

# Newsletter

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## Director's Update

I hope you are keeping well, both mentally and physically. It won't be long before we are brave enough to meet in person again. As my introduction to this newsletter I would like to focus on one thing. She won't want the attention but Fiona Foster, our institute manager is leaving after 8 years of having to put up with me. Fiona was with me at the start following my relocation from Imperial College London. At that time we were two, but we recruited and steadily grew. Now we are the Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation and recognised as a force in the Immunology field. Fiona has enabled all of this to happen, kept us on track and kept us legal. In developing institute strategy it is vital to have someone who can keep hold of all the strands and drive aspects forward. Fiona has played a vital strategic role in our success. She is staying within the university and will be with the Access to Expertise (A2E) programme forming a link between the university and the NHS - so we will see her again. I would like to send my gratitude to Fiona for everything she has done.



A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Tracy Hussell'.

Tracy Hussell.

## 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 been continuing via Zoom (4 pm) and now include a virtual 'Pub BFF' (6 pm) on the last Friday of each month. There have even been some discussions not revolving around COVID-19! ***If you would like to join in please contact Lisa O'Neill who can send you the meeting link.***



## Congratulations:

### PhD Viva success:

Congratulations to Emma Houlder from the MacDonald lab who passed her PhD viva on the 9th June - examiners were Clare Lloyd and Richard Grecnis.

Congratulations also to Rossana Azzoni from the Grainger lab who has also passed her PhD viva.

### Awards:

Congratulation to Dr Doug Dyer who received an award from the International Cytokine Society <https://cytokinesociety.org/2021-amanda-proudfoot-tribute-award/>

Congratulations to Professor Sheena Cruickshank who has won the Association of British Science Writers Dr Katharine Giles Award 2021 for best popular article written by a scientist or engineer. More information can be found [here](#).

### Grant success:

Congratulations to Dr Peter Arkwright and Dr Joanne Pennock on their recent MRC success:

This £600K MRC award follows on from previous International grants the Arkwright/Pennock team received for their research looking at the mechanisms by which the common skin bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* trigger eczema in patient's skin. Recent work by the team based at the Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology & Inflammation, in collaboration with colleagues in the Veterinary School at the Tokyo University of Agriculture & Technology, led to the seminal discovery of a unique protein "Sbi" produced by these bacteria that is critical for triggering allergic responses. These findings were published this year in the prestigious *Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology*.

Preliminary work by PhD student Yasmine Alshammari, and postdoc Dr Kate Timms in the lab as part of a 2019 Sanofi Genzyme and a 2020 MAHSC award led to the additional discovery that the skin cell growth factor EGF is a major regulatory factor of allergic immune responses induced by skin bacteria. The aim of this MRC grant is to unravel the molecular and cellular mechanisms by which EGF interacts with immune cell signalling molecules to initiate eczema and allergies. It is hoped that these data will impact the development of new classes of drugs for these common allergic diseases.

## Invited Seminars

Dr Kara Filbey from the Grainger Lab did an invited seminar and virtual visit to the Free University in Berlin. Her seminar was entitled 'The varied faces of helminth immunomodulation'.

Professor Dan Davis featured in an online event with Robin Ince. The event titled 'How the New Science of the Human Body Will Change the Way We Live' was livestreamed 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Subscribers to the 'How to Academy +' can access the replay at [HTA Subscribe | How To Academy](#).

Professor Andrew MacDonald spoke at the British Society for Parasitology 2021 Congress, on June 23rd on 'Pulmonary and intestinal immune responses during *Schistosoma mansoni* infection'. And spoke on Thursday 8th July on the 'Metabolic control of innate immune cells during pulmonary type 2 inflammation', as part of the BSI Webinar series.

## Upcoming Seminars of Interest

### MIG Seminar Series

The new series of the MIG seminars have started with presentations by both international speakers and our very own Immunologists updating us on the research going on in their labs.



MIG Zoom Seminars.pdf

Details will be circulated weekly. Please contact [matthew.hepworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.hepworth@manchester.ac.uk) or [john.soffe@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:john.soffe@manchester.ac.uk) if you do not receive the circular with the Zoom details.

### GM Cancer Virtual Cancer Week: All videos available on demand

Did you miss Virtual Cancer Week in May 2021?

All of the talks are now available to view on demand! With a diverse range of content covering research, healthcare, care pathways and motivational talks, there's something for everyone.

Follow this [link to the interactive agenda](#) to find out more about the sessions available.

## LBIII in the press

### 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 [website](#).

The CIRCO study has been selected as a top achievement in this year's annual report.

The CIRCO study was the first longitudinal study to carry out a detailed analysis of the immune system changes in COVID-19 hospital patients. The study aimed to discover a way to identify as early as possible people with COVID-19 who are more likely to develop poor outcomes and find the best strategies to treat them before this happens. The results of this research could have a major influence in reducing the number of COVID-19 patients who need intensive care treatment. The study took a "One Manchester" approach, facilitated by Manchester's Research Rapid Response Group and involved significant interactions with the NIHR Respiratory TRC. The team have also secured funding from The Kennedy Trust and 3M Global Giving to perform immunological profiling and are now the lead for theme one for the MRC-funded UK-Coronavirus Immunology Consortium.

## Public Outreach and Patient Engagement

The [Telegraph](#) (via [MSN](#)) quotes Prof Rachel Watson, who says the evidence for anti-aging serums is better than it is for moisturisers, with the former showing better penetration and biological effects. However, she cautions that many serums use peptides, which haven't been tested on humans

Professor Sheena Cruikshank was part of a collaboration with the Far East consortium about the development of Victoria North. It was organised by [policy@manchester](mailto:policy@manchester) and chaired by Prof James Evans (geography). Professor Cruikshank also contributed to a [policy@manchester](mailto:policy@manchester) publication out this week "on clean air"

<https://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=55815>

## Candidates for Alexander Fleming Prize

Submissions for the Alexander Fleming Prize can be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. The Prize is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, consisting of a £20,000 prize for a doctoral thesis level project which will benefit global public health (UK based researcher).

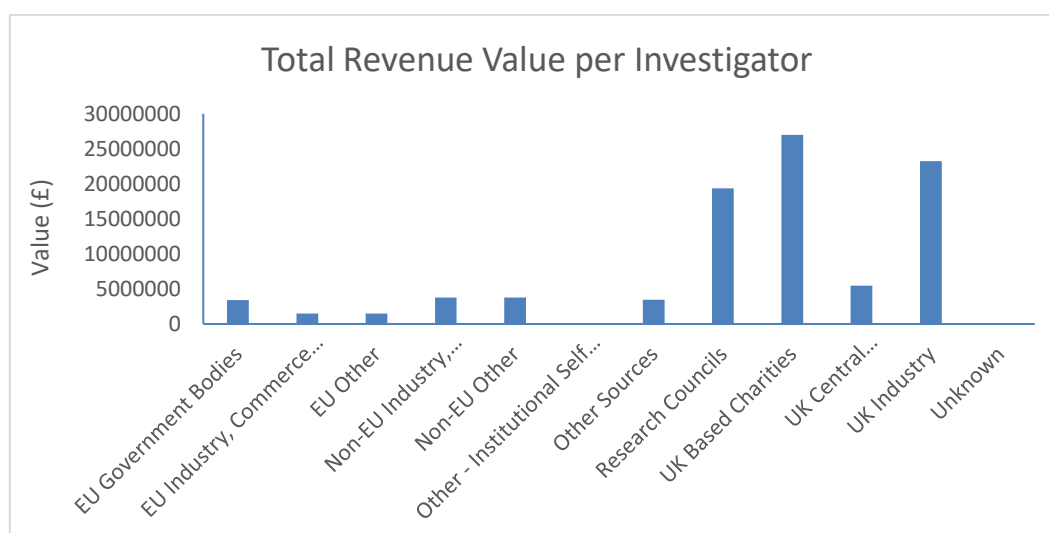
It will be judged by a panel comprising Hayaatun Sillem, CEO of the Royal Academy of Engineering, Sir Jim McDonald, Principal of Strathclyde University, Roger Highfield, Science Director of the Science Museum and Subhanu Saxena, Director of GlobalHealth at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Nominations are open from all UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). A judging panel will then review the submissions in August and the winner will be announced and presented by the Gates Foundation on Tuesday 9th September 2021 at the New Enlightenment, Braemar Summit.

For further details: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNERC/bulletins/2e9b15f>

## Grants

Since inception PIs in the Lydia Becker Institute have been awarded over £92M in grants.



## Publications

Since the institute started, 212 papers have already listed the institute as an affiliation.

Below are the papers published since our last newsletter.

### April 2021

Shuwa, H. A., Shaw, T. N., Knight, S. B., Wemyss, K., McClure, F. A., Pearmain, L., Prise, I., Jagger, C., Morgan, D. J., Khan, S., Brand, O., Mann, E. R., Ustianowski, A., Bakerly, N. D., Dark, P., Brightling, C. E., Brij, S., CIRCO, Felton, T., Simpson, A., ... Menon, M. (2021). Alterations in T and B cell function persist in convalescent COVID-19 patients. *Med (New York, N.Y.)*, 10.1016/j.medj.2021.03.013. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.medj.2021.03.013>

### May-21

Al Sheikh, E., Arkwright, P. D., Herwadkar, A., Hussell, T., & Briggs, T. A. (2021). TCF3 Dominant Negative Variant Causes an Early Block in B-Lymphopoiesis and Agammaglobulinemia. *Journal of clinical immunology*, 10.1007/s10875-021-01049-9. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10875-021-01049-9>

Cox, J. R., Cruickshank, S. M., & Saunders, A. E. (2021). Maintenance of Barrier Tissue Integrity by Unconventional Lymphocytes. *Frontiers in immunology*, 12, 670471. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2021.670471>

Crilly, S., Cooper, J., Bradford, L., Prise, I. E., Krishnan, S., & Kasher, P. R. (2021). RNA-Seq Dataset From Isolated Leukocytes Following Spontaneous Intracerebral Hemorrhage in Zebrafish Larvae. *Frontiers in cellular neuroscience*, 15, 660732. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fncel.2021.660732>

Houlder, E. L., Costain, A. H., Cook, P. C., & MacDonald, A. S. (2021). Schistosomes in the Lung: Immunobiology and Opportunity. *Frontiers in immunology*, 12, 635513. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2021.635513>

Mair, I., Else, K. J., & Forman, R. (2021). *Trichuris muris* as a tool for holistic discovery research: from translational research to environmental bio-tagging. *Parasitology*, 1–47. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S003118202100069X>

de Braganca, L., Ferguson, G. J., Luis Santos, J., & Derrick, J. P. (2021). Adverse immunological responses against non-viral nanoparticle (NP) delivery systems in the lung. *Journal of immunotoxicology*, 18(1), 61–73. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1547691X.2021.1902432>

Singh, G., Brass, A., Cruickshank, S. M., & Knight, C. G. (2021). Cage and maternal effects on the bacterial communities of the murine gut. *Scientific reports*, 11(1), 9841. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-89185-5>

Pellegrini, C., Fornai, M., Benvenuti, L., Colucci, R., Caputi, V., Palazon-Riquelme, P., Giron, M. C., Nericcio, A., Garelli, F., D'Antongiovanni, V., Segnani, C., Ippolito, C., Nannipieri, M., Lopez-Castejon, G., Pelegrin, P., Haskó, G., Bernardini, N., Blandizzi, C., & Antonioli, L. (2021). NLRP3 at the crossroads between immune/inflammatory responses and enteric neuroplastic remodeling in a mouse model of diet-induced obesity. *British journal of pharmacology*, 10.1111/bph.15532. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bph.15532>

McGurk, K. A., Keavney, B. D., & Nicolaou, A. (2021). Circulating ceramides as biomarkers of cardiovascular disease: Evidence from phenotypic and genomic studies. *Atherosclerosis*, 327, 18–30. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atherosclerosis.2021.04.021>

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Garcia-Rodriguez, K. M., Bini, E. I., Gamboa-Domínguez, A., Espitia-Pinzón, C. I., Huerta-Yepey, S., Bulfone-Paus, S., & Hernández-Pando, R. (2021). Differential mast cell numbers and characteristics in human tuberculosis pulmonary lesions. *Scientific reports*, 11(1), 10687. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-89659-6>

Pelly, V. S., Moeini, A., Roelofsen, L. M., Bonavita, E., Bell, C. R., Hutton, C., Blanco-Gomez, A., Banyard, A., Bromley, C. P., Flanagan, E., Chiang, S. C., Jorgensen, C., Schumacher, T. N., Thommen, D. S., & Zelenay, S. (2021). Anti-inflammatory drugs remodel the tumor immune environment to enhance immune checkpoint blockade efficacy. *Cancer discovery*, candisc.1815.2020. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1158/2159-8290.CD-20-1815>

### June 2021

Bancroft, A. J., & Grencis, R. K. (2021). Immunoregulatory molecules secreted by *Trichuris muris*. *Parasitology*, 1–7. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031182021000846>

Lawson, M., Roberts, I. S., & Grencis, R. K. (2021). The interplay between *Trichuris* and the microbiota. *Parasitology*, 1–8. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031182021000834>

Hayes, K. S., & Grencis, R. K. (2021). *Trichuris muris* and comorbidities - within a mouse model context. *Parasitology*, 1–41. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0031182021000883>

Swanton, T., Beswick, J. A., Hammadi, H., Morris, L., Williams, D., de Cesco, S., El-Sharkawy, L., Yu, S., Green, J., Davis, J. B., Lawrence, C. B., Brough, D., & Freeman, S. (2020). Selective inhibition of the K<sup>+</sup> efflux sensitive NLRP3 pathway by Cl<sup>-</sup> channel modulation. *Chemical science*, 11(43), 11720–11728. <https://doi.org/10.1039/d0sc03828h>

Jenkins, S. J., & Allen, J. E. (2021). The expanding world of tissue resident macrophages. *European journal of immunology*, 10.1002/eji.202048881. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/eji.202048881>

Egg, D., Rump, I. C., Mitsuiki, N., Rojas-Restrepo, J., Maccari, M. E., Schwab, C., Gabrysch, A., Warnatz, K., Goldacker, S., Patiño, V., Wolff, D., Okada, S., Hayakawa, S., Shikama, Y., Kanda, K., Imai, K., Sotomatsu, M., Kuwashima, M., Kamiya, T., Morio, T., ... Grimbacher, B. (2021). Therapeutic options for CTLA-4 Insufficiency. *The Journal of allergy and clinical immunology*, S0091-6749(21)00891-5. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2021.04.039>

Chenery, A. L., Rosini, S., Parkinson, J. E., Ajendra, J., Herrera, J. A., Lawless, C., Chan, B. H., Loke, P., MacDonald, A. S., Kadler, K. E., Sutherland, T. E., & Allen, J. E. (2021). IL-13 deficiency exacerbates lung damage and impairs epithelial-derived type 2 molecules during nematode infection. *Life science alliance*, 4(8), e202001000. <https://doi.org/10.26508/lsa.202001000>

Donlan AN, Sutherland TE, Marie C, Preissner S, Bradley BT, Carpenter RM, Sturek JM, Ma JZ, Moreau GB, Donowitz JR, Buck GA, Serrano MG, Burgess SL, Abhyankar MM, Mura C, Bourne PE, Preissner R, Young MK, Lyons GR, Loomba JJ, Ratcliffe SJ, Poulter MD, Mathers AJ, Day AJ, Mann BJ, Allen JE, Petri WA Jr. IL-13 is a driver of COVID-19 severity. *JCI Insight*. 2021 Jun 29;150107. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.150107. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34185704.

Le Voyer T, Sakata S, Tsumura M, Khan T, Esteve-Sole A, Al-Saud BK, Gungor HE, Taur P, Jeanne-Julien V, Christiansen M, Köhler LM, ElGhazali GE, Rosain J, Nishimura S, Sakura F, Bouaziz M, Oleaga-Quintas C, Nieto-Patlán A, Deyà-Martinez À, Altuner Torun Y, Neehus AL, Roynard M, Bozdemir SE, Al Kaabi N, Al Hassani M, Mersiyanova I, Rozenberg F, Speckmann C, Hainmann I, Hauck F, Alzahrani MH, Alhajar SH, Al-Muhsen S, Cole T, Fuleihan R, Arkwright PD, Badolato R, Alsina L, Abel L, Desai M, Al-Mousa H, Shcherbina A, Marr N, Boisson-Dupuis S, Casanova JL, Okada S, Bustamante J. Genetic, Immunological, and Clinical Features of 32 Patients with Autosomal Recessive

STAT1 Deficiency. *J Immunol.* 2021 Jun 28;ji2001451. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.2001451. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34183371.

## July 2021

Cytlak UM, Dyer DP, Honeychurch J, Williams KJ, Travis MA, Illidge TM. Immunomodulation by radiotherapy in tumour control and normal tissue toxicity. *Nat Rev Immunol.* 2021 Jul 1. doi: 10.1038/s41577-021-00568-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34211187.

Villegas-Mendez A, Stafford N, Haley MJ, Pravitasari NE, Baudoin F, Ali A, Asih PBS, Siregar JE, Baena E, Syafruddin D, Couper KN, Oceandy D. The plasma membrane calcium ATPase 4 does not influence parasite levels but partially promotes experimental cerebral malaria during murine blood stage malaria. *Malar J.* 2021 Jul 2;20(1):297. doi: 10.1186/s12936-021-03832-w. PMID: 34215257; PMCID: PMC8252299.

O'Sullivan JDB, Cruickshank SM, Withers PJ, Else KJ. Morphological variability in the mucosal attachment site of *Trichuris muris* revealed by X-ray microcomputed tomography. *Int J Parasitol.* 2021 Jun 30;S0020-7519(21)00210-1. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpara.2021.04.006. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34216623.

Borsini A, Nicolaou A, Camacho-Muñoz D, Kendall AC, Di Benedetto MG, Giacobbe J, Su KP, Pariante CM. Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids protect against inflammation through production of LOX and CYP450 lipid mediators: relevance for major depression and for human hippocampal neurogenesis. *Mol Psychiatry.* 2021 Jun 16. doi: 10.1038/s41380-021-01160-8. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34131267.

Tsakos G, Brocklehurst PR, Watson S, Verey A, Goulden N, Jenkins A, Hoare Z, Pye K, Wassall RR, Sherriff A, Heilmann A, O'Neill C, Smith CJ, Langley J, Venturelli R, Cairns P, Lievesley N, Watt RG, Kee F, McKenna G. Improving the oral health of older people in care homes (TOPIC): a protocol for a feasibility study. *Pilot Feasibility Stud.* 2021 Jul 2;7(1):138. doi: 10.1186/s40814-021-00872-6. PMID: 34215322; PMCID: PMC8249429.

Choudhury R, Bayatti N, Scharff R, Szula E, Tilakaratna V, Udsen MS, McHarg S, Askari JA, Humphries MJ, Bishop PN, Clark SJ. FHL-1 interacts with human RPE cells through the  $\alpha 5 \beta 1$  integrin and confers protection against oxidative stress. *Sci Rep.* 2021 Jul 8;11(1):14175. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-93708-5. PMID: 34239032; PMCID: PMC8266909.

## 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.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit person' interface. At the top, it says 'Edit person' and 'Carla Funke-Dooley Internal person' with a 'Change person' dropdown. Below is the 'Name and role on the research output' section with input fields for 'First name' (Carla) and 'Last name \*' (Funke-Dooley), and a 'Role \*' dropdown set to 'Author'. The 'Affiliation on the research output' section shows two options: 'Research Services (4/02/19 - present)' which is checked, and 'Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation (13/02/20 - )' which is unchecked. At the bottom are 'Cancel' and 'Update' buttons.

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

### Cancer Immunology

#### MCRC Blog: Pride in Research

For this year's pride month, we want to recognise the huge support within the MCRC for our vision of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in all aspects of our work. This includes focusing on our scientific excellence and project co-creation, career establishment and maximal mentoring and engagement of our diverse populations in cancer research programming and clinical trials.

Read more in our blog on [Pride in Research](#) and [Improving Care for the LGBTQ+ community](#)

#### Paterson Redevelopment Building Update

As the Paterson Building reaches the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Professor Nic Jones, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the MCRC updates about the progress of the Paterson Redevelopment Project in the first of our new quarterly updates.

[Read the update](#)

## Newsletter

### Cellular Immunology:

#### The Secret Body

Professor Dan Davis has been busy and recently featured in an article in The Times (1) promoting his latest book 'The Secret Body' and talking about the future of medicine. He has also featured in the Guardian (2) and was interviewed for an article by The Observer (3). Dan's book is officially released Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

- (1) TALK AT THE ROYAL INSTITUTE: <https://www.rigb.org/whats-on/events-2021/july/public-the-secret-body>
- (2) INTERVIEW IN THE OBSERVER: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/jul/03/daniel-m-davis-the-secret-body-interview-immunology-data>
- (3) <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/would-you-take-a-gene-scan-that-predicts-cancer-djb9img5p>
- (4) <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/16/well-soon-know-more-about-our-bodies-than-ever-before-but-are-we-ready>
- (5) <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/jul/03/daniel-m-davis-the-secret-body-interview-immunology-data>
- (6) FEATURE IN NEW SCIENTIST about engineering immunity:  
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg25033410-900-engineered-immunity-redesigning-antibodies-to-better-fight-disease/>
- (7) INTERVIEW IN THE DAILY MIRROR: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/what-take-live-covid-masks-24369115>

Dan also was interviewed on his book by Robin Ince which can be viewed here on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7bsETkM3hk>

A 2 min book promotional video can be watched on YouTube here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgbUaj431X4>

To purchase the book.

[The Secret Body: How the New Science of the Human Body Is Changing the Way We Live by Daniel M. Davis \(goodreads.com\)](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/58482928-the-secret-body)

Neuroscience:

## Introducing: Alisha Patel

Our Neuroscience colleagues have welcomed Alisha Patel as the manager of the recently launched [Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre](#) in Salford. We are looking forward to hearing more about the exciting research and interactions from this pioneering centre and wish Alisha continued success in her role.

### **The Geoffrey Jefferson Brain Research Centre Manager—Alisha Patel**

I have recently been appointed as the 'Jeff' Centre Manager. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

I have had the pleasure of meeting lots of you from across Greater Manchester over the past few months. I am looking forward to hearing more about your vision and aims for the 'Jeff' and how I can help implement and push these forward to ensure we create a successful centre for pioneering discoveries in Neuroscience research.

I am based on the second floor of the Clinical Sciences building at Salford Royal, so please feel free to pop by and say hello.



End.