Dear Colleague

I am writing this from Hyderabad, where I am attending the World Stroke Congress and about to present further analyses from our recently completed ENCHANTED trial, as well as reviewing the progress of the on-going STAY ENCHANTED (ENCHANTED-2) trial with my fellow co-investigators, and planning PLAY ENCHANTED (ENCHANTED-3). You will see that I have learnt from Tim Coats, that if you have a good trial name then stick with it, though I prefer ENCHANTED to CRASH!!

Sporting Achievements
Many congratulations to the ‘Glenfield Gallopers and Canterers’ Full and Half Marathon Relay Teams on their successes in the recent Leicester events. I am told that the Full Marathon Team earned a ‘Top 10’ finish, and made the Leicester Mercury! Hopefully, next year the ‘Royal Racers’ will add some healthy CVS competition to this event; the lack of a Royal team was down to me this year and not due to any lack of enthusiasm at RKCSB! I was still recovering from my Cardiff experience – a trip on a speed bump at 10.5 miles, with my fellow competitors then thinking that I was part of the speed bump to run over or on! Anyway, discussing sporting excellence….

All-Staff and Student Meeting
Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at Stamford Court with an afternoon of activity organised by the Social Committee following our morning meeting. If you have any suggestions for either part of the Away Day then please let Glenn Rodrigo, as Chair of the Working Lives Group, and Tracy Kumar, as Chair of the Social Committee, know for the morning and afternoon event, respectively. It was excellent to see so many people at last month’s All-Staff and Student meeting, so I hope that the agenda items were about what people wanted to know, but please tell me if there are other things that you think should be covered. For those who didn’t attend, then a reminder of two important dates:
Friday 9th December 2016: Paul Boyle, President and Vice-Chancellor, will be visiting the Department.
Thursday 15th December 2016: Simon Denegri will be giving the 2016 Very Reverend Derek Hole Lecture. As colleagues know, this is one of the two named Departmental annual lectures, and to facilitate attendance I am very happy for staff to make their way directly to the Centre for Medicine from home that morning. In addition, the Lecture will be followed by the Departmental Christmas Event. Tracy and her colleagues on the Social Committee have sourced a University venue that will enable us all to celebrate another successful year for the Department together, prior to the countdown to the University Christmas vacation!

PDDs
One of my jobs as HoD is to undertake PDDs, but importantly to be able to read all the PDDs. For those of you yet to have their PDD, please do your very best to complete these by 31st December 2016, though I appreciate that some clinical colleagues are not required to complete these until 31st March 2017. So far, I have been impressed and inspired by all the PDDs that I have read. I am aware of the current uncertainties with the on-going transformation agenda and the forthcoming outputs due from the ‘Think Tanks’ in response to the College External Review. However, it is very clear that there is a real commitment to the University and Department from all staff, so thank you very much. Next month, I will update you on the transformation and external review discussions from University Executive Board and College Leadership Team.

Annual Leave
And finally, back to Hyderabad. I am staying on in India for a period of annual leave so please forgive me if I do not respond to e-mails immediately. We all need time to relax and refresh, so as we approach the end of another leave year, I do hope that you have taken your annual leave entitlement and/ or have plans to use your remaining leave days!

Very best wishes
Tom
A Warm Welcome…

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

Dr Amar Mistry and Prof Roberto Pedrosa (Hon) with Prof André Ng. Miss Sophie Warner with Prof Nilesh Samani. Tsvetely (Ely) Angelova (NHS) with Dr Martin Batty and Caroline Maslen (NHS), Mona Mohamed (NHS), Elizabeth Wadey (NHS) and Hema Patel with Prof Matt Bown.

and to our new PhD students:
Sarina Hussain with Prof Coats at LRI
Karen Appiah with Prof Robinson at RKCSB
Simona Esposito and Aayushi Panchal with Prof Suzuki at GGH
Frederik Gibson with Dr Codd and Svetlana Stoma with Dr Nelson at CVRC.

