Dear Colleague

At some stage over this summer, I hope that you have all had the opportunity to relax with family and friends, and to recharge your batteries for the new academic year ahead. As stated in my e-mail in August, I promised to update you with proposed changes in the Departmental Leadership Team and other items related to the Department at the beginning of September.

**Departmental Leadership Team** - The new DLT will be the key decision-making committee of the Department; meeting on the second Monday of every month, with minutes published on the Departmental website. The DLT will have overarching responsibility for the delivery of the Department’s mission by setting and reviewing progress against the Department’s 5-year strategy. Its membership will be derived and reports received from the key committees and professional groups of the Department, as follows: Head of Department; Departmental (Eleanor Jackson) and Deputy (Jan Harris) Departmental Managers; Chairs of the Academic (Iain Squire) and Research (Andre Ng) Committees, the Working Lives Group (TBC) and the Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team (Tim Coats); Chief Technician (Tim Barnes); Gender Equality Lead (Glenn Rodrigo); Laboratory/Translational Professorial (Nick Brindle/ Dave Lambert/ Shu Ye), ECR (Veryan Codd) and PGR Student (TBC) representatives. In addition, from October, there will be the opportunity for up to 2 members of the Department to ‘observe’ these meetings.

**Communication** - As we all know, communication is vitally important, and the Department will continue to have a multi-faceted approach:

(a) Monthly newsletter with updates on staff and student news, research news, recent successes, social activities.

(b) Within one month of starting, I am already conscious how many University, College and Department-wide e-mails that I get! Unless these e-mails are urgent, I will collate these into a short Weekly e-mail newsletter, highlighting the staff groups that should read, any relevant time-lines and links to the relevant information. I hope that this will reduce some of your e-mail traffic!

(c) There will continue to be face-to-face meetings for Academic staff bimonthly, All-Staff and Students twice-yearly and an annual Away Day.

(d) Finally, I am keen for anyone with a ‘good idea’ or a ‘moan’ (but preferably with a solution) to feel able to come and see me. Therefore, on most Friday afternoons, there will be the HoD-OD (Head of Department Open Door) with access booked through Denise.

**HoD Timetable** - I am conscious that our Department operates on three sites, and therefore I will try to divide myself between the Glenfield (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and the Robert Kilpatrick Clinical Sciences Building (Tuesday and Thursday), where my clinical timetable allows me. If you need to contact me then Denise will know where I am!

**University’s Strategic and Transformation Agenda** - Finally, you will all be aware of the on-going discussions within the wider University and College in respect of the strategic and transformation agendas. These have not gone away, and as more information becomes available then I will let everyone know through the most appropriate forum.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all, and to sharing continuing successes in teaching and research over the coming months.

Very best wishes

Tom
Leicester alumnus embarks on 8,500 mile trip to raise funds for medical condition.

From ‘Peking to Paris’ for SCAD research. Paul Rivlin, a supporter of our University, is embarking on the five week Endurance Rally Association Challenge, driving a 1935 Alvis Silver Eagle from Peking to Paris to raise money towards Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection (SCAD) research at the University.

Study to help find ways to prevent kidney damage

Vascular surgery patients needed for kidney damage study. Leicestershire people set to undergo keyhole vascular surgery are being recruited for a new study to help find ways to prevent kidney damage which can sometimes occur afterwards.

Medical research paper gains over 1,000 citations

Tim Coats, Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University, led research which discovered injury-associated bleeding condition in 2003. A key medical research paper published in 2003 led by Tim Coats MD FRCS FFAEM, Professor of Emergency Medicine in the Emergency Medicine Academic Group and Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the University, has received more than 1,000 citations.

UK first heart operations using novel system at Leicester

UK first heart operations using novel system at Leicester. Professor André Ng deploys new system to target critical circuits for heart rhythm disturbance.

Congratulations!

