

MAHSC

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC)

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NHS

NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Director's Diary



I am delighted to have started my role as Director of MAHSC alongside my appointment as Vice-President and Dean of Medical and Human Sciences at the University of Manchester. Let me start by acknowledging the outstanding work of my predecessors in the role, Professor Alan North, the inaugural Director and Dean, and then Professor Chris Griffiths who has nurtured MAHSC as Acting Director since last summer. Thanks to Alan, Chris and the MAHSC team, I have a thriving, well structured organisation with an enthusiastic team in place, on which to continue developing our vision to be a leading global centre for the delivery of innovative applied health research and education into healthcare.

As a Londoner born and bred, and having spent most of my career in the capital including the last seven fulfilling years at UCL, I am relishing the exciting new opportunities in Manchester. I was attracted to the move by the scale, scope and tradition of Manchester as a city, the quality of the University and NHS Trusts, the talent of the clinicians and academics, the breadth of activity in health science, including Schools of Nursing, Psychology,

Pharmacy, Dentistry and Medicine, and the fact that Manchester is the only accredited Academic Health Science Centre north of Cambridge. MAHSC, from the outset, has been unique in its membership which covers the full spectrum of acute, specialist and primary care. With the ongoing changes to the NHS operational framework, this broad and inclusive ethos will stand us in good stead. MAHSC brings together all the strands that are central to my own approach: research, education, clinical excellence, leadership, a multidisciplinary approach, fund raising, an interest in global health challenges and perhaps above all, a team ethos providing the opportunity to bring this all together so as to impact on and improve the health and lives of a large population.

During my first month in post, I have been enormously impressed by the camaraderie and 'can do' attitude of the Manchester community. I am convinced that this provides an opportunity to bring together the NHS, the University and the community more effectively than anywhere else in the UK. We have a unique combination of University and NHS partners here with a shared strong vision for the future and the scale, capacity and expertise to deliver it. This means that we can deliver research, education and clinical care at an exceptional level – and have a leading role in Europe in medicine and health science.

April has seen two important communication events, one external and one internal. At the start of the month we had a visit from Lord Howe, Health Minister, who met with staff and patients to talk about our work in paediatric clinical trials, e-Health, cancer screening and cardiac surgery outputs plus innovations in managing infectious diseases – see later in the newsletter for a full report. Our second event was an evening with Drs Tim Ferris and Gregg Meyer, our guests from the Partners Healthcare System in Boston. Partners is an integrated health system founded in 1994 by Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham & Women's Hospital, the two largest Harvard-affiliated academic medical centers. In addition to its two academic medical centers, the Partners system also includes community and specialty hospitals, community health centers, a physician network, home health and long-term care services, and other health-related entities. Tim and Gregg provided us with a glimpse of the many achievements of Partners since their establishment in 1994 and gave us considerable food for thought' for our Board Away Day on the following morning.

In the last 3 weeks I have also commenced the process of developing a strategy for Biomedicine and Health which I hope will link activities across MAHSC, the NHS partners, the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and other University Faculties. There will be a series of discussion groups and open meetings which I hope that many of you will contribute to with the aim of having a strategy relevant to all involved in health care, education and research in the MAHSC partners in place by the autumn. I am delighted to be part of the MAHSC team. I look forward to meeting many more staff and students in due course and to exploring your work, ideas and needs in order to better shape our collective future.

For an in-depth profile of Professor Jacobs, see the University of Manchester's 'Unilife' article on the MAHSC website.

Member successes

Congratulations to Salford Royal Staff which is celebrating its best ever National NHS Staff Survey results. The results, released by the Care Quality Commission, reveal that the organisation is the 'Top Acute Trust' in the country in four key findings and within the 'Top 20% of Acute Trusts' in 29 out of the 38 key findings. David Wood, Salford Royal's Executive Director of Organisational Development and Corporate Affairs, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with these results, which are the best in our history and place us as the best Acute Trust in the North West. The findings come at a time when we've just welcomed 1,200 new members of community and primary care staff as part of the Transforming Community Services agenda."

