



Working Lives Group Newsletter

Issue 1

Welcome from the Chair – Prof Tom Robinson



This is the first issue of the WLG Newsletter, we hope to keep you informed about all the activities of the WLG and what we can and are doing for you. This first issue will be an introduction to the members, our terms of reference, what we've achieved so far and a vote and a competition. There is also a brief paragraph from the Social Committee and the Athena SWAN Chair: Tim Coats.

Away Day Feedback

Thanks to everyone for all your comments and suggestions – we had 5 pages of them! Obviously, this is going to take a while to sort through. However, we will be discussing them all over the next few WLG meetings and we'll do our best to resolve some of the issues you have raised. We will bring you regular updates in our newsletters and of course, on our website.

How to Apply

The Departmental Working Lives Group seeks interest from new members annually. However, we do restrict the numbers to a maximum of 20, whilst maintaining a balance of gender, staff group and seniority of position/tenure. Accordingly, we will be seeking self-nomination using the [membership template](#) to be submitted to Tina (as secretary of the Working Lives Group) by 31st July 2016. This will allow nominations to be reviewed by the group for our August meeting with a view to new members joining for our October meeting.

If anyone wishes to know what is involved before submitting an application, contact one of the members above who would be more than happy to have an informal conversation.

Terms of Reference

We have been asked to provide our [Terms of Reference](#). In answering this question, we realise that these have not been re-visited since the formation of the Group following the Bronze AS Award. Our remit has now clearly changed, so thank you for asking to see our Terms of Reference as we now need to review them!

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Have your Vote - The new “fun” face of the Department

Three photographs have been shortlisted to go on the first page of the Cardiovascular Sciences website but which one is your favourite? The photos are below but you'll need to go to the [WLG Website to vote](#).



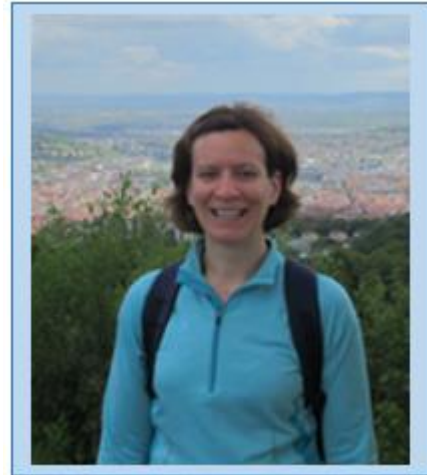


Members of the Working Lives Group



Tom Robinson

Based at: LRI, RKCSB
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group (Chair)
 Dept Executive Committee (Deputy Head)
 Dept Research Committee (Chair)
 College Research Committee
 College MD Board of Studies (Chair)
 Hobbies: Running in an attempt to reduce my half marathon time to less than 1h 40m!



Eleanor Jackson

Based at: GGH, CVRC
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group
 Dept Executive Committee
 Dept Athena Swan Self-Assessment Team
 College Equalities Committee

Hobbies: I love walking, travelling and skiing – if only there were snowy mountains in the Midlands!



Dave Lambert

Based at: LRI, RKCSB
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Academic Committee
 College - Director PGR
 Plus more cttess than you would like to know about
 Interesting Fact: I failed O-level maths (=GCSE) three times !
 Hobbies: Aviation – I hold glider pilot licence with basic aerobatic rating and also basic power licence.



Tim Coats

Based at: LRI, Emergency Department
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group
 Dept Athena SWAN (Chair)
 Interesting Fact: Secretly wishes that he had been an archaeologist (Time Team addict).
 Hobbies: Creating a nature reserve of wildflower meadows and woodland, see <https://woodlandandwildflower.blogspot.com> for the details..



Emma Stringer

Based at: GGH, CVRC

Committee Memberships:

Dept Working Lives Group

Dept Research Committee

Dept Athena Swan Self-Assessment Team

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Central Research Facility Management Team

Interesting Fact: Close friends and family call me 'Spam', a nickname I earned 20 years ago and it's stuck!

Hobbies: I have two small children so have no concept of what a hobby might be, but I do enjoy 'a' glass of wine.....



Glenn Rodrigo

Based at: GGH, CSW

Committee Memberships:

Dept Working Lives Group

Dept Athena Swan SAT (Gender Equality Lead)

Dept Intercolated BSc Committee

CRF management board (CVS representative)

College imaging committee (CVS representative)

College Gender Equality Committee (CVS GEL)

Interesting Fact: Did my BSc and PhD at Leicester prior to becoming an itinerant travelling academic, including 7 years in New Zealand.

Hobbies: Newly acquired granddaughter (cutie) and Labrador retriever (crazy). Newly found Italy "cheers"



John McDonald

Based at: LRI, RKCSB

Committee Membership:

Dept Working Lives Group (Member)

College Sub-Committee for Research Ethics

Interesting Fact: I have a Lightsaber in my office

Hobbies: I enjoy running and like jumping on the bed with my daughter



Sonja Khemiri

Based at: LRI, RKCSB

(Working hours Tuesday to Friday 9.30-2pm)

Committee Memberships:

Dept Working Lives Group (Member)

Interesting Fact: Converted to Islam when I was 33.

Hobbies: Love gardening, reading, travelling and spending loads of fun time with my kids.



Gina Barnett

Based at: GGH, CSW
 (Part time – not in on Thur & Fri pm)
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group
 Dept Social Committee
 Interesting Fact: I learnt to cycle (first bike at the age of 39!) One of the best things I've done.
 Hobbies: I enjoy pottering round my garden, playing board games, going to Lindy Hop swing dance lessons and I have a very large 'dressing up' box of costumes which gets used quite regularly!



