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

As we look forward to summer, when many people take the opportunity to attend conferences, prepare for the arrival of students, collaborate with international colleagues, (and even take a holiday!), I would like to thank you for your hard work this academic year.

In preparation for the imminent Commonwealth Games, the city is festooned with signs which say ‘People make Glasgow’. I wholeheartedly agree with this, and think it is particularly true of the University, and of our College. If you look at the People section in this Newsletter I think you will be as proud as me of the high calibre of staff and students we are privileged to work with. So, whether you have been awarded an OBE, a Student Teaching Award, a poster prize, or worked with others who have, thank you for contributions to our College.

I am delighted that Court has approved that Dr Rob Aitken will be re-appointed to serve as Head of the School of Life Sciences for a further two years, from 1st August 2014. I’m sure that you will join me in congratulating Rob, and to wish him every continued success in the future.

Initial results from the recent 2014 Staff Survey show than an overwhelming 90% of staff reported that the University of Glasgow is a good place to work, based on a participation rate of 60% (3,434 staff), almost double the number of staff responding to the 2010 and 2012 surveys. Additionally, 91% of respondents reported that they felt safe and secure in their working environment and felt trusted to do their job; with 90% generally enjoying their work.

The teaching environment is evolving and I’m delighted that the School of Medicine and the Institute for Cancer Sciences are currently running the University of Glasgow’s first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), ‘Cancer in the 21st Century: The Genomic Revolution’. Further information can be found below under Teaching.
Similarly, the research environment is advancing, and further information about research impact and the College’s response to these developments can be found below under Research.

Finally, in the Complete University Guide 2015, two subjects in MVLS have entered the top 10. Medicine has performed exceptionally well increasing to 6th place in the UK, up from 16th last year and 28th the year before – this has been driven by stronger entry standards and better student satisfaction. Biological Sciences has also entered the top 10, up to 10th from 15th last year. Psychology has increased one place to 4th in the UK. Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry are both in 3rd place. And in the Guardian League Table published recently, Psychology at Glasgow obtained its highest ever position at 2nd place. More information can be found below under the Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology. Well done to all!

Best wishes for a happy summer,

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**People**

**Queen’s Birthday Honours for Glasgow**

**Professor Sarah Cleaveland** from the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine and the School of Veterinary Medicine was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours. She said, “I was thrilled, and extremely surprised when I first received the news and I was delighted to accept the honour. It is a tribute to the team of people who work with me across many areas at the University of Glasgow.”

**Professor Julie Fitzpatrick**, Director of the Moredun Research Institute based near Penicuik in Midlothian and Professor of Food Security at the University of Glasgow, also received an OBE. Professor Fitzpatrick said: “I am absolutely delighted to receive the honour of an OBE. My contribution to health of livestock species is based on collaborative work over a number of decades with many scientific colleagues at the University of Glasgow and at the Moredun Research Institute. It is great to have this area of research recognised through this award”.

Another recipient of the OBE was **Dr Hilary Dobson**, Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer in the School of Medicine, College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences.

**Professors Frank Dunn** and **Chris Packard**, both Honorary Professors at the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, were awarded CBES.

**Professor Philip Cotton: building a medical college in Rwanda**
As reported in an earlier Newsletter, Professor Phil Cotton has taken a secondment from MVLS to help establish Rwanda’s first medical school as Principal of the newly created College of Medicine and Health Sciences in Kigali. His perspective was featured in The Lancet in March 2014, (Philip Cotton: building a medical college in Rwanda, The Lancet, Vol. 383, Issue 9923, p 1119).

After this article was published, Phil received a letter from William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton who served from 1993 to 2001 as the 42nd President of the United States. The letter reads “I want to let you know how grateful I am for all that you are doing to help Rwanda build an effective and self-sustaining health care system.

I look forward to continuing to work alongside you to strengthen the quality and availability of medical education in the country, and I send my best wishes to you and your colleagues for much success”.

Retirement of Mr Matt Golder after 43 years with the University of Glasgow

Matt Golder retired from The Centre for Virus Research at the end of May after 43 years of employment with the University of Glasgow.

Matt joined as a technician in the laboratory of Os Jarrett when he was only 16 years old and he then gradually took over a key role in research and development within the Feline Virus Unit, which expanded later into Companion Animal Diagnostics. In 2004, Matt joined Massimo Palmarini’s lab as Laboratory Manager. Over four decades Matt witnessed a variety of changes in research directions, personnel and University structures, but he always remained a point of reference for generations of students and staff. “Ask Matt” has been the immediate solution to small and larger problems!

Certainly, Matt is one of those unsung heroes of the University that make a working place special. Always proactive, always competent, invariably generous and dedicated and he will be sorely missed. Matt’s retirement was marked by a party in the Resource Centre of the Henry Wellcome Building, Garscube on 30th of May, and in a more unusual way two weeks earlier in the form of a flash mob lead by the Director of the CVR, Professor Massimo Palmarini. To see a video of the flash mob, please visit http://youtu.be/DUD5RTNhkhk. We all hope you cut footloose and enjoy your retirement, Matt!

BBSRC role for Professor Richard Cogdell

Professor Richard Cogdell has been appointed to the Council of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The
Council is the top-level decision-making body of the BBSRC, accountable to Parliament for its activities.

His appointment will run from 1 April until 31 March 2018. Professor Cogdell is currently the Hooker Professor of Botany, Director of the Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology and Deputy Head of MVLS. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society. He said: “It is a great honour to be appointed a member of the BBSRC Council and I very much look forward to contributing to its objectives.”

Professor Cogdell has considerable experience in translating bioscience research into impact. Since the early 1970’s Richard has been involved in research on bacterial photosynthesis. He is now increasingly concentrating on using the information gained from his research to devise ways of using solar energy to produce fuels. To this end, he, together with Lee Cronin in Chemistry, have founded the Glasgow Solar Fuels Initiative. This work involves a wide range of collaborations both within the University and in the USA, Japan, Germany, Poland and Italy.

Professor Anna Dominiczak said: “The appointment of Professor Cogdell to the council of the BBSRC is recognition of his expertise and contribution to science and a significant milestone for biomedical research at Glasgow. I am delighted he has been appointed and I am sure he will play an important role in decision-making at the BBSRC and guiding research policy.”

Professor Richard Cogdell: Great British bioscience pioneer

You can read more about Richard’s scientific career and his pioneering research on photosynthetic bacteria, whose intricate processes could be harnessed for the production of clean, green energy, on the BBSRC website in one of a series of articles based on Great British bioscience pioneers: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/people-skills-training/2014/140619-f-gb-bioscience-pioneers-richard-cogdell.aspx

Highly Cited Researchers 2014

Eight of the University’s researchers have been included in the Thomson Reuters’ publication Highly Cited Researchers 2014; seven of whom are from MVLS. They are:

- **Professor Alan Crozier**, formerly Professor of Plant Biochemistry, and currently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Medicine;
- **Professor Michael Lean**, Chair of Human Nutrition;
- **Dr Bill Mullen**, a Research Fellow for the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences;
- **Professor Ian Ford**, Professor of Biostatistics in the Institute of Health and Wellbeing;
- **Professor John McMurray**, Professor of Cardiology in the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences;
- **Professor Naveed Sattar**, Professor of Metabolic Medicine in the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences;
• **Professor Graeme Milligan**, Gardiner Chair of Biochemistry in the Institute of Molecular Cell and Systems Biology.

• **Professor Jeff Webb**, Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the School of Mathematics and Statistics;

Inclusion is based on the number of reports officially designated by Essential Science Indicators℠ as Highly Cited Papers, ranking them among the top 1% most cited for their subject field and year of publication and earning them the mark of exceptional impact. Further information available at: [http://highlycited.com/](http://highlycited.com/)

A parliamentary motion was lodged by Glasgow MSP Bob Doris to recognise the University of Glasgow's World-leading Researchers, noting that more researchers were listed from Glasgow than any other university. Congratulations to all!

**2013/14 Student Teaching Awards**

The 2013/14 Student Teaching Awards Ceremony was held in March. Around 750 nominations were received, nominating 354 unique staff across the University.

Many congratulations to the winners and those shortlisted from MVLS – keep up the excellent work!

**Shortlist & Winners:**

- **Best College Teacher – College of MVLS**
  - **Winner: Prof Ed Tobias**, School of Medicine
  - **Dr Michelle Welsh**, School of Life Sciences
  - **Dr Ruth Fulton**, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation
  - **Dr Victoria Paterson**, School of Life Sciences
  - **Dr Kevin O'Dell**, School of Life Sciences

- **Outstanding Contribution to Teaching**
  - **Winner: The Lymphoedema PG Teaching Team of Mrs Margaret Sneddon, Mrs Rhian Noble Jones and Mrs Yolande Borthwick**, School of Medicine
  - **Winner: Prof Matthew Walters**, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences

- **Best Feedback Award – Winner: Dr Michelle Welsh**, School of Life Sciences
Best Supervisor (UG) award – shortlisted for this award were: Prof Ashraf Ayoub, Dental School, and Prof Sheila Graham, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation

It’s Go Commonwealth for 13 University athletes!

Congratulations go to the 13 University of Glasgow students, staff and alumni who have been selected as athletes for the Commonwealth Games. 12 will represent Team Scotland and one will represent Pakistan. Six of the competitors are from MVLS.

“It is a phenomenal achievement to be selected to represent your country at a Commonwealth Games and is the result of many years of hard work by our athletes, combining 15-plus hours of training per week, extensive competition schedules and very challenging academic degrees day in day out, week in week out and year in year out,” said the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anton Muscatelli.

“It is very satisfying to know that the procedures and processes which the University has introduced, along with the efforts of our dedicated staff and departments - both sporting and academic - have empowered these athletes and supported them to excel not only in an academic environment but also in a sporting one,” said Professor Muscatelli.

He urged members of the University community who were lucky enough to have tickets for Glasgow 2014 events to give an extra-special cheer to the University’s athletes as they were not only representing Scotland but also the “black and gold” of Glasgow.