Salford Royal has also welcomed Primary and Community Services Colleagues in April. On 1st April 2011, a total of 91% of healthcare services from Salford Community Health transferred to Salford Royal, as part of the Transforming Community Services agenda. The integration of both Salford Royal and Salford Community Health was in response to the Department of Health tasking all Primary Care Trusts to find a way that hospitals, Community Services and GPs could improve the patient experience, reduce duplication of tasks and safely save money. Meticulous planning across the three organisations: Salford Royal, NHS Salford and Salford Community Health., has resulted in over 50 community health care services including the Salford Care Homes Practice, making a total of approximately 1,200 clinical and support staff are now a valued part of the new fully integrated Trust.

Congratulations to the Greater Manchester Comprehensive Local Research Network which includes both MAHSC members and the other NHS Trusts in Greater Manchester on confirmation of a 5% increase in funding for 2011-12 based upon activity. This is a tremendous achievement and the GMCLRN has highlighted the support of all its members in making Greater Manchester one of the most successful sites for clinical research in the country. Alongside funding for the Local Speciality Groups which align closely with MAHSC clinical section two new initiatives in infectious disease/vaccine research and accidents & emergencies/critical care research will now be embedded into GMCLRN's core funding.

Lord Howe visit



Health Minister Lord Howe visited Manchester on 7 April at the invitation of MAHSC to see for himself the pioneering work being undertaken which is benefiting patients young and old. The visit was hosted by former Acting Director Professor Chris Griffiths and new Head of MAHSC, Professor Ian Jacobs with MAHSC colleagues and industry guests.

First stop was the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, and a chance to meet young people in the North West's only specialist paediatric clinical trials unit (The Wellcome Trust Children's Clinical Research Facility), which allows them to take part in studies of new therapies and medicines alongside their ongoing treatment. Director, Dr Nick Webb and Chief Nurse Carol Wood were on hand to explain to the Minister how the safe environment of the Facility can be used for patients requiring either the administration of a complex medical therapy or for prolonged visits requiring intensive investigation or observation.

There was then a short walk to the University of Manchester Incubator Company's (UMIC) Core Technology Facility to endorse an exciting new competition for researchers developed by commercialisation partners in MAHSC: UMIP, Trustech and MIMIT.

Funding will be provided to find potential solutions to address universal unmet needs within the area of healthcare associated infections eg how to test for infectious agents with immediate diagnostic results; how to decontaminate a clinical environment to set standards and how to improve hand washing to reduce the spread of infections.

During lunch, Lord Howe saw three of the many projects which are already demonstrating how the MAHSC's vision is delivering measurable and sustainable improvements in patient outcomes and healthcare delivery:

- An innovative application to support the design and recruitment of clinical trials (FARSITE) developed by New-Health, which allows researchers and companies to work more easily and closely with GP Practices at the crucial stage of determining whether a study is viable (Professor Martin Gibson, MAHSC Section Lead for Evaluation & colleagues).
- The development a national screening programme for Breast Cancer in women at high risk following radiation at a young age. (Professor John Radford, MAHSC Section Lead for Cancer)
- The first comparative study of cardiac surgery outcomes which shows NHS patients in England and Wales have a greater chance of survival and recover more quickly than almost anywhere in Europe (Dr Simon Ray, MAHSC Section Lead for Cardiovascular & Mr Ben Bridgewater).

Health Minister Lord Howe said: "I am delighted to see first-hand how the research and innovation that is taking place here is helping to improve the lives of patients in the local community. We are determined to make the NHS one of the leading healthcare systems in the world. Manchester Academic Health Science Centre is helping us do this by developing medical advancements that will help the NHS detect diseases earlier – a vital development as we move towards a more modern NHS."

The Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) has announced proposals for a new state-of-the-art research building that will be crucial in helping the MCRC to develop and improve cancer treatment. The proposals are for a new research building and low-rise multistorey car park on The Christie site. The proposed site is directly opposite the outpatients' entrance of The Christie on Wilmslow Road, between Cotton Lane and Kinnaird Road.

The new building would provide for expansion of key research areas and the scope to co-locate selected researchers and their teams. Following discussion with MCRC partners, an investment of £20 million has already been secured for the development of the proposed research building. Cancer Research UK would provide £10 million towards the new build with an additional £10 million from The University of Manchester and land being provided by The Christie.



