The free magazine for The University of Manchester



15 January 2007

Museum wins funding to break down barriers

Features



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Front cover photo: Adele Finley 'In Touch' Project Manager, Manchester Museum.

Letter from the President



For institutions as well as for individuals, adversity is the true test of character.

The new University of Manchester has been relatively free from adversity. We have had problems aplenty, along with disappointments and difficult choices. But in general we have maintained the momentum that Project Unity created and managed to negotiate the not inconsiderable teething problems of the merger. Most importantly, we have reached most of the early targets we had set for ourselves en route to 2015.

In early December, however, we heard the deeply disappointing news that, against all hope and expectation, the partnership between the University and the Central Manchester and Manchester Children's NHS Trust had not been selected as one of England's comprehensive Biomedical Research Centres. Having made a short list of six, our bid (the only one from outside the "golden triangle"), was rejected, largely, we have now been told, because some aspects of our clinical research capability were deemed to fall short in some areas of the high international standing required to secure BRC status.

The concentration of comprehensive BRCs in the South East is a very dispiriting outcome for medical science in England. More generally, it is bad news for patients, for patient care is enhanced by the presence of the world class clinicians who are attracted to hospitals offering advanced research opportunities.

The medical research playing field is not level in the UK. Professor Alex Markham, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK, has allowed me to quote from a letter he wrote to the Secretary of State for Health on 8 December, following the BRC announcement. "This decision", he said, "will perpetuate the situation that has persisted in the NHS for decades – namely that more than 80% of the NHS R&D budget goes to London and its environs. Is it a surprise that these centres win 'open' competitions when they have had

hidden cumulative subsidies totalling billions of pounds over the years? Surely this concentration of resources cannot be in the interests of the country?"

Every word of that critique is true, and sad.

Equally, however, The University of Manchester must not rely on research strategies predicated on regional deprivation, nor ask for favours because we may have been disadvantaged historically. International research is not a handicap race. Winning international recognition as a research university means leading the world in the quality and impact of our research in some areas, while contributing significantly to the advance of knowledge in many others. There is simply no alternative to being internationally competitive at the highest level, irrespective of the gradients of the playing fields where the competition takes place.

Sometimes that may mean re-grouping and trying again where we have not at first succeeded. Alternatively, it may mean changing tack, and being ruthlessly realistic when choosing the grounds upon which to compete. It certainly means being willing to reappraise our strengths, re-think our strategies and learn from set-backs, which in this particular case means ensuring that Manchester and its community can benefit from access to world class clinical medicine.

There were always going to be obstacles on the road to 2015 but we must never allow them to weaken our resolve or temper our ambition.

hlan Gilbert

Professor Alan Gilbert President and Vice-Chancellor

Helping people to get involved

The Manchester Museum and the Imperial War Museum North have been awarded £424,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to run a new volunteer programme called 'In Touch'.

This programme aims to overcome the many barriers that prevent people from being able to get involved with museums through an innovative scheme that will establish a national blueprint for museum volunteer training and community engagement.

Over the next three years, the project will engage with people who have not traditionally had much contact with museums, such as young people and refugees. 180 volunteers will get the chance to go on a 20 week cultural heritage skills course, covering areas such as object handling and acting as orientators.

They will gain new skills and knowledge, while visitors to the museums will get a highly trained team of people to help them enjoy their look round. It will be mutually beneficial for both the museums and the collections too, allowing more items to be brought out of storage.

Designed for people with little knowledge of the sector, the course will be delivered by North Trafford and Salford FE Colleges and will include literacy and mathematical qualifications (City and Guilds entry level three) delivered in partnership with Skills for Life tutors.

"We are thrilled that the In Touch programme has been funded by the HLF. It's a chance to do just that, create a means for people from very different cultural backgrounds and experiences to get 'in touch' with others through volunteering and telling their stories in a museum setting, while they gain valuable skills for life" says Dr Nick Merriman, Director of The Manchester Museum.

Pictured: Adele Finley 'In Touch' Project Manager Photography: Steve Divine



Building honours Rutherford



Left to right: Dr Ellen Nisbet, Professor Mary Fowler and the President.

A historic building that once housed one of the University's most famous scientists has been renamed in his honour.

The Coupland Building just off Oxford Road has been officially renamed in honour of Nobel Prize winner Ernest Rutherford.

The event in December was marked by a special ceremony, which was attended by Rutherford's great-granddaughter Professor Mary Fowler and also his great-great granddaughter Dr Ellen Nisbet.

Established in 1900, the Physical Laboratories at the University were, at the time, among the largest in the world. They soon became a centre for the study of atomic and nuclear physics.

New Zealander Rutherford led the laboratories between 1907 and 1919. During this time he made some of his most significant contributions to science, including the splitting of the atom.

The newly-named Rutherford Building houses the University's International Development, Student Recruitment, Admission and Widening Participation activities, and also a small exhibition celebrating Rutherford's work in Manchester.

Professor Alan Gilbert, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, said: "The renaming of this historic building is a fitting tribute to one of the University's best-known pioneers.

"It will ensure that the contribution made by Rutherford to the world of science is celebrated and remembered by staff, students and the wider public in years to come."

News

University scoops £500,000 science and engineering prize



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The University has beaten off fierce competition from dozens of major universities across the UK to scoop £500,000 in a Dragon's Den-style contest.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) launched the KT Challenge to celebrate outstanding examples of knowledge transfer from the academic world into industry and the public sector, and to encourage further innovation and development in this field.

The entry from the University's Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences made a fivestrong shortlist after detailing the success of Transitive Ltd, which was founded in 2000 by long-standing Computer Sciences lecturer Alasdair Rawsthorne.

Its QuickTransit family of products has allowed

Apple to adapt its entire Macintosh software line for Intel processors in an extremely short period of time.

"This is a fantastic achievement and great news for The University of Manchester," said Professor John Perkins, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at The University of Manchester. "I would like to pay tribute to the team who worked so hard on the proposal and the final presentation to the judges.

"This injection of funding will allow us to build upon the firm foundations already laid and build new bridges between the University and the business sector."

After being invited down to London, the Manchester team had to present their proposal to a panel of industry experts and convince them they were offering the best investment for the prize money.

Terrorism to be tackled by University scientists

THE University has been awarded funding by the Government to play an important research role in the 'War on Terror' over the next four years.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences is to develop a host of new counter-terrorism technologies following the award of a multi-million pound research contract by the Home Office.

The funding will be used to fund three projects focusing on the detection, identification and decontamination of chemical, biological and radiological materials.

The three projects, all separately funded, are led by members of

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the School of Chemistry with support from Chemical Engineering, Earth Science and Materials Science. Each of the projects will last four years and will focus on the development of innovative new technologies.

Professor Paul O'Brien, Head of the School of Chemistry, said: "Our aim over the next four years will be to fulfil the strategic requirements for innovative new technologies by providing worldclass research and expertise."

Professor Francis Livens, an expert in radiation sciences, will lead a project focusing on the identification and development of new molecules which can be incorporated into materials and used as decontaminants on surfaces and in liquids.

Michael Turner, Professor of Materials Chemistry, will lead the development of a new type of low cost sensor which uses organic semiconductors to detect chemical agents.

And Ray Goodacre, Professor of Biological Chemistry, will lead the development of a portable device which uses the interaction of laser light with matter to detect bacteria in the air.

The project will form part of the Home Office's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear-terrorism (CBRN) Resilience Programme. The CBRN programme was set up in 2001 to ensure that in the event of a terrorist incident an effective response with minimal impact on lives, property and the environment is carried out.

In brief

Warm Wellcome for Sir Bill

Sir Bill Castell, Chairman of the Wellcome Trust, paid a visit to the University towards the end of last year to see some of our world-class research facilities.

Sir Bill was given a tour of the Michael Smith Building, the Core Technology Facility and the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility.

Professor Martin Humphries, Associate Dean for Research in the Faculty of Life Sciences, and his opposite number in the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences, Professor Colin Sibley, each outlined their Faculties' research strategies.



Sir Bill Castell, Chairman of the Wellcome Trust, chats with Experimental Officer Peter March in one of the Michael Smith Building's microscopy suites.

WTCRF toasts five great years and a rosy future

November saw the fifth anniversary of the first operational study at The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (WTCRF) - the University and four local NHS Trusts' dedicated clinical research facility.

To celebrate, the Facility hosted a birthday symposium attended by both potential new investigators and representatives from across the partnership. Presentations by current and previous investigators included Professor Chris Griffiths''Impatient Inpatients,' which described his 2005 psoriasis study at the WTCRF, and Professor Kennedy Cruikshank's review of the Manchester Mothers and Children Vascular Health Study.

In the first five years the Facility has hosted more than 170 studies from over 20 different research areas, as well as over 65,000 participant visits. It is currently enjoying its most productive period to date, with 70 studies now active.

Physics Student wins a DUO Award

Clara