The University’s athletes are as follows:

Students

- Ms Laura Muir (800m/1500m) - 3rd Year BVMS student
- Lynda Flaws (table tennis) – 3rd Year Sports Science and Physiology student
- Camilla Hattersley (swimming) – Aeronautical Engineering
Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Awards

Many congratulations to Professors Andrew Biankin and Neil Bulleid who have been awarded Senior Investigator Awards by the Wellcome Trust. Investigator Awards provide funding for scientists who have an excellent track record and are in an established academic post. They offer the flexibility and time to enable them to tackle the most important questions in their field.

The areas they are working in are:

- **Professor Andrew Biankin**, Institute of Cancer Sciences: Defining platinum and PARP inhibitor responsive molecular phenotypes of pancreatic cancer
- **Professor Neil Bulleid**, Institute of Molecular Cell and Systems Biology: Protein folding and thiol modification in the mammalian endoplasmic reticulum

Prof Gerry Graham awarded Royal Society honour

The Royal Society has announced that Professor Gerry Graham, Institute for Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, has been given a prestigious Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award. Gerry works on defining the molecular choreography of the inflammatory response. The awards are jointly funded by the Wolfson Foundation and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Royal Society of Edinburgh’s Innovators Prize for Public Engagement 2014
Dr Kevin O’Dell, Senior Lecturer in the School of Life Sciences, who has been awarded the Royal Society of Edinburgh’s Innovators Prize for Public Engagement 2014, supported by The James Weir Foundation. Kevin’s award was in recognition of his outstanding contribution to public engagement through his skills in both genetics and communication to engage young adults with the world of genetics, particularly through his Zombie Science shows.

Glasgow orthopaedic surgeon awarded prestigious Scottish Senior Clinical Fellowship

The Scottish Senior Clinical Fellowship scheme provides an attractive research-focused entry point to a permanent clinical academic career. These awards are designed to help outstanding early career clinical academics, medical and dental, develop into PI’s leading their own research groups. The scheme is funded by a partnership between the Scottish Funding Council, Chief Scientist’s Office and the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews.

For the first time, this prestigious award has been made within a surgical specialty. Mr Neal Millar, Clinical Senior Fellow and Honorary Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon will use the Fellowship to develop his research interest of investigating the molecular pathophysiology of tendinopathy; an overuse injury, characterised by tendon pain and weakness with a significant burden of disease.

The CSO start-up fund provided with the Fellowship will support efforts to delineate the role of microRNA in the post transcriptional regulation of collagen synthesis and immediate tissue repair processes implicated in tendinopathy while also helping to set up a ‘one stop’ tendon clinic for NHS patients in an attempt to deliver translational tendon care. Neal is also a consultant orthopaedic shoulder surgeon based at Gartnavel Hospital having completed fellowships in Sydney and New York with specialist interests in arthroscopic tendon surgery.

Excellent Service Award 2014 to Dr Carol Clugston BSc (Hons) PhD CMgr FCMI FLF

Dr Carol Clugston, College Secretary, has been awarded an Excellent Service Award. New for 2014, the awards recognise the outstanding and sustained contribution that award holders make above and beyond the normal expectations of their role, specifically in relation to service to the University. Carol will receive her award at a Graduation Ceremony in July.

The College Secretary is effectively the Chief Operating Officer of the College, and supports the Head of College in strategic planning. Carol has managerial responsibility for all operational functions of the College, including line management responsibility for all of the administrative and support staff in the College (>300). In addition to this role, Carol has responsibility for clinical research governance in partnership with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, including compliance with legislation relating to the conduct of clinical trials.
Carol is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and a Fellow of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.

World Health Day – Prof Peter Holmes chairs WHO round table discussion

Professor Peter Holmes OBE, Senior Advisor for International Development and Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Physiology, chaired round table discussion at World Health Day at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva in April.

World Health Day is WHO’s birthday and each year a different health theme is chosen. This year it was vector-borne diseases and as chair of the WHO Strategic Technical Advisory Group for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Peter was asked to chair the round table discussion. There were seven speakers from around the world including Jeremy Farrar from the Wellcome Trust, the Singapore Ambassador and the Minister of Health for Namibia. The Director General of WHO, Margaret Chan, made an opening speech. Peter said “I felt it was a great honour for me to fly the flag for UoG in Geneva on World Health Day and was a very useful way of publicising our strengths in tropical disease research in Glasgow.”

MVLS Research Office in Poster Victory

A poster proclaiming the merits of Research Administration within the College and based on the theme of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, has won the Delegates Prize at the 2014 Association for Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA) Conference in Blackpool, in the face of stiff competition from across the country. MVLS delegates Jill Robertson and Keilly Ayles were presented with their prize by David Coombe, Director of the Research Division at the LSE. In addition to Jill and Keilly, the poster was authored by Fiona Doyle and Stuart Morrison and the graphic design was produced by Kathleen Doris, Head of the Graphics Unit at MVLS IT Services.

Congratulations to...

Professor Sarah Cleaveland who has been awarded the A.J. Wight Memorial Award, which is presented to recognise outstanding contributions to the welfare of companion animals. Sarah’s nomination was in recognition of the contributions that her work has had in tackling the problem of rabies, particularly in Africa. Mr. A.J. Wight is better known as the author James Herriot, and the award was presented by his son, Mr. James Wight. The award was sponsored by
the Blue Cross, an animal welfare charity. Further information on the awards can be found on this link: [http://www.bsava.com/Congress/Awards.aspx](http://www.bsava.com/Congress/Awards.aspx)

**Margaret Sneddon**, Head of Nursing & Health Care, who was named Lymphoedema Care Nurse of the Year at the prestigious British Journal of Nursing Awards. On accepting her award, Margaret Sneddon said: “It is fantastic for this award to come to the University of Glasgow, which has been at the forefront of lymphoedema education for the past twenty years and trained a large proportion of specialists practicing across the UK and beyond. Lymphoedema is much more common that is generally thought and not everyone with the condition gets appropriate care. However things are improving, thanks to the hard work of many people, I have probably been doing it for longer than most! It comes at a very exciting time as the new government report Lymphoedema Care In Scotland: Achieving Equity and Quality, with which I am pleased to have been involved, has recently been released and this has the potential to make a real difference to people with lymphoedema.” [http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/5016](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/5016)

The University of Glasgow hosted the International Lymphoedema Framework Conference in early June, details of which can be found below under Events.

School of Medicine MD graduate **Raymond Oliphant**, who was recently awarded the prestigious 2014 John Farndon Prize at the 90th International Congress of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) in Harrogate. The prize, awarded by the British Journal of Surgery Society, is given to the author of the best paper published in the British Journal of Surgery during the previous year also to have been presented at an ASGBI International Congress. The paper, entitled "Contribution of surgical specialization to improved colorectal cancer survival" (BJS 2013; 100(10): 1388-1395, doi: 10.1002/bjs.9227) reported that survival after surgery for colorectal cancer improved significantly in the West of Scotland over recent decades due in part to the increased provision of specialist surgery in the region. This work supports current cancer strategies in the UK and reinforces the benefit of specialist treatment for colorectal cancer. The research, which formed part of Raymond’s MD thesis, was undertaken at the West of Scotland Cancer Surveillance Unit, University of Glasgow and Department of Surgery, Glasgow Royal Infirmary in collaboration with the West of Scotland Colorectal Cancer Managed Clinical Network. Raymond said "I'm honoured and delighted to win this prize and makes the many hours of thesis and paper writing worthwhile! It is a great privilege to win this international award for research undertaken here in Glasgow."

**Adekunle O. Adebiyi**, a student working with Peter Hastie in the School of Veterinary Medicine, who has been awarded UK 1st Place and Europe/Africa/Middle East 3rd Place in the Alltech Young Scientist competition. The Alltech Young Scientist Award brings together the world’s brightest scientific thinkers from colleges and universities across the globe. To compete for the top prizes, undergraduate and graduate students are asked to submit a scientific paper on an agriculture topic such as veterinary science, animal nutrition, feeding technology, agricultural management or agricultural economics. Congratulations to Adekunle on this achievement!
**Research news**

**Research Impact**

In the last Newsletter (Spring 2014), we introduced a new ‘Research Impact’ feature, to keep staff informed and updated on activities related to impact within the College, and in particular with regard to the College’s impact strategy. Within the College’s impact vision, four complementary themes had been identified: understanding impact, identifying impact, enabling impact and publicising impact. A summary of each of these themes can be seen on the College’s Research Impact page, which is also being developed to showcase summaries of some of the College’s impacts.

The impact themes are currently being operationalised by the College’s Impact Strategy Working Group, which is steered by Dr Carol Clugston and Professor Graeme Milligan, and reports to the College Research & Knowledge Transfer (R&KT) committee. Each theme has a research administrator and academic lead, detailed below. The theme leads have been pooling expertise and best practice drawn from across the College and University to develop and coordinate support frameworks, guidance and practical tools for staff.

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<tr>
<th>Impact strategy theme</th>
<th>Theme leads</th>
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<td>Understanding impact</td>
<td>Prof Sally Wyke</td>
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<td>Dr Gordon Meiklejohn</td>
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<td>Enabling impact</td>
<td>Prof Nicol Keith</td>
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<td>Prof Naveed Sattar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Caroline Woodside</td>
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<td>Identifying impact</td>
<td>Prof David Eckersall</td>
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<td>Alice Gee</td>
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<td>Publicising Impact</td>
<td>Dr Kevin O'Dell</td>
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<td>Dr Jim Caryl</td>
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<td>Dr Sylvia Morrison</td>
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A key first step within the strategy is to ensure that staff continue to develop understanding of what impact is and the broad range of activities that have the potential to lead to it. Impact is achievable but incremental, and the College recognises that substantial impacts can take many years to
materialise. However, the impact-generating steps along the way can take place at any point in the research cycle, can benefit research, and often represent impacts in and of themselves. By recognising such activities, we can capture and manage the outcomes of these and support efforts to build on them.

