

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from MAHSC”

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The University of Manchester

MAHSC News

NHS

Updates from Manchester Academic Health Science Centre

December 2011



Manchester team picks up Cancer Research UK prize

A team of researchers from Manchester has been awarded the 2011 Cancer Research UK Prize for Translational Cancer Research at the NCRI Cancer Conference in Liverpool. The prize recognises the work of researchers at the Cancer Research UK Paterson Institute, The University of Manchester, Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and AstraZeneca, who together have contributed to transforming the field of biomarker research and early clinical trials.

The team, led by Professor Caroline Dive and comprising Professor Malcolm Ransom, Dr Fiona Blackhall and Professor Andrew Hughes, have had many successes in using biomarkers – substances that can be measured to determine several factors such as how well a patient is responding to a treatment – to enhance clinical trials.

Their biomarker portfolio has been used in over 70 clinical trials since 2004.

Director's Diary



As we near the holiday period, it is a good time to reflect on the progress in collaborative working across the MAHSC partnership achieved in 2011. The focus of MAHSC has shifted from an emphasis primarily on research, to a concerted effort to link research, education and clinical excellence, so as to improve the health of our population. The most recent MAHSC Board meeting approved steps to ensure that MAHSC initiatives can be effectively implemented through the structure of each of the partners. The Board also agreed a series of projects which link academia with the NHS for clinical impact, including development of **MIMIT (Manchester Integrating Medicine and Innovative Technology)**, the **Manchester M-Health Ecosystem**, **NW E-Health**, the **Manchester Genetics Hub**, and plans to role out **Flexi-sigmoidoscopy screening**. Other important examples of initiatives, which reflect the ethos and objectives of MAHSC, are the work of the **NIHR Greater Manchester CLAHRC**, recognised nationally for the Greater Manchester Stroke Assessment Tool (see the article in this newsletter) and the **NIHR Greater Manchester CLRN**, which is consistently amongst the top performing CLRNs in the country. In September, a MAHSC Global Health theme was launched and I am delighted that there have been a number of exciting developments in this area, two of which are featured in this newsletter.

Importantly the Board approved my proposal to appoint a **Clinical Director for MAHSC**, in order to ensure that we achieve the full potential of our partnership to deliver health care benefit. The post was advertised in November and I am delighted to let you know that **Professor Alistair Burns** was appointed to the role this week. Alistair has played an important role in Manchester for many years through his clinical and academic contributions in the area of mental health, as Professor of Old Age Psychiatry and Consultant Psychiatrist in the Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust as well as Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences. He also holds a key role as **National Clinical Director for Dementia** and this experience of working with the Department of Health will be of great value to MAHSC. I am looking forward to working with Alistair on our exciting plans for MAHSC in 2012.

As you will have read in last month's newsletter the Faculty of Medical and Human Science has restructured and six new Faculty Institutes will be established in 2012, which align with the MAHSC clinical sections. This should facilitate interactions across the University and NHS as well as making our structure a little easier to understand. So, we will start off in 2012 with new Faculty structures, refined arrangements for MAHSC management and a new Clinical Director to assist our COO Linda Magee and myself in delivering MAHSC's tripartite mission of innovation in research, high quality education/training and excellence in service development.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing holiday break, and a successful and fulfilling New Year!

Ian Jacobs, MAHSC Director

Breaking News

Pharmacy education centre awarded new NHS contract

A new contract between the NHS and the University of Manchester has secured the future of the **Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE)**. NHS North West, on behalf of the NHS as a whole, signed up to the contract with the University, safeguarding the organisation's future funding through the Multi-professional Education and Training levy: part of the Department of Health's investment in education and training. Based at The University of Manchester, CPPE offers continuing professional development opportunities for pharmacists/pharmacy technicians providing NHS services in England. The organisation was described as a 'centre of excellence' in 2008 following a review led by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Keith Ridge, and the completion of an independent evaluation carried out by the University of Birmingham. The review recommended greater involvement of the NHS in the operation of the Centre to reflect the role, remit and funding of CPPE as part of the NHS investment in the healthcare workforce.

