

# CVS Newsletter – June 2016

## A Warm Welcome...

.... to new students who have joined the Department recently:

MSc students (Medical Statistics) Amardeep Legha and Joseph Warburton have started their studies with Dr Chris Nelson as Supervisor with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Sophie Draycott started her lab based studies with Dr Richard Rainbow from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

BSc Student (Medical Sciences) Daniel Chin will start his studies with the Department on 13<sup>th</sup> June initially under the supervision of Dr Toff.

## Away Day

There have been numerous positive comments regarding the recent departmental away day and many people deserve thanks for the organisation of the whole event, both the morning sessions and the afternoon.



Congratulations should go to the afternoon's winning team "Levi-Montalcini" Francesca, Reshma, Glenn, Emma, Veryan and Simon.

## Smarter Purchasing

Thank you for your support in the transition to Smarter Purchasing. On the whole, it seems the new system is effective and most people are getting on well with it! Upgrades are happening all the time, so hopefully a few outstanding issues will be ironed out as soon as possible. Please keep a watch on your shopping carts to check if you have queries to resolve.

## First Aiders

Tim Barnes and Tina Godfrey (CRC), Lindsey Ball and Manish Asiani (CSW) have all passed their Level 3 First Aid at Work course. There will also be an increase in first aiders in the RKCSB soon - volunteers should contact Tim Barnes.

## Research News

Global study identifies a safer treatment of acute stroke



[Leicester involved in study to improve survival rates of stroke victims.](#) The safety of a controversial clot-busting drug has been investigated by researchers, who have shown a modified dosage can reduce serious bleeding in the brain and improve survival rates.

New test for sudden cardiac death receives funding



[A team led by Professor Andre Ng at University of Leicester and Leicester's hospitals supported by heart charity.](#) A new test to identify patients at risk of sudden cardiac death is being

developed by researchers at our University and Leicester's Hospitals thanks to a £183,000 grant from national charity Heart Research UK.

NIHR Senior Investigator

[Professor Thompson Robinson has been elected as a National Institute of Health Research Senior Investigator.](#)

Senior Investigator status is awarded to pre-eminent NIHR and Department of Health funded researchers who are 'making the most outstanding contribution to research essential for decision-making in health and social care.'

**André Ng** has won the European Heart Rhythm Association Inventors Award for 'LifeMap' - a patented novel Sudden Cardiac Death risk marker. The award comes with a 5000 euros prize to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

**Zhia Lim** has been awarded the 2016 Rob Clarke Abstract Award with a £200 conference grant to present at [Physiology 2016](#)

**Dimitra Aravani** won the first poster prize (among postdocs) of the British Society for Cell Biology at the joint BSCB/BSDB spring meeting in Warwick 10-13 of April 2016. Dimitra was also selected as one of five finalists for the Young Investigator Prize of the British Cardiovascular Society, to give a talk at the 2016 BCS meeting.

## The 2016 John Swales Lecture

*Precision medicine or stratified medicine or just medicine*

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Glasgow  
Wednesday 29 June 2016: 15:00 – 16:00, Clinical Sciences Wing Lecture Theatre, Glenfield Hospital  
Refreshments at 14:30 outside the lecture theatre

## Congratulations!

## New Graduates

Since the last newsletter, **Hisham Zain Butt** and **Praveen Sadarmin** have been Awarded their MD awards and **Sukhvir Rai** has received her PhD award. Many congratulations to our new Graduates.

## Superstar Award Winners

**Gerry McCann and Kim Mason** were presented with Superstar Awards at the CVS Away Day. Both were nominated for their awards by CVS students.



## A New Baby

**Martha Hardy** has a new baby son, William Peter, a welcome team mate for Jack! William weighed in at 7lb 7ozs on 15 April. Our very best wishes go to the whole Hardy family.

## Meeting times and hot-desking facilities

This year, the Working Lives Group have arranged their meeting start and finish times to coincide with the Hopper timetable, to reduce the time staff and students attending the meeting spend hanging around. This has worked well, so for key departmental meetings and committees from August, meetings at GGH will start and finish at 10 to or 20 past the hour, and meetings at LRI will start on the hour or half past, and finish at quarter to or quarter past. We will also trial the use of video-conferencing to cut out the need for travel; we are already holding administrative and technical team meetings by video-conference, and will trial it with committees shortly. Staff who do need to travel between sites for meetings, also have the option to use hot-desking facilities at each site before or after meetings. Hot-desks are available in room CS001 (off lab CS004) at GGH and RKCSB room 237 (two desks nearest the tearoom) at LRI. When using a hot-desk, please ensure you log off after use so that others can use it too.