In due course the Working Group will be issuing general guidance on understanding impact together with additional resources and tools. All such resources will be made available through a Moodle website being developed for this purpose. The theme leads will be working with Impact Champions in each of the Institutes & Schools (detailed below) to adapt materials, and plan peer-led workshops and seminars that meet the particular needs of different research areas. The Impact Champions will act as local hubs to coordinate and support impact-generating activity, and also report to the College R&KT committee. We would particularly value your input on these activities as they are implemented, which can be fed back through your Impact Champion, or if you are unsure of the best person to contact, please contact Claire Gauld.

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<th>Institute/School</th>
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<td>Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and</td>
<td>Prof David Eckersall</td>
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<td>Comparative Medicine</td>
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<td>Institute of Cancer Sciences</td>
<td>Prof Nicol Keith</td>
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<td>Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Prof George Baillie (non-clinical)</td>
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<td>Prof Naveed Sattar (clinical)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute of Health and Wellbeing</td>
<td>Prof Sally Wyke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation</td>
<td>Dr Harry De Koning (non-clinical)</td>
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<td>Dr Stefan Siebert (clinical)</td>
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<td>Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology</td>
<td>Prof Hugh Nimmo</td>
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<td>Dr Matt Dalby</td>
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<td>Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology</td>
<td>Prof Ben Jones</td>
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<td>School of Life Sciences</td>
<td>Dr Kevin O’Dell</td>
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<td>School of Medicine</td>
<td>Dr Andrea Sherriff</td>
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<td>School of Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>Prof Jacques Penderis</td>
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An essential component of any grant application is an impact summary, or ‘pathways to impact’ summary, the aim of which is not so much to predict what your impact will be, but rather to put in place a plan that has potential to have impact. In it you identify the potential beneficiaries of your research, how they might benefit, and the measureable activities you will engage in to help them benefit. The College’s Research & Business Development Team, who are an active part of the Impact Strategy Working Group, is happy to provide support in the development of these impact statements and a tool is currently being prepared to assist with this process; if you require assistance please contact Dr Gordon Meiklejohn.

Sharing best practice

An essential part of the strategy is sharing best practice across the College. We are keen to recognise and publicise impacts from within the College, or indeed share expertise and experience of the activities leading to impacts, and invite all staff members to submit any ideas for stories to the Newsletter. If in doubt, get in touch with Claire Gauld.
In this spirit, a recent edition of the *Naturally Speaking* podcast (a light-hearted research communication podcast run within the Institute of BAHCM) discussed how to link science with policy, using examples from marine renewables, bovine TB and rabies, sharing valuable insights on communicating your research. The two James’ (*James Buckley* & *James Grecian*) speak with *Sophie Elliott*, *David Bailey*, *Rodney Beard*, *Lisa Boden* and *Katie Hampson*, all from BAHCM.

**Knowledge Exchange & Impact: online resources**

The University’s inaugural Knowledge Exchange and Impact conference was held on 22 April 2014 at the Glasgow Grosvenor Hilton. The event was well-attended (140+) and the feedback been overwhelmingly positive, with useful suggestions provided that will inform practical support and future events.

Conference materials have been uploaded to Moodle in a ‘course’ format which facilitates access to all. Resources will continue to be added to help raise awareness and provide practical advice for staff formulating KE activities and impact plans and we hope that this can help establish a forum for queries and discussion.

Please feel free to view the presentations and notes from the conference plenary and workshops at: [http://moodle2.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4339](http://moodle2.gla.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=4339)

**Data Management and Curation**

With applicants to Research Councils now being required to submit detailed plans for the management of data, the University Library has highlighted a tool to assist in the production of such plans. Entitled DMP Online, it is an extensive tool which includes GU-specific advice on the completion of these data plans. It is available at [https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/](https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/) and those accessing from the University should click the ‘sign in with your Institutional credentials’ link, which will allow access to the site using their GUID. The University Data Management page [http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/datamanagement/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/datamanagement/) contains lots of useful information on this subject and the MVLS Research Office (mvls-research-office@glasgow.uk) will be happy to assist further.

**£5,000 Travel Grants Available for NY Research Visits**

Researchers in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area can now apply for travel grants to visit a New York hospital or University. This new initiative has been launched by the Yorkhill Research Support Scheme, which is funded by the St Andrew’s Society of New York and Yorkhill Children’s Charity. The scheme offers travel grants of up to £5,000 to researchers wishing to undertake collaborative research visits in the area of paediatrics.

A scholarship can be used to finance a short-term visit of a few days to up to 6 weeks’ in a NY hospital or university department. The visit may be to learn a new technique, troubleshoot on existing methods, or to discuss new methods in a research seminar. Further details including
World-leading ‘One Health’ research coalition secures major funding

Researchers from the University of Glasgow have won three grants worth £4.5m to study diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. The researchers are working in north Tanzania to help improve the health of poor farmers and their livestock through an integrated approach to human, animal and environmental health research called ‘One Health’. The grants are all part of The Zoonoses in Emerging Livestock Systems (ZELS) programme that has supported 10 projects in total, funded by the UK Department for International Development and the UK Research Councils.

Each of the grants is led by staff from the award-winning Boyd Orr Centre for Population and Ecosystem Health, and involves collaborations with academic colleagues in Africa, the UK, US and New Zealand as well as government bodies in the UK and Tanzania.

The first grant: The Social, Economic and Environmental Drivers of Zoonoses in Tanzania (SEEDZ) aims to understand the ways in which changes in market dynamics, land-use and agricultural policy, environmental factors, cultural practices and technology are all impacting upon the way people keep and manage livestock, and the consequences of these changes on diseases that affect both animals and people. It is being led by Professor Sarah Cleaveland, an epidemiologist from the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine (BAHCM), and Professor Jo Sharp, a human geographer based in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences.

Two other Topic Specific Grants are Hazards Associated with Zoonotic enteric pathogens in Emerging Livestock meat pathways (HAZEL), led by Professor Ruth Zadoks (BAHCM), which will study how bacteria that are leading causes of septicaemia and diarrhoea in sub-Saharan African countries flow through meat pathways from livestock, through slaughter and retail to humans; and a study into the
molecular epidemiology of brucellosis led by Professor Dan Haydon (BAHCM) and Dr Jo Halliday (BAHCM) that will examine which animal hosts and transmission routes are most important for human disease risk in different agro-ecological settings in order to inform the development of brucellosis control policy in Tanzania.

The partners involved in the projects include: the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, Sokoine University of Agriculture, in Tanzania; Washington State University in the US; the Universities of Otago and Massey in New Zealand; the Institute of Development Studies, the Institute of Food Research, and Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency in the UK; and a number of key Tanzanian government departments including the Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, the National Institute for Medical Research and the Ministry of Livestock Development.

**Family raise £11,000 for University research**

The family of a well-known member of University of Glasgow staff, who died of bone marrow cancer eighteen months ago, have raised more than £11,000 for charity in his memory. They have announced that they will be gifting the funds to University research scientists who are working on that form of cancer, known as multiple myeloma.

**Jack Smart** was an accountant in the University’s Finance Office. A keen sportsman, he also took a particular interest in the Glasgow University Sports Association (GUSA). He acted as the Honorary Treasurer for 16 years, transforming its finances.

The family have decided that the funds raised in memory of Jack will be directed to the work of Dr Carl Goodyear, a Senior Lecturer in Immunology. Carl said "Multiple myeloma is an incurable cancer affecting a particular type of white blood cell, the "plasma cell". Normally, these cells produce all of the antibodies a person requires for protection from infectious disease. However, in myeloma these cells become cancerous and invade the bone marrow, which provides a safe haven for the cancer cells and gives them the ability to resist chemotherapy treatment." The research in the Goodyear laboratory is aimed at understanding this marrow environment and discovering ways to change the environment from supportive to unsupportive for the myeloma cancer cells. By understanding the complex relationship between the various cells involved, and the environment they reside in, there is hope of furthering the treatment of myeloma. The money raised by the Smart family and their friends will enable Carl and his team to use primary clinical samples from myeloma patients to examine in depth these cellular and environmental interactions. They hope this will generate the
necessary insight into the disease process so that new therapies can be developed to assist in ultimately eradicating multiple myeloma and its associated conditions.

The Academy of Medical Sciences - Spring Meeting for Clinician Scientists in Training

Three colleagues from MVLS presented posters at The Academy of Medical Sciences annual Spring Meeting for Clinician Scientists in Training, held in February 2014 at the Royal College of Physicians in London. Posters were presented by:

- Dr Kirstin Lund, Institute of Cancer Sciences, Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute
- D Rajeev Krishnadas, Institute of Health and Wellbeing
- Dr Filippo Queirazza, Institute of Health and Wellbeing

A booklet containing their abstracts can be found here: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/specialissue

For more information about the Spring Meeting please see the Academy's website: http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/careers/events-and-workshops/spring-meeting

Teaching news

Teaching Excellence Awards 2013-14

The University introduced Teaching Excellence Awards to recognize and celebrate members of staff whose teaching is of a particularly high standard. From this session, the competition has included College level and University level awards (www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_307576_en.pdf ). The College is delighted to announce the winners of the 2013 – 14 College of MVLS Teaching Excellence Awards. They are: Dr Joanna B. Wilson; the Biology Teaching Centre (Dr Chris Finlay, Dr Mary McVey, Mrs Joyce Pugh, Mrs Joan McCann and Mrs Norma Cubie); and the Medical Genetics Teaching Team (Dr Maria Jackson, Dr Leah Marks, Mrs Betty O’Hare, Mrs Linda Glasgow, Mrs Frances Cousins, Ms Caitlin Welsh, Prof Edward Tobias, Mr Alexander Fletcher, Ms Kathryn Murphy). The Medical Genetics Team has also been awarded a University Teaching Excellence Award. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Head of College Scholars List Scheme Summer Studentships 2013-14
This is the second year that the Head of College has offered competitive summer studentships to students in second and third year across the College who are members of the Head of College Scholars List Scheme (www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/headofcollegescholarslistscheme/). There were 32 applications this year – 3 more than last year and 10 have been funded. The standard of proposals was very high and the judges (Dr Joe Gray, Prof Neil Bulleid, Prof Jim Anderson, Prof Alan Jardine and Prof Jill Morrison) found the task of choosing fewer than a third for funding a very difficult one. The successful students and supervisors are:

