

Newsletter

HARNESSING IMMUNE COMPLEXITY

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Merry Christmas



Newsletter



Director's Update

Well everyone, another Christmas, another virus strain, another set of lockdown restrictions. Cancelling the Christmas party was a real shame but I do hope that you all managed to have some kind of social celebration on a smaller scale and we will have to believe that there will be other opportunities to get together in the New Year. I think we have all coped remarkably well considering the disruption to our working practices this year which is something to be proud of, and I would like to thank you all for your help and support, particular John Grainger who is an endless source of enthusiasm and Lisa O'Neill who continues to entertain me via Zoom. Over the last few months you may be aware that Fiona Foster left us as Institute Manager to go over to the 'Translational at Manchester' team where she continues to do excellent work, but by late October, we were able to welcome Mr Ameur Bayar to the Lydia Becker who has already shown great enthusiasm and settled into the Institute Manager role very well.



Ameur has been at the University since 2015, first as the Year 5 Administrator within the Division of Medical Education, then as an Administrator in the Organic Materials Research Centre within the School of Chemistry and latterly as a Research Support Officer in FBMH. He comes with a wealth of knowledge on University systems and processes and is now a critical facilitator of the Lydia Becker Institute's research strategy. He will be reaching out to you all on a variety of subjects and can be contacted on email/Teams (ameur.bayar@manchester.ac.uk) as for the foreseeable future our PS team will be remote working.

Please do all have a relaxing Christmas break, stay well, and all the very best for 2022,



T. Hussell

Professor Tracy Hussell.

The University provides a wide range of wellbeing resources. The following link provides details on support available over Christmas and the New Year https://www.wellbeing_resources and additional resources and guidance on the University closure over the Christmas break can be found [here](#).

Bill Ford Friday (BFF) Forum

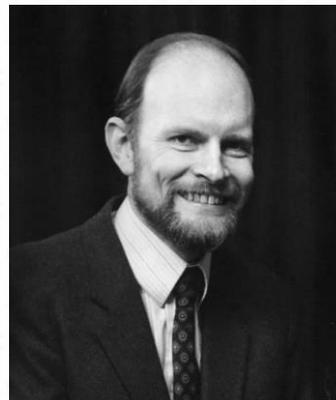


In honour of Professor Ford the Bill Ford Chair of Cellular Immunology was created at the University, which was recently held by Professor Werner Muller prior to his retirement and is currently held by Professor Richard Grencis. Bill Ford started the first immunology seminar series in Manchester, and these were held on Fridays – so it is only fitting that the new forum for scientific discussions on anything immunological is named after him – the Bill Ford Friday (BFF) forum.

The BFF forums have recommenced face to face and are every other Friday from 4pm in AV Hill Atrium. They are generally the 2nd Friday and last Friday of the month with the latter evolving into 'pub' BFF to those who wish to go along to Kro Bar on Oxford Road afterwards.

*At the time of publication these sessions are set up until April 2022 and may revert to zoom.

If you would like to join the sessions please contact Lisa (lisa.oneill@manchester.ac.uk) who can send you the meeting invite.



Congratulations



1: A huge congratulations to our Barrier Immunology branch lead Dr Joanne Konkel who, after a gruelling process and immense competition, was awarded significant funds from the Wellcome Trust via the Infections and Immunity panel. Her application focuses on "redefining innate cell development at oral barriers". This success underscores the exceptional talent of early career academics in the Lydia Becker Institute.

2: Congratulations are also due to Dr Nicholas Barnes who has just been announced as the winner of the BSI Immunology Teaching Excellence Award 2021! This award is presented annually by the Society to recognise an exceptional immunology teacher working in a higher education institute in the UK.

The BSI highlighted Nicholas' innovative approach to teaching via his work with UK NEQAS to pilot use of a web-based resource of patient cases (interpretative EQA scheme) which allowed students to develop their skills in an interactive/safe environment. The BSI also highlighted the benefit of a web based approach which allowed students to still engage in important networking activities despite Covid related disruptions.

More detail about the announcement is available here: <https://www.immunology.org/news/bsi-immunology-teaching-excellence-award-2021-announced> or on the Lydia Becker [Twitter](#) feed.