New guidance for long-term management of self-harm

NICE has published a new clinical guideline on the long-term care of adults, children and young people who self-harm. The guideline development group was chaired by **Professor Navneet Kapur of The University of Manchester's Centre for Suicide Prevention**. This follows NICE clinical guideline 16 on the short-term physical & psychological management and secondary prevention of self-harm in primary and secondary care. Professor Kapur, Professor of Psychiatry & Population Health in the University's School of Community-Based Medicine, said: "People may keep self-harm a secret, which makes it difficult to know how widespread it is. Many cases go unreported unless medical treatment is required. However, it is thought to be common, especially amongst young people, with one UK study finding that 10% of girls aged 15-16 had self-harmed in the previous year. This is a big step in improving health professionals' understanding of self-harm, and will help to ensure people receive the treatment & support they need." The guidance is available at www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG133.

Manchester ECMC Participates in CR-UK Stratified Medicine Programme

Patients from Manchester are among the first to take part in a pioneering initiative to demonstrate how genetic tests could be used to help match cancer patients to the most appropriate treatment, while building a database of information for research into new targeted therapies. Cancer Research UK's Stratified Medicine Programme ultimately aims to establish a world-class NHS genetic testing service for cancer patients. This will mean that when new targeted treatments become available, doctors will have access to the tests they need to work out which drugs are best for their patients. Medical staff from six of **Cancer Research UK's Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMC) including Manchester** will ask up to 9,000 patients to participate in the first phase of the Programme. It will cover six different tumour types - breast, bowel, lung, prostate, ovary and melanoma skin cancer - with Manchester ECMC focusing on lung cancer. Patients will be recruited from over 20 hospitals including The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust.

Renal Team innovation in home haemodialysis recognised by the Department of Health

The **renal team at Manchester Royal Infirmary** has had their innovative work into the redesign of dialysis provision, enabling patients to choose home haemodialysis, recognised in the Innovation Health and Wealth, Accelerating Adoption and Diffusion in the NHS report published by the Department of Health. The report sets out an integrated set of measures that together will support the adoption and diffusion of innovation across the NHS and sets a delivery agenda that will significantly ramp up the pace and scale of change and innovation. The report is online at www.dh.gov.uk.

Breaking News

Manchester United Star Enjoys Paterson Institute Tour

Manchester United and England midfielder Ashley Young swapped his team strip for a lab coat when he enjoyed a visit to the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research thanks to Cancer Research UK's relationship with the England Footballers Foundation.

Cancer Research UK has been chosen as an official charity partner of the Foundation for the next four years. Ashley met Cancer Research UK's Chief Scientist, Professor Nic Jones, before a tour of the labs.

The 26-year-old winger said: "Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer. Visiting the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research has been a privilege. I hadn't realised that such amazing research work saving so many lives is taking place here in Manchester, right on my doorstep."



National recognition for GM CLAHRC work

The work of Greater Manchester CLAHRC has been recognised nationally in the National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) annual report. **The Greater Manchester Stroke Assessment Tool (GM-SAT)** was one of only two CLAHRC initiatives to be highlighted. Professor Bonnie Sibbald, Director of the GM CLAHRC and MAHSC Sector Lead for Population Health, said: "To be recognised nationally in this way is a great achievement for the project. We've seen how effective the tool can be locally in helping patients and their carers access the right care and support following a stroke. As well as being widely used in Greater Manchester, the tool has also been adopted outside of the region and we have been working with different primary care and community organisations to see how they can use GM-SAT. It's important that everyone who can benefit from this work does so."

GM-SAT is used by staff at the six month post-stroke review to identify and address long term, unmet needs of stroke survivors and their carers. The tool can be used to meet the requirements of the National Stroke Strategy and the Department of Health's Accelerating Stroke Improvement Programme. GM CLAHRC has also produced a version of the tool for stroke survivors who have aphasia, and their carers: the GM-SAT Easy Access Toolkit. This Toolkit provides a wide array of resources, to support an effective conversation with someone who has difficulty using and understanding language after their stroke. Both the GM-SAT and the GM-SAT Easy Access Toolkit are free to use and can be accessed from GM CLAHRC's website. The video is currently being hosted by Greater Manchester and Cheshire Cardiac and Stroke Network and is available to view here. The full NIHR annual report can be downloaded from the Department of Health publications website. Further information is available on NHS Improvement Reviews' online resource.