## Working Lives Group

Thank you all for your contributions and suggestions at the Away Day and in the online feedback. To address some of the many issues raised, the WLG will be producing a newsletter to keep you updated on everything workplace related. We will also be publishing our agenda and giving all of you further opportunities to express your views, concerns or congratulations... watch this space! You can already read [summaries of our meetings](#) on the website.

## Grants Awarded

Prof AH Gershlick, Mr K Mouniemne (Protomed SA Mareilles)

Supplement – Studies in the development of a novel side-branch stent  
£121,093 MRC

Dr R Rainbow, Dr C Dart (University of Liverpool)  
Understanding the mechanism of cardioprotection: The overlooked role of Kir6.1 in cardiac muscle  
£139,539 British Heart Foundation

Dr D Adlam, Prof NJ Samani  
Supplement – NIHR Biomedical Research Unit – Cardiovascular Disease  
£199,687 NIHR

Prof I Squire  
Why do outcomes of hospitalised patients with first out of hospital cardiac arrest from acute coronary syndromes vary in England and Wales?  
£2,156 NIHR via University of Warwick

Prof S Ye, Dr T Webb, Prof N Samani  
Functional study of CAD associated genetic variants at the furin locus  
£182,022 British Heart Foundation

Prof GA Ng  
Clinical Fellowship  
£100,000 St Jude Medical

## Daphne Jackson Trust Fellowship

Over the course of the coming year, we will be setting up a [Daphne Jackson Trust Fellowship](#) in the Department, which we hope will start in autumn 2017. Daphne Jackson Fellowships are unique – they offer STEM professionals wishing to return to a research career after a break of two or more years, the opportunity to balance an individually tailored retraining programme with a challenging research project in a suitably supportive environment. The fellowships are available to women and men who have had a career break of two or more years, taken for family, caring or health reasons; have at least 3 years research experience and/or a PhD; and wish to return to a research-based career. Further information will be available in due course, in the meantime, if you know of researchers who are currently taking a career break who may be interested in this opportunity, please talk to [Eleanor Jackson](#).

## Café Cardiologique Archive

Café Cardiologique is a research seminar series aimed at and delivered by postgraduate students and research staff in the CVS Department to facilitate the sharing of clinical knowledge and technical skills throughout the Department. It takes place on the last Wednesday of every month, 3:00pm to 4:30pm with refreshments provided throughout. Each session is split into 2 parts, a clinical talk that gives basic scientists the opportunity to learn about different cardiovascular diseases from a medical perspective, and a research talk that introduces scientists and clinicians to the different techniques used in the Department. The majority of talks are given by postgraduate researchers, MD students and PhD students in their third year. Previous talks are [archived here](#). Sessions from March 2015 onwards will direct you to Adobe Connect where the presentations can be viewed with commentary.

## First Friday Social



About 20 CVS staff and students gathered in the Queen of Bradgate on 3 June, for the Department's first 'First Friday Social'. This is a great opportunity to meet your work mates and welcome new ones into the Department, so we'll be doing this every first Friday of the month from now on. Leaving work at 3:00 onwards and meeting at the pub for food, a drink and a chat. The Department is committed to holding social activities at times which are inclusive to those with family responsibilities. To enable this we ask that people plan their working week responsibly to accommodate the 3pm start. The next First Friday will be 1 July, in the [Queen of Bradgate](#) again.

## Glenfield Gallopers



Have you ever thought you'd like to take up running but need company and motivation? We started running in January, after work, slipping out the back door of the CSW under the cover of darkness. We started off with short 1 to 2 mile jogs with intermittent walking and

we've just run our first 10k race. If we can do it, so can you! If you'd like to have a go, meet in the CRC entrance foyer for a short, slow walk/run on at 12.30pm Tuesday 21 June or at 5.30pm on Thursday 23 June (or both!). Please email [Veryan Codd](#) if you are planning to come. No previous experience necessary, just comfortable clothing and footwear. We will cater for all abilities and fitness levels.

*Aisling, Eleanor and Veryan.*

## CVS Social Committee

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Away Day afternoon making it the success it was! Thank you for the positive feedback, it really makes all the hard work worthwhile! Some of the positive comments received are listed below:

*"I think the idea is very good – makes the dept. more welcoming, friendlier and improves the atmosphere at work. Keep up the good work"*

*"... and afternoon events were excellent, probably helped by groups being mixed to encourage interaction – more of this!"*

*"We had a great afternoon – thanks for the organising team. Most of us (if not all) enjoyed the activities"*