3: Congratulations to both Hugo Penny (4ward North Wellcome clinical PhD) and Suzie Hodge (MRC CASE DTP w/GSK) from the Hepworth lab who successfully passed their PhD vivas. Suzie Hodge was examined by Georgia Perona-Wright (Glasgow) and Andrew MacDonald, her thesis title was: "Amino Acid Transport as a Rheostat of Group 2 Innate Lymphoid Cells". Hugo Penny was examined by Lucy Walker (UCL) and Kathryn Else, his title was: "Determining the functional consequences of circadian regulation of intestinal IgA plasma cell responses"

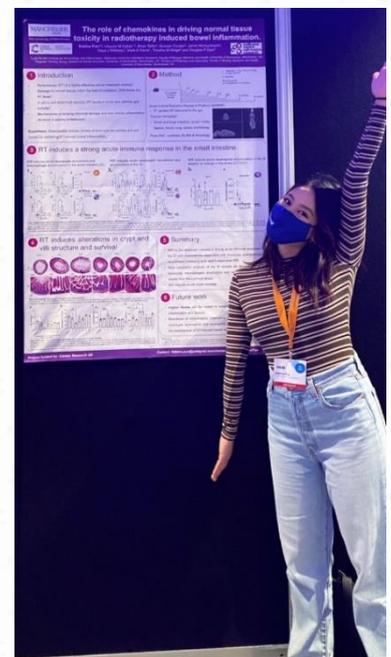
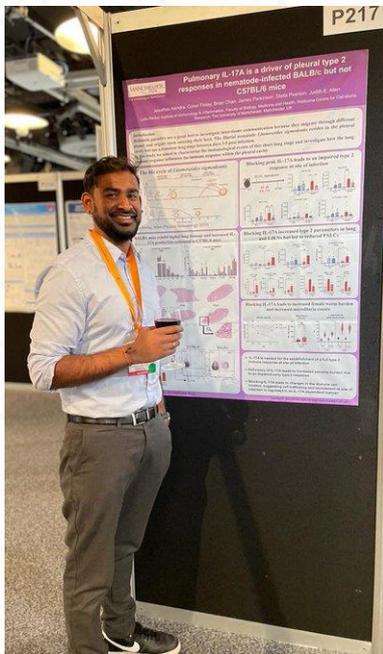
4: Congratulations also to Professor Judi Allen who for the 3rd consecutive year has been named a 2021 highly cited researcher by Web of Science <https://recognition.webofscience.com/awards/highly-cited/2021/>



Invited Seminars

BSI Congress Edinburgh 28th November ~ 1st December 2021

The British Society of Immunology hosted a 4 day event in Edinburgh this year and had an extensive programme of cutting-edge research from leading UK and international researchers. Our very own Professor Tracy Hussell did a presentation and Q&A session on 'understanding barrier immunity' on the final day. A number of our talented researchers and immunology students also participating and attending the event this year too; we had some fab posts on Twitter [#BeckerAtTheBSI](#)



Upcoming Seminars of Interest



MIG Seminar Series

The MIG seminars will recommence on Thursday 20th January 2022 until 30th July 2022 and feature a variety of speakers from around the world. Details are circulated weekly, and confirmed by an outlook calendar invite. Please contact matthew.hepworth@manchester.ac.uk or john.soffe@manchester.ac.uk if you do not receive the circular with the details and zoom meeting invite.

Coronavirus in the Press

An update to date list on all the press coverage of COVID_19 related research going on in the institute can be found on our [webpage](#)



Newsletter



Public Outreach and Patient Engagement

1: Explore the revolution in science that is transforming cancer care at the Science and Industry Museum. From now until March 2022 you can book to attend their major new free exhibition, [Cancer Revolution: Science, innovation and hope](#).

2: The VALIDATE Network, a global community of vaccine researchers who include Professor Tracy Hussell, have just released [BCG Adventures computer](#), educational video games all about vaccines. You can play them online, for free.



These games are an open resource to help researchers and teachers engage young people with the science of vaccines, so please do share them with your students, friends and children as not only do these games help communicate concepts of immunology and vaccine development, they are also great fun!

