

We are delighted to present the third 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

### COP26



It was a pleasure in early November to attend COP26 at Gleneagles with Mahesh Nirmalan and Graham Lord to discuss the with President Kenyatta and the Kenyan High Commission the development of a Centre of Excellence in Healthcare Education and Training at Kisii University, Kenya. This important work is part of a larger piece of work which includes:

- an uplift in clinical cancer service and care delivery
- development of cancer research capacity
- the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Healthcare Education and Training

Our goal with this work is to support the development of an infrastructure for cancer care, and the development of a healthcare workforce that can respond the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Kenya.

## University of Melbourne & University of Manchester Collaboration – 24th November 2021



This successful event, chaired by Mike Harte and Niels Peek, explored:

- Developing a digital lab to facilitate and/or accelerate translation of digital technologies into clinical practices, as well as data access and sharing processes.
- Co-creation/co-development between technology developers and end-users.
- Clinical Data Mining to identify medication safety and adverse drug reactions in secondary care environments.
- Collaborations for the identification of free text data in secondary care, adverse reactions in hospitals
- Creation of working groups to work towards applications for more significant funding and collaboration with the Joint Translational Centre for Digital Health established between the University of Manchester and the University of Toronto.

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

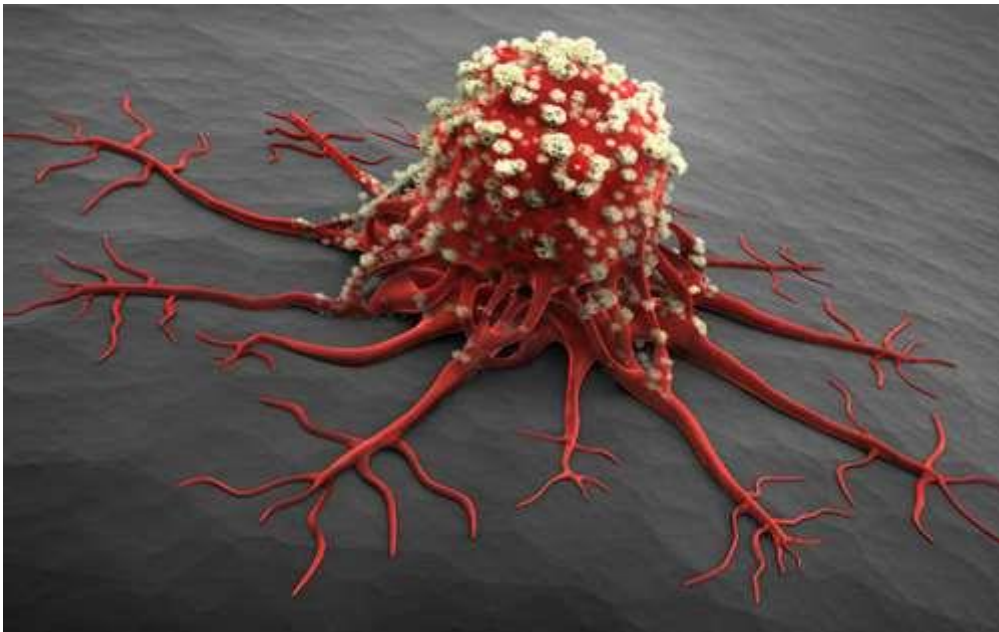


Graham Lord and Rob Bristow joined senior leaders from hospitals and universities in Shanghai and Lyon to launch the symposium and welcome scientists from cross more than 10 educational institutions and hospitals. The symposium had four themed workshops which covered:

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

The symposium provided a great opportunity for cancer research colleagues to exchange information and identify areas of potential cooperation. These

discussions will be followed up by a series of themed workshops for smaller groups in March 2022.



## **Nanjing Medical University / University of Manchester Joint Translational Centre in Cardiovascular, Cerebrovascular and Metabolic Disease Symposium - January 2022**



The partnership between the University and Nanjing Medical University (NMU) has been progressing from strength to strength over recent years. The most recent success has been the awarding of Jiangsu province funding to establish the NMU-UoM Joint Translation Research Centre in Cardiovascular, Cerebrovascular and Metabolic Disease. The funding will allow postdocs and early career fellows from NMU to complete 1-2 years of research at Manchester to unravel the underlying molecular mechanisms cardio-cerebrovascular and metabolic diseases and identify novel drug targets for the treatment of these diseases.

To celebrate the awarding of this funding a joint symposium was run on the 10th, 13th and 14th January 2022 with three themed workshops in: Cardiovascular Research (led by Joy Wang, Elly Cartwright and Tony Heagerty), Stroke & Vascular Dementia (led by Stuart Allan and Craig Smith), and Metabolic Diseases (led by Nigel Hooper and Simon Luckman).



## RESEARCH & INNOVATION UPDATES

### **China Scholarship Council (CSC) Innovation Platform Application**

The Faculty's Internationalisation Team is delighted to announce that we have won a Chinese Scholarship Council Innovation Platform award in conjunction with our partner Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (SJTUSM).

The £830,000 award is for three years in the first instance and includes: two PhD students per annum registered at Manchester; two co-supervised PhD students per annum registered at SJTUSM who will visit UoM for 1-2 years (with project costs); and 1-3 visiting postdocs per annum for 6-12 months (with project costs).

In the future, we also hope to be able to offer one dual award PhD student per annum. These awards are in addition to the existing CSC studentship scheme (6 per annum).

Manchester academics wishing to take part should complete and return a self-funded PhD application form to [admissions.doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:admissions.doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk)





## Indiana University

Angie Wilson, Associate Dean for Internationalisation Humanities, has been leading the renewal of the agreement with Indiana University and has drawn us into some exciting and interesting conversations with them. There are obvious areas of overlap including maternal and foetal health, immunology, immunity & inflammation, and metabolism & diabetes. [Assessment Report](#) We are planning to run workshops and meetings in these areas over the next few months. However, more excitingly, Angie also introduced us to AMPATH <https://www.ampathkenya.org/>. This is a consortium of North American universities led by Indiana University that have been working in Kenya for the last thirty years with Moi University and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret County. Through this collaboration there has been a very tangible uplift in the healthcare education, research and clinical service within Eldoret and the neighbouring counties. There is much for us to learn from them as we start the same journey with Kisii County and Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital in Nairobi.

Keith Brennan and Angelia Wilson will be visiting Indiana University, Bloomington, USA in Spring 2022 to discuss potential research collaborations and priorities.

## South Africa

An AHA abstract we submitted with our South African colleagues has been selected as the best meeting abstract from South Africa. As a result, first author Taariq Salie, a UCT student who spent two periods in Manchester as part of our [Developing GENomic Medicine BEtween Africa and the UK \(DGEMBE\)](#) exchange programme, has been given a [Paul Dudley White International Scholar Award](#)



## **ELLIS continues to grow: four new units in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom**

The European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems expands its network even further and welcomes four new units in Jena, Stuttgart, Milan, and Manchester

Stuttgart/Tübingen, November 5, 2021 – [The European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems \(ELLIS\)](#) recently added four new units: Jena and Stuttgart in Germany, Milan in Italy, and Manchester in the United Kingdom (UK). The ELLIS units strive towards a meaningful contribution to securing Europe's sovereignty and leadership in the research field of modern artificial intelligence (AI). With its units in 14 European countries and Israel, the ELLIS network includes several world-class institutions.

## **Coming soon: Risk and compliance tool for international research**

Research Services, in partnership with the Research Lifecycle Programme, are developing a tool to help researchers navigate an increasingly complex risk and compliance landscape for research, particularly when undertaken in an international context.

This assessment tool will be launched at the end of January / early February 2022 and is intended to be used by Principal Investigators (PIs) when planning a new project. The tool is structured as a series of questions about your project and augments the existing information and guidance to be found on the following webpages:

[Research Services – Trusted Research](#)  
[CPNI Trusted Research Guidance for Academia](#)

The questions are designed to determine key risks that may require further investigation and to signpost you to further processes, advice and other support resources that will apply to your project given its outline risk profile. Completing the tool will help PIs fulfil their assessment responsibilities as outlined in the government guidance.

The tool will be published on the [Research Services – Trusted Research](#) webpage, and the team will let the research community know when it is available for use through Staffnet and the RLP newsletter. Feedback on the tool will be gratefully received in order to improve the tool for our use in the future.

## **Israel joins Horizon Europe research and innovation programme**

At the end of last year, the agreement associating Israel to Horizon Europe came into force. The agreement means that Israeli researchers, innovators, and research entities can now participate in the EU's €95.5 billion



programme for research and innovation on equal terms with entities from the EU Members States. The full article can be read on the [European Commission website](#)

### **British Council Study UK Alumni Award 2021**

Our alumni [Bandar Alsoaimi](#) has received a [British Council Study UK Alumni Award 2021](#)



The award ceremony was hosted by Mr. Neil Crompton, Her Majesty's Ambassador to KSA and Eilidh Kennedy McLean, Director of the British Council KSA on Wednesday 20th October at the Ambassador's residence, Riyadh Saudi Arabia. They were joined by Sir Steve Smith, UK Prime Minister's Special Representative for Education to KSA. The event was also live streamed, and the story was covered by all leading media portals in Saudi Arabia.

The Social Impact Award, which acknowledges alumni who have made an exceptional contribution to creating positive social change, was presented to Dr. Bandar Alsoaimi for establishing COVIDAT, a website aimed at providing scientific information on Covid-19 in Arabic.

### **UoM FBMH - Technology Platforms for Research & Innovation: development strategy**

UoM FBMH - Technology Platforms for Research & Innovation: development strategy

We are currently developing a refreshed, engaging Research & Innovation Strategy for the Faculty, on which we hope to consult soon. One vital element is sustaining and developing our Technology Platforms to drive scientific discovery. The University of Manchester and our Faculty has a very strong, proud legacy in this area. Maintaining this is vital to stay at the forefront of international research and innovation. Evidence shows our capabilities, and the skills of associated staff drives major success in our grant acquisition and launches the careers of our next generation of leaders. We are committed about maintaining and advancing these vital aspects.

Wellcome has recognised the importance of this and will shortly launch an annual scheme to support and develop innovative 'Discovery Research Platforms'. Aligned with this (but something we want to do anyway), we would like all the views from across the full diversity of our research and innovation community about any perceived current gaps, opportunities and key areas we should be considering allowing us to unlock major new scientific discoveries. This includes our interactions with researchers in the Faculty of Science & Engineering.

Please send any views to [Andrew.d.sharrocks@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.d.sharrocks@manchester.ac.uk)

**Andy Sharrocks (Associate Dean for Research Technology and Discovery Science)**  
**Neil Hanley (Vice Dean for Research and Innovation)**

## TEACHING, LEARNING & STUDENTS UPDATES

### International PGR workshops

In November and December 2021, the FBMH Internationalisation Team (Qing-Jun Meng, Helen Xiaohui Chen and Forbes Manson) ran three virtual promotional workshops on “International PGR Opportunities at FBMH, the University of Manchester” with three of our Faculty’s strategic research partners in China (Shanghai JiaoTong University School of Medicine, Peking University Health Science Centre and Central South University XiangYa Medical School). These seminars were aimed at facilitating the recruitment of talented students onto our funded PGR programs (including China Scholarship Council-funded, PDS and DTPs), as well as self-funded projects. Workshops were well attended by more than 200 PGT and UG students who are planning to study abroad for a PhD degree.

### Women in STEM Scholarships

The University of Manchester is proud to offer five fully-funded scholarships for female students from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka completing courses in STEM.

This scholarship programme – supported by the British Council – aims to increase opportunities in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for girls and women. [Dr Rachel Cowen](#) has played a leading role in this scholarship programme, addressing researcher inequalities and the development of an inclusive research culture challenging and reducing systemic biases.

According to data from the UN Scientific Education and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), fewer than 30% of researchers worldwide are women and only 30% of female students select STEM-related fields in higher education.

Globally, female students’ enrolment is particularly low in information and communications technology (3%), natural science, mathematics and statistics (5%), and engineering, manufacturing and construction (8%).

There are five British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM available in total from The University of Manchester.

Scholarship applications will open to relevant offer-holders from January 2022.



A scholarship application form will be emailed to all relevant offer-holders by the International Office.

The deadline for application form submission is 10 April 2022.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm**

In April, experts from across the University will travel to Stockholm to participate in a two-day series of workshops to explore collaborative research in the following five areas: Digital trust, privacy and security; sustainability and circular economy; molecular biosciences; water; and inequalities in higher education. The FBMH Internationalisation Team will be exploring:

- how SciLifeLab <https://www.scilifelab.se/> functions and whether it represents a way infrastructure for life sciences research could be provided in Northern England
- the possibility of SEO & EO visits to SciLifeLab and their equivalents to Manchester to support methodology development
- how SciLifeLab recruits technology focused fellows and embeds them within a Life Sciences environment
- how multi-omic bioinformatics and bioimaging analysis is undertaken at SciLifeLab, as we develop these capabilities in Manchester
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### **Kenyatta University Teaching, Research & Referral Hospital**

The KUTRRH Board are to visit University of Manchester, UK for a benchmarking tour, 17th - 20th February 2022. The Board visiting will consist of Professor Olive M. Mugenda, Chairperson, Board of Directors, Dr. Victor Njom, Dr Alfred Karagu and Dr. Marion Kiguoya.

## CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL FUNDING CALLS

### **Funding call from the Joint Translational Centre for Digital Health Research - deadline 18 February**

We are delighted to announce a funding call from the [Joint Translational Centre for Digital Health Research \(JTC\)](#), a collaboration between the University of Toronto in Canada and the University of Manchester in the UK. This funding is to foster collaborative research in digital health between the two organisations and will provide some support for small seed projects with a clear pathway to future funding.

There is a short application form [attached](#). The submission deadline is **Friday 18th February 2022, 5pm (GMT)/12noon (EST)** and the funds need to be spent by 31st July 2022. Applications must have a Principal Investigator from the University of Toronto and a Principal Investigator from the University of Manchester.

Further details can be found in the application form. If you have any questions about this call, please contact the JTC Programme Manager, Charlie Stockton-Powdrell [charlotte.stockton-powdrell@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:charlotte.stockton-powdrell@manchester.ac.uk)

### Joint Seed Funds

We are pleased to share the provisional timetable for our joint seed funds with international partners. Please note that these dates are not yet confirmed and are currently being discussed with our partners. We will keep you updated and further information on individual calls will be available on our [web pages](#)  
Provisional timetable:

- Toronto & Melbourne (open to 3-way projects): call opens 1 March, closes 31 March
- KTH/Stockholm University: call opens 11 April; closes 16 May
- CUHK: call opens 1 November, closes 6 December

### Turing PGR Placements

The new Turing Scheme (the successor to the Europe-wide Erasmus+ programme) includes a strand to support research placements for postgraduate researchers (PGRs) at international partner universities and research institutes.

A placement can run for a minimum of four weeks up to a maximum of 4 months. The aim of the placement is to add value to a PGR's existing doctoral programme through exposure to a different research environment and access to complementary facilities and expertise. By taking part, PGRs gain a global perspective, improve their intercultural communication skills, expand their academic network, and enhance their future employability.

The first call for applications took place last autumn. We received 37 applications in total of which 35 were funded. We hope to open a second call in April subject to confirmation of funding from the scheme's new managers. We encourage supervisors to help PGRs find the best fit of host institution and research group for their topic and to use the scheme to develop existing relationships or lay the groundwork for future collaborations with our international partners.

Updates on the next call will be shared on the [web page](#) and through ADPGRs.

### **BIRAX - Call for proposals for projects on aging**

BIRAX (the Britain Israel Research and Academic Exchange Partnership) are inviting research proposals submitted jointly by British and Israeli scientists seeking to further the understanding of ageing and its impact on human health. They are interested in projects that use pioneering techniques, state of the art technologies and that highlight the added value of the synergy between the collaborating labs.

The guidelines and application form can be found on the [British Council website](#)

The deadline for applications is Monday 4 April 2022

### **Horizon Europe**

There are currently 492 calls open for submission and a further 182 calls are scheduled to open in the coming months <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search>

### **EPSRC Lead Agency Scheme**

Opportunity for UK researchers to work with overseas researchers in Ireland, Luxembourg, Brazil and the United States <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/epsrc-working-with-overseas-scientists/>

### **UK-Canada Globalink doctoral exchange scheme**

[Apply for funding](#) to undertake a 12-week research placement in Canada.

You must be a doctoral student funded by a UKRI research council and working in any field.

You will be required to carry out a 12-week research project that you develop with your host supervisor in Canada.

Funding can be used for:

- fees and stipends
- research costs
- travel and subsistence costs.

You may request up to £15,000 for each placement. Awards will be made at 100% of direct costs. No indirect costs will be paid.

Placements must take place between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023.

**Closing date:** 26 April 2022 16:00 UK time

## **UK-Singapore Collaborative R&D**

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will invest up to £3 million in innovation projects in partnership with Enterprise Singapore. This competition has an open scope.

The aim of this competition is to fund business led collaborative research and development (CR&D) projects focused on industrial research. Your proposal must include at least one partner from the UK and one partner from Singapore.

The projects we fund are expected to result in a new product, industrial process or service. They must be innovative, involve a technological risk, and have high market potential in the participating countries.

[Applications](#) are welcomed from the following sectors:

- Advanced manufacturing and materials
- Agrifood tech
- Mobility and transport
- Cybersecurity
- Health and life sciences

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