NIHR extend support for leading study in uncovering life-threatening infection in the critically ill

Last year, as part of an established MAHSC partnership between **Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences**, the NIHR provided funding for the first independent Health Technology Assessment of novel molecular tests for rapid near-patient screening/diagnosis of serious life-threatening infection in frontline medicine. Dr Geoff Warhurst (Consultant NHS Healthcare Research Scientist, Salford Royal R&D and Honorary Reader in FMHS) and Dr Paul Dark (Senior Lecturer in the School of Translational Medicine and Honorary NHS Consultant Intensivist in Salford) have been leading this study on behalf of NIHR-HTA. As part of this programme of work, the NIHR funded establishment of a repository of patient information, held alongside clinical samples, ready for future innovation opportunities within the refurbished near-patient Biomedical Facility in Salford Royal.

To date, this study has successfully recruited over 400 severely ill patients from NHS critical care services across all of the major MAHSC partners. NIHR have just announced, following peer-review, that they are now willing to extend the funding for a further 12 months to allow collection of 1000 patients by April 2013 - making this the world's largest independent study and sample repository in this field. The value of this funding now stands at just over £1.1 million to the MAHSC partners and will help develop further the emerging strengths and opportunities for this area of technology innovation built alongside population research in Manchester.

Drs Dark and Warhurst are currently engaged in forming partnerships with British Industry alongside recent developments in nano-technology, molecular biology and health economics, with the aim of refining these diagnostic approaches to provide cost-efficient solutions for the emerging global challenges of infection and inflammation in association with critical illness.

People & Places

Professor Ashley Woodcock is named President-elect of the British Thoracic Society



Professor Ashley Woodcock has been announced as the President Elect of the British Thoracic Society. A leading researcher and physician in respiratory diseases, he has a track record in environmental campaigning, and shared the Nobel Prize with Al Gore and others in 2007 for his work on CFCs and climate change. He is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the North West Lung Centre and the University of Manchester. He is also a Consultant Respiratory Physician at UHSM, where he is the Clinical Academic Lead. Earlier this year he was appointed as MAHSC's Academic Section Lead for Inflammation and Repair.

Professor Woodcock says he is delighted and honoured to be elected President of the BTS. "The country and our region particularly face huge health challenges. One in seven people in the UK are affected by lung and chest problems and tens of thousand die each year. I believe it is only by translating research and education into healthcare that we will truly benefit our patients – now and in the future. I look forward to taking up my appointment in 2012."

Salford's success at reducing diabetes is rewarded



Diabetes Care Call, based at Salford Royal, has been recognised for its work in helping people in the city to dramatically reduce their risk of developing diabetes. The Care Call programme was developed by Salford Diabetes team in conjunction with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The programme involved a six-month structured lifestyle education and motivational support service. The service was well-received by patients and clinicians alike. 52% of participants in the programme had glucose levels that reverted to normal at the end of six months, significantly reducing their risk of developing type 2 diabetes and 75% had lost over 5% of body weight on average, leading to positive health benefits.

Congratulations to the six new BRC fellows

As a result of the Manchester Biomedical Research Centre's Training Fellowship call earlier this year, the BRC has recently appointed six new research training fellows. Each fellow has been awarded one year of funding starting in October 2011. The Research Training Fellowships have been awarded to researchers in a number of different research areas including, endocrinology, paediatrics and maternal and foetal health.

More support for recruiting Mental Health Trust service users to studies

Andy Stobirski has recently started as a research Recruitment Facilitator. The role involves searching the Trust's AMIGOS clinical information system for patients that can be potentially recruited to National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) portfolio studies.

Andy previously worked at Salford Royal Trust, where for three years he worked as a Business Information Analyst for Renal Services. This role involved data extraction and analysis of data from the Hospital's PAS and EPR systems, development of reporting systems, data quality checking and general IT support for Renal staff. His background is in IT, specifically database and software development, web development, technical writing and technical support.

If you would like support in recruiting Trust service users for a study, email Andy at andy.stobirski@mhsc.nhs.uk.

