

MAHSC

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC)

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NEWSLETTER



Directors Diary

Professor Alan North
FRS, MAHSC Director
and Dean of The
University of Man-
chester Faculty of
Human & Medical
Sciences

Many of you will now know that my tenure as Director of MAHSC will end at the end of June. My intention was to steer the Academic Health Science Centre through Department of Health designation and the recruitment of most of the Section Leads. This is now almost complete.

It is my great pleasure to hand over to Professor Chris Griffiths as Interim Director. Chris was a key player in our successful bid for designation. He has worked tirelessly as a member of the MAHSC Executive Management Team. Many of you will also know him as an eminent academic dermatologist. Over the next two months I will be working closely with Chris and the MAHSC team to ensure a smooth handover.

On a more personal note, I would like to congratulate Chris on running the London Marathon on 25 April. Through generous sponsorship, he has already raised nearly £30,000 for the British Skin Foundation

MAHSC Member Successes

Doctors at UHSM (University Hospital South Manchester) have successfully performed the North West's first operations involving mechanical hearts.

A Manchester man and a woman from Blackburn who both suffered severe heart failure, have been given the artificial hearts as a 'bridge' while they await transplant surgery. The mechanical devices, known as LVADs (Left Ventricular Assist Devices) cost £80,000 each and include a Titanium pump that weighs almost 2lbs and rotates nine times faster than an electric drill. They work by being connected to the left ventricle of the heart, either directly or by a tube. They remove oxygen rich blood which is pumped to the aorta and then on to the rest of the body. The operations were carried out by Mr Nizar Yonan, Director of Transplant at UHSM and his team

Christie research, which defines the world standard of care for patients with advanced bile duct cancer, has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine. Research led by Dr Juan Valle, consultant oncologist at The Christie, has discovered a method that could improve survival for patients with advanced gallbladder and bile duct cancer by 28 percent. Dr Valle was the lead investigator for the largest phase III clinical trial ever for these cancers with a team of experts at the Cancer Research UK & UCL Cancer Trials Centre.

INC Research, a therapeutically focused global contract research organisation (CRO) employed by Sanofi-Aventis, has selected The Christie as a High Performing Site, based on a trial undertaken by the gastro-intestinal research team. This designation recognises distinct and extraordinary accomplishment by an investigative site with identifiable metrics that provided a significant advance in the outcome of a study.

The "Cellular Therapy Laboratory" has opened at the University of Manchester's Incubator Company (UMIC) Incubator Building. Led by Prof. Robert Hawkins (Cancer Research UK Professor/Director of Medical Oncology Cell Therapy / ATTACK project coordinator), the Lab will support research and therapy developments. The opening was attended by both business people and patients of the clinical team at The Christie and donors to the Christie Appeals Charity who funded a grant to The University of Manchester to equip and refurbish the facility.

Funding

Nowgen, a centre for genetics in healthcare and part of the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, is to develop further activities and resources for young people in the area of genetic medicine following recent funding successes. Along with the appointment of psychology graduate Alisha Gibson as Nowgen/BRC Training Fellow to investigate the information needs of young people entering clinical trials, the Wellcome Trust has funded Nowgen, in partnership with Lime Arts, to develop an educational arts package with young people about gene therapy for cystic fibrosis. For more information please visit www.nowgen.org.uk.

People & Places



The Academy of Medical Sciences has elected Professor David Denning as a Fellow. Dr Denning, who is Professor of Medicine and Medical Mycology, at the University of Manchester and Director of the National Aspergillosis Centre, at Wythenshawe Hospital, which is the referral centre in the UK for all patients with chronic pulmonary aspergillosis.

His group undertakes basic research (genomics, pathogenesis and mechanism of antifungal drug resistance), applied laboratory work (antifungal resistance testing and validation in models, pharmacodynamics, models of pathogenesis, molecular diagnostics), and clinical studies (description of the natural history of fungal infection, and therapy studies).

The new Christie radiotherapy centre in Oldham opened in March 2010. The new £17 million centre is the first of its kind in the UK and based at the Royal Oldham Hospital. It will have two £1.3 million radiotherapy machines – the most advanced of their kind in the world – and treat 70 people a day closer to their homes. The first patient was treated on Tuesday 16 March 2010 and Gordon Brown visited the centre on Thursday 18 March to meet staff and patients.

Angela Ball, R&D Manager at The Christie, and Sally Sambrook, European Alliance Project Manager at AstraZeneca, were finalists for the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Joint Working Award 2010. The objective of the award is to recognise excellence in collaborative and partnership working between industry and the NHS.

Congratulations to the NIHR Greater Manchester Comprehensive Local Research Network (GMCLRN) which received an additional £2.23M of funding for 2010/11 to support the recruitment of participants to clinical trials in the Greater Manchester area. This brings the network's total funding to £13.377M. MAHSC members are responsible for about 60-65% of patient recruitment to trials at any given time and this significant award is testament to the tremendous efforts of the clinical research teams in both MAHSC and other Gt. Manchester NHS Trusts plus the hard work of the GMCLRN team. GMCLRN is also part of the DH designated exemplar region for commercial clinical trials - while still in the early phases, promising metrics for the exemplar are already emerging. For example, the first seven studies have received NHS permissions in an average of 50 days compared with both the ABPI metric of 95 days and the "industry standard" of 70 days. NW GMCLRN Director, Professor Martin Gibson, is also MAHSC Academic Section Lead for Evaluation.



