Cardiovascular Sciences

CVS Newsletter – February 2016

Head of Department’s Announcements

CVS Vision Statement: As part of the University’s planning process, we have recently developed a new Vision Statement for the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, outlining our mission to undertake bench-to-bedside research, education and training, and clinical practice that impacts on the health and well-being of patients and the public. Staff and students can read the statement here.

CVS Away Day, 18 May 2016: Everyone should already be aware that our next away day for staff and PGR students will be on 18 May 2016, 10am to 2pm at Stamford Court. Our Social Committee are also planning some activities for us all for the afternoon. This is an important event in the Department’s year; please ensure this date is in your diary and prioritise attendance. Further details will follow shortly.

Smarter Purchasing is coming...

Soon we will be starting training for all University staff and postgraduate students to become shoppers on the on-line ordering system being rolled out in the University. 15 Departments are already using the system which cuts out the need for paper requisitions, and gives us accurate prices and comparison between suppliers. If you haven’t already seen it, have a look at this demo and lots more information on the Finance Office webpages.

A Warm Welcome....

…. to new staff and students who have joined the Department recently:

- Muhammad Riaz, Medical Statistician working with the LCBRU
- Lindsey Ball, Administrative Assistant working in the Professional Services Team
- Daniel Lawday, Clinical Data Integration Developer in the LCBRU
- Visiting PhD scholar, Mohammed Elwan, supervised by Prof Tim Coats
- Alison Watson, Administrative Assistant working with Dr Gerry McCann
- Saseela Atwal, Biobank Technician, working with Dr Gavin Whyman
- Dr Thong Cao Huy, CVS PhD Graduate now a Research Associate with Prof Leong Ng
- Tanya Scott, LCBRU Patient and Public Involvement & Engagement Manager
- Mary Harrison, LCBRU Research Governance Officer
- Purvi Mali, Technician within the Professional Services Team
- MSc students Sonia Toms and Sharbat Ryskaliyeva

Cardiovascular Sciences
Social Committee

Invite you to a lunchtime pizza feast and quiz in Café Cardiologique on Friday 26th February 2016 from 12-1pm. A similar event will occur at the LRI at the same time, venue TBC. Come and meet the Social Committee and share your ideas.
Research News

SCAD Study: A current NIHR LCBRU study funded by the BHF is recruiting ‘Healthy Volunteers’ and female members of CVS/BRU have already taken part. The study “Epidemiology, management, outcomes and pathophysiology of Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection” also known as ‘SCAD’, involves a cardiovascular MRI, ultrasound imaging, blood samples & various measurements being taken and we found it all quite fascinating and are very pleased to have been able to help. Dr Abi Al-Hussaini added “we are grateful for the staff helping out in this research and particularly women who are the main focus in this research project”. It is brilliant that volunteering in this way can be of mutual benefit to both staff and researchers.

The BHF-funded PATHWAY (Prevention and Treatment of Hypertension with Algorithm based therapy) Studies have recently concluded. In Leicester, we were involved in all three hypertension trials recruiting a total of ninety four patients. These studies have highlighted a number of important observations that will lead to adaption of BP guidelines in the near future. PATHWAYS TWO and THREE were presented at the Annual Congress of The European Society of Cardiology 2015. The results were published in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology.

The latest issue of the Emergency Medicine Journal (EMJ) celebrates 25 years of The Trauma Audit & Research Network (TARN), Chaired by Professor Tim Coats. The Non-Accidental Injury article is the BMJ publishing group’s top article in their press release this week (Authors Ffion Davies and Tim Coats).

A new study led by Dr Gerry McCann, NIHR Career Development Fellow from the University and Leicester’s Hospitals has examined the effects on the heart of treating multiple narrowed arteries - rather than just one – at the time of a heart attack.

A team led by Dr Richard Rainbow has demonstrated for the first time the mechanism by which the level of sugar in your blood can affect the contraction of blood vessels, with potentially dangerous effects on the heart and blood pressure.

