



Spotlight

Your Department's Newsletter

Spotlight

Welcome to the second edition of *HR Spotlight*, the newsletter for staff and students within Oxford University's Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine. It is anticipated that there will be four newsletters published each year, one each quarter, and will carry news items and updates from the Department. An electronic version is also publicly available via the NDM Web site at the link below. If you have any comments or news items please contact the Athena SWAN coordinator via e-mail on athena.swan@ndm.ox.ac.uk.

Working for NDM:

<http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm>



WHO Tuberculosis Day 2014

March 24th 2014 marked World Tuberculosis (TB) Day. This day commemorated the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the cause of TB. This year's World Health Organization (WHO) TB Day campaign focused on the 'missed' 3 million to ensure that everyone suffering from TB has access to diagnosis, treatment and cure.



Professor Helen McShane, a Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellow and

Professor in Vaccinology, explains more:

<http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/who-tb-day-2014>

Flexible Working

We are very pleased to announce our new flexible working website page, which has been developed in response to the staff and student surveys. The website page provides information on flexible working, how to apply, and real example case studies:

<http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/flexible-working>

Careers Sessions

Due to the success of the Careers Service Sessions for NDM held during 2013, monthly sessions will be on offer throughout 2014. Please see the website for the details on the Career Sessions available and how to book:

<http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/careers-service-sessions-for-ndm>

NDM Jobs pages

We have developed our NDM jobs pages to provide an overview of careers and roles available within the Department:

<http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/current-job-vacancies>

ASSA teams

A webpage has been developed to provide you with an overview of the role of the Athena SWAN Self-Assessment teams, and who the members are for each Unit:

<http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/assa-teams>

Celebrating Success

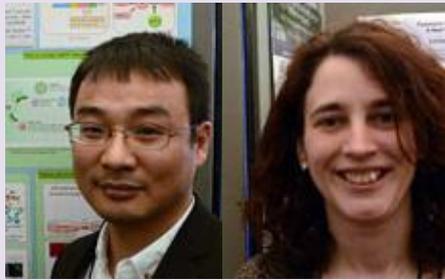


Dr. Faith Osier has been awarded the prestigious Merle A. Sande Health Leadership Award for 2014. Faith Osier, MD, PhD, is a pediatrician whose work focuses on the development of effective malaria vaccines, through the identification of targets and mechanisms underlying naturally acquired immunity. She is currently a Clinical Research Fellow and Group Leader at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) – Centre for Geographic Medicine Research.



On the 5th of February 2014 The Wiley Foundation announced **Professor Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe FRS**, Head of the Nuffield Department of Medicine, as one of four winners of the 13th annual Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences, for his contribution to advancements in the field of oxygen sensing systems.

NDM Scientists compete in *SET for Britain*



On Monday 17th March 2014, two NDM scientists competed in the [SET for Britain](#) competition. This annual poster competition takes place in the House of Commons and enables early-stage researchers to present their work to a

panel of expert judges as well as a range of MPs. Dr Min Lu (a Ludwig Cancer Research post-doctoral researcher) and Dr Dianne Newbury (a WTCHG research fellow) were shortlisted from hundreds of applicants to compete in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences category.

Dr Lu presented his research on [Waking up silenced p53 in cancer](#), whilst Dr Newbury presented her work on [Talking genetics with Robinson Crusoe](#).

Public Engagement Award



On Thursday the 30th of January at the NDM's outreach Lunchtime Taster Session, Professor Sir Peter Ratcliffe awarded the inaugural Head of Department Prize for Public Engagement to Dr Katharine Plant.

The prize was established by NDM Strategic to recognise the efforts of a researcher (or researchers) who have gone above-and-beyond to contribute to public engagement. Dr Plant has been an enthusiastic volunteer for public engagement, and has played a major role in NDM outreach activities.

Welcome to Dr Chris Conlon



We would like to offer a warm welcome to Dr Chris Conlon who joins us as Associate Head of Department for Clinical Medicine. Chris will take a particular interest in the clinical side of the Department,

including liaison with OUHT, the organisation of Acute Medicine, advice on regulatory issues in Clinical Medicine, including appraisal where appropriate, and management of visitors. He will also input particularly into those aspects of the Department that are dominantly clinical in their research agenda. I am sure you will all join us in welcoming him to the Department.

