

MAHSC

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC)

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NEWSLETTER



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Faculty of Human & Medical
Sciences

Director's Diary

Post-election we know a number of changes will occur in the healthcare landscape. However, in these challenging times, the importance of the AHSCs partnership across universities and NHS Trusts is reinforced. Through a strategic and coordinated approach to research, innovation and training & education, we have a real opportunity to deliver patent benefit and improved wellbeing.

In just the last month, MAHSC has achieved first stage or preliminary success with a number of proposals and bids. In each case the value of the partnership, the reach across the translational medicine spectrum, and the significant enabling infrastructure that MAHSC offers, has been recognised.

Lastly, many congratulations to my colleague, Caroline Shaw, who is Chief Executive of The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and a member of the MAHSC Board. Caroline, with three business women colleagues, completed a sponsored skydive on 22 May at Grange-over-Sands. They raised over £100,000 for The Christie to support the building of the world's largest early clinical trials unit for cancer. This will be a major asset for MAHSC and a key development for our Cancer Clinical Academic Section.

MAHSC Member Successes

Scientists at the University of Manchester have identified an extra step in protein production, a major activity of all cells, which they believe impacts particularly on how our cells respond to stresses such as starvation and virus attack. Drs Graham Pavitt and Martin Jennings, whose findings are published in Nature (20 May 2010), have found a new function for a protein, called eIF5, which is critical for appropriate and normal control of the protein production process

Scientists have discovered two "body clock" genes that reveal how seasonal changes in hormones are controlled and could ultimately help find treatments for seasonal affective disorder. Researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester also found that one of these genes (EYA3) has a similar role in both birds and mammals. showing a common link that has been conserved for more than 300 million years.

NHS Salford, the organisation responsible for healthcare services in Salford, has made significant progress in addressing the nationwide problem of Chlamydia. Recent figures from April 2009 to March 2010 show that NHS Salford has surpassed the national government target of 25% 15-24 year olds to be screened for Chlamydia by 2.4%. This puts NHS Salford at 27.4% which is 827 screens above target. NHS Salford is the only Primary Care Trust to reach and exceed the target in Greater Manchester.

The metabolic team at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital played an important role in the early stage findings recently announced by BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc. The company expects to initiate a pivotal Phase III trial in the fourth quarter of 2010 after positive results for the Phase I/II trial for BMN 110, intended for the treatment of the lysosomal storage disorder Morquio A Syndrome.

People & Places

Professor Adrian Woolf has been appointed to the Chair of Paediatric Science at the Manchester Biomedical Research Centre. This is the first recruitment of 12 new Academic Chairs, which will see an unprecedented drive to bring the world's top academics to Manchester. Professor Woolf moves from the University College London Institute of Child Health, where he set up and headed the academic Nephro-Urology Unit in 1998.

Dr John Brognard, who is currently based at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, has accepted a Junior Group Leader position at the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research. John's research will focus on new signalling pathways involved in tumorigenesis, the process involved in the production of new tumours. His future plans are aligned with the signalling networks important in the initiation and progression of lung cancers, which will complement the Manchester Cancer Research Centre's lung cancer research initiative.

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was recently pleased to hand over the keys for its new clinical trials facility to ICON plc, a global provider of outsourced development services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries. The new 34 bed purpose-built translational medicine facility is located next to A&E at Manchester Royal Infirmary and will enable new drugs, therapies and medical devices to be tested safely in a hospital environment. An official opening ceremony is to take place in September. The Trust's partnership with ICON is a fundamental aspect of Manchester's drive to become a prime location for early stage clinical trials among pharma and biotech companies. It is also a blueprint for how the NHS and the commercial sector can work closely together to benefit patients. The next phase of ICON's consolidation onto the Trust's hospital campus will see them become a key anchor tenant of the former Royal Eye Hospital on Oxford Road, which is due to be extensively developed by April 2012.



Wednesday 9th June will see the official opening of the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre's new Minor Procedures Suite, located within the Wellcome Trust Clinical

Research Facility. The facility is open to researchers and industry partners, and is already being used for minor plastic surgery techniques in scar revision, dermatological procedures, skin 'punch' and gluteal biopsies and ophthalmic procedures. The opening will take place from 8:30-10:30am and those interested in attending

Building work is progressing well on The Christie's new patient treatment centre and radiotherapy centre at Salford Royal. The Christie is currently ahead of schedule on its £35 million patient treatment centre - which will be based on its main site and include the world's largest phase I clinical trials unit - and this will open for patients before Christmas. The £17 million radiotherapy centre at Salford Royal is due to open in summer 2011. It is the second in a unique network of Christie radiotherapy centres where patients from Salford, Wigan and Bolton will be able to access radiotherapy treatment much closer to home. As well as treating patients for the most common cancers, this centre will be equipped to deliver stereotactic radiosurgery - a highly specialised neurosurgical technique for brain cancers.