3: Professor Rachel Watson has discussed possible research breakthroughs in treating skin deficits in old age, something which is estimated to affect 3.8 million people a year in the UK. Speaking about the research programme in today's [Daily Mail](#) Professor Watson said: 'The more we know about skin structure and skin ageing, the better chance we have of treating these other problems.'

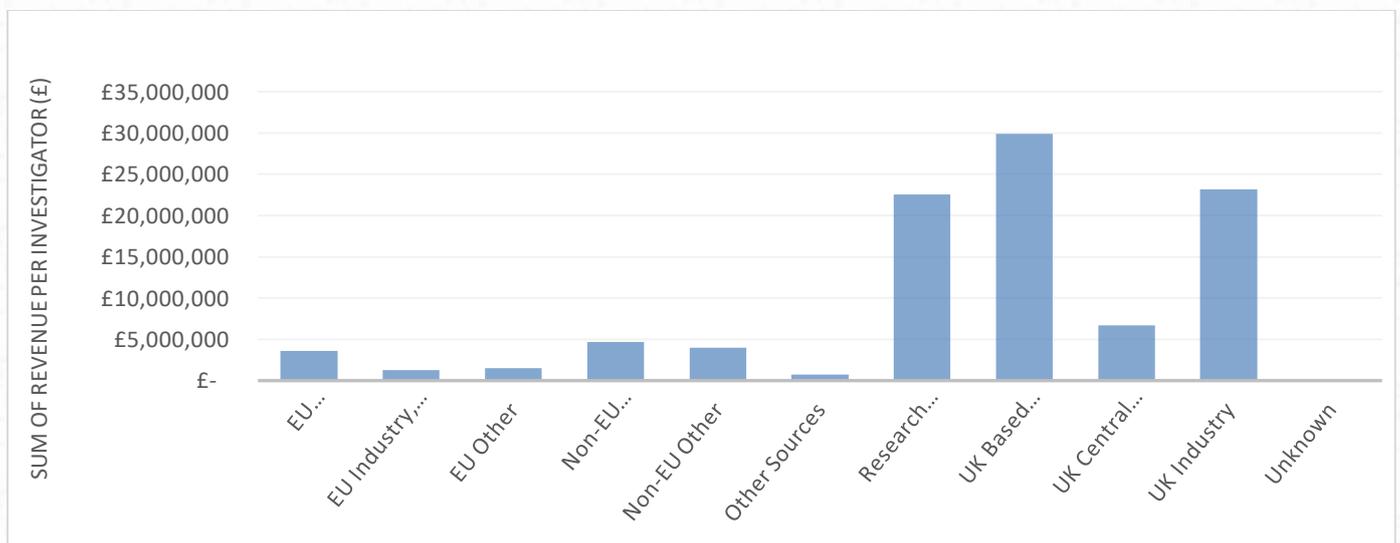
In [MSN](#), an article quotes Prof Sheena Cruickshank, who explains the role the gut microbiome plays in helping us digest food, produce vitamins, and protecting us from infection.

Also in [MSN](#), Dan Davis, professor of immunology talks about the immune system and how to optimise health. He is quoted as saying "Your body sends all of its resources to the thing it thinks is most likely to kill you, and away from other stuff, like your protective network".



Grants

Since inception PIs in the Lydia Becker Institute have been awarded over £98M in grants.





Publications

Since the institute started, 194 papers have already listed the institute as an affiliation.

Below are the papers published since our last newsletter July 2021:

August 2021

Armento A, Schmidt TL, Sonntag I, Merle DA, Jarboui MA, Kilger E, Clark SJ, Ueffing M. (2021) CFH Loss in Human RPE Cells Leads to Inflammation and Complement System Dysregulation via the NF- κ B Pathway. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021 Aug 13; 22(16). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22168727>

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Tontini C, Bulfone-Paus S. (2021) Novel Approaches in the Inhibition of IgE-Induced Mast Cell Reactivity in Food Allergy. *Front Immunol.* 2021; 12:613461. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2021.613461>