New Editor for Journal

Congratulations to Professor Kieran Walshe (formerly MAHSC Sector Lead for Implementation & Health of the Public), who is taking over as editor of the journal 'Health Services Management Research' in January.

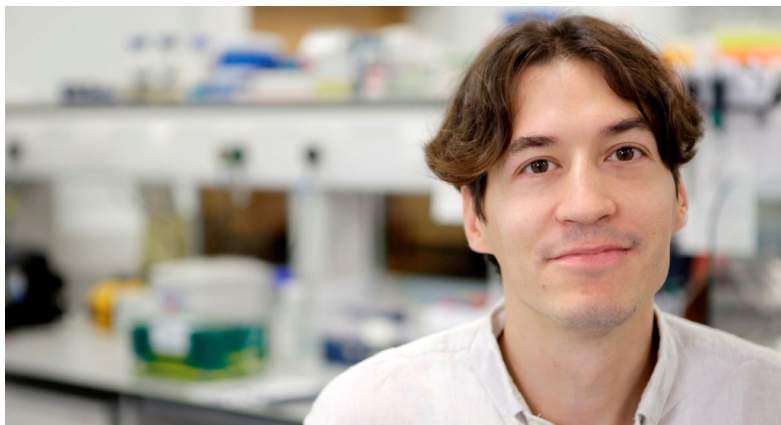
People & Places

Caroline Dive Elected to European Academy of Cancer Sciences



Professor Caroline Dive from the Paterson Institute has been elected a member of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences. The Academy is a virtual body, grouping together representatives with outstanding scientific and academic backgrounds from all cancer disciplines to provide knowledgeable and unbiased advice on matters of policy and priorities at the national, European and global levels.

Paterson Institute Researcher receives prestigious award



Dr Ivan Ahel from the Paterson Institute has been chosen as one of 22 EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization) Young European Scientists selected for excellence in research to join the 2011 Young Investigator Programme. EMBO is an organization of leading life scientist members that fosters new generations of researchers to produce world-class scientific results. With 164 applications in 2011, the EMBO Young Investigator Programme is highly sought after, for its prestige and for its comprehensive array of benefits, which include networking, training, mentorship by EMBO Members and funding. The programme targets young scientists within four years of establishing their first laboratories and aims to support their promising careers. Each Young Investigator receives €15,000 per year for three years as well as funding for conference attendance for themselves and their group members, practical training in laboratory management and access to core facilities at EMBL. The next application deadline is 1 April 2012. As with all applications for European funding, advice and guidance is available from the Faculty Research Office katy.boyle@manchester.ac.uk.

Global Health off to flying start

Mistaken Identity: New report highlights global impact of medical misdiagnosis

Over a million people worldwide who are diagnosed with TB go on to develop an incurable but manageable fungal infection (chronic pulmonary aspergillosis or CPA) which is left untreated because it is mistaken for a recurrence of the disease, British and Canadian researchers have discovered.

In a new report, the authors from Manchester and Toronto, say because the X-Ray features & symptoms are so similar doctors often misdiagnose and prescribe the wrong treatment which can lead to tens of thousands of lingering and unnecessary deaths. CPA invades the immune system but grows slowly so can lie undetected for years until symptoms like weight loss, tiredness, coughing and bleeding in the lungs start to develop. By then it is often too late to treat successfully, and 50 per cent of all patients who develop it are unlikely to survive for more than five years. Now, the report's authors are calling on the World Health Organisation and others to provide greater awareness and training, particularly for medics in Africa, India and China where misdiagnosis is 40 per cent more common than in Western countries. The team was led by **Professor David Denning, who is director of the National Aspergillosis Centre at the University Hospital of South Manchester**. He says the report highlights global variations in detection and survival - for example, only 17 per cent of referred CPA patients in Manchester had underlying TB compared with 93 per cent in Korea. MAHSC Director Ian Jacobs is backing the call for WHO and the leaders of countries in Asia and Africa to take action.