The Drug Discovery Centre based within the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research, part of the **Manchester Cancer Research Centre**, selected cutting edge informatics company **Dotmatics Limited** to provide a complete range of drug discovery informatics solutions and has licensed and implemented the entire **Dotmatics** software range including their newly released electronic laboratory notebook system. This enables the Centre to capture, analyse and interrogate both the biological and chemical information generated within the group. It also allows the scientists to make informed decisions around the best compounds to advance into further studies and ultimately into the clinic.

Congratulations to Dr Nick Webb and the Wellcome Trust Children's Clinical Research Facility at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. The team recently screened the first patient globally to the Medicines for Children Research Network study TAK491 in hypertensive children. This is the first Greater Manchester study within the North West Exemplar programme to recruit the all important first global patient.

can register by email to mbrc@cmft.nhs.uk. It is planned that the morning will also feature tours of the adult and paediatric Clinical Research Facilities.

People & Places Continued.....

UHSM has proudly opened its new maternity triage unit to its first patients. Staffed by midwives and healthcare workers, the unit sees women from 16 weeks gestation onwards with any problems with their pregnancy or in early labour. The unit, which contains four bays, is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and the staff will take telephone referrals from the women themselves or from GPs and community midwives. Triage staff will be able to assess women and give them appropriate advice on whether they need to come in to the unit, stay at home or be seen by a doctor or their GP. The creation of the triage unit is part of a £20m redevelopment and expansion of the Women's & Maternity Centre at Wythenshawe Hospital, which will be completed by early 2012.

Events

International Clinical Trials Day was celebrated on Thursday 20th May at Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to mark the anniversary of the first ever clinical trial, which took place in 1747. Information stands were held in the atria of each of the new hospitals to recognise the important role that clinical trials continue to play in the healthcare we see today. Staff, patients and the public were able to find out more about clinical trials and the wider research that is taking place within the Trust's five hospitals.

The annual conference of the Greater Manchester, Lancashire & South Cumbria Medicines for Children Research Network, based at Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, will take place on Friday 11th June from 12:00-4:30pm. More information can be found at www.cmft.nhs.uk/brc/events.aspx. To book your place please email gmlc.secretary@cmft.nhs.uk or call 0161 901 6947.

The Nightingale Centre based at University Hospital of South Manchester (UHSM), has been awarded the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark, which recognises and rewards good practice and high standards within the physical environment of a cancer care building. The centre is among the first sites to be given the new award, which is the first of its kind in the UK and has been developed in collaboration with people living with cancer and organisations including the Department of Health. The Nightingale Centre was opened in 2007 at a cost of £14 million. It houses 'three centres in one' – the Nightingale Centre (the NHS clinical service for breast cancer screening and diagnosis); the Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention Centre (for research into prevention, screening and early diagnosis); and an Education Centre (for training breast cancer specialists).

UHSM's Academy will be holding its first Global health Conference on June 11 featuring speakers from clinical, political and international aid backgrounds. Entitled *Home and Away: the Power of Global Links to Transform Communities*, the conference will include presentations by UN special envoy David Nabarro, Professor Naomi Chambers who is President of the European Health Management Association and Head of Health Policy and Management at Manchester Business School, and Dr Simon Mardel, Senior Lecturer in Global Health at the Centre for Global Health, Emergency Medicine and Humanitarian Assistance

The North West Innovation Network will be holding a Business Pitch event for the biomedical sector on Wednesday 30th June from 10:45am-1:30pm at Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus. The aim of the event is to help businesses easily identify companies on their doorstep who are highly relevant to their business as customers, suppliers or collaborators. The format is based around a series of 90 second rapid pitches from about 25 companies with an opportunity for some targeted networking afterwards. More information can be found at:

www.daresburysic.co.uk/events/events_listing/eventid=154.

Events Continued.....

UHSM will stake its claim as Britain's greenest hospital on June 4. We have invited the Energy Secretary, Chris Huhne (tbc), local MPs, and a senior representative of the influential Carbon Trust to a press briefing, and afterwards to a special talk by Professor Ashley Woodcock - who shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 with Al Gore for his work on climate change - who will speak on the health benefits to communities of low CfCs and carbon emissions. As evidence for this bold claim the hospital cites a range of energy efficient lighting, heat exchangers and building controls as just some of the improvements that have resulted in an overall energy reduction of 26% since the introduction of carbon management in 2007/8.

The recent addition of a biomass boiler – a first for a North West hospital – is reducing annual CO2 emission by a further 3,459 tonnes, and will be equivalent to the annual emissions associated with 494 domestic properties. Also, recognition by the Carbon Trust, which has awarded UHSM a coveted Standard mark, one of only a few hospital trusts to achieve the Standard

For more information on these stories and more from the MAHSC members see the following websites:

[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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