Research News

Genetics study to improve prediction of heart disease recruits 20,000th participant

**GENVASC study aims to improve risk prediction of Coronary Artery Disease**

A team of researchers from our University and NIHR Leicester Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit (LCB RU) in conjunction with colleagues from Primary Care and Leicester and Leicestershire CCGs have recruited their 20,000th participant to a landmark genetics study. **The Genetics and Vascular Health Check study (GENVASC)** aims to determine whether the addition of genetic information can better improve risk prediction of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) and whether it is possible to identify those with spurious low risk through the addition of genetic information. Chris Greengrass, Project Manager of the study, explains: “The GENVASC study capitalises on the unique opportunity provided by the NHS Health Check Programme, which is being widely promoted within Leicester and Leicestershire and specifically targets people aged 40-74 years who are free of cardiovascular disease.

Grants Awarded

**Professor M Bown**

Female aneurysm screening study (FAST) – Ultrasound scanners
£38,000 NHS England via UHL NHS Trust

**Dr E Chung**

Diagnosis and monitoring of brain injury using Doppler ultrasound
£9,743 Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

**Professor T Suzuki**

Supplement – Collaboration on cardiovascular translational research (with focus on inflammatory biomarkers)
£59,000 Jichi Medical University

Working Lives Group

The Working Lives Group would like to thank all those that have commented on the website or to individual members of the group. Please get in touch if you have any discussion items via the website. Our next meeting is on 16th November and afterwards we will be launching the ‘Lunch with…?’ series as ‘Lunch with the WLG’ – it will take place in the Café Cardiologique from 12.00pm, don’t forget to bring your lunch!

We would also like to welcome Hash Patel, Gavin Morris and Anna-Marie Marsh as the newest members of the group. If anyone else is interested in joining us and improving the Department’s work/life balance, it’s not too late - please forward the application form to Tina by 15th November.

Finance News

**Smarter Purchasing**

Good news! Some improvements are being rolled out to the smarter purchasing system over the next few months. These include:
1. Up to 97 characters for attachments so you can create meaningful file names.
2. Improved search engine on the catalogue.
3. System generated emails when your shopping basket is returned to you.

Further updates will follow in due course.
Outreach
Become a STEM Ambassador

STEM Ambassadors use their enthusiasm and commitment to encourage young people to enjoy STEM subjects by actively engaging with pupils and supporting teachers in the classroom. They get involved in a wide variety of activities, ranging from giving careers talks to delivering practical STEM demonstrations. They contribute to their local community and at the same time boost their own professional skills, experience and confidence. You only need to commit to a minimum of one activity a year.

In October we gave a talk at Shaftesbury Junior School to Year 6 students to expand their knowledge of the heart. Students also took part in interactive sessions, which were thoroughly enjoyed by the students and us!

If you are interested in becoming a STEM Ambassador please contact any member of the Outreach Working Group; Meeta Patel, Jodie Sandhu, Matthew Denniff, Gina Barnett, Sukhvir Rai, Angatu Yousuf and Meetal Solanki or email skd17@le.ac.uk

Thank you from Simon Cowell

To all Glenfield CVS staff,
Thank you so much for all your help and support over the past year. I finished with a 1st Class BSc and really couldn’t have done it without you. I have learnt a great deal, however, what I truly gained is an insight into how a successful team works…. The team at Glenfield is so wonderful and helpful I have never felt like that - and for that - I thank you most of all.
All the best
Simon Cowell (BSc student 2015-16)

Special thanks to:
All of Karl’s group, Martha and Julie, Prof Goodall’s group, Malcolm, Helen and all those that helped me throughout my BSc, I really appreciate it.

Congratulations!
Postgraduate News

Razif Abas and Meetal Solanki
Won the Biotechnology Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (Biotechnology YES) regional heat (as part of a team) and will be competing at the national final in London in December.

Zhia Lim (supervised by Professor Andre Ng) Won best poster prize in the Cardiovascular and Neurosciences category at the National Student Intercalated Conference 2016.

Richard Mbasu has successfully formed and registered the University of Leicester Postgraduate Research Society and become President. Aims to promote PGR events and improve on the PGR social and academic lives.

Ben Richards has been appointed as Vice President of the University of Leicester Postgraduate Research Society.