A total of £200,000 is available to support appropriate research initiatives during 2010. The deadline for applications is 9 June 2010.

[Anti-Infectives Research Foundation](http://www.pfizer.com/antifungal) [Anti-Infectives Research Foundation](http://www.pfizer.com/antifungal)

- Clinical diagnostics for invasive aspergillosis.
- Epidemiology of serious fungal infections in the UK.
- Innovative approaches to the management of surgical infections, which are related to hospital-acquired infections.
- Antibiotic stewardship programmes looking at cost, outcomes and resistance in serious gram-positive infections.

Job Opportunities

Appointment of the Academic Section Lead for Education & Training is now underway. Applicants are welcomed from suitably qualified and experienced internal candidates (within MAHSC partner organisations) across all disciplines. The deadline for applications is Friday 14 May. Professor Alan North, Director of MAHSC, is happy to discuss nominations and applications. All applications should be sent to Dr Linda Magee, Chief Operating Officer of MAHSC (E: linda.magee@manchester.ac.uk T: 0161 306 0115/0639).

People & Places Continued.....

Congratulations to Professor Mike Grant who has been recognised in the University of Manchester's Medal of Honour Awards. Prof Grant was the Head of the Department of Medical Biochemistry for 10 years. He also successfully persuaded the Wellcome Trust to establish the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell-Matrix Research. His achievements have been recognised by numerous invitations to chair and speak at international meetings, and by his election as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2000.

Congratulations to Professors Graeme Black, (MAHSC's Academic Section Lead for Human Development & Director of the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre), Bill Deakin Graham Dunn, Gareth Evans, and Anne Rogers for recently being appointed as Senior Investigators by the NIHR. Senior Investigators are NIHR's finest researchers and include some of the nation's most outstanding leaders of patient and people based health and social care research. They provide research leadership, speak at events, mentor Trainees and provide expert advice to the Department of Health Director General for Research and Development. 40 new appointments commenced at the beginning of April after being selected by an international expert panel.



At the end of March Professor Dian Donnai received the 2010 March of Dimes/ Colonel Harland Sanders Award for lifetime achievement in the field of genetic sciences. Prof Donnai is clinical head of St. Mary's Hospital, executive director of Nowgen and a professor of medical genetics at the University of Manchester. Prof Donnai is the current President of the European Society for Human Genetics and is known for her research on rare genetic diseases, such as Williams syndrome and Donnai-Barrow syndrome.

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Events

Cancer Research UK's Shine event, which was held on Saturday 17 April, welcomed 7,500 men and women to take part in a night time walking marathon to raise vital funds for research and bring hope and light into the lives of those affected by cancer. The walk took participants, many holding symbolic lights, past landmarks including Old Trafford football ground, Manchester Town Hall and the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, which receives core funding from Cancer Research UK. It is hoped that the event will raise over £1 million for Cancer Research UK.



Cancer Research UK's Shine Event



Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 5:30pm (coffee from 5pm) Dr George Poste FRS will deliver the JF Wilkinson Lecture of the Manchester Medical Society. This is entitled: "The convergence of clinical medicine, engineering and computing: new horizons in healthcare delivery". The lecture is being held in the MANDEC Centre, which is a lecture theatre on top of the Dental School, University of Manchester.

www.mahsc.ac.uk

A one-day Clinical Aspects of Regenerative Medicine meeting will be hosted by the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre on Monday 21 June at The Nowgen Centre. The event will bring together academics, clinician scientists and industry representatives, with a series of guest speakers including Dr Paul Kemp, Founder & CSO of Intercytex, Prof Robert Hawkins from the Cellular Therapeutics Unit at the University of Manchester and Dr Robert Wynn, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. For more information please visit



Wynn, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. For more information please visit

www.cmft.nhs.uk/brc/events.aspx.

Events Continued.....

FP7 Funding Workshop
Tuesday 18 May 2010, 09:15 - 14:00
Lecture Theatre, Manchester Interdisciplinary Biocentre

The Workshop provides an overview of the FP7 Health Programme and offers information on joining networks and establishing new networks / consortia.

Places are limited and registration is via the following link:
<http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/intranet/admingroups/research/Events/>

If anyone has difficulty registering please contact Jo Lowe (jo.e.lowe@manchester.ac.uk), Project Manager, Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, University of Manchester.

For more information on these stories and more from the MAHSC members see the following web-sites:

[The University of Manchester](#)
[The Christie](#)
[University Hospital of South Manchester](#)
[Manchester Mental Health & Social Care](#)
[Salford Royal](#)
[NHS Salford](#)
[Central Manchester University Hospitals](#)

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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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