University announces Red Cross partnership to improve global health

The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** and **The University of Manchester** have announced plans to collaborate and provide a postgraduate teaching programme in the field of global health. The teaching and research partnership will be coordinated through the University's renowned **Humanitarian & Conflict Response Institute (HCRI)** and aims to provide affordable and world-class learning and training opportunities to students with an interest in global health issues. The partnership will also facilitate research collaborations between the HCRI, the IFRC's Learning and Knowledge Sharing Network and its 186 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world. Red Cross staff and volunteers are often on the frontline of health emergencies and in a valuable position to share their knowledge and experience with students. The teaching curriculum will cover issues such as emergency humanitarian assistance, water and sanitation, health needs in specific types of crises, health promotion and disease prevention, and disaster preparedness and mitigation, among others. Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, and Dr Mukesh Kapila, Under Secretary General, IFRC, officially launched the partnership by signing a Memorandum of Agreement.

Research

Spotlight on the Quality Team

The May edition of this newsletter featured an overview of the virtual **MAHSC Research Office** with the promise of more information as the Office evolves. You may recall that to ensure we meet corporate obligations and provide the best support possible to researchers, the MAHSC Research Office will operate at three levels: organisationally to ensure delivery of corporate responsibilities; locally to provide accessible support to researchers and; within two teams – a Quality Team whose remit is to ensure compliance and enhance quality, and a Commercial Team whose remit is to support Clinical Trials and to establish Manchester as a destination for pharmaceutical led studies.

The Quality Team builds on the excellent work of the MAHSC MHRA Readiness Committee, which was established by the MAHSC Research Operations Group to provide pan-MAHSC support to members in preparation for MHRA inspections. It has members from all of our members and GMCLRN, and is Chaired by Catherine Barrow (Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences) and Rachel Georgiou (Salford Royal Foundation Trust and ReGroup). The Team works collaboratively to achieve, maintain and improve the quality of research governance & related management processes. The Team are striving to harmonise approaches, processes and policies to increase quality, effectiveness and establish consistency within MAHSC.

The Quality Team have agreed to include as part of their remit:

- Define & share best practice relating to research governance and management
- Develop quality in research processes
- Assist MAHSC organisations to comply with and maintain compliance to regulatory requirements and guidance
- Confidentially identify recurrent issues
- Standardise approaches to common issues & non-compliances across MAHSC
- Standardise and share documentation and resources including monitoring plans and audit activities, share knowledge, skills and experience
- Provide professional support and development opportunities, such as mentorship
- Act as forum for discussing governance issues
- Provide networking & staff development opportunities
- Input into the national research agenda by contributing to consultations and sharing best practice with the wider research management community
- Provide Pan-MAHSC support for regulatory inspections and compliance of members

The first of a number of priority areas for the Quality Team is to ensure full cost recovery for Research Governance and Research Sponsorship on projects. The Team are working on formulating an activity algorithm which will determine the level of cost for research governance and sponsorship on a project specific basis. The first draft of this work will be circulated to the MAHSC Research Operations Group for approval in the early part of 2012.

NAEDI Award Combining Diabetes & Cancer

A team led by Dr Andrew Renehan, a Senior Lecturer from the School of Cancer and Enabling Sciences and Honorary Consultant at The Christie, was recently awarded funding from the second call of the National Awareness and Early Detection [of cancer] Initiative (NAEDI).

Co-investigators from The University of Manchester include Professor Iain

Buchan, Director of the North West Institute for Bio-Health Informatics, and Dr Tim Doran and Dr Evangelos Kontopantelis, from the Health Sciences Primary Care Research Group. The award of £122K will fund a project titled 'Cancer screening utilisation among patients with type 2 diabetes', and will use national GP research database to test the hypothesis that this large patient group underutilise routinely available cancer screening programme, despite the recognised observation that they are increased risk for several common cancer types. Together with a previous award of €250,000 from the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes in 2010 to develop advanced pharmaco-epidemiological models evaluating the effect of diabetes treatment of cancer risk, this research group is now one of the strongest investigative teams in Europe addressing the links between diabetes and cancer. With over 53 million people with diabetes in Europe, this research will impact upon hundreds of thousands of patients.