Bradley Toghill has been selected to give an oral presentation on "Global and gene specific DNA methylation is associated with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms" at the International Meeting of Aortic Diseases (IMAD) in Leige, Belgium.

Richie Mbasu and Liam Heaney gave presentations at this years’ British Mass Spectrometry Society Annual Meeting in September in Eastbourne. Liam’s presentation was “Exploring the gut microbiome with mass spectrometry” and discussed research that led to our invite to take part on The Truth About Meat on BBC 1 and Richard gave a talk called “Novel targeted strategies for heart failure biomarkers” that included work from his PhD thesis, which was submitted on 30th September 2016.
**Cardiovascular Sciences**

**Seminars**

**Tuesday 8th November 2016: 13:00-14:00**

**Gender Equality Seminar - Manning Up**

Venue: Frank & Katherine May Lecture Theatre, Henry Wellcome (followed by refreshments in the foyer)

Speaker: Professor Iain Gillespie VS Professor Alison Goodall

Title: ‘Manning Up: Do women have to change in order to be successful in academia?’

**Friday 11th November 2016: 13:00 – 14:00**

**Department of Cardiovascular Science Seminar**

Venue: Clinical Sciences Wing Lecture Theatre, Glenfield Hospital

Speaker: Dr Sonya Babu-Narayan, Imperial College London

Title: ‘Fibrosis detected by cardiovascular magnetic resonance and arrhythmia in adult congenital heart disease’

**Tuesday 29th November 2016: 12:30 – 13:30**

**Early Careers Research Development Group**

Venue: MSB, G24

Attention: Postgraduate students, Post-Doctoral Staff & Early Career Researchers

Prof Philip Baker: College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology

Making the most of your Early Research Career at the University of Leicester

Coffee & cake supplied, BYO lunch

**Thursday 15th December 2016: 11:00 – 12:00**

**Cardiovascular Sciences – The 2016 Very Reverend Derek Hole Lecture**

Venue: LT1, Centre for Medicine

Speaker: Mr Simon Denegri, NIHR National Director for Patients and the Public and Chair, INVOLVE

Title: “Benefits, Challenges and Future Direction of Patient Involvement and Engagement in Research”

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**Marathon and Half-Marathon relay teams**

Teams from CVS took part in the recent Leicester Marathon and Half-Marathon Relays, in support of LOROS. The Glenfield Canterers (Tracy Kumar, Pott Pongpaopattanakul, Liam Heaney and Radek Debiec) completed the half-marathon in 2 hours 10 minutes 21 seconds, and the Glenfield Gallopers (Manolo Papakonstantinou, Veryan Codd, Aisling McMahon and Eleanor Jackson) completed the full marathon in 4 hours 34 minutes 23 seconds. We’re planning to join one of the Santa Runs in December, if you would like to join us, contact Eleanor Jackson.

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**CVS Social Committee**

**Bake Sale and Raffle**

Our Macmillan Bake Sale & Raffle raised £331.18

Winner of the bake off at GGH was Jackie Howarth with the close runner up being Glenn’s daughter.

Raffle winners included; Gavin Whyman nabbing the top prize of Leicester Tigers tickets, Harry Rostron taking the Bistro Live table, Ashleigh Munyard winner of the photoshoot, Glenn Rodrigo, Janet Harris, Dawn Smallwood, Sarah Greatrex, Kim Mason, Vicky Allsop, Helen Rosendale, Manish Asiani, Nik Oldham, Prof Rob Hirst and Matt Deniff amongst others from Cancer Studies at the RKCSB.

Big thanks to the local businesses and colleagues who donated to the raffle - Leicester Tigers, Bistro Live Leicester, Alexandra Johnson Photography, Carrot Top Gifts, Beautique Retreat, Candle Love by Suzanne, Handmade with Love by Fern, Forever Living Products with Sarah, Beauty by Amy-Louise, Janet Harris and Sarah Greatrex.

Massive thanks again to everyone who baked, faked and munched their way to raising this incredible amount!

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**First Friday Social**

It’s that time of the month again! The next First Friday will be 4th November, but this time we will be gracing the BrewDog with our presence.