- Shona Borland, year 2 BSc, supervisor Dr Stuart Cobb
- Jaclyn Carberry, year 3 MBChB, supervisor Prof Colin Berry
- Emma Grant, year 2 BSc, supervisor Dr Adam West
- Catriona James, year 2 BSc, supervisor Dr Stephen Yarwood
- Egle Katkeviciute, year 2 BSc, supervisor Prof Richard Cogdell
- Claire Martin, year 2 BSc, supervisor Dr Simon Milling
- Daisy Moran, year 2 MBChB, supervisor Dr Terence Quinn
- Tuula Ritakari, year 2 BSc, supervisor Dr Stuart Cobb
- Yi Hui Cassandra Teng, year 2 MBChB, supervisor Dr Scott Johnstone
- Godwin Tong, year 2 BSc, supervisor Prof Hing Leung

**Students in MVLS are highly satisfied according to All Student Barometer**

The All Student Barometer survey is open to all students across the University (excluding those who are eligible for the National Student Survey) – Domestic and International, Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and Postgraduate Research (PGR). It is an on-line survey conducted by i-graduate (International Graduate Insight Group Ltd) and there are two waves annually in the Autumn and Spring/early Summer. The results for the Autumn 2013 wave were presented to the University in March and should shortly be available on the University website. 5,602 students responded (28% response rate, Russell Group average 25%) and rated the University highly – third in the Russell group and 6th in the UK for recommending studying here. Students in the College of MVLS have the highest overall satisfaction rating in the University compared with students in the other Colleges and, along with Arts, are the most likely to recommend study here. Overall satisfaction for UG students and PGT students in MVLS was 93% and, for PGR students, it was 92%.
Teaching Biology in HE Network

Dr Chris Finlay and Dr Mary McVey from the School of Life Sciences along with colleagues at the University of Stirling (Dr Tim Whalley) and the University of St. Andrews (Dr Clare Peddie) have created a new, informal and supportive teaching network in Biology. The 19th May saw the inaugural meeting and launch of the ‘Teaching Biology in HE Network’ at the University of Glasgow.

Dr Finlay and Dr McVey welcomed over 30 attendees with representation from 11 different Universities from Scotland and England. This high level of interest highlights the need for such an informal environment allowing teaching practitioners to meet, share ideas and experiences as well as exchange advice and support. This network will provide a straightforward way to meet those needs. This first annual meeting, incorporated a full day of talks, presentations and discussion groups covering elements of course design, assessment and development. This proved to be a very successful event with lots of positive feedback from the attendees and great suggestions on how to expand and build upon this initial experience. A second meeting for next year has already been agreed and a Moodle site for communication and expansion across the network is being established to strengthen and maintain the strong links across the institutions and individuals throughout the network.

The School of Medicine and the Institute of Cancer Sciences launch Glasgow University’s first MOOC

The School of Medicine and Institute of Cancer Sciences are currently running the University of Glasgow’s first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), ‘Cancer in the 21st Century: The Genomic Revolution’. This free online course began on 19th May, and is hosted on the FutureLearn platform. The course is now in week 5 although new learners are still welcome to register and the content will remain online for some time after the course finishes.

Professor Anna Dominiczak, Vice Principal and Head of College says, “Cancer medicine has been benefiting greatly from the modern genetics and genomics, with next-generation sequencing bringing personalised or stratified medicine to the clinic. This new course will help you to understand this genomic revolution.” The course runs for 6 weeks and is open to anyone with an interest in the topic. A background in biology is recommended, but not essential. Cancer is a disease which impacts on most people’s lives at some stage, and we currently have over 7500 students registered! A variety of specialists including radiologists, pathologists, surgeons and oncologists take part, and we also hear about the patient experience first-hand. Some of Glasgow’s leading experts in the field describe the huge strides forward that are being taken in the area of genomic cancer medicine. We show a glimpse of some of the research that will generate the treatments of tomorrow, and hear about how these discoveries make it from bench to bedside.

Along the way participants have plenty of opportunities to discuss current issues with fellow learners, and do some investigating themselves. We have greatly enjoyed interacting with the

From L to R: Drs Camille Huser, Leah Marks and Sarah Meek
learners so far and look forward to more discussions over the next few weeks. An optional Statement of Participation is available for purchase at the end of the course. The Medical School staff involved are: Drs Leah Marks and Sarah Meek (Lead Educators), Dr Camille Huser (Deputy Lead), and Dr Louise Blakemore (now at University College London, Khazakstan). You can still sign up for the course (until 29th June) at: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/cancer-and-the-genomic-revolution. We are also on Twitter: use #FLCancer21 to join and contribute to Twitter conversations about the course; and follow our Twitter account @UofGCancerMOOC.

**Book: Clinical Anatomy of the Cranial Nerves**

Dr Paul M. Rea, Senior University Teacher in Human Anatomy, School of Life Sciences, has had his first textbook published, entitled “Clinical Anatomy of the Cranial Nerves” by Academic Press, part of the Elsevier group. It is an exciting, succinct, clinically relevant resource for the applied anatomy, pathology and clinical examination of the cranial nerves in a simple, readily accessible format. Clinical Anatomy of the Cranial Nerves combines anatomical knowledge, pathology, clinical examination, and explanation of clinical findings, drawing together material typically scattered throughout anatomical textbooks. All of the pertinent anatomical topics are conveniently organized to instruct on anatomy, but also on how to examine the functioning of this anatomy in the patient. Providing a clear and succinct presentation of the underlying anatomy, with directly related applications of the anatomy to clinical examination, the book also provides unique images of anatomical structures of plastinated cadaveric dissections. These images are the only ones that exist in this form, and have been professionally produced in the Laboratory of Human Anatomy, University of Glasgow under the auspices of the author. These specimens offer a novel way of visualizing the cranial nerves and related important anatomical structures. The link is: [http://store.elsevier.com/Clinical-Anatomy-of-the-Cranial-Nerves/Paul-Rea/isbn-9780128008980/](http://store.elsevier.com/Clinical-Anatomy-of-the-Cranial-Nerves/Paul-Rea/isbn-9780128008980/)

**Book: Handbook of Pharmacogenomics and Stratified Medicine**

Dr Sandosh Padmanabhan, Reader in the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, has edited a textbook entitled “Handbook of Pharmacogenomics and Stratified Medicine”

Medicine is the cornerstone of modern therapeutics prescribed on the basis that its benefit should outweigh its risk. It is well known that people respond differently to medications and in many cases the risk-benefit ratio for a particular drug may be a gray area. The last decade has seen a revolution in genomics both in terms of technological innovation and discovering genetic markers associated with disease. In parallel there has been steady progress in trying to make medicines safer and tailored to the individual. This has occurred across the whole spectrum of medicine, some more than others. In addition there is burgeoning interest from the pharmaceutical industry to leverage pharmacogenomics for more effective and efficient clinical drug development. * Provides clinical and non-clinical researchers with practical information normally beyond their usual areas of research or expertise* Includes an
basic principles section explaining concepts of basic genetics, genetic epidemiology, bioinformatics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics* Covers newer technologies - next generation sequencing, proteomics, metabolomics* Provides information on animal models, lymphoblastoid cell lines, stem cells * Provides detailed chapters on a wide range of disease conditions, implementation and regulatory issues* Includes chapters on the global implications of pharmacogenomics

The link is: http://www.amazon.co.uk/Handbook-Pharmacogenomics-Stratified-Medicine-Padmanabhan/dp/0123868823/

- **Dates for your diary**

**Yorkhill Research Day 2014**

Yorkhill Research Day will take place on Friday 10th October in the Medicine, Child Health, Yorkhill Hospital. As well as invited speakers, there will be a number of long and short oral presentations and posters on research related to women’s and children’s health in the West of Scotland. Invited speakers include Dr Ravi Bansal, New York Columbia University and Dr Matt Dalby, University of Glasgow. Registration is free and includes a buffet lunch. For further details and to register on-line or submit an abstract for this one day event please visit the YRD 2014 website www.gla.ac.uk/yorkhillresearchday

- **Events**

**Glasgow’s Game for Science at Glasgow Science Festival, 5 - 15 June 2014**

In June, Glasgow Science Festival brought its exciting mix of science and innovative events to venues across the city. Now in its eighth year, the festival aims to inspire people of all ages about science and to showcase some of the fantastic research happening in the West of Scotland.

Staff and students from across MVLS played a valuable role in making biology accessible and fun to diverse audiences. 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, zombies, 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. Shaun also joined a panel with Drs Jessica Enright and Katie Hampson to explore the biology and epidemiology of zombies.

Ever stitched a cuddly trypanosome? Parasitologists Dr Mhairi Stewart, Rebecca Devlin, Robyn Kent and Catarina Marques mixed science with art at “Crafty Critter” workshops, with beautiful results. The project is set to continue throughout the year and the resulting hand-crafted parasites will be used as teaching aids in Glasgow and abroad.

After huge success at last year’s festival, Dr Tanita Casci and Glasgow Polyomics researchers served up more “Tasty Science” events to titillate the taste buds and demonstrate cutting-edge technologies used in the lab. The “Mystery Menu: DNA Dinner” in Stravaigin 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.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this year’s festival our best to date. Glasgow Science Festival runs public engagement projects throughout the year and provides researchers with the support they need to strengthen Impact Pathways on grant applications. We are currently seeking researchers interested in public engagement as part of our community-based project, working in areas of multiple deprivation in Glasgow. 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

For more information on Glasgow Science Festival please visit www.glasgowscientificfestival.org.uk

New research centre for arthritis officially opened, 6 June 2014

A major new research centre for arthritis was officially opened on 6th June by Olympic gold-winning rower Katherine Grainger. The £2.5m Arthritis Research UK Rheumatoid Arthritis Pathogenesis Centre of Excellence (RACE) is a collaboration between the Universities of Glasgow, Newcastle and Birmingham. The three participating centres are committing an additional £4m in financial support over the next five years.

