.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is the leading viral cause of lower respiratory tract infection in infants and causes significant disease in the immunocompromised and elderly. RSV infects approximately 64 million people and is responsible for an estimated 160,000 deaths annually worldwide. There are no licensed vaccines or effective therapeutics for RSV. The aim of this project is to produce a structural characterisation of the RSV virion and its transcriptional and replicative complexes at intermediate to high resolution by cryoelectron microscopy (CEM) and tomography (CET) combined with computational three dimensional (3D) image reconstruction.
Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology

Dr Marios Philiastides awarded £596,901 by the ESRC for a three year collaborative study with Columbia University into Neural correlates of learning and confidence during decision making and their utility in developing "intelligent" information technologies.

Using state-of-the-art neuroimaging, this project will decipher the neurobiological origins of learning and confidence during decision making and develop a brain-computer interface system that will exploit these decision correlates to augment human performance when dealing with problems relying on inconclusive or partially ambiguous evidence in areas such as security (e.g. optimise systems for threat detection), global economy (e.g. optimise marketing and investment strategies) and health and wellbeing (e.g. identify prognostic precursors of cognitive ageing and disorders known to compromise ones decision-making faculties). This work will be performed collaboratively with our international partners at Columbia University in New York with whom we started to develop cutting-edge technologies and analysis tools, which we hope will allow us to characterise and ultimately exploit the necessary neural signatures.

Professors Christoph Kayser and Joachim Gross awarded £369,826 by the BBSRC to work on Pathways and mechanisms underlying the visual enhancement of hearing in challenging environments.

Professors Christoph Kayser and Co-investigator Joachim Gross have been awarded a 3-year grant from the BBSRC to study how seeing a speakers face can make us hear better. It is well known that visual information changes the way our brain processes sounds and this affects how well we can converse in noisy acoustic environments. The funded project “Pathways and mechanisms underlying the visual enhancement of hearing in challenging environments” will investigate the underlying neural mechanisms using combined neuroimaging (MEG) and behavioural studies. This will provide a better understanding of how our brain encodes what we hear and help paving the way to understand hearing deficits or to enhance computer assisted communication technologies.
Promotion news

Congratulations to Dr Stuart Cobb who has been promoted to Reader. Dr Cobb is interested in synaptic, network and molecular level dysfunctions underlying intellectual disability disorders. His work focuses on developing novel pharmacological and gene-based therapies in the autism-related disorder, Rett Syndrome. As well as disease processes, Dr Cobb is also interested in synaptic signalling and plasticity underlying learning and memory. Dr Cobb is on the advisory board at Revere Rett and contributions to teaching include coordinating the honours pharmacology degree and an honours option in drug discovery.

Congratulations to Dr David Hughes who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. The focus of Dr Hughes’ work is to improve our understanding of the complex neurocircuitry in the spinal dorsal horn, an area of critical importance in our ability to perceive the sensations of temperature, touch and pain. Dr Hughes says, “I use a combination of anatomical and electrophysiological approaches in both human and rodent tissues to identify individual cell populations and determine how their activity influences our ability to perceive different sensations. These studies help us gain insights into how our nervous system prioritises and processes sensory information, and are aimed at developing improved treatments to manage chronic pain states”. These projects, which are funded by the BBSRC, NC3Rs, and the NHMRC (Australia), are often in collaboration with a number of scientists both here in Glasgow and further afield, most notably colleagues in Australia, Japan and the Harvard Medical School, USA. Dr Hughes takes on a number of administrative roles including coordinating the Level 4 Anatomy degree course and the honours Option in Advanced Neuroanatomy, and also contributes teaching to both science and professional courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Congratulations also go to Dr William Holmes who has been promoted to Senior Research Fellow. Dr Holmes is the Co-Director of Glasgow’s Experimental MRI Centre (GEMRIC), which houses two 7 Tesla pre-clinical MRI systems. Dr Holmes has a wide interest in MRI application and development, particularly covering pre-clinical stroke, cancer and cardiovascular research. Recent work has focused on developing methods to image the ischaemic penumbra following acute stroke, based on blood flow, spectroscopic, diffusion and metabolic imaging. In addition, he has continuing interests in the physical sciences, including using MRI to
investigate nano-particle transport and river bed dynamics.

Institute of Molecular Cell and System Biology

Congratulations to Matthew Dalby and Anna Amtmann on their recent promotion to Professor!

Artist in Residence

Ally Wallace is a Glasgow-based visual artist who will be working for two days per week, over the next ten months, as artist in residence at the Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology. He will work in collaboration with staff in the Plant Science group in the Bower Building, principally with molecular biologist Dr Allan James and biochemist Prof Hugh Nimmo. The artist will make work interpreting the scientific process and scientific creativity and is hoping to develop ideas in collaboration with staff. Any members of staff who are interested in talking to him about their own approaches and projects can get in touch by email to ally.wallace@ntlworld.com. Ally would like to hear about any ideas/images/artefacts that might help to convey science to the general public and could be part of the project. There is a blog about project at http://allywallacedotorg.wordpress.com/. There will be an exhibition of work from the project in late 2015, in the atrium of the Wolfson Medical School Building. The residency is being funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust.

Welcome to Dr Asensi, Marie Curie Fellow!