Carole Patrick

Based at: LRI, RKCSB
 (Working hours: Tue – Fri)
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group (Member)
 Interesting fact: I have enjoyed getting to know colleagues socially over lunch time in our new RKB coffee/meeting room.
 Hobbies: I enjoy listening to music, reading, yoga but most of all the long walks with Molly the Collie (our 2 year old Boarder Collie).



Sue Lewin

Based at: LRI, RKCSB
 (Working hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs Fri)
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group (Annual Staff Survey)
 Interesting Fact: Carole and I were spotted on the TV in Australia whilst playing in the samba band leading the UoL conga supporting the Blues!
 Hobbies: I enjoy cycling, playing tennis and walking with friends. We are currently walking the Leicestershire Round – only another 50+ miles to go



Tina Godfrey

Based at GGH, CVRC (LRI, RKCSB on Wednesdays)
 Committee Memberships:
 Dept Working Lives Group (Secretary)
 Interesting Fact: love camping – go away most weekends to our caravan in Bedfordshire (current singles table tennis champion for 3 years in a row and miniten singles champion (runner up was 73!))
 Hobbies: Reading (my Kindle is my best friend!), miniten, petanque, finska and computer games - highly addicted to Settlers and 2048!



Laki Liyanage

Based at: LRI, RKCSB

Committee Membership:

Dept Working Lives Group

Interesting Fact: I always have a variety of snacks at my desk, though I probably shouldn't advertise it too much...

Hobbies: Aforementioned snacking, listening to too much music, dance, and other non-science hobbies.



Richard Mbasu

Based at: CVS

Committee Memberships:

Dept Working Lives Group

Postgraduate Research College representative

Postgraduate Research Society (President)

College academic committee

Research degrees committee

Personal tutor project (Member)

Student Lifecycle change programme (Member)

Cardiovascular sciences social committee (Member)

Interesting Fact: In 2014, I sat on a table with the former president of Ghana, H.E John Kufuor and former president of Botswana H.E Quett Masire and had a chat about leadership

Hobbies: Travelling, football, rugby, socialising



Sadaf Afreen

Based at: GGH, CSW

Committee Memberships:

Dept Working Lives Group

Interesting Fact: I have lost 14 kg of weight over a period of 1 year time.

Hobbies: I enjoy my cooking and trying out new recipes . I love swimming and running.



More members wanted – could this be you?
Click on the link above to apply



What have we done so far?

We have examined a number of issues on your behalf since the WLG commenced in 2013, which has resulted in a significant impact on the working lives culture of the department.

These include, but are not limited to: the dignity at work statement; improving departmental communications; opportunities for voting (e.g. refurbishment of the coffee area in the RKCSB); introduction of video conferencing facilities for cross-site meetings; improving the induction process and offering a buddy system; important meetings being held within core hours and start/finish times adjusted to correspond with the hopper timetable; the investigation and identification of available breast feeding facilities across sites; the opportunity for leavers to talk about their experiences within the department by means of an exit interview; the introduction of annual surveys and All Staff Away Days and the opportunity for

PIs to undertake management training in the form of Performance Management for Academic Leaders.

The WLG has a dedicated website containing information for staff and students with quick links to key information and FAQs. It also offers the ongoing opportunity for anonymous comments and suggestions to be [posted](#) to the WLG for consideration at subsequent meetings.



Caption Competition



The Social Committee is also launching a caption competition. Four photos are available from the recent Away Day for your intelligent and/or witty (not rude!) captions. Visit our [caption competition webpage](#) (login required), there's a prize for the best caption on each of the four photos.

Associated Groups

Social Committee

The Social Committee was instigated by the WLG in response to staff and student requests for more organised social events in 2015. Our objective is to bring the department together through organised activities both on and off site and generally have lots of fun!!

Thus far we have organised the Christmas lunch in aid of Professor Samani's knighthood, pizza lunchtime quiz extravaganza, bowling, the big breakfast and the away day afternoon.

We aim to organise an activity every 2 months, any suggestions are most welcome!

Our current members are: Manish Asiani, Saseela Atwal, Lindsey Ball, Gina Barnett, Sarah Greatrex, Richie Mbasu, Manolo Papakonstantinou, Hash Patel, Shilpi Sheth, Meetal Solanki and myself. We would however like several more people to join. Both students and staff are most welcome, especially from the LRI as we currently only have Sarah based there.

So if you enjoy organising events and having a good time, and you would like to do something for the department, please contact Tracy Kumar.

Athena SWAN

The Athena SWAN self-assessment team guide the Department's activity and is aimed at improving the career progression of women in both academic and administrative career pathways. Activity was initially focussed on women in academic careers, and our efforts resulted in a Silver Athena SWAN award in 2015. The Athena SWAN system has since broadened the scope of its activity to cover all staff groups, and is now hard at work monitoring and helping the various Departmental Committees with the implementation of our Athena SWAN Action Plan. We also work closely with Glenn Rodrigo who is the CVS Gender Equality Lead.

Our current members are: Matt Bown, Pete Braund, Tim Coats, Veryan Codd, Matt Denniff, Eleanor Jackson, David Lodwick, Kim Mason, Aisling McMahon, Meeta Patel, Suki Rai, Glenn Rodrigo, Nilesh Samani, Jodie Sandhu and Emma Stringer.