'Ask HR' Drop in Clinics

To assist staff in obtaining information on existing HR policies and processes (e.g. regarding, working from home, KIT days, Paternity Leave), and to supplement the information available on the NDM/University websites, members of the NDM HR teams and the Head of HR (NDM) will be available to answer your questions at informal drop in clinics. These drop in clinics will be rolled out from April on a trial basis, and will run twice per month. Watch out for more information in the coming weeks.

Spotlight on:

[Dr Ellie Barnes](#), *MRC Senior Research Fellow, Experimental Medicine and Jenner Investigator*



Ellie started out in Medicine before taking on a PhD in 1999. After completing her PhD in Hepatitis C and T cell Immunology under the guidance of Oxford Professor Paul Klenerman in 2004, Ellie continued to focus her research on immune responses to therapy, before diving into translational work. Ellie is now using the HCV vaccines she has developed in experimental therapy for HIV positive patients. In addition to her vaccine work Ellie is also leading an international consortium called *Stop HCV*, a collaboration between 22 partners from around the UK, which integrates industry, scientists, and clinicians.

One of just three researchers in the UK to be awarded an MRC Senior Fellowship last December, Ellie says she is feeling positive about her future in science, as the award will support her research group for the next 5 years. While Ellie admits she could not have maintained balance between work and home life without her husband "friend and advocate", who takes an equal share in childcare, she also feels the support she has received from her colleagues, and the Nuffield Department of Medicine, has been really important.

"Having good mentors is key, no matter what field you're in. Professors Paul Klenerman and Rodney Phillips, have been there for me from the beginning and I know they'll always be there to help me if there's a crisis," Dr Barnes says. "I think it's wonderful that NDM are putting an official mentorship program in place, particularly for people who are shy or unable to stick up for themselves. Having someone who believes in you and can go in and bat for you is really important."

For her full career profile story, and many others, please see <http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/career-profiles>



Tropical Medicine

Dr Julie Makani gives an interview for Oxford Today about her research with Sickle Cell Disease. Dr Makani is a Clinical Research Fellow in the NDM and is based in the Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (www.muhas.ac.tz), which is the main clinical, academic and research centre in Tanzania. SCD is reported to be the single most important genetic cause of childhood mortality worldwide, and is predominantly an African problem. To read more and view other news from the unit please see <http://www.tropicalmedicine.ox.ac.uk/news>.



Experimental Medicine

New research aims to find a cure for HIV by waking up dormant HIV in cells to be able to eradicate the virus from the body. Dr John Frater is interviewed on BBC Radio 4 Today and explains 'The next chapter [for HIV research] is to try and find a cure for HIV. And this means bringing in a whole new way of thinking about the infection and introducing a whole new range of therapies ... What we need to be is very cautious and very steady in what we're talking about.' To read more and view other news from the unit please see <http://www.expmedndm.ox.ac.uk/news-seminars>.



Old Road Campus Research Building

To celebrate the last day of half term NDM held a special outreach afternoon on the 21st of February 2014. This on-campus family friendly science festival was held in the ORCRB atrium and welcomed the families and friends of everyone working on the Old Road Campus. To read more and view other news from the unit please see <http://www.jenner.ac.uk/>, <http://www.ludwig.ox.ac.uk/>, <http://www.thesgc.org/scientists/groups/oxford/>.



NDM Research Building

The Respiratory Medicine group, led by Professor Ian Pavord, have played a lead role in the development of three of the most promising new treatments for severe airway disease: Mepolizumab, bronchial thermoplasty and CRTH2 antagonists. They believe that the only rationale approach to new drug discovery is to identify sub-groups of patients who share common characteristics, understand the key mechanisms of their disease and identify opportunities to intervene. To read more and view other news from the unit please see <http://www.ndmrb.ox.ac.uk/home>.



Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics

A broad range of common diseases are associated with variants in the genome sequence that regulate the expression of genes involved in the immune system. In the course of investigating how these variants affect a person's susceptibility to disease, Dr Julian Knight's team of researchers at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics has found that stimulating cells involved in fighting infection often provokes genes of interest to reveal themselves. To read more and view other news from the unit please see <http://www.well.ox.ac.uk/latest-news>.

Oxfordshire Science Festival 2014

The launch event of Oxfordshire Science Festival, the Science in Your World science fair, took place on Saturday 8th March 2014. Over the course of the day more than 5,000 people visited the bustling mini-science fair in Bonn Square. Visitors soaked up the sunshine and visited a diverse range of STEM-related stalls. A team of NDM staff and student volunteers presented an exciting collection of games and activities, which highlighted some of the exiting research taking place across the Department. To read more about this story please see <http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/latest-news>.