A very warm welcome to Dr Amparo Asensi who has joined the Institute on a Marie Curie fellowship (IEF), hosted by Anna Amtmann. For the next two years Amparo will investigate the molecular mechanisms underpinning the epigenetic memory of plants. Husband, baby and dog also relocated successfully from Valencia to Glasgow.

- From Schools

Success for Glasgow Veterinary School Resident as the first candidate ever sitting the European Small Ruminant Health Management Examination

The Scottish Centre for Production Animal Health and Food Safety (SCPAHFS) are very proud of Valentina Busin who was recently successful in undertaking the first ever sitting of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management diploma.
examination. Valentina was the only candidate sitting the exam having recently completed a three-year residency training at SCPAHFS in collaboration with **Professor Neil Sargison** (University of Edinburgh) and **Mr Neil Laing** (Clyde Veterinary Group, Lanark). The three-year residency training included time spent in first opinion practice and at the Veterinary School. As part of the residency training Valentina also completed a successful research project in collaboration with Moredun investigating the application of a Targeted Selective Treatment regime to control gastrointestinal parasites in sheep (Busin et al., 2014). Residency programmes are currently being undertaken at SCPAHFS in bovine health management and a second small ruminant residency is planned for next year. Residency training is a serious commitment towards greater skills in herd and flock health management; these are increasingly being looked for in progressive production animal practice, academia and the food production industry.

Valentina is currently in her first year of a PhD based at Moredun; she is continuing her interest in Small Ruminants by doing a project looking at rapid diagnosis of sheep scab and we are looking forward to collaborating with her in future Small Ruminant work at SCPAHFS.


### Other news

**The Trusty Paws Clinic**

The Trusty Paws Clinic is a new non-profit organisation set up by Glasgow Veterinary student **Ruby Shorrock** in March 2014. It is a free clinic for dogs belonging to the homeless of Glasgow providing health checks, vaccinations, flea/worming treatment and microchips as well as food packs and dog coats.

Ruby decided to set this up after learning that there are no dog-friendly hostels in Glasgow and very little support for them at all. The dogs provide unconditional love and companionship, making them incredibly important in these people’s lives. The Clinic aims to make sure the dogs are kept fit and healthy so the people can focus on finding help for themselves.

Trusty Paws has teamed up with a charity, The Glasgow Simon Community, which has over 40 years experience in helping the homeless. The clinics will run out of their drop-in centre every month. Whilst Trusty Paws helps with the dogs, The Simon Community can help the people with their benefits.

The clinics are run by Glasgow vet students so they gain valuable experience which will benefit them during their course and throughout their career. They carry out all the examinations themselves.
under the supervision of a vet. Trusty Paws runs entirely on public donations of money and supplies. You can donate via PayPal (trustypaws@outlook.com) or bank transfer. Visit www.facebook.com/trustypaws for more details.

Well done, Sharon!

Dr Sharon Irvine, MRC Clinical Fellow in Infectious Disease and Microbiology in the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation recently completed a charity cycle ride – Sharon writes: ‘After a long 6 months of training, on the 9th of September I set off to cycle 967 miles from Lands End to John O’Groats over 11 days. I have managed to raise over £5000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer in memory of my aunt who sadly lost her battle to the disease at the age of 48.

This trip was one of the most amazing things I have ever done and I have been overwhelmed by the support and generosity of everybody.’

Learning from Malawian Kids: In the Field

Andreia Fausto was a student in Veterinary Public Health and wrote the following about her experiences volunteering for a charity in Malawi:

‘Last November, I applied to the International Citizen Service program funded by the DFID and after an interview I was accepted with the charity Progressio to be part of the ICS family as a volunteer. I wanted to challenge myself and gain experience in international development; I wanted to know other cultures – where I could make a positive contribution and learn from them. Therefore, last March I travelled out to Mzuzu, in Malawi and worked with UNGWERU, a Malawian NGO who brings light to the local communities since 2004.

The reality in Malawi is hard, especially if you are a girl. At Progressio’s partner organisation, Ungweru, we have done a lot of different things such were: supporting HIV people every Friday: having lunch together, dancing, training them in home based care, nutrition, animal welfare, stigma and discrimination; we delivered school sessions in HIV, self esteem and confidence, family relationships reaching more than 600 kids; working with communities we trained them in committee member roles and responsibilities, compost manure, and we helped one community making clay cook stoves and promoting them to show them through an example why carbon footprint is so important.

In general, I found ICS to be a great programme that went beyond my expectations on many levels. It contributed to my personal growth at a professional level. It gave me the chance to experience life in Malawi, and gave me the opportunity to find a job that has been contributing to my career development. ICS has impacted my future directly so I would encourage anyone between 18-25 years of age to consider taking up this opportunity and apply for to be an ICS volunteer: Challenge Yourself to Change Your World’.
• **Your Newsletter needs you!**

The quarterly MVLS College Newsletter welcomes submissions from all MVLS staff and honorary staff. Articles don’t need to be long, approximately 100 – 200 words. It would be helpful if you could please also send an accompanying photograph or graphic (in jpeg format where possible). Please send your articles, feedback on the Newsletter, or suggestions to [mvls-newsletter@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:mvls-newsletter@glasgow.ac.uk). We really like hearing from you. Thank you!