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Kitchen GB, Hopwood T, Gali Ramamoorthy T, Downton P, Begley N, Hussell T, Dockrell DH, Gibbs JE, Ray DW, Loudon ASI. (2021) The histone methyl transferase Ezh2 restrains macrophage inflammatory responses. *FASEB J.* 2021 Oct; 35(10):e21843. <https://doi.org/10.1096/fj.202100044rrr>

Webb LM, Phythian-Adams AT, Costain AH, Brown SL, Lundie RJ, Forde-Thomas J, Cook PC, Jackson-Jones LH, Marley AK, Smits HH, Hoffmann KF, Tait Wojno ED, MacDonald AS. (2021) Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells Facilitate The Cell Cytokine Responses throughout Schistosoma mansoni Infection. *Immunohorizons.* 2021 Aug 30; 5(8):721-732. <https://doi.org/10.4049/immunohorizons.2100071>

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Carpenter J, Wang Y, Gupta R, Li Y, Haridass P, Subramani DB, Reidel B, Morton L, Ridley C, O'Neal WK, Buisine MP, Ehre C, Thornton DJ, Kesimer M. (2021) Assembly and organization of the N-terminal region of mucin MUC5AC: Indications for structural and functional distinction from MUC5B. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2021 Sep 28; 118(39). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2104490118>

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<https://doi.org/10.1053/j.gastro.2021.11.014>

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smim.2021.101525>

Mayer JU, Hilligan KL, Chandler JS, Eccles DA, Old SI, Domingues RG, Yang J, Webb GR, Munoz-Eraza L, Hyde EJ, Wakelin KA, Tang SC, Chappell SC, von Daake S, Brombacher F, Mackay CR, Sher A, Tussiwand R, Connor LM, Gallego-Ortega D, Jankovic D, Le Gros G, Hepworth MR, Lamiable O, Ronchese F. (2021) Homeostatic IL-13 in healthy skin directs dendritic cell differentiation to promote TH2 and inhibit TH17 cell polarization. *Nat Immunol.* 2021 Nov 18; Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41590-021-01067-0>

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Kodji X, Kee Z, McKenna R, de Sousa Valente J, Ravenscroft H, McMillan H, Gamble J, Dombrowski Y, Moynagh P, Brough D, Lundy FT, Brain SD, El Karim IA. (2021) Evidence That a TRPA1-Mediated Murine Model of Temporomandibular Joint Pain Involves NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation. *Pharmaceuticals (Basel).* 2021 Oct 23; 14(11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ph14111073>

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Pure

Pure automatically pulls through any papers to your research explorer page. However your papers will not pull through to the Lydia Becker Institute Research Explorer page unless the Institute is listed as your main affiliation. If it is not your main affiliation in Pure, you will need to manually edit the metadata for each paper and add the Lydia Becker Institute as an organisational unit. It is important to have all relevant papers pull through to the Institute research explorer so that we can generate metrics on publications for the Institute. Instructions on how to do this are below.

Affiliating your Pure records to your Institute

If you work as part of one of the University Institutes, you may wish to affiliate relevant records in Pure to that Institute. Records you could affiliate could include publications, activities or datasets for example.

Edit person

Carla Funke-Dooley
Internal person Change person ▼

Name and role on the research output

First name: Last name *:

Role *:

Affiliation on the research output

Research Services (4/02/19 → present)

Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation (13/02/20 -)

Cancel Update

By affiliating records to your Institute, you help to populate your Institute's page on the [Research Explorer](#) portal, which gives an overview of all activities in the Institute.

The steps below illustrate how to affiliate a publication record to your Institute, but the same steps apply to any type of record in Pure.

To affiliate a record -

- Open any record in Pure you are named on to edit it.
- Where you are named on the record, click 'edit'.
- Under the section entitled 'Affiliation on the research output' click the box labelled 'Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation'
- Click the 'update' button.
- When the editor window closes, click the 'save' button.

If you do not see the option for your Institute please contact your Institute Manager.



Branch News

Neuro Immunology

Distinguished Achievement Award for Prof. David Brough

Prof David Brough, deputy lead of the Neuroimmunology branch in the LBIII and theme lead for Brain Inflammation in the GJBRC was recently recognised by the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health for his research achievements, being awarded with the Researcher of the Year distinguished achievement award for 2021. This award was for his outstanding work on the biology of the NLRP3 inflammasome and dissecting the mechanisms of neuroinflammation during different brain diseases, including stroke, Alzheimer's disease and cerebral malaria.



Grant funding success for theme members

Congratulations to Dr Emmanuel Pinteaux and branch colleagues Prof. David Brough and Prof. Stuart Allan for the recent award of a British Heart Foundation project grant. The award (to the value of £152, 861) will allow the team to define the specific roles of IL-1alpha and IL-1beta during recovery from stroke, with a goal of developing more refined anti-IL-1 therapies for cerebrovascular disease.

Highlight publication by Dr Kieron South, Prof. Stuart Allan and colleagues

Research in the Neuroimmunology branch led by Prof. Stuart Allan, co-director of the GJBRC, has identified a potential new drug for the treatment of stroke. The authors of the research, recently published in the journal Blood, describe the importance of this study and the ability of the new drug, called caADAMTS13, to target and break down blood clots in the brain in a University press release:

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/new-stroke-clot-buster-drug-shows-exciting-potential-in-mice/>

The manuscript can be accessed at:

Robust Thrombolytic and Anti-Inflammatory Action of a Constitutively Active ADAMTS13 Variant in Murine Stroke Models. Kieron South, Ohud Saleh, Eloise Lemarchand, Graham Coutts, Craig J Smith, Ingo Schiessl, Stuart M Allan. Blood (blood.2021012787) <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2021012787>

Cancer Immunology

Manchester Cancer Research Centre: Paterson Redevelopment Project

As the new Paterson building reaches its apex, Professor Nic Jones updates on the progress and shares internal concepts of the new revolutionary cancer research facility.

Link: <https://www.mcrc.manchester.ac.uk/paterson-building-development-update-november-2021/>



Newsletter

Re-Write Cancer: Manchester Can!

By leveraging the collaborative co-localisation of the new Paterson building, in the next five years, Manchester Can “use your blood sample to understand the unique molecular features of your cancer in real-time”

Link: <https://www.mcrc.manchester.ac.uk/re-write-cancer-manchester-can/>



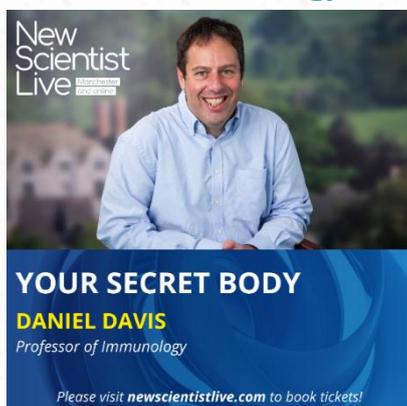
MCRC Annual Report now available

Discover the research activities, funding announcements, publication and award successes from the past year at the MCRC, including:

- Collaborating with Kenyatta University Teaching Referral and Research Hospital to improve the lives of people with oesophageal cancer in Kenya.
- How research led by Prof. Emma Crosbie led to a change in NICE Guidelines that women with womb cancer are now screened for Lynch syndrome.
- Spotlights on strategic developments in neuro-oncology and paediatric oncology
- Meet the wider MCRC team and our activities in Strategic Research and Partnerships, Training and Education and Professional Services
- The Digital Cancer Centre and how data and research will enable the seamless integration of targeted clinical trials.

Link: <https://www.mcrc.manchester.ac.uk/annual-report-2020-vf.pdf>

Cellular Immunology



Branch lead Professor Dan Davis has been very busy and featured in a number of publications to include articles he has written in the [Times](#), [New Scientist](#), and [The Guardian](#); most recently discussing [genetics](#)

Dan was also interviewed recently in the [Observer](#) as well as gave a [YouTube](#) talk watched by over 125k people.

Dan will also be speaking at the [New Scientist Live](#) event which is January 29th – 30th 2022, and his latest book [The Secret Body](#) is available to purchase online.

Merry Christmas