£1 million success for health scientists

The incidence of cervical cancer in women in their 20s has risen by more than 40 per cent between 1992 and 2006 in England, despite the overall incidence of cervical cancer dropping by 30 per cent, according to new research. **The University of Manchester** research – funded by Cancer Research UK and presented at the National Cancer Research Institute's (NCRI) annual conference in Liverpool – looked at overall trends in cervical cancer incidence in women aged between 20 and 79 years from 1982 to 2006. The findings show that after dropping following the introduction of cervical screening in England, the number of women aged between 20 and 29 diagnosed with cervical cancer is now rising in most areas of the country. Yet, for all other age groups, the number of women developing the disease has fallen over the same period. Study author Dr Robert Alston, from the School of Cancer and Enabling Sciences, said: "Our results show that although numbers getting cervical cancer are dropping in the immediate years after cervical screening began, the numbers of women in their 20s now developing the disease have been rising since the early 90s. Crucially our findings demonstrate the importance of the HPV vaccination programme and for as many women over 25 as possible to go for cervical screening."

CMFT awards £200,000 in research grants

Grants to pump-prime research studies in areas as diverse as Crohn's disease, diabetes, communication with deaf patients and helping asthmatic children to use inhalers more effectively have been awarded by the CMFT Research & Innovation Division. Thanks to the generous support of the **Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Charity**, four grants have been made in the Research for Patient Benefit (RFPB) category and the same number in the Experimental Medicine category. A full list of awards can be found on www.cmft.nhs.uk

Research

Phone therapy improves chronic pain symptoms

Talking therapy provided over the phone can have a positive impact on people suffering from chronic widespread pain compared to usual care provided by their GP, new research has shown. Patients who received a short course of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) over the telephone from trained therapists reported that they felt "better" or "very much better" at the end of a six-month treatment period, and also three months after it ended.

The Arthritis Research UK-funded trial by the Universities of Manchester and Aberdeen was the first-ever trial of telephone-delivered CBT for people with chronic widespread pain. Cognitive behavioural therapy is a psychological method of helping people manage their pain by identifying and evaluating thoughts and behaviour.

Exercise was also shown to improve pain and disability and helped people manage their symptoms. However, the study – recently published in the Archives of Internal Medicine – showed there was no additional advantage of receiving both types of treatment over receiving just one. Chronic widespread pain is the main feature of fibromyalgia, and affects 10% of the population and is extremely difficult to treat. The latter's main symptoms are tenderness around the body, fatigue and sleep disturbance, and the condition is one of the main reasons for referral to a rheumatologist. The trial, involving 442 people with chronic widespread pain aged between 25 and 60 from GP surgeries in Cheshire and Aberdeen, aimed to develop more effective ways of reducing and/or coping with painful symptoms of chronic widespread pain.

Study author Dr John McBeth, reader in rheumatic disease epidemiology at the **Arthritis Research UK Epidemiology Unit at The University of Manchester**, said: "Treatment of chronic widespread pain in the UK is problematic and ad hoc. No drugs are approved for use in fibromyalgia, and access to CBT or exercise programmes is limited, if available at all. While the demand for CBT exceeds supply, our trial provides evidence that telephone-delivered CBT is effective, acceptable and accessible."

€3.6 million Manchester-led urban health project begins

The EURO-URHIS 2 project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement number 223711. The EURO-URHIS 2 consortium is led by Dr Arpana Verma (MUCH, University of Manchester) who is the principal investigator for the €3.6 million grant.

The EU Public Health Programme work plan 2005 identified the development of an urban health indicator system as an essential part of a comprehensive and integrated EU health information and knowledge system. Based on this, EURO-URHIS 2 is developing, testing and validating a set of comparable urban health indicators (building upon the work already completed by EURO-URHIS 1 and other related projects) in over 40 cities across the European Union and beyond.

On 31st January and 1st February 2012, we are inviting people with an interest in urban health to attend a 2 day workshop and scientific advisory group meeting to view and discuss initial results from Phase 1 of the EURO-URHIS 2 project. If you would like to register for this free event, please visit the website at www.urhis.eu. Please note that places are limited, so book early.

Clinical Database Collaborative

The Christie, via the clinical outcome group and North West Cancer Intelligence Service (NWCIS), has registered with a European collaborative to develop a shared clinical database. This is a developmental project over five years and fits well with the new system for key clinical data collection now being introduced.

The only other UK centre to join so far is Cambridge.

Research funding success for Mental Health

Alison Marriott and Catherine Cross from the Trust's Psychological Services have recently been successful in gaining funding for a feasibility study of a guided self help group intervention to improve the wellbeing of older adults. The intervention aims to improve wellbeing and mood in a vulnerable older adult population who are not in contact with specialist services, and the project will evaluate training of Day Care staff to deliver the intervention.

For more information contact Alison Marriot on alison.marriot@mahsc.nhs.uk.

Business Buzz

2011 Bionow Annual Awards

Bionow, the northwest biomedical cluster group, has announced the winning companies, projects and individuals of the 2011 Bionow Annual Awards Dinner. This prestigious event took place on Thursday 24th November at The Mere Golf & Country Club.

Two winners are University of Manchester spin outs:

Biomedical Project of the Year - Sponsored by Semple Fraser
MycAssay series of real-time PCR products, Myconstica Ltd

Emerging Biomedical Technology Project of the Year - Sponsored by Waters Corporation
Conformetrix, Conformetrix Ltd

Epistem raises £2.8m to roll out Genedrive

Epistem is to raise £2.8m to fund the roll-out of its Genedrive device. The company is to raise the money through a placing at 350p per share. It is placing 793,398, which is equivalent to around 10% of its existing share capital.

Genedrive is a portable device which can be used to provide a molecular diagnosis of patient samples, meaning that diseases or cancers can be diagnosed in remote locations within 20 minutes.

Also, Epistem announced a partnership with Dr Matthew Hardman at The University of Manchester in which novel preclinical models for cutaneous wound healing, developed within Dr Hardman's laboratory, will be transferred to Epistem. Epistem and The University of Manchester have been awarded a Knowledge Transfer Partnership grant from the Technology Strategy Board and Medical Research Council to optimise, validate and commercialise new preclinical assays for wound repair.

Events and Information

CMFT Research & Innovation Conference 2011

The annual R&I conference was the best yet, with over 250 people attending from across CMFT and The University of Manchester. Visitors had the chance to see 82 posters, outlining research studies ranging from wound healing, diabetes-related heart failure and eye disease to pregnancy complications,



genetic research and the role of nutrition in patient recovery. Nine researchers were also selected to present their research findings at the conference.

Professor Rosalind Smyth and Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell with the presentation competition winners

A study by Louise Porter and colleagues which found a genetic link to the eye disease glaucoma shared first prize with work by Claire Stevens and team on using intravenous sedation to help teenagers scared of dental treatment. The runner up was a presentation about using genes to indicate how severe the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis may be, by Sebastien Viatte and colleagues. The best poster prize was awarded to Shruti Garg, Annukka Lehtonen and colleagues for a study of behaviour problems in children with the condition neurofibromatosis.

Mobile Health Innovation Conference

Intel's Mobile Health Innovation Conference was held at Old Trafford on Thursday 23rd November. Many of the Manchester M-Health Innovation Centre and colleagues from the Manchester M-Health Ecosystem attended including representatives of the NHS trusts and local and national businesses large and small.

Nowgen's next-generation sequencing courses

This year has seen the expansion of Nowgen's training programme to include introductory level courses in next generation sequencing (NGS), and NGS Bioinformatics. The NGS course ran in both June and November, and focused on the main sequencing platforms & associated technologies and included case study presentations from research & diagnostic laboratories. NGS Bioinformatics included presentations on the applications available for each platform & practical data analysis led by Genomatix. For 2012, Nowgen has expanded this programme in collaboration with colleagues at The University of Manchester to include an advanced level course on Reproducible workflows for NGS analysis, which takes place on 17 January. This course will focus on the use of Taverna, Galaxy and MyExperiment to establish and manage NGS bioinformatic analysis workflows. The Fundamentals of NGS and NGS Bioinformatics will run on 19 and 20 June 2012 respectively.

For further information, please send an email to training@nowgen.org.uk, or call 0161 276 5956.

If you are a MAHSC member with a good news story, email it to mahsc@manchester.ac.uk with subject line 'MAHSC newsletter'.

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MAHSC is a partnership between The University of Manchester, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, NHS Salford (Salford Primary Care Trust), Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust.