

Bradford ChemBio

What's been going on in our school for the past four months...
June – September 2021



@UoBChem

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Have an item for the newsletter? Email k.riches@bradford.ac.uk or a.tedder@bradford.ac.uk with 'Newsletter' in the heading

Welcome!

Welcome from your Newsletter Editors...

A warm welcome to all our students and staff! We are delighted to share the newest edition of our School Newsletter which highlights all the amazing work that we've been doing over the last few months.

Summer has been a time for change for us, not least as we have a new interim Head of School. We are very grateful for the support of **Dr Simon Tweddell** over the last year and a half and are looking forward to working with our new Head of School, **Professor Anne Graham**, over the next few months. We're sure you all know Anne by now but if not, head to page 2 where you can read more about her!

The other big change over the summer has been the lifting of COVID restrictions which have had such a profound impact on our lives over the last 18 months. Campus has awoken from an enforced slumber and it's really nice to have the buzzing atmosphere back of young people (and some not so young people) eager to learn.

That's not to say it is all plain sailing – some students and staff are understandably anxious about restrictions lifting and a return to some kind of normality, but if we all treat each other with kindness and respect each others personal space and beliefs we will come through this as a stronger school, University and community.

Over the summer our undergraduate Chemistry, Biomedical Science and Healthcare Science students had their virtual graduation. For these students to have completed their studies during a global pandemic is phenomenal and we should be proud of all of them. We have a very resilient future workforce! This has also been a gargantuan effort from staff in marking assessments, convening assessment boards, filling in lots of administrative documents – many thanks to all of you, including the admin staff, who have gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic.

Finally, a word on the future – the edition windows for the newsletter have shifted slightly and new editions will now come out in January, April, July and October. We continue to welcome any news you have from students, staff and everyone in between. Good luck for the rest of semester 1 ☺

Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman and **Dr Andrew Tedder**



Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

These past few months the new EDI committee has started up monthly meetings centred on specific topics. We have taken a deep dive into topics such as Student health; transparency in communications and technical staff support. The committee members are now working to action some of the primary points raised to better support staff and students in the school.

Alongside this, **Conor Meehan**, the EDI lead, attended a meeting of the EDI leads across the university to begin better alignment of strategies and actions between Schools and Faculties. Changes to the way EDI is run across the university are coming soon so watch this space for more updates!



New Interim HoS

As incoming interim head of School, on behalf of all of the staff I first want to thank **Dr Simon Tweddell** who did a fantastic job supporting the school as interim head over the last year. All staff colleagues are very grateful for your supportive and constructive management the school.

I have lots of experience as an academic and in leadership at Bradford and I am looking forward to supporting every member of staff and all our students in the coming months. I am a biochemist which means I'm in a perfect situation to see how our chemistry and bioscience/ biomed staff and students can interact and overlap in expertise. My research group studies mechanisms of inflammation in cells that line our blood vessels and how that causes cardiovascular disease. In the last few years I have been most interested in cardiovascular complications of diabetes.

At the start of this academic year I can see how enthusiastic all our students are about the 2021-22 academic year. I know most staff and students are happy to be back on campus where it's important we do as much as possible to protect ourselves and others so I hope everyone continues to follow advice to wear masks indoor all our buildings.

Rebuilding our sense of community as a team is a priority for me. The fact we can once again share a coffee and lunch at the same time as discussing the best way to collaborate in research and successfully deliver our teaching has been something I know everyone is really grateful for. Development of the Faculty research themes gives us new opportunities which can complement our School research ethos. We know our undergraduates, MChem and Masters students appreciate the ability to undertake research projects with active researchers who are publishing and after a year where practical research projects weren't possible due to COVID restrictions we look forward once again to supporting you to develop these research skills during your degree.

These newsletters are a great opportunity to get to know some of our staff and students as well as the research achievements from the last few months. We have quite a few new PhD students who have just joined the School so a very warm welcome to the newest members of our School.

Professor Anne Graham



New Staff Members

Hi, I'm **Hannah Soothill** and I'm delighted to join the FoLS as a **Biology Teaching Technician** (#TeamBradford). I'm originally from nearby Keighley but spent the last 9 years in Manchester. There I got my BSc in Human Biology & Infectious Diseases and then went on to do an MSc by research investigating *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in Human lung tissue. Following this, I was a teaching technician at the University of Salford, where I found my passion for the role and thoroughly enjoyed the feeling of being part of something bigger- as with what accompanies working in a university setting. In my free time I like to go for walks and spend time in nature.



Dr Katie Hanna has decided to continue her Bradford journey with us and has been appointed as a **Lecturer in Biomedical Sciences** as maternity cover for **Dr Jenny Waby**. Katie has spent the last couple of years as a key member of #HelferLab working on circadian rhythms and naked mole rats, and is excited to take a foray into teaching.



New Students



Hi I'm **Alisah Hussain**, I studied my undergraduate degree here at the University of Bradford in Forensics and Medical Sciences. I then went on to study MSc Molecular Medicine at the University of Leeds. Earlier this year, I decided to further my research speciality and begin my PHD journey. I am currently looking at the 'impact of premature ageing in microvasculature and macrovasculature' with **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** and **Professor Julie Thornton**. My research experience is in the field of cardiovascular and inflammatory diseases and targeted therapies.

Cloverleaf Leads

Four colleagues from our School have been appointed to leadership positions in the new Faculty Cloverleaf Research Structure. Very many congratulations go to:

- **Dr Krzysztof Poterłowicz**
Director of Research for Computational and Data Driven Science
- **Dr Beverly Stewart**
Deputy Director for Computational and Data Driven Science
- **Dr Yvonne Nyanthi**
Deputy Director for The Life Course
- **Dr Briony Yorke**
Deputy Director for The Interface of Chemistry, Biology and Materials

Good News Stories

A pandemic, 3 cancellations and 1 baby girl later, **Rachael Williams**, a research assistant from The Centre of Skin Sciences, finally got married on Saturday 24th July to her partner of 11 years. Congratulations to Rachael and her family!



On Saturday 11 September **Dr Andrew Tedder** and **Dr Mark Sutherland** took part in the 98 mile **Scotland coast to coast duathlon** from Nairn to Glencoe. The event started with a 7 mile cross country run, followed by 76 mile bike ride, 14 mile cross country run over Glen Nevis and a final 1 mile kayak across Loch Leven. The challenge took 11 hours to complete.

New Programme Leads

Dr Sanjit Nayak has been appointed to the role of **Programme Leader for Chemistry**. Thank you to **Dr Clare Peyton** for her leadership of the programme over the last few years, especially during the pandemic. Sanjit has some great ideas for developing the programme further and will be ably supported by **Dr Beverly Stewart** who will continue in her role as deputy programme leader.

Kara Thornton has been appointed as Programme Leader for Healthcare Science. Many congratulations to Kara and thank you to **Gillian Jaggard** for her leadership in the programme.

Fellowship of the Royal Society of Biology

Many congratulations to **Dr Conor Meehan**, who has become a member of the Royal Society of Biology.



FAIR Data Stewardship Training Fellowship

ELIXIR-UK institutions have partnered with the Software Sustainability Institute to build a Fellowship Programme to support and fund Data Stewards to train researchers in how to manage and share data in the life sciences. This programme, lead by the University of Bradford PI **Dr Krzysztof Poterłowicz** is funded by the UKRI innovation scholars award and look to recruit a total cohort of 20 Data Stewards in the Life Sciences through 2 rounds of applications through 2021-2022.

The successful fellows were chosen from 9 UK institutions and were competing against a large number of strong applications. The successful institutions included The Alan Turing Institute, Oxford Brookes University, University of Edinburgh, University of Manchester, University of Southampton, University of Warwick, University of York and University of Bradford.

Katarzyna Kamieniecka, University of Bradford PhD candidate at the Computational and Data Driven Science cluster, has been accepted into the ELIXIR-UK FAIR data stewardship training Fellowship. As a successful candidate, Katarzyna was selected for her experience, passion and knowledge of data stewardship and training in the life sciences.

Katarzyna's principle area of interest is focusing on computational methods for biomarkers identification in skin disorders - developing and providing workshops to introduce "FAIR" principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) in computational tools, pipelines and case studies to demonstrate how they can be used to help promote reproducibility when performing bioinformatic analyses.

For more information visit -
<https://elixiruknode.org/uncategorized/meet-our-new-fair-data-stewardship-training-fellows/>



Royal Society of Chemistry

Dr Thomas Swift and **Edward Dyson** have been awarded a **Royal Society of Chemistry Research Enablement Grant** which provides 3 months funding to complete fluorescence analysis of dyed polymer materials and support industrial collaborations.

CSL Behring Inc.

Professor Stephen Rimmer from our Polymer and Biomaterials Chemistry Group has secured £70,000 to develop a smart polymer purification with the Swiss company **CSL Behring Inc.** The project will investigate the use of novel functional polymers for the selective extraction of specific proteins from complex biological media.

NBIC Awarded BBSRC CTP Funding with Smith+Nephew.

The **National Biofilms Innovation Centre** just announced it received funding as part of a £22.5m investment from UK government to address skill gaps in the UK bioscience industry. This is very exciting news for Bradford - a committed partner of NBIC and recipient of three grants in the area of infection control. The collaborative training partnerships (CTP) are led by industry and fund doctoral training. Given our excellent links with NBIC and lead business Smith and Nephew, we look forward to harnessing the opportunities that these doctoral training grant will bring in the coming years.
<https://www.biofilms.ac.uk/nbic-bbsrc-ctp-funding/>

The full list of grant holders has been announced by the BBSRC showing those businesses that the UK government see as supporting growth in UK bioscience science in its strategic areas of net zero+, tackling infections, transformative technologies
<https://www.ukri.org/news/bio-researchers-of-the-future-get-22-5-million-boost/>

Of interest to CSS is the clear recognition that the UK skin care industry will benefit from funding support with Boots, P&G and Unilever recognised with a total of 74 studentships awarded over the three intakes. With existing good links with these companies, we will also be reaching out to identify opportunities for CTP studentships hosted by CSS.

MedTech Navigator

A collaboration between **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** and an industrial partner has been awarded £16,050 from the **MedTech Navigator** EU Funding stream.

Invited Lecture

Dr Refaat Hamed delivered an invited lecture to postgraduate students and staff of **Assiut University** on 22 August entitled "Most Recent Trends in Natural Products Research".

SPARC

Professor Stephen Rimmer delivered the keynote lecture at on "Emerging Materials in Cancer Therapy" under the aegis **SPARC program** supported by MHRD, New Delhi. This is being organized as a part of the activities of the ongoing SPARC project running with University of Manchester, UK.

RAPS

Dr Tom Swift, as the RAPS secretary, hosted the **Recent Appointees in Polymer Science** conference on Sept 2nd and 3rd where he chaired one panel and also submitted a flash poster presentation.

Physiology 2021

Dr Gisela Helfer attended the **Physiology 2021** conference on 12 July to 16 July 2021, which took place online this year. The Physiological Society asked her to be poster judge for the Rob Clarke Awards. The Rob Clarke Awards recognise excellence in undergraduate physiology projects and is given to the best posters presented of undergraduate research. It was great to see so many fantastic posters, and Gisela enjoyed speaking to the candidates about their research. The future of physiology research is in good hands!

Machine Learning

Dr Krzysztof Poterłowicz organized a workshop called "**Introduction to Machine Learning Using R**" in September 2021. This 2-day international course introduced participants to the machine learning taxonomy and the applications of common machine learning algorithms to omics data and has been delivered together with Fotis Psomopoulos, INAB-CERTH, ELIXIR-GR and Gabriele Schweikert, University of Dundee. More information can be found here:

<https://biodataanalysisgroup.github.io/2021-09-ml-elixir-uk/>

IUPAC

Dr Debbie Crawford gave an invited talk to the IUPAC CCCE 2021 - 104th **Canadian Chemistry Conference** and Exhibition (Mechanochemistry and Tribochemistry Symposium).

Instruct-ERIC

Dr Briony Yorke ran a workshop on time-resolved serial crystallography at the **Instruct-ERIC** course on macromolecular X-ray, electron and neutron crystallography that was hosted by the University of Oulu on the 6th of July.

Bioinformatics

Dr Krzysztof Poterłowicz chaired the UKRI Innovation Scholars - Data Science Training in Health and Bioscience session at **UK Conference of Bioinformatics** and Computational Biology 2021.

Frontiers in Physiology

Dr Gisela Helfer has been asked to be editor for Frontiers in Physiology, Integrative Physiology. She will act as topic editor for the research topic '**Women in Integrative Physiology: 2021**'. At present less than 30% of researchers worldwide are women, thus the Women in Physiology: 2021 series offers a platform to showcase women's involvement in physiological research, together with their achievements, innovation, and creativity. The Research topic aims to highlight the works achieved and led by women in the field of Integrative physiology. If your work is in integrative physiology and you are interested in publishing in this exciting series, please get in touch with Gisela. For submissions to this research topic, the lead/last or corresponding author should identify as female.

BSN-SNE Meeting 2021

Dr Gisela Helfer, **Dr Katie Hanna** and **Haesung Yun** attended the online BSN-SNE meeting on 22-24 September 2021. Haesung presented his poster 'Inhibition of chemerin/CMKLR1 axis in the hypothalamus reduces body weight and food intake' in the poster session and discussed his exciting results from his first year of his PhD research to an interested audience of British and French neuroendocrinologists. While this might have been a nerve-wracking experience, he did a sterling job and got some very positive feedback from BSN colleagues.

Papers in Press...

Dippenaar A, Goossens S, Grobbelaar M, Oostvogels S, Cuypers B, Laukens K, **Meehan CJ**, Warren R, van Rie A. **Nanopore sequencing for Mycobacterium tuberculosis: a critical review of the literature, new developments and future opportunities.** *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 2021

George AL, Shaheed SU, **Sutton CW**. **High-throughput proteomic profiling of nipple aspirate fluid from breast cancer patients compared with non-cancer controls: A step closer to clinical feasibility.** *J. Clin. Med.* 2021;10:2243

Guan Q, Garbati M, Mfarrej S, AlMutairi T, Laval T, Singh A, Fagbo S, Smyth A, Browne JA, urRahman MA, Alruwaili A, Hoosen A, **Meehan CJ**, Nakajima C, Suzuki Y, Demangel C, Bhatt A, Gordon SV, AlAsmari F, Pain A. **Insights into the ancestry evolution of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex from analysis of Mycobacterium riyadhense.** *NAR Genomics and Bioinformatics* 2021;3(3)

Habas K, Demir E, Guo C, **Brinkworth MH**, **Anderson D**. **Toxicity mechanisms of nanoparticles in the male reproductive system.** *Drug Metabolism Reviews* 2021 in press

Jiwa N, Takats Z, Leff DR, **Sutton CW**. **Breast health screening: a UK-wide questionnaire.** *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health* 2021 in press

Lavilla CJ, Billacura MP, **Hanna K**, Boocock DJ, Coveney C, Miles AK, Foulds GA, Murphy A, Tan A, Jackisch L, Sayers SR, Caton PW, Doig CL, McTernan PG, Colombo SL, Sale C, Turner MD. **Carnosine protects stimulus-secretion coupling through prevention of protein carbonyl adduction events in cells under metabolic stress.** *Free Radical Biology and Medicine*, 2021;175:5849

McLean S, **Yun H**, **Tedder A**, **Helper G**. **The effect of photoperiod and high fat diet on the cognitive response in photoperiod-sensitive F344 rats.** *Physiology and Behavior* 2021;113496

Meehan CJ, Barco R, Loh YH, Cogneau S, Rigouts L. **Reconstituting the genus Mycobacterium.** *IJSEM* 2021;71(9)

Milić M, Ceppi M, Bruzzone M, Azqueta A, Brunborg G, Godschalk R, Koppen G, Langie S, Moller P, Teixeira J, Alija A, **Anderson D**, Andrade V, Andreoli C, Asllani F, Bangkoglu EE, Barancokova M, Basaran N, Boutet-Robinet E, Buschini A, Cavallo D, Costa Pereira C, Costa C, Costa S, Da Silva J, Del Bo C, Sreckovic VD, Djelic N, Dobrzenska M, Durackova Z, Dvorakova M, Gajski G, Galati S, Lima OG, Giovannelli L, Goroshinskaya IA, Grindel A, Gutzkow KB, Hernandez A, Hernandez C, Holven KB, Baraibar I, Oftestad I, Kadioglu E, Kazimirova A, Kuznetsova E, Ladeira C, Laffon B, Lamnaca P, Lebailly P, Louro H, Cardoso TM, Marcon F, Marcos R, Moretti M, Moretti S, **Najafzadeh M**, Nemeth Z, Neri M, Novotna B, Orlov I, Paduchova Z, Pastor S, Perdry H, Spremo-Potparevic B, Ramadhani D, Riso P, Rohr P, Rojas E, Possner P, Safar A, Serdas S, Joao Silva M, Sirota N, Smolkova B, Staruchova M, Stefina R, Stopper H, Surikova EI, Ulven SM, Ursini CL, Valdiglesias V, Valverde M, Vodicka P, Volkovova K, Wagner KH, Zivkovic L, Dusinska M, Collins AR, Bonassi S. **The hCOMET project: International database comparison of results with the comet assay in human biomonitoring. Baseline frequency of DNA damage and effect of main confounders.** *Mutation Research/Reviews in Mutation Research* 2021;787: 10871

Pacchierotti F, Ardoino L, Benassi B, Consale C, Cordelli E, Eleuteri P, Marino C, Sciortino M, **Brinkworth MH**, Chen G, McNamee JP, Wood AW, Hooijmans CR, de Vries RBM. **Effects of radiofrequency electromagnetic field (RF-EMF) exposure on male fertility and pregnancy and birth outcomes: Protocols for a systematic review of experimental studies in non-human mammals and in human sperm exposed in vitro.** *Environment International* 2021;157:106806

Pattam J, **Swift T**, **Rimmer S**, MacNeil S, Shepherd J. **Development of a novel micro-bead force spectroscopy approach to measure the ability of a thermo-active polymer to remove bacteria from a corneal mode.** *Scientific Reports* 2021 in press

Presla D, Khurram SA, Zaki A, Zubir A, Smarakan S, Cooper PA, Morais GR, Sadiq M, **Sutherland M**, Loadman PM, McCaul J, Shnyder SD, Patterson LH, Pors K. **Cytochrome P450 isoforms 1A1, 1B1 AND 2W1 as targets for therapeutic intervention in head and neck cancer.** *Scientific Reports* 2021 in press

Riches-Suman K, Delderfield R. **Mirror mirror on the wall: is the current doctoral researcher well-being crisis being propagated by supervisors' past experiences?** *Proceedings of Researcher Education and Development Scholarship Conference* 2021; <https://conferences.leeds.ac.uk/reds/publications/>

Riches-Suman K. **Phenotypic differences between microvascular and macrovascular smooth muscle cells and their contribution to coronary microvascular dysfunction.** *Vessel Plus* 2021;5:28

Rushton DH, **Westgate GE**, Van Neste DJ. **Following historical "tracks" of hair follicle miniaturisation in patterned hair loss: Are elastin bodies the forgotten aetiology?** *Exp Dermatol.* 2021;00:1–8

Saleem S, Aleem I, Atiq A, Tariq S, Babar A, Abu Bakar M, Syed M, Maruf M, Mahmood Mohammad T, Zeshan M, Tahseen M, Hussain R, Loya A, **Sutton C**. **Expression of cornulin in tongue squamous cell carcinoma.** *eCancer* 2021;15:1197

Sanoussi CN, Coscolla M, Ofori-Anyinam AB, Otchere ID, Antonio M, Niemann S, Parkhill J, Harris S, Yeboah-Manu D, Gagneux S, Rigouts L, Affolabi D, de Jong BC, **Meehan CJ**. **Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex lineage 5 exhibits high levels of within-lineage genomic diversity and differing gene content compared to the type strain H37Rv.** *MGen* 2021;7(7)

Surtees A, **Telford R**, **Edwards H**, Benoy T. **Raman spectroscopic study of the pigments in a putative John Constable oil sketch.** *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy* 2021 in press.

Royal Society of Chemistry Accreditation

The chemistry team are very happy to announce the accreditation by the **Royal Society of Chemistry** of the **MSc Materials Chemistry programme**. This was lead by **Dr Beverly Stewart** and has been an ongoing exercise involving the collation of all assessments, module descriptors and mapping exercises (along with a rather extensive application form) which is then sent to a specialist group of assessors which map all of our learning activities to the 'Key requirements (KR)' for accreditation. These key requirements are used to assess the standard of practical skills, professional skills, project work and placements offered as part of the programme along with the breadth and depth of knowledge included in taught modules. Bev coordinated the RSC accreditation meeting where the team met (albeit virtually) with the panel of assessors and discussed all aspects of the programme before the findings of the assessors are passed on to an accreditation committee. The result from that committee was incredibly positive, the programme was praised in terms of the research facilities which are available to students, along with our inclusive curriculum and our integration of research skills throughout the programme.

One of the most positive aspects of the accreditation exercise came in the form of the recognition we received for delivering a programme which specifically meets the needs of the local job market.

'...The assessors felt the MSc Materials Chemistry is a strong programme which provides the students with a detailed knowledge of Materials Chemistry. The programme also gives the students the opportunity to undertake a project in this area...'

We hope that this will encourage more students, both home and international, to apply to our newly accredited MSc Materials Chemistry programme where they will undertake a rigorous and rewarding period of study, learning many exciting technical skills and graduate with all the skills required for employment in today's competitive chemical industry job market.

Bev would like to thank the whole team for their help in collating the necessary paperwork and for the accreditation and for all who were present at the assessors visit. We would also like to thank our assessors Dr. Jason Lynam (University of York), Professor James Barker (Kingston University, London) and Ms Nancy Reinoso at the Royal Society of Chemistry.'

Student Overseas Placements

The University has done well in the latest call for **Turing Funding**, and locally, the good news is that £29,000 has been secured to fund up to 18 overseas placements for Biomed and Healthcare Science students. These will typically be 4 week voluntary placements next summer, across a range of countries & healthcare environments. Priority will be given to students in years 2 & 3, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds and underrepresented groups. More details to follow at start of term when the scheme and application process launches, but any queries in the meantime, contact **Dr Anna Snelling** (BMS Overseas Placement Tutor).

HUCBMS

On 1 September **Dr Jonathan Fletcher** was elected to the Executive Committee of the '**Heads of University Centres of Biomedical Sciences**' (HUCBMS – the organisation that amongst other things, promotes national and international quality standards in biomedical sciences teaching and research).

Curriculum Design

Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman has been successful in the curriculum development co-ordinator role. She is looking forward to working with the team to progress the work that slowed down over the summer months.

Pedagogy

Dr Conor Meehan completed an online training course called '**Train the trainer: Design genomics and bioinformatics training**' with Wellcome connecting science which trains people in best pedagogical approaches for face to face and online education in genetics, genomics and bioinformatics.

Biomed MSc Projects

Many thanks to the **technical and academic teams** who supported our BMS Masters students through their research projects over the summer. Some excellent feedback was received and it is clear the students were very grateful for all the work supervisors and our technical team did to support them during their projects.

Admissions and Outreach

Admissions

As usual, I'm going to start this section with the claim that admissions has been hectic! It really has, but there are lots of positive things to take away from all the hard work the admissions & outreach team have been doing. Firstly, the big one, clearing. This year had its fair share of challenges for us as a team, not least working remotely (and totally glazing over the whole 'no exams' situation), but the team worked fantastically hard, and the results positive on the whole. Obviously, I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in the clearing effort. Without your hard work and dedication, we would not be in the position we are now. Particular thanks go to our two Admissions tutors, **Dr Mark Sutherland** and **Dr Alex Surtees**, who really went above and beyond expectations (as usual).

Because the work of the admissions team is never done, we moved on at breakneck speed into the first of our new cycle UG Open days. The first happened 'virtually', and was led by two fantastic teams of student ambassadors. So a massive thank you to each of them, including **Esther Gray** and **Monika Gomola** from the Chemistry team (along with **Alex**), and **Alisha Zia** and **Saarah Taj** from the Biomed team. I never fail to be impressed by how positively the student ambassadors are about the courses, and the way in which they interact with our applicants. They really are a credit to the courses.

If you have any suggestions for students at UG or PG level that you think would make good student ambassadors, please do let me know. There are plenty of events across the year for them to participate (Open days, AEDs, outreach events etc...), and they get paid...

With the removal of COVID-19 restrictions, we are going to be welcoming back on campus events. This begins with our first on campus open day on 16 October, 2021 (this event may well have passed by the time you read this - more in the next issue) quickly followed by 20 November 2021. If you are willing to help with the events, it would be much appreciated, because these activities make a big impact on our conversion rates. If you have ideas for interactive activities (in the lab or otherwise), we'd be happy to hear them. Everyone loves doing cool science after all. If you have ideas, or are available to help out on the days, please let either myself, Mark or Alex know.

It isn't only UG events on the horizon though! We have the first of our virtual PG open days happening on 20 October 2021. This event is focused on international students predominantly, but there will be more happening across the year, so watch this space.

Podcast

Dr Conor Meehan did a podcast called **Sound Optometry** which is aimed at providing continuous education to UK-GOC registered optometrists. We spoke about infection control for respiratory diseases and what steps should be kept going forward. You can listen here: <https://audioboom.com/posts/7940317-infection-control-protect-the-patient-protect-yourself>

Newspaper Articles

Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman, **Prof Anne Graham** and **Alisah Hussain** were highlighted in a press release from the University regarding advances in diabetes research and how it can impact our local community. This was picked up by a number of news outlets including the **Telegraph and Argus** and the **Yorkshire Evening Post**.

Literature Festival

Dr Gisela Helfer hosted author and scientist **Giles Yeo** at the **Bradford Literature Festival** in June. Giles Yeo, a Cambridge neuroscientist, launched his second book 'Why calories don't count' at the literature festival and explained why popular diet schemes often succeed and ultimately fail to a very interested audience. He even brought a life-size knitted gut to his talk, which surely was one of the highlights of the festival.



Admissions and Outreach

Media Workshop

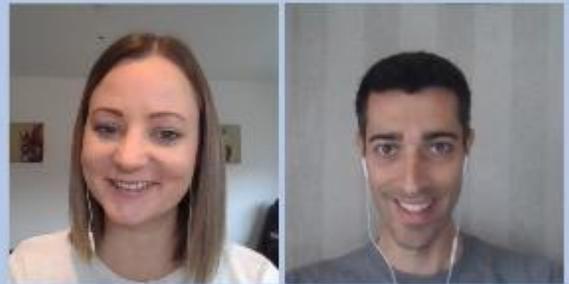
On 1st of July 2021, **Dr Gisela Helfer** attended a Media Workshop organised by the Academy of Medical Sciences in London. The workshop was run by Media Woman and tailored particularly for women to give confidence and skills to take on media and presentation opportunities. This was the first 'live' workshop for Gisela after the lockdown and she thoroughly enjoyed the experience. She learnt practical techniques for broadcast interviews, was able to get experience in big studio debates and got to take part in some studio exercises. It was also great to see and work again with her Sustain leadership cohort.



BCB Radio

Dr Gisela Helfer hosted the September **Research Matters** radioshow on BCB 106.6FM which was first broadcast on the 19 September 2021 at 1pm. Research matters is a Bradford Community Broadcasting programme highlighting research based in and important to Bradford, and the people who are doing it. Gisela interviewed **Dr Katie Hanna** who talked about her work on circadian rhythms in naked mole rats, a project that she recently received funding for from the British Society for Neuroendocrinology. Gisela was also joined by **Dr Pete Nicholls** who discussed his research on germ cell tumours and the genetic factors that influence the development of these tumours. The research matters radio programme is still available on Listen again at BCB radio.

BCB Research Matters 106.6 fm & online
19th September 2021



Stay Safe, Be Kind
www.bradford.ac.uk/researchmatters

Ilkley Walk

Before the MSc students started their projects, staff and students enjoyed a glorious walk from Shipley to Ilkley over the moors. For some students, this was their first experience to see our beautiful Yorkshire landscape and they took every opportunity to take great photo shots! It was a very adventurous day and we even got chased by horses, but nevertheless everyone enjoyed themselves.



Postgraduate Research Symposium

The annual Postgraduate Research Symposium for the Faculty of Life Sciences was held on the 1st September 2021. In keeping with a blended approach, the conference was simultaneously broadcast online and held in person. The day was organised by the Faculty of Life Sciences PGR representatives which included our own **Mohammed Ihsun** and **Paul Norton**.

All PGR students across the faculty were invited to present their studies either in the form of a talk or a poster, across the new Faculty Clover Leaf structure regarding Computational and Data Driven Science, Health, Society, People and Place, The Interface of Biology, Chemistry and Materials, The Life Course.

Talks were held in parallel streams and there was a virtual poster session. We had fantastic representation from our school with abstracts presented by:

- **Ifunnaya Patricia K. Achi** (supervisors Krzysztof Paluch, Helen Sheldrake and Anna Snelling)
- **Wafa Alsahly** (supervisors Krzysztof Poterlowicz and Andrei Mardaryev)
- **Anoff Anim** (supervisors Sanjit Nayak, Prof AL Kelly and Maria Katsikogianni)
- **Nagah Bobtina**, (supervisors Diana Anderson and Mojgan Najafzadeh)
- **Asiye Busra Boz Er** (supervisors Mark Sutherland and Helen Sheldrake)
- **Hanan. M. El Bsir** (supervisors Krzysztof Paluch, Helen Sheldrake and Anna Snelling)
- **Nathan W Fenwick** (supervisors Richard D Bowen, Richard Telford and William H C Martin)
- **Daniel Hall** (supervisors Clare Peyton and Jenny Waby)
- **Alisah Hussain** (supervisors Kirsten Riches-Suman and Julie Thornton)
- **Katarzyna Kamieniecka** (supervisors Krzysztof Poterlowicz, Julie Thornton)
- **Sabia Khan** (supervisors Anne Graham and Kirsten Riches-Suman)
- **Laia Rafols** (supervisors William Martin, Steve Shnyder and Nic Barry)
- **Sumaia Sabouni** (supervisors Anne Graham, Prof Rami Qahwaji and Krzysztof Poterlowicz)
- **Nehnah Siddique** (supervisors Stephen Rimmer and Jon Fletcher)
- **Sehaj Singha** (supervisors Stephen Rimmer and Jon Fletcher)
- **Kirstie Smith** (supervisors Krzysztof Poterlowicz and Julie Thornton)
- **Haesung Yun** (supervisors Gisela Helfer and Klaus Pors)