The centre aims to find out more about the causes of rheumatoid arthritis, a serious, inflammatory, autoimmune condition that affects the joints leading to chronic pain. Disability in the long-term can lead to osteoporosis, heart disease and early death. The launch saw an audience of arthritis patients invited to afternoon tea hosted by sports journalist Alison Walker to hear more about the...
research being carried out into the condition and how the new centre will lead to better treatments. They were also entertained by the High School of Glasgow Chamber Choir. **Professor Iain MacInnes**, Director of the Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, will lead the new centre. He said: “This new centre aims to address the unmet needs of more than 400,000 people in the UK who suffer from the crippling condition of rheumatoid arthritis. It will help us learn more about the mechanisms behind this disease and how we can use this knowledge to develop more effective treatments, and maybe even one day a cure”.

**Game for Debate – Glasgow University’s Commonwealth Games Public Lectures a great success, 5 – 11 June 2014**

Academics at Glasgow University joined forces with the Glasgow Science Festival and BBC Scotland in organising three debates on sport and physical activity to mark the 2014 Commonwealth Games. A panel of academic experts, including Dr Cindy Gray, College of Social Sciences, Prof Raymond Boyle, College of Arts and Dr Jason Gill, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, led discussion on different topics each evening including ‘Is Elite Sport Good for You?’, ‘Why are Different Nations Good at Different Sports?’ and ‘Why are we a Nation of Couch Potatoes?’. The debates were chaired by Radio Scotland’s John Beattie, and the highlights broadcast on his lunchtime show.

The “Elite Sport” debate covered the physiological risks associated with sporting success, the positive and negative psychological effects of participation, the culture of drug taking that has been associated with some elite sports for many years, and the cost to the public purse of holding spectacles like the 2014 Games. In “Different Nations”, the audience considered whether an athlete’s genes or their cultural environment was more important in determining their sporting success, and the role of the media in building a popular following for different sports in different countries and thus where financial investment was channelled. Finally, the “Couch Potato” debate led to lively discussion around the health benefits of physical activity, the likelihood of achieving a physical activity legacy from the 2014 Games, and the cultural shift that is needed to once again make physical activity part of people’s everyday lives.

Special guests, including current and former Commonwealth and Olympic athletes and coaches, leading figures from the Scottish Institute of Sport, Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, Sports Scotland and Glasgow 2014, a sports journalist and a coach and participant from the Scottish Professional Football League Trust’s Football Fans in Training weight management programme for men, contributed their expertise to the discussions. The debates concluded that regardless of whether the event leaves a physical activity legacy and regardless of the Scotland team’s medals success, the 2014 Commonwealth Games will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will be embraced, enjoyed and remembered by the people of Scotland for many years to come.
International Lymphoedema Framework Conference, 5 - 7 June 2014

The Principal welcomed over 360 delegates and speakers from 29 countries to the 5th International Lymphoedema Framework (ILF) Conference, organized by the Nursing & Health Care School from 5-7th June.

The theme was ‘Reduced Incidence, prevalence and Impact: Making these realistic goals’. Dr Frances Elliott, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, gave a keynote address on the Scottish Government (SG) response to long term conditions and lymphoedema in particular, based on the recommendations of the recent SG report ‘Lymphoedema in Scotland: Achieving Equity and Quality’. She was particularly interested in the tools developed by the ILF to facilitate much needed prevalence studies for lymphoedema, which is becoming increasingly common, possibly affecting 1% of the population over 65 years. The University and the Nursing & Health Care School will be at the centre of these projects.

A unique integrated patient conference with a theme of ‘Patients, Partnerships and Technology’, reflected the focus on self-management and how technology may be embraced to support patients, practitioners and educators. As part of this, another keynote, Dr Elaine Coulter, from Nursing & Health Care, stimulated a lot of interest in the web-based exercise tools and mobile phone apps developed under the leadership of Dr Lorna Paul. The team has been approached by a number of potential collaborators in Europe, Australia, Asia and USA to modify and test this for implementation in a lymphoedema population. The University Sport and Recreation Service were really supportive, permitting the use of their facilities for activity and Aqua Lymphatic Therapy workshops for patients. Another unique feature of the event was the free online conference in the lead up to the 3-day conference, reflecting the School’s efforts to embrace technology enhanced learning and teaching. Delegates were thoroughly impressed with the University venue and the stunning architecture of the Gilbert Scott Building and Glasgow City Chambers, where a Civic Reception was hosted. Previous conferences have been held in Montpellier and Toronto but many delegates have reported that Glasgow has been the best yet!! For further details about the ILF please see www.lympho.org<http://www.lympho.org>

Visit by Medical Deans from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Deputy Cultural Attaché for Educational affairs from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau, 29 May 2014
The College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS) hosted a visit by Medical Deans from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the Deputy Cultural Attaché for Educational affairs from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau (SACB) on 29 May 2014.

The Principal, Prof Anton Muscatelli, hosted a lunch to discuss collaborative opportunities across the KSA. MVLS Head of College, Prof Anna Dominiczak, chaired sessions on partnership possibilities in undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) medical and dental education and training. Tours of Research Institutes were carried out by Dr Laura Denby (Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences), Prof Nicol Keith (Cancer Sciences) and Dr Harry de Koning (Infection, Immunity and Inflammation).

Pictured in photograph: Delegates in front row from left to right are:

- Prof Mohammed Othman Al Rukban, Dean of the School of Medicine, Majmah University, General Practice.
- Prof Julian Dow, International Dean for Middle East, College Internationalisation Lead, Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology.
- Prof Abdullah Assiri, King Khalid University.
- Prof Anna Dominiczak, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, Regius Professor of Medicine.
- Prof Alan Jardine, Head of School of Medicine, Professor of Renal Medicine.
- Dr Faisala Alsaif, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs King Saud University (KSU), Consultant Head of Hepato Pancreatobiliary (HPB) and Transplant surgery.
- Prof Mahmoud Shaheen Al-Ahwal, Dean of the School of Medicine, King Abdulaziz University (KAU), Medical Oncologist.
- Prof Abdulghani Ibrahim Mira, Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, KAU, Head of Preventative Treatment.

Delegates in back row from left to right are:

- Prof Matthew Walters, Head of Undergraduate School of Medicine, Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies, Internationalisation, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology.
- Dr Mohammed Alsabael, Deputy Cultural Attaché for Educational affairs.
- Miss Rachel Sandison, Director, Recruitment and International Office.
- Miss Helen-Marie Clayton, Senior International Officer, Recruitment and International Office.

**Pint of Science Glasgow, 19 - 21 May 2014**

Pint of Science, a science festival that takes place in pubs, has just finished its first year in Glasgow with a great reception from the public. Over 500 people across Glasgow, from varying academic backgrounds purchased tickets to attend talks on the A to Z of science, Anatomy all the way to the Science of Zombies. The festival was organised by a number of postgraduates and former students from the University of Glasgow from both the College of Science and Engineering and the College of Medical,
Veterinary and Life Sciences brought together across disciplines by the same passion of communicating cutting-edge science to the general public in an informal setting – the pub. The festival ran over May 19-21st in four pubs, over half of which were sold out, and featured talks from some of the best science communicators from the University of Glasgow, both students and academics. The festival was started up last year in Oxford and Cambridge, but this year spread to a further 19 cities across six countries - USA, France, Australia, Switzerland, Ireland and the UK – with Glasgow being the only university in Scotland to participate. Co-coordinator and recent MVLS graduate Jennifer Yau, BSc in Biochemistry from School of Life Sciences and MSc in Medical Genetics from School of Medicine, said that we needn’t look far for inspirational speakers and scientific communicators when we all studied at such a prestigious institute and that “It’s important that everyone have access to the world leaders that we do and that they can inspire others in the way they inspired me” and began organising the event by inviting some of her most memorable lecturers to speak at the event. The success of the festival was highlighted by the members of the public who returned for further nights having enjoyed the opening one and signed up to be informed of the festival next year and to get involved. If you would like to get involved in Pint of Science in Glasgow next year, please contact Scott Smith (s.smith.9@research.gla.ac.uk).

**World Hypertension Day, 17th May 2014**

World Hypertension Day 2014 was marked by staff from the University of Glasgow and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde by holding an event in Costco Supermarket in Glasgow. Free blood pressure checks as well as cardiovascular health advice was offered to shoppers by a team of doctors and nurses. Dr Linsay McCallum (Clinical Lecturer), Dr Gemma Currie (Clinical Research Fellow), Ms Janice Meiklejonn (Project Manager and Research Nurse), Dr Elizabeth Bell (GP Trainee), Dr Katie Adair (GP Trainee) and Dr Rebecca Brown (GP Trainee) volunteered and participated in the event. 360 blood pressure measurements were taken and a number of people were found to be hypertensive. Positive feedback was received from staff and shoppers at Costco including 2 shoppers who stated later that “follow up with their GPs had been life changing”. World Hypertension Day is held annually and we would encourage others to volunteer in future events.

**ARCHES MoU signed 16 May 2014**
Planet Earth Institute (PEI), an international charity working for the scientific independence of Africa, is proposing to create an African Research Centre in Health and Environmental Science (ARCHES), based in Mozambique, with a primary focus on public health, primary care and environmental science. It will be sponsored by the Mozambique Ministry of Education and PEI will help to raise sponsorship.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Friday, 16 May, by all project partners of the ARCHES project. The partners are the Planet Earth Institute, the University of Glasgow (UoG), Eduardo Mondlane University (EMU) and the Ministry of Education in Mozambique. As part of this collaboration, two of the University of Glasgow’s Colleges – MVLS and Science and Engineering – will deliver a Professor Training Programme (PTP) for Eduardo Mondlane University, tailored to suit the research interests and strengths of each of the EMU and UoG professors involved.

The approach will include delivery of discipline-specific PhD supervision and selection of research training according to research interests and individual needs. The main benefit is that it would help establish long-term research relationships between supervisors at both universities. Double degree PhD supervision – another element of the agreement – will allow students to benefit from the resources of both institutions over four years, receiving a degree from each university. Students will benefit from PhD supervision from UoG and EMU in a variety of research areas from infectious and non-infectious diseases e.g. cancer and diabetes, to water engineering and environmental statistics.