The BBSRC has awarded our University over £1.5 million in order to advance knowledge and understanding in three key areas that impact on health. Professor Dave Lambert and his team are one of the three areas.
Congratulations!

Matt Bown and his family are rejoicing in the safe arrival on 21 January of baby Maggie, 3.28kg.

Elisavet Karamanavi and her family are also pleased to announce the arrival of a baby girl on 28 January.

Ashley Ambrose won a prize at the M5 Flow Cytometry Meeting at the University of Nottingham in December for his poster presentation entitled “Platelet-derived extracellular vesicles act as an intercellular communication mechanism with monocytes”. Jan 2016

Bradley Toghill was selected to give an oral presentation on “The role of DNA methylation in the pathology of abdominal aortic aneurysms” at The Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) Annual Meeting - Royal College of Surgeons London in January, and was also selected to present his work on “Genome-wide DNA methylation is associated with abdominal aortic aneurysm” at the Vascular Society Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 in Bournemouth in November last year.

Gavin Chu was shortlisted for the Young Investigator of the Year 2015 Award at the Heart Rhythm Congress UK in Birmingham in November last year.

Since the last newsletter, Ben Wild has been awarded his MD. Mohamed-Eyad Issa, Robert Turnbull and David McVey have each received their PhD awards. Many congratulations to our new Graduates.

Grants Awarded

Professor N Brindle, Dr C Stover, Professor J Schwabe
An angiopoietin-2-specific ligand trap with potential to treat cardiovascular disease
£196,423 British Heart Foundation

Dr C Hebbes, Dr D Lambert, Professor JD
Does the immunocyte release profile of nociception differ in critically ill septic patients and healthy volunteers?
£2,423 Royal College of Anaesthetists

Professor GA Ng, Dr S Siddiqui, Dr W Nicolson
Multicentre Investigation of Novel Electrocardiogram Risk markers in Ventricular Arrhythmia prediction – UK multicentre trialists collaboration (MINERVA)
£182,912 Heart Research UK

Professor TG Robinson, Professor P Bath (Nottingham)
Enhanced Control of Hypertension and Thrombolysis Stroke Study (STAY-ENCHANTED)
£120,612 Stroke Association
Working Lives Group

Whilst Tom is away on sabbatical in sunny Sydney, Glenn will be acting as chair in his absence and would welcome any thoughts/suggestions you might have for discussion by your Working Lives Group, you can email any of the group members or send feedback anonymously via the website using Survey Monkey. We are currently planning for the staff survey and staff away day, more details of which will appear in the next departmental newsletter.

Cardiovascular Sciences Seminars

**Wednesday 2\(^{nd}\) March 2016: 13:00 – 14:00**

Venue: Clinical Sciences Wing Lecture Theatre, Glenfield
Speaker: Professor Stefan Neubauer, University of Oxford Centre Clinical Magnetic Resonance Research (OCMR), John Radcliffe Hospital

“Phenotyping of cardiovascular disease with Magnetic Resonance methods”

**Tuesday 8\(^{th}\) March 2016: 13:00 – 14:00**

Venue: Thakrar Room, CVS Unit, Glenfield
Speaker: Professor Andrew Baker, Queen’s Medical Research Institute, University of Edinburgh

“No-coding RNA in vascular pathophysiology”

Refreshments will be served at 12:30 outside the Lecture Theatre for both seminars.

Outreach News - 6 January, Shaftesbury Junior School

Shaftesbury Junior School’s newsletter reported that: ‘On Wednesday morning, Shaftesbury welcomed Dr Samani, Glenfield hospital’s consultant cardiologist, to speak to Year 6 pupils about the heart. As part of their Science curriculum, pupils have been learning all about the circulatory system and had plenty of questions for Dr Samani! Thank you to Dr Samani for coming in to talk to us and to Mrs Thakrar for organising the visit’. 