We are delighted that we had two prizewinners from our school: **Laia Rafols** won first prize for presentations in Stream 2 (The Life Course: Cells to Systems in Health and Disease) and also third prize for Best Abstract. **Neneh Siddique** won first prize for presentations in Stream 3 (all four clover-leaf structures) and also third prize for the Best Poster. Congratulations to both, these are fantastic achievements for your CVs!

Thanks also to our PGR representatives who helped bring in sponsorship for the event and made sure everything ran smoothly and to time.



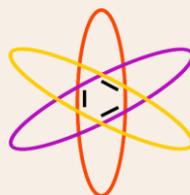
Undergraduate Prizes

We were delighted to see so many of our students graduating over the summer – although it was a remote celebration, it represents such a lot of achievement and we are proud of all of you. We also handed out a number of prizes to our students:

- **Hannah Addison Haematology Prize**
- **Sophie Christian Sue Parkin Prize**
- **Richard Hall Microbiology Society Prize**
- **Zainub Hussain Prize for Best Performance in first year BSc Biomedical Science**
- **Kristina (Marie) Ossitt Nufarm Prize for Best Performance in final year BSc Chemistry**
- **Chloe Noble Don Whitley Scientific Microbiology Prize**
- **Humaira Parvaz Royal Society of Biology Prize; Professor Michael Gardner Biochemistry Prize**
- **Fatimah Sajid IBMS President's Prize; Medical Cell Biology Prize**
- **Aiysha Shazad Terry Baker Prize**
- **Theodora Tsiaousi Prize for Best Performance in second year BSc Biomedical Science**

Student Societies

We have two societies for our students – **ChemSoc**, and the **Biomedical Science Society**. Did you know you can even join both if you fancy it? Please keep an eye out as to how to join and all the different events that they put on – it's a great part of being an undergraduate. While you're at it, why not follow the School on twitter - @UoBBio and @UoBChem to find out all our latest developments.



ChemSoc

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!



Are you interested in helping out with the newsletter? Do you want to quiz your professors on how they reached their positions? If so, then we would like to hear from you! We are looking for volunteers from either Chemistry or Biomedical Science (or indeed both) who would be interested in conducting the 'Meet Your Professor' interviews that are normally found at the end of this newsletter. All it takes is a ~1 hour timeslot with yourself and the professor, and then a write up of what you discussed. It's easy, and our two roving reporters from last year (**Absari Choudhury** and **Ridha Ali**) really enjoyed the experience. If you would like to volunteer, please contact **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** (k.riches@bradford.ac.uk) or **Dr Andrew Tedder** (a.tedder@bradford.ac.uk) – we're looking forward to hearing from you!

Student Ambassadors

The University are currently recruiting for student ambassadors, who play a key role in supporting recruitment activities. Student ambassadors act as advocates for the university and their degree programmes, working on events such as Open days and UCAS fairs, as well as acting as role models, helping to raise aspirations and awareness of higher education. Outbound calling ambassadors help to encourage attendance at events such as open days, as well as supporting enquirers and applicants with any questions they may have about university life.

If you are interested, you can fill out an application form [here](#)!

We are also asking all staff to please help us in promoting this opportunity to ensure we have the best advocates for our courses and the university. You can do this by encouraging students to enquire by emailing ambassador@bradford.ac.uk before the application **deadline of 23:59 on Thursday 17th October**

Join our LinkedIn Groups

LinkedIn is a great tool for building your professional network, showcasing your skills and can even lead to employers contacting you, rather than the other way around. Here at Bradford we have our own LinkedIn groups so please, sign up for your free LinkedIn profile at www.linkedin.com and join the community!



Bradford University School of Biomedical Sciences
Bradford University School of Chemistry