**Friendly Fire: how the immune system goes off target and causes autoimmune disease, May 2014**

Meet the Expert: Glasgow Science Centre, May Bank Holiday Weekend 2014

A group of scientists from the Institute of Infection, Immunology and Inflammation took glitter and stickers to the Glasgow Science Centre in May. While getting glitter everywhere – the scientists explained what the immune system is for and how, sometimes, it can go “off target” causing autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis. Children visiting the science centre placed bug stickers on to a picture of a boy called James. They helped the immune system to “target” the bugs with some glue; the immune system (the brightly coloured glitter) then found
and destroyed the bugs. Mostly the immune system was on target, just sticking to the bugs. But sometimes we had glitter everywhere and the potential for damage to James’s tissues.

The Meet the Expert event at the Glasgow Science Centre runs most holiday weekends. Providing a perfect opportunity for scientists to engage with the public’s interest in science and, in turn, for scientists to learn how to communicate their excitement about their research to the public. Arthritis Research UK supports both clinical and basic research with the common goal of finding better ways to treat people with rheumatoid arthritis, a chronic autoimmune disease that causes painful and persistent swelling at the body’s joints.

**Topping Out Ceremony for Sir Michael Stoker Building, 9 May 2014**

On Friday 9th May, Prof Anna Dominiczak welcomed CVR staff and representatives from designers Sheppard Robson and contractors Laing O’Rourke to a Topping Out ceremony for the new Sir Michael Stoker Building which will be the new home for the MRC – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research at the Garscube Campus. The building will put Glasgow at the forefront of international research into human and animal viral disease. The Sir Stoker Building is a joint venture between the University of Glasgow and the Medical Research Council (MRC). The building was funded by The University of Glasgow, MRC and an infrastructure award from the Wolfson Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. The building is due to be completed in summer 2014.

**Official Opening of the Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre, 1 May 2014**

Dr Harpal Kumar, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK, joined Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, and over 180 guests on 1st May to officially open the Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre at the Garscube Estate.

Built with the help of £10 million in public donations raised through the Beatson Pebble Appeal, the Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre complements the Beatson Institute, which
studies the mechanisms of cancer development and how it spreads, and the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Care Centre, which provides treatment and support to patients with the disease, clinical research and clinical trials. Dr Kumar unveiled a plaque and toured the new building along with representatives of the Wolfson Foundation and the Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation. **Professor Andrew Biankin**, Regius Professor of Surgery and Director of the Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre said: “The Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre is a much needed catalyst for accelerating the process of understanding cancer, improving existing therapies and identifying new ones, and bringing them to patients. The Centre is the only translational research facility dedicated to cancer in Scotland. It will greatly increase the scale of activity, allowing for around 150 scientists to be dedicated to translational research.” The Beatson Pebble Appeal continues to raise vital funds to maximise the potential for ground-breaking cancer research discoveries within the University of Glasgow’s cancer research labs by funding world class scientists and purchasing state of the art equipment.

- **From Institutes**

**Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences**

**Graham Wilson Travel Fellowship Award**

This fund was established to honour the memory of the late **Professor Graham Wilson**. The fund is held by the Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Endowment Funds Office and offers support junior members of staff who wish to visit a centre in the UK or abroad to learn specific clinical or research techniques, particularly those transferable to Glasgow. Professor Wilson’s principal interests were in clinical pharmacology, hypertension, endocrinology/metabolism, gastroenterology and medical education. More than one scholarship is available each year, each having a maximum value of around £1,000.

This year’s recipients for the 2013-2014 Graham Wilson travelling scholarship were **Rachael Fulton**, **Anne Katrine Johansen**, **Craig Livie**, **Ify Mordi**, **Terry Quinn**, **Kate Stevens** and **Alison Taylor**.
Successful applicants for the 2014-2015 Graham Wilson travelling scholarship are Azmil Abdul-Rahim, Margaret Ballantyne, David Carty, Afshan Dean, Douglas McCarroll. We look forward to hearing about their research and travel experiences at next year’s presentations. Applications are requested once a year and should be made on a standard proforma available from Dorothy Ronney, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, (telephone: 0141 211 2513 / email: Dorothy.Ronney@glasgow.ac.uk). Notices will usually be sent out by November/December with a closing date by January each year.

Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group

The personal, social and economic burden of dementia is huge. It accounts for more years lived with disability than any other condition. The Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group has worked to provide robust review of all available evidence on interventions around dementia and Glasgow researchers have contributed to this important initiative. Recent emphasis in dementia research has been around diagnostics. Under the auspices of Cochrane, Glasgow University in collaboration with colleagues from University of Oxford and Cambridge has responded by developing a methodology and research portfolio around dementia test accuracy. Lead authors, Terry Quinn and David Stott (University of Glasgow, Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences) have just published the first Cochrane systematic review using these techniques to describe accuracy of a dementia “screening” tool.


Several other reviews are in progress or in press, with the Glasgow team leading on many of these. The systematic reviews are part of a broader body of work, designed to improve quality and reporting of dementia research. As part of an international collective, the Glasgow team have co-authored various guidance documents on best practice for dementia studies with another paper published this month. Published online before print in the journal Neurology, “Reporting standards for studies of diagnostic test accuracy in dementia” is designed to be a reference for all future studies looking at dementia diagnosis. Describing the importance of the work, Dr Terry Quinn commented: “Critical evaluation of the evidence base for dementia screening tests is crucial. Without a robust synthesis of the available information there is the risk that future research, clinical practice and policy will be built on erroneous assumptions about diagnostic validity.”

SCIENCE-TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

Professor Colin Berry, along with researchers at the US National Institutes of Health, has authored a publication on vein graft disease in SCIENCE-TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE. Patients who receive coronary heart bypass graft (CABG) surgery are at risk of recurrent health problems because the veins that are used to graft the diseased coronary arteries thicken and over time, vein graft failure may affect up to two thirds of CABG patients by 10 years. The research focused on the role of endothelial cells in vein graft disease and specifically, the contribution of endothelial-mesenchymal transition. Professor Berry was supported by a Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Fellowship. A full report is available at [http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/nhlbi-12.htm](http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/nhlbi-12.htm) and the paper is citation is [http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/6/227/227ra34](http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/6/227/227ra34)
Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine

Athena Swan bronze award

The Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine has received a Bronze Athena Swan Award. The Athena SWAN Charter is a scheme which recognises excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) employment in higher education. It evolved from work between the Athena Project and the Scientific Women’s Academic Network (SWAN), to advance the representation of women in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (STEMM). Bronze Award holders:

- Demonstrate particular challenges and plan activities for the future
- Use quantitative and qualitative assessment to identify challenges and opportunities
- Have a plan that builds on this assessment and lessons from any activities already in place.

Prof Dan Haydon, Director of the Institute of Biodiversity Animal Health said: "I want to build an Institute in which different ways of doing science can be appreciated, valued, and complemented. Recognizing and supporting the diversity of ways different people do their science is fundamental to the interdisciplinarity so critical to our long-term goals. By doing so not only will we ensure equality for all, but we’ll have a truly outstanding, secure, and inspiring research environment in which everyone’s career ambitions can be realized. The Athena Swan award is significant recognition that we are succeeding in this ambition. I’m delighted with the outcome, and deeply appreciative to all the staff who worked so hard to achieve it."

Ageing and Life History research group

The Leverhulme Trust has awarded the University of Glasgow a grant to support US based Dr Mark Haussmann as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor. Professor Haussmann will be based for the 2014/15 academic year in the Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine. He will work with Professor Pat Monaghan in the Ageing and Life History research group, studying stress, longevity and telomere dynamics.

Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation

Embedded microscopes for deep-tissue imaging could see reduction in animal use in research

Scientists are aiming to implant a tiny microscope into a rat that could monitor cellular changes and reduce the number of animals used in medical research over time. The researchers will initially attempt to study spinal cells by attaching a microscope to the vertebrae of a rat to demonstrate that useful data can be gathered. The technique could allow scientists to monitor disease progression or therapeutic effects in living organisms and reduce the number of animals sacrificed for research. The £400,000 project is being funded by the National Centre for the Reduction, Refinement and Replacement of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The lead investigator is Professor Andrew Harvey, School of Physics and Astronomy at the
University of Glasgow, and the Co-investigators are Professors Sue Barnett and Jim Brewer, Institute of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation.

**BioMalPar conference**

Around 380 participants met at the annual BioMalPar conference bringing together malaria researchers from Europe and overseas. They presented and shared recent ground-breaking findings on fundamental malaria research. This meeting provided an enriched environment for researchers at all stages of their career to interact with international leaders in the field. An oversubscribed dedicated Career Development and Gender session was included this year highlighting the interest in this topical issue. A special symposium highlighting the success of the past 10 years of both BioMalPar and EVIMaLAR was held which attracted 200 participants preceded by a celebration dinner and Scottish ceilidh held at Heidelberg Castle.


**Pwani University**

**Prof Andy Waters Director**, Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology and **Prof Paul Garside**, Head of Immunology, have been instrumental in paving the way for stronger research and teaching collaborations with Pwani University in Kenya. On a recent research trip to Kenya Profs Waters and Garside met officials from Pwani with a view to developing closer research and teaching links. The University of Glasgow is now working with Pwani to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding with a view to further strengthening this partnership. Pwani University aims over the next ten years to promote excellence and significantly expand its research, teaching and scholarship activities.

**Sci-Art Parasite Project - Katie May Boyd**

The Wellcome Trust Centre for Molecular Parasitology has been working with London School of Fashion student **Katie-May Boyd** to produce a film and a series of costumes that combine Science and Art. The Parasite Project aims to educate about the scientific processes during the life cycle of the Malaria parasite. Two moments in the parasite life cycle were explored through the costumes,
which work interactively, engaging the audience in a multisensory way. The costumes were developed with teaching in mind, being able to visually echo on a huge scale the beautiful but terrible processes that go on microscopically inside our bodies. Many different fabrics and techniques were used to achieve wearable representations of these moments, creating a visual and tactile method of learning. The Parasite Project featured in the Glasgow Science Festivals Science Sunday event on 15th June in the Wolfson Medical School and will feature at future science events.