People & Places

The work of three researchers has been chosen to benefit from the inaugural George Lancashire BRC Cardiac Research Awards, which are worth £145,000 in total for 2010/11. The pump-priming awards were made possible by a generous legacy from a grateful patient who was treated at Manchester Heart Centre, combined with additional Biomedical Research Centre funding. The three successful projects were chosen by external peer review:

Dr Andrew Trafford: 'Defining the physiology and prognostic significance of atrial transverse tubules in health and disease.'

Dr Mamas Mamas: 'Targeted metabolomics analysis of adverse cardiac remodeling following myocardial infarction; a first step towards a systems pathology approach.'

Professor Clifford Garratt: 'Role of a novel genetic testing strategy in the evaluation of relatives of young sudden death victims.'

Genetic medicine and kidney disease experts in Manchester have been awarded £180,000 by Kidney Research UK to investigate a gene that can cause bladder problems and kidney damage in children. Dr Bill Newman and Professor Adrian Woolf (pictured right) from the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre are working together with Dr Edward McKenzie and Dr Emma Hilton from the University of Manchester. The three-year research study involves collaboration with doctors in Turkey, Spain and Israel to screen urofacial syndrome (UFS) patients to find out more about the UFS gene. They will also work with children being treated for other bladder & kidney problems at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.



Professor Nic Jones, Director of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre, has recently been awarded the Gibb Fellowship - a deserved accolade in recognition of his achievements in cancer research.



This is the most senior honour granted by the Gibb Fund, and recognises outstanding researchers who have given, and continue to give, considerable service to the wider area of cancer research. There are currently four Gibb fellows: Professor Nic Jones; Professor Sir David Lane, Chief Scientist of A*STAR in Singapore; Professor Chris Marshall, Director of the CR-UK Programme on Tumour Cell Signalling Networks at the Institute of Cancer Research; and Professor Sir Bruce Ponder, Director of the CR-UK Cambridge Research Institute.

Manchester Royal Infirmary nurse, Karen Kemp, leads pioneering bowel disease study.



Finding ways to improve the lifelong care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is the challenge facing the Manchester Royal Infirmary gastroenterology IBD team, which includes nurse Karen Kemp. Karen is one of just 12 people across the country to be awarded the first PhD fellowships in the Clinical Academic Training Pathway for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals. The award from the Chief Nursing Officer with the National Institute for Health Research funds a three-year research study, and will lead to Karen gaining a PhD.



Many congratulations to our former Acting Director, Professor Chris Griffiths, who has been elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

On Thursday, May 05, UHSM (University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust) was visited by Olympic gold medallist Jonathan Edwards, former Manchester United and Wolves star Denis Irwin, Paralympian bronze medallist Ian Jones and a team from the 2012 organising committee of the London Games to present an Inspire mark for the Trust's Fit for Life initiative, which is helping to improve the health and well-being of 6,000 staff and volunteers.

UHSM is the first NHS hospital in the North West to receive the accolade. Just as importantly, the hospital, helped officially launch the Wythenshawe Games, again a first, whereby the community will come together - ahead of the 2012 London Games - to celebrate the vision and values of the Olympic movement in a two-week festival of health-related activities, at which UHSM will be central.



A unique new project by Shaw Trust, The Christie and Macmillan Cancer Support is helping cancer patients who want to return to or remain in work. This vocational rehabilitation project ensures patients receive the information, advice and support they need and has helped over 160 patients since July 2010, surpassing the original estimate of 150 clients within twelve months. The project has been so successful it expects to double the original expected number of people it helps back into work, demonstrating the urgent need for these Vocational Rehabilitation services across the UK.

The Paterson Institute for Cancer Research in Manchester recently welcomed 40 local sixth form students. They all took part in practical scientific research as part of the Institute's annual schools day. The aim of the day was to give students an insight into a potential career in cancer research, whilst also highlighting the impact of the research. Their feedback from the event was very positive, with everyone enjoying the activities and finding them relevant, and many saying that they would consider a career in cancer research.