Merit Awards

Five members of staff were awarded Merit Awards by the University this year, Charlotte Beynon and Elisavet Karamanavi for their additional responsibilities during Emma Stringer’s maternity leave, Eleanor Jackson for her contribution to our Athena SWAN silver submission, Shireen Kharodia for her contribution to the development and organisation of the Bioresource and Chris Nelson for his development of the departmental statistical team.

Student Higher Degree awards

Since the last newsletter, Lisa Manning has been awarded her MD and Ashley Ambrose, Jamal Khan, Charlotte Poile and Abisola Sanusi have received their PhD awards. Many congratulations to our new Graduates.

Postgraduate News

David Sidloff won the College Lauder Prize for best MD Degree candidate. Jul 2016

Richard Mbasu has been awarded a travel grant of £300 by the Biochemical Society to attend the American Mass Spectrometry Society (ASMS) 64th Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas in June. Jul 2016

Laki Liyanage was part of the winning team for ‘Best Overall Application’ at the NIHR Summer Training Camp, held at Ashridge on 6-8th July 2016

Richard Mbasu won the University of Leicester Student Award 2016 prize for Course representative of the year. Jul 2016

Dimitra Aravani won the runner up award for the Young Investigator competition at the British Cardiovascular Society annual conference. Jul 2016

Festival of Postgraduate Research

From 45 submissions, whittled down to 18, brought the CVS 3 prizes out of the top 5. Winners and runners up:

3 minute thesis – Runner up A Ekpenyong-Akiba (MCB) and Winner S Kurmani (CVS)
PhDepictions – Runner up R George (Psychology)
Media Prize – R Chauhan (CVS)
Peer review prize – T Chalk (HS)
College prize – R Chauhan again (CVS)

Finance News

Thank you for your continued support in assisting with the streamlining of the year end procedures and your patience during our busiest time of the year.

A new baby

Mary Harrison has had a baby girl – Chloë, 12lb.
Grants Awarded

**Prof Matt Bown, Mr Thanos Saratzis and Prof Martin Tobin**

*FAST: Female aneurysm screening study*

£53,558 NIHR via UHL NHS Trust

**Prof Tony Gershlick and Prof S Egginton (Leeds)**

*A project assessing the in-vivo properties of stent-eluting prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor FG-2216 on angiogenesis*

£6,589 British Heart Foundation (Supplement)

**Dr Gaurav Gulsin**

*Prevalence and determinants of subclinical cardiovascular dysfunction in adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus*

£275,156 British Heart Foundation

**Prof David Lambert**

*Equipment grant: Luminescence equipment for anaesthesia pain research*

£24,805 National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia

**Prof Tom Robinson**

*Senior Investigator Award*

£45,000 NIHR

**Prof Tom Robinson**

*Stroke National Speciality Lead*

£46,490 NIHR

**Prof Toru Suzuki**

*Collaboration with Jichi Medical University*

£50,000 Jichi Medical University

Working Lives Group

The WLG would like to say thank you to all the favourable comments regarding their newsletter. The Away Day comments are being discussed over several meetings and updates to comments and questions are available on the [website](#) under the Frequently Asked Questions section.

Postgraduate Representatives:

**Meetal Solanki – Departmental Rep**

I am a PGR representative for the public engagement committee. I try to advertise the kind of research we do to a wider audience whether they are prospective students or adults who are interested in learning.

**Richard Mbasu – College Rep**

I represent students from across the college at the college academic and postgraduate research committee meetings. I provide feedback, both positive and negative, on the student learning experience at the committee meetings. I ensure that the student voice is heard and responded to and provide feedback to the student body on the changes made in response to the comments raised. In a nutshell, I am the spokesperson for the student body in the College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology (CMBP).

CVS Social Committee

The competition was so fierce for the “caption competition” that it was decided that there would be 2 winners – Glenn and Ashley and two runners up – Matt and Tina. Prizes will be awarded to all four of the lucky winners shortly.

‘The new virtual reality PowerPoint headsets were having mixed results!’

‘The men in whitecoats are here for you now.’

‘Sameer’s audition to be a member of an S-Club 7 cover band was off to a good start’

‘Where in the rules does it say levitation is cheating?’