**CVR visiting student wins the Uta von Schwedler prize.**

Suzannah Rihn has been awarded a prestigious prize honoring the accomplishments of a distinguished graduate student after successfully defending her Ph.D thesis in the field of retrovirology. Suzannah's research is focused on understanding how HIV-1 genes maintain their function in the wake of an error prone viral life-cycle. The UVS prize is awarded annually at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory retroviruses meeting: [http://biochem.web.utah.edu/uta/previous_vonSchwedler_prize_winners.html](http://biochem.web.utah.edu/uta/previous_vonSchwedler_prize_winners.html)

**Congratulations to Dr Naomi Bulteel, CVR Clinical Research Fellow**

Naomi Bulteel, a CVR Clinical Research Fellow, has been awarded a Tenovus Scotland grant for her project 'Expression of microRNAs in the peripheral blood mononuclear cells of subjects with chronic hepatitis C infection: associations with biomarkers of ageing and stage of liver disease'.

**2014 CVR Sir Michael Stoker Award to Prof Peter Piot**

We are delighted to announce Prof Peter Piot as the recipient of this year’s CVR Sir Michael Stoker Award, a prize for distinguished virologists voted for by the CVR’s students and postdocs. Prof Piot will visit Glasgow on 24th June to receive the award and deliver a prize lecture. Prof Piot graduated with a medical degree from the University of Ghent in 1974 and went on to work at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. It was during this period that Prof Piot co-discovered the Ebola virus in Zaire in 1976. Prof Piot was awarded a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Antwerp in 1980. During the 1980s, Prof Piot was involved in a series of collaborative projects in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania and Zaire focussing on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and women's health. Project SIDA in Kinshasa, Zaire was the first international project on AIDS in Africa and is widely acknowledged as having provided the foundations of our understanding of HIV infection in Africa.

From 1995 to 2008, Prof Piot was the founding Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Associate Director of the World Health Organization’s Global Programme on HIV/AIDS. Under his leadership UNAIDS became the chief advocate for worldwide action against AIDS, also spear heading UN reform.
by bringing together 10 UN system organizations. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and was elected a foreign member of the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sciences, and is also an elected member of the Académie Nationale de Médecine of France, and of the Royal Academy of Medicine of his native Belgium, and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He was knighted as a baron in 1995, and published over 500 scientific articles and 16 books. In 2013 he was the laureate of the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Research.

**CVR designated OIE Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics**

The CVR has been designated an *OIE Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics* at the 82nd OIE General Session. The *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) was created in 1924 and is an intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide. As the OIE Collaborating Centre for Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics, the CVR will specialise in developing bioinformatic tools and providing training in their application to facilitate the open sharing and analysis of viral genomic data across the animal health community.

**"WHO Guidelines for the screening, care and treatment of persons with hepatitis C infection"**

Dr Emma Thomson, a Senior Clinical lecturer in the CVR, has contributed to the production of WHO's first guidance for the treatment of hepatitis C as a technical writer and external consultant. The new guidelines make nine key recommendations. These include approaches to increase the number of people screened for hepatitis C infection, advice as to how to mitigate liver damage for those who are infected and how to select and provide appropriate treatments for chronic hepatitis C infection.

Dr Thomson said: "These are the first WHO guidelines for the treatment of hepatitis C and represent a significant step forward in the fight against a virus that has infected 180 million people around the world. New therapies for hepatitis C are highly efficacious and cure is now a realistic prospect for those who can access medication. WHO guidelines provide a signal to governments in low, middle and high income countries to implement treatment programmes and negotiate with drug companies in order to reduce costs."

**Institute of Molecular Cell and System Biology**

**Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award**
As mentioned above, **Professor Neil Bulleid** has recently been successful in obtaining a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award. The award will allow him to study how proteins are folded and assembled within cells which is an essential process for normal healthy tissues. Nearly a third of all proteins made within the cells in our bodies are synthesised in the endoplasmic reticulum. Most of these proteins are destined to be secreted. For the proteins to remain functional outside the cell they need to be robust and to ensure this is the case the cell introduces links within the protein which ties the structure together making them resistant to breakdown. These links are called disulfide bonds. Unfortunately when these bonds are formed a chemical by-product is made which can be toxic to cells. This chemical is a reactive oxygen species and needs to be removed rapidly to prevent cellular damage. In some disease processes and during aging our ability to remove these chemicals breaks down. Neil’s research aims to understand how the cell copes with reactive oxygen species and looks to identify ways to prevent disease progression and limit the damage caused by these chemicals. This recent award will fund three researchers and a lab manager for the next five years.

**Leverhulme Trust funds ‘Knots in Nature’ programme**

**Dr Sean Colloms** is part of an exciting interdisciplinary research team that has been awarded £1.74 million by the Leverhulme Trust in a 5-year programme grant on the theme ‘Knots in Nature’. The team is led by Dr Dorothy Buck, a mathematician from Imperial College London, and also includes Professor David Sherratt from the University of Oxford, Dr Andrzej Stasiak from the University of Lausanne, and artist Gemma Anderson. Work at Glasgow University will focus on the study of DNA knots to provide information on the 3-dimensional path of DNA in the bacterial chromosome, eukaryotic chromatin and other complex protein-DNA structures.

*DNA Knot Topology, Copper etching, hand painted with Japanese Inks. Gemma Anderson 2012*
Institute of Health and Wellbeing

Dr Jonathan Cavanagh, Wellcome Trust Funding Award

The Wellcome Trust will award £5.5 million for the Wellcome Trust Consortium for Neuroimmunology of Mood Disorders and Alzheimer’s Disease, of which £780K will come to Glasgow. The consortium will contribute to drug discovery know-how and access to anti-inflammatory drugs (Industrial Partners Janssen and Lundbeck) and neuroimaging, clinical phenotyping, animal models and informatics (Glasgow, Oxford, Cambridge, KCL, Southampton and Cardiff). The aim of this is to pioneer a new scientific roadmap for delivering innovative immunological medicines to patients with major brain and mental health disorders representing some of the most important areas of unmet clinical need in the 21st century. The work will be organised as two programmes, focused on Alzheimer’s disease and mood disorders, and four cross-cutting technical platforms (cytometry, proteomics, PET and MRI).

Professor Tom McMillan, MRC award

Professor Tom McMillan was successful in being awarded £640k by the MRC for an imaging study assessing factors associated with late decline in function after traumatic brain injury: ‘Assessing tau levels after traumatic brain injury (TBI) using [18F]T808 positron emission tomography (PET)’ in collaboration with Professor David Sharp at Imperial College London, Imanova and Dr Willie Stewart in NHS GGC.

The Prevalence of Head Injury in Prisons in West of Scotland

Professor Tom McMillan recently gave a talk on head injury in prisons at Holyrood. This was a well attended meeting comprising largely of NHS and prison professional, MSPs and support
organisations. He presented preliminary data on the Prevalence of Head Injury in Prisons in the West of Scotland. The meeting was hosted by a member of the Parliamentary Justice Committee and organised by the British Psychological Society. The outcome is that this Justice Committee will consider initiating an enquiry into the issues raised.

**Why is Glasgow the UK’s sickest city?**

The Healthy Working Lives Group, Institute of Health and Wellbeing, and GCPH research gets mention on BBC news magazine: 'Research conducted in 2007 found that nearly one in five potential workers was on incapacity benefit and that Glasgow has a much larger number and a higher proportion of the population claiming sickness-related benefit than any other city in Britain.' Read more at [http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/magazine-27309446](http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/magazine-27309446)

**Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Methods for Economic Evaluation Project (MEEP)**

Professor Andy Briggs was a co-author to the reference case report and chaired the workshop in Seattle last year that facilitated the discussion that led to the Methods for Economic Evaluation Project (MEEP), which was established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2013 to improve the quality and transparency of economic evaluation and to guide researchers in undertaking and reporting well-conducted and robust analyses. MEEP was a novel collaboration led by NICE International and included partners from institutions around the world including the Health Intervention and Technology Appraisal Program (Thailand), the University of York, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the University of Glasgow. Read the final report on the NICE website [MEEP Report](http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/magazine-27309446)

**What Works Scotland**

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Scottish Government have jointly awarded just under £3 million to the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, for a new What Works Scotland (WWS) initiative. The Centre is intended to help policymakers and practitioners in the public services in Scotland transform the way they work. It will be led by Professor Nicholas Watson, Chair of Disability Studies, Institute of Health and Wellbeing, and Professor James Mitchell, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Edinburgh. Over the next three years WWS will work closely with Community Planning Partnerships and other stakeholders to find, create, evaluate and communicate the evidence of what works in delivering the Scottish model of public service delivery.

John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth, said: "I have great hopes for What Works Scotland in deepening and scaling up the Scottish approach to public service delivery and reform. I believe that it will provide the strong strategic direction needed to translate reform evidence into practical reality, particularly in tackling intergenerational inequality. I look forward to seeing it work closely with Community Planning Partnerships to provide transferable evidence which will focus on ways of designing in a preventative approach, liberating the system from duplicated costs and creating the conditions to nurture community-led enterprises to improve outcomes in their local areas."
Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology

Paper published in Neuron by Prof Andrew Todd’s group

A paper recently published in Neuron involving work from Andrew Todd’s group has identified a population of interneurons in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord that function to inhibit itch. Previous work by Dr Sarah Ross (University of Pittsburgh) had shown that mice lacking the transcription factor Bhlhb5 developed chronic pruritus (itch), secondary to loss of inhibitory interneurons from the spinal dorsal horn. This new study has identified the missing interneurons, and shown that they express the kappa opioid peptide dynorphin. Release of dynorphin from these neurons mediates the inhibition of itch by chemical counterstimuli such as menthol, suggesting that kappa opioids may be a broadly effective therapy for pathological itch. These interneurons (which are known as B5-I neurons) also release the fast acting neurotransmitters GABA and glycine, and it is likely that an inhibitory mechanism involving one or both of these transmitters underlies the rapid effects of counterstimulation, such as when scratching the skin causes instant relief from itch.

Sound and vision: visual cortex processes auditory information too

‘Seeing is believing’, so the idiom goes, but new research suggests vision also involves a bit of hearing. Scientists studying brain processes involved in sight have found the visual cortex also uses information gleaned from the ears as well as the eyes when viewing the world. They suggest this auditory input enables the visual system to predict incoming information and could confer a survival advantage. Professor Lars Muckli, of the Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology, who led the research, said: “Sounds create visual imagery, mental images, and automatic projections. So, for example, if you are in a street and you hear the sound of an approaching motorbike, you expect to see a motorbike coming around the corner. If it turned out to be a horse, you’d be very surprised.”

The study, published in the journal Current Biology, involved conducting five different experiments using functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) to examine the activity in the early visual cortex in 10 volunteer subjects. Lars said: “This research enhances our basic understanding of how interconnected different regions of the brain are. The early visual cortex hasn’t previously been known to process auditory information, and while there is some anatomical evidence of interconnectedness in monkeys, our study is the first to clearly show a relationship in humans. In future we will test how this auditory information supports visual processing, but the assumption is it provides predictions to help the visual system to focus on surprising events which would confer a survival advantage. This might provide insights into mental health conditions such as schizophrenia or autism and help us understand how sensory perceptions differ in these individuals.”

Psychology at Glasgow is ranked 2nd in the UK

In the Guardian League Table published recently, Psychology at Glasgow obtained its highest ever position at 2nd place, with the additional satisfaction of splitting Oxford from Cambridge at the top of the table. As for our Scottish comparators, Psychology at St. Andrews was 5th and Edinburgh 9th. Since there are more than 100 Psychology departments in the UK, this represents an exceptional achievement. We have achieved this result through dedicated teamwork from all categories of staff across both the School of Psychology and the Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology at Glasgow.
Psychology. While regression to the mean is a statistical truth, there is still scope for improvement in our performance. Within the top 20 Psychology programmes in the UK, we came first on the question “Satisfied with course” and joint second on “Satisfied with teaching” which was shared with Birmingham (ranked 10th) and Royal Holloway (ranked 18th). Despite these impressive performances, we could show some improvement with “Satisfied with feedback” where we came in eleventh (St. Andrews was ninth and Edinburgh twentieth). From our own internal feedback, students say they like the course organisation, the enthusiasm of the staff, the flexibility of options, the variety of projects on offer, and our use of blended delivery that provides on-line support and learning tools, including lecture slides and audio podcasts. Some things are not within our control. Our “Student to staff ratio” was relatively high, at eighth lowest among the top 20 (St Andrews was the lowest and Edinburgh the third lowest). Also, our “Spend per student” was less than seven other universities and shared with four others. In addition, our “Entry tariff” was below those of Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews, UCL and Bath. Nevertheless, despite these shortfalls, our “Value-added score” was first. Finally, our “Career after 6 months” was third only to Cambridge and Bath which is a significant indicator of the marketability of our students.

Institute of Cancer Sciences

‘MicroRNA’ could be key target for bowel cancer treatment

A tiny genetic molecule known as a microRNA plays a central role in bowel cancer and could be key to developing new treatments for the disease, a new study concludes. Scientists found that the molecule, called microRNA 135b, is a vital ‘worker’ employed by several important cancer genes to drive the growth of bowel cancers. Drugs targeted at the microRNA could knock out the effects of multiple cancer-causing mutations at once, while tests for it could identify patients with the most aggressive disease, the researchers believe. The research was carried out by an international team including scientists based at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, the University of Glasgow and Ohio State University in the US. The study was published in the prestigious journal Cancer Cell, with funding for the UK research team coming from the Kimmel Cancer Foundation, Cancer Research UK, The Marie Curie Actions Programme and a Scottish Senior Clinical Research Fellowship. Professor Owen Sansom, Deputy Director of The Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute said: “This exciting work shows a single microRNA can control multiple pathways that go wrong in colon cancer and offers the hope that in the future this could be targeted in patients that have colon cancer.”

• From Schools

School of Medicine

Prof Matthew Walters - Head of the Undergraduate Medical School

From 1st May 2014, Prof Matthew Walters of the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences, took over from Prof Alan Jardine as Head of the Undergraduate Medical School. Good luck, Matthew!
School of Veterinary Medicine

Top Moodler!

Mr Gordon McLeod, University Veterinary Learning Technologist in the School of Veterinary Medicine was awarded runner-up in the Moodler of the Year Award by the judging panel at the UK MoodleMoot Conference in April. His submission (and Conference paper) discussed how the Vet School had embraced Moodle and Mahara as tools to enhance learning and teaching on the new curriculum.

Welcome to Caroline Chauché

The School of Veterinary Medicine and Centre for Virus Research are pleased to welcome Caroline Chauché, a graduate student who will investigate the molecular pathogenesis of equine influenza virus. Caroline graduated from Liège University, Belgium, in 2010 with her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) before working in veterinary practice and obtaining a Masters degree. Caroline is supervised by Dr Pablo Murcia (CVR) in collaboration with Dr John Marshall (SVM) and is funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board. The project is the latest development in this collaboration between the CVR and SVM, which recently produced a publication in the Journal of Virology (Gonzalez G, Marshall JF, Morrell J, Robb D, McCauley J, Perez D, Parrish C, and Murcia P. Infection and pathogenesis of canine, equine, and human influenza viruses in canine tracheas: implications for viral emergence. J. Virol. Epub ahead of print 4 June 2014, doi:10.1128/JVI.00887-14).

Award from Animal Welfare Foundation’s Norman Hayward Fund

Dr John Marshall and Dr Tim Parkin of the School of Veterinary Medicine have recently been awarded funding by the Animal Welfare Foundation’s Norman Hayward Fund to support a postdoctoral research associate. By analysing the electronic medical records of approximately 500,000 horses in the UK, USA, and Canada, the project will investigate equine diseases with major welfare implications including laminitis and colic.

• Other news

Managed Print Project
The University has approved a new policy on printers and is now implementing it across the campus. This is to help the University meet commitments in terms of our carbon footprint, through saving on power and reduced volumes of printed materials. It is expected that this will be widely adopted by July 2014. Canon has been selected as the partner to provide and maintain new machines. All of these will provide basic printing functionality; others will copy and staple. Some will provide enhanced features such as scan-and-send, where you can scan a document and email it to your desktop. Some machines will also be able to fax. Canon will have permanent staff on site to fix problems and to manage toner replacement. By doing this we will bring about the following benefits:

- Reduced carbon footprint/environmental impact
- Improved control over print costs

We will also introduce a concept called Pull Printing. This means that when you print something, you will be able to retrieve it from any printer using your GUID or by swiping your University ID Card. This will significantly improve document security. Further improvements will also be brought about by extending the specialist services of the University Print Unit to more users, particularly with big or complex print runs. A review of printing needs will be undertaken in each College, School, Research Institute and University Services department. This analysis will ensure that the solution to be provided is suitable and it will be taking place shortly. Further communications about it will follow soon. More information is available on the Information for Staff pages: http://www.gla.ac.uk/staff/printing/.

**MRC team move to city centre**

The Medical Research Council/Chief Scientist Office Social and Public Health Sciences Unit have moved from Gilmorehill to the city centre. From May, the internationally-recognised health researchers have been based on the second floor of 200 Renfield Street, also home to the Herald and Evening Times newspapers. The Unit’s expanding portfolio of projects includes many that are being conducted in collaboration with organisations and communities across Glasgow and Scotland to make real improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population. A spokesperson for the University said: “This marks a key element of the University’s strategy to modernise and upgrade its property portfolio, which will help it maintain its position as an important centre of research and academic excellence long into the future.”

**Professors on your Bike!**

As featured in the Winter issue of the Newsletter, 23 of our finest scientists got on their exercise bikes in December 2013 to raise some much needed funds to provide a community health worker and to paint the walls of the Baraka Children’s Clinic in the Mathare slum in Nairobi, Kenya. This event raised an amazing £1,100 to support and train Community Health Workers in the Mathare slum in Nairobi.
Dr Kelsey Jones recently wrote to thank Glasgow for the help; he said: “On 10th-12th Feb we conducted a 3-day workshop on active case-finding of malnourished children for all CHWs (Community Health Workers) in Mathare who were able to attend. In total 42 attended, and all of them have been attending regular practice sessions at the Feeding Programme ever since. The impact has been immense. In April alone we had 45 new community referrals of severely acutely malnourished children from Mathare. This is one of the busiest months on record at the feeding programme, and we were actually visited by the county head of nutrition because that level of activity is actually having an impact on county-level procurement requirements for severe acute malnutrition. So all in all, a pretty great result, the research in Mathare and the work and training of CHW’s will continue to expand - we are all enormously grateful for all of your support.”

Thanks again to all the Professors who cycled and to those who sponsored them.

Glasgow ARM [Aid for Rwanda Medics]

Colleagues in General Practice have been fund-raising on behalf of medical students in Rwanda. Pat Smith, Zoe Noonan, Jilly Hamilton and Elaine Taylor completed the Women’s 10k on 11th May; whilst during the month of May Christine Blyth clocked up 128 miles by walking to and from work each day. They have raised a marvellous amount to date - over £1800. However, there is still time to contribute if anyone wishes – donations may be made to Royal Bank account 10764468, sort code: 80-46-95.

Sarah is one Tough Mudder for SAMH!

On Saturday 14 June, Sarah Torbet of the College Office participated in Scotland Tough Mudder 2014. Throughout the gruelling 12 mile long challenge, Sarah battled her way through 24 obstacles, including Arctic Enema, Walk the Plank and Electroshock Therapy to name but a few. However, despite the cuts, bruises, blisters and phenomenal amount of mud it was a brilliant day and all for a very worthwhile cause. Sarah and her team were raising money for the charity Scottish Association for Mental Health and anyone wishing to donate can do so at the following link: https://www.justgiving.com/nickwright2001/.
• **Your Newsletter needs you!**

The quarterly MVLS College Newsletter welcomes submissions from all MVLS staff and honorary staff. Please let us know about your achievements and successes. Articles don’t need to be long, approximately 200 – 300 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. We really like hearing from you. Thank you!