Spotlight on Research Support

The MAHSC Research Office 'Un-MAHSCed'

The NHS Trust R&D Offices and the University's Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences Research Office have a long history of collaborative working. However, the consensus is that more can be done to support researchers in their quest to navigate the plethora of obstacles encountered when applying for and undertaking research. What has MAHSC done to address this? In June 2009, we formed a MAHSC Research Operations Group (ROG) with a remit to harmonise and streamline administrative processes and where possible reduce bureaucracy for researchers. Chaired by the MAHSC Research Operations Manager and comprising the Trust R&D Managers, the Head of the Faculty Research Office, with representation from the GM CLRN, the ROG decided that its priorities should focus primarily on back-office processes. Significant progress has been achieved in a relatively short period. Some headline examples include:

- Team-building events for all R&D Support staff
- Harmonised processes for sub-contracting between members
- A new PI Costing Form to improve transparency and processes for joint costing to help ensure equity and full recovery of costs
- Support for members in their preparation for regulatory inspections by the MHRA and HTA
- Harmonised governance arrangements such as a standard monitoring tool and risk assessment

From these firm foundations we have taken the ambitious step of creating a joint, albeit virtual, MAHSC Research Office across the seven members. 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; a Quality Team whose remit is to ensure compliance and enhance quality, and a Commercial Team whose remit is to support Clinical Trials and help to establish Manchester a preferred destination for pharmaceutical led studies – a key MAHSC goal and a National priority. As the Research Office evolves, we will provide regular updates in this Newsletter on our priorities, progress and achievements.

Maximise your chance of success when submitting NIHR grant and fellowship applications by using the NIHR Research Design Service.

RDS North West is part of a national network funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). RDS NW comprises experienced researchers with track records of successful grant and fellowship applications - the Greater Manchester RDS is supported by academics from the universities of Manchester and Salford.

It provides free advice and supports researchers to develop applied health or social care research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions to any funding body although priority will be given to proposals intended for submission to NIHR schemes, particularly the Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme (<http://www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/rfpb/default.cfm>). The service provides advice and support in all aspects of research development and design – from helping you to formulate or refine your research question to submitting your proposal. RDS will even help you deal with reviewers' comments and preparing resubmission. Help can include:

- assessing originality and reviewing the literature
- advising on study design and methods
- identifying potential collaborators
- providing peer review
- matching your proposal to the most appropriate funding stream

You are recommended to contact NWRDS as early as possible with your research ideas and, depending on your needs, RDS NW can provide information over the phone or face-to-face. You can also use our on-line resources.

To contact RDS NW:

Visit our website www.rds-nihr.ac.uk
 Contact central office: rds-nw@lancaster.ac.uk / 01524 593209
 Greater Manchester contact: Gwen.alvey@manchester.ac.uk

Events

Research and Innovation Conference - 22nd November 2011 Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Keynote speakers:

- Prof Dame Nancy Rothwell (*President & Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester*)
- Prof Rosalind Smyth (*Director, NIHR Medicines for Children Research Network*)

The conference will also feature a MAHSC Grand Round. To reserve a place please email brenda.johnson@cmft.nhs.uk.

MAHSC Section Lead to do Fundraising Mega Run for Claire House Children's Hospice

Our Section Lead for Implementation and Health of the Public, Professor Kieran Walshe, is doing a run at the end of May which follows the Grand Union Canal from Birmingham to London – 145 miles nonstop! Kieran is doing this to raise funds for Claire House – the children's hospice in the northwest. To find out more and show your support, please see the Justgiving website at the link - <http://www.justgiving.com/Kieran-Walshe>.

MAHSC member news

- <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/>
- <http://www.christie.nhs.uk/press/default.aspx>
- <http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/News/>
- <http://www.mhsc.nhs.uk/>
- <http://www.srht.nhs.uk/media-centre/latest-news/>
- <http://www.salford-pct.nhs.uk/News.aspx?section=5>
- <http://www.cmft.nhs.uk/trust/latest-news.aspx>

Tell MAHSC your good news!

Are you a MAHSC member with a good news story? If so, please email mahsc@manchester.ac.uk with subject line 'MAHSC newsletter'. Have a look at www.mahsc.ac.uk for further information.

MAHSC 'HQ' is hosted by the University's Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences (FMHS) on the 4th Floor of the Simon Building. We can be contacted on 0161 306 0639 or via email at mahsc@manchester.ac.uk.

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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, University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust.