

We are delighted to present the second edition of our quarterly FBMH Internationalisation Newsletter.

Our newsletters aim to highlight pertinent International Teaching & Research Partnerships and Collaboration Opportunities, keep you up to date with funding changes and opportunities, and items we consider will be important and beneficial to your teaching and research.

We welcome any suggestions or comments regarding our newsletter or any other aspect of our Internationalisation work.

Professor Keith Brennan

RECENT EVENTS

**Kenya UK Healthcare Alliance
Launch at Royal College of
Physicians, 29th July 2021**



Although concerns over rising Covid infection rates following the Euros put pay to our plans to have HE President Uhuru Kenyatta visit Manchester, a very successful launch event for the Kenya UK Healthcare Alliance was run at the Royal College of Physicians in conjunction with Kenyan High Commission, Department of Health & Social Care and Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office. The event was attended by the HE President Uhuru Kenyatta, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care Sajid Javid, Cabinet Secretary for Labour Simon Chelugui, HE Jane Marriott High Commissioner to Kenya and HE Manoah Esipisu High Commissioner to the UK. 12 members of the Alliance attend in person and many others virtually through Zoom. The MoU to launch the Alliance was signed by the Kenyan High Commission and the four founding partners of the Alliance, University of Manchester, The Christie Hospital, Manchester University Foundation Trust and Health Education England. The agreement operationalises the visions outlined by the Foreign Secretary and the Government of Kenya in the MoU on Health

Partnership, signed in January 2020, to improve the prevention and management of cancer in Kenya as part of Universal Health Coverage policy. The founding partners were also joined by representatives of Staffordshire University, Tropical Health Education Trust and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. **Watch the Video**



Visit of Kenyan Deputy High Commissioner, 4th August 2021



Discussions took place around a broadening out of the collaboration of the University with Kenya into other areas of the Big Four Agenda, including Affordable Housing, Manufacturing and Food Security by running a series of fora with the Kenyan High Commission ahead of COP26.. The first of these fora on Manufacturing was run on the 14th September and the second on Affordable Housing on the 26th October. The final one on Food Security will be held in November.

Visit of the Kenyan Ministries of
Health and Labour, 30th Sept
2021



As a follow up to the launch of the Kenya UK Healthcare Alliance, the Kenyan Ministries of Health and Labour visited the University. The attendees also met representatives from the Manchester Foundation Trust, the Christie Hospital and the Northern Care Alliance who expressed full support and cooperation, participating in detailed discussions on the implementation plans and identification of funding sources.

The conversation centred around developing cancer services across Kenya using a 'hub and spoke' model centred around Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital, and developing a Kenyan Centre of Excellence in Health Education at Kisii University to meet the current and future needs for a highly skilled multi-professional healthcare work force.

Vice Dean, Professor Mahesh Nirmalan said, "The commitment of the UoM to work with colleagues from Kenya in developing cancer services and human resource development is in keeping with our commitment to our Social Responsibility in the global arena. The progress made thus far despite the pandemic is most commendable."

Discussions included:

- the development of a Centre of Excellence in Research at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital starting with a focus around oesophageal cancer.
- the development of a Centre of Excellence in Health Education at Kisii University through the licencing of the Faculty's Medical, Pharmacy and Nursing programmes.
- training of current healthcare professionals through programmes jointly developed by The Christie and KUTRRH.
- training being delivered through the Breast Cancer Awareness Week being run by the Nightingale Centre between 4th & 8th October 2021.
- the recruitment of Kenyan nurses to NHS Trusts within the Greater Manchester area.
- the visit of HE President Uhuru Kenyatta to the UK during COP26 in November 2021.

Opening of the Integrated Molecular Imaging Centre at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral & Research Hospital, 16th October 2021.

Professors Graham Lord, Mahesh Nirmalan, Rob Bristow and Keith Brennan represented the Kenya UK Healthcare Alliance at the opening of the Integrated Molecular Imaging Centre by HE President Uhuru Kenyatta. This is a fantastic new development at Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital, which will provide the first public nuclear medicine centre, with a cyclotron, 2 PET/CT and a SPECT/CT, in East Africa.

It will significantly change cancer imaging in the region. KUKHA are delighted to be playing a small part in the development of the Centre by providing training through the PET Academy at the Christie Hospital.

China Scholarship Council (CSC) Innovation Platform Application

Over the last six months, intensive negotiation and collaboration with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (SJTUSM) have led to the formal agreement and joint application for the CSC Innovation Platform scheme, which was submitted on 20th October. The interview will happen in mid-November and we are expecting to hear the outcome in January 2022. If successful the Innovation Platform will provide funding for jointly supervised PhD students and for postdocs & early career researchers to visit and research in the Faculty. Similar dialogues have been ongoing with Peking University Health Science Centre (PKUHSC).

Indiana University

With the renewal of the MoU with Indiana University, the Faculty has joined meetings with FHums and FSE to explore possible links within the Biology, Medicine and Health areas. The following areas have been identified and will be explored further with online symposia in the next few months:

- Paediatrics, Maternal and foetal health
- Diabetes and Metabolism
- Tissue engineering and regeneration

Tel Aviv University

As Israel's largest and most comprehensive university, Tel Aviv University (TAU) has recently become one of the University's strategic research partners and a **Joint Research Fund** has been established with them. To

help staff within the Faculty make the most of these funds, an **appraisal** has been undertaken of the research capabilities of Tel Aviv University (TAU) specifically focusing on research areas within FBMH.

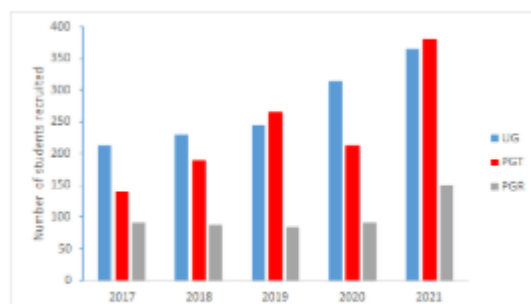
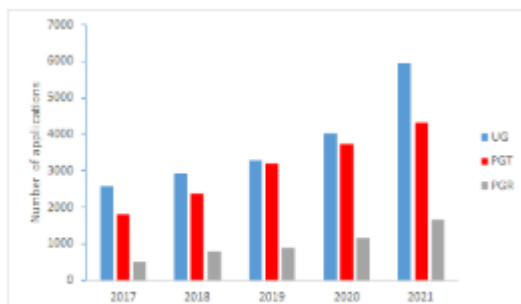
University of Melbourne

A virtual joint symposium between the immunology groups at the University of Manchester and University of Melbourne was held in June 2021. Organised by Prof. Mark Travis (Manchester) and Profs. Laura McKay and Andrew Brookes (Melbourne), the symposium saw a total of 32 delegates (17 Manchester, 15 Melbourne) interact. After an introduction of immunology research in Manchester and Melbourne from Prof. Travis and Brookes respectively, people were first placed in small groups where individuals presented a 5 minute overview of their research, before one-to-one research 'speed dates' were held for individuals to discuss in more details of potential collaborations. Feedback from the event was overwhelming positive, with 8 joint applications for seed funds from the University of Manchester-Melbourne scheme resulting directly from the event.

TEACHING, LEARNING & STUDENTS UPDATES

Student recruitment

This year has seen the recruitment of record numbers of overseas UG, PGT and PGR students into the Faculty despite the ongoing difficulties with the pandemic. Since the formation of FBMH, we have seen UG, PGT & PGR applications increase 232%, 249% & 325% respectively, and the number of new UG, PGT & PGR students recruited increase by 171%, 270% and 135%. The continued growth in both applications and registered overseas students is a testament to the ongoing hard work of many across the Student Marketing & Recruitment and Admissions Teams, along with the Admissions Tutors, Programme Directors and PGR Tutors.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Shanghai-France-Manchester Cancer Research Symposium, 16th - 18th November 2021

This joint international research workshop is scheduled to take place between 16th and 18 November 2021. Professor Graham Lord and Professor Rob Bristow will join other global institutional senior leaders to hold the opening ceremony and welcome scientist from cross more than 10 educational institutions and hospitals to the workshop. The themed workshop will cover:

- new technology for screening
- chronic disease management
- multi-omics
- epidemiology research

University of Melbourne & University of Manchester Digital Health Collaboration, 24th November 2021

A scoping workshop comprising of a small group of invited key academics from UoM & University of Melbourne working around three themes: Simulated Environments, Explainable Artificial Intelligence and Mining Clinical Data

[Japan Academic Network in Europe \(JANET\) Forum 2021](#) will take place as an online event 10th-12th November 2021

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Current and Forthcoming International Funding Calls

CUHK-UoM Research Fund – Seed-corn Fund for Early Career Researchers 2021

The joint seed-corn fund has just closed for this year and we hope you have submitted your application. There will be three awards of up to £10,000 per project across the University, which will seed new partnerships between the two universities by providing initial support for high-quality research collaborations that include Early Career Researchers as active members. There were six applications from colleagues in FBMH, many from

the Regenerative Immunology symposium held in December 2020.

Turing PGR Placements

These placements will fund a PGR student to work in a collaborator's laboratory at a range of top universities worldwide. Details and a link to the online application form can be found [here](#)

The deadline for applications is 12:00pm Monday 29th November. Applicants will be notified of decisions by early December.

Open for applications: 20th October 2021

Closing date: Monday 29th November 2021

Applicants notified: Mid December 2021

UK- US Research: ecology and evolution of infectious diseases 2021 –

Collaboration must involve a US partner and can also include partners from China and Israel. BBSRC are particularly interested in plant health, coronaviruses, and other zoonotic pathogens. Total fund of £2.5m and application deadline of 24th November 2021

BBSRC International Laboratories Partner Awards Call open to current BBSRC grant holders and will provide grants of up to £50k to develop links with labs in Australia, Brazil, China, Europe, India, Japan New Zealand, Taiwan or the US. Deadline for submission is 11th November 2021. The link is for the Canada call but calls for other countries can be accessed from the same page

EPSRC Lead Agency Scheme opportunity for UK researchers to work with overseas researchers in Ireland, Luxembourg, Brazil and the United States – ongoing call

Wellcome Trust - New Discovery Research Funding

Schemes Wellcome has announced calls for their new funding schemes for 2021. You can get

more information about the Wellcome Trust's research funding schemes from the above link, including guidance, what they offer at key career stages, and their funded people and projects. UoM researchers are welcome to apply to these schemes and include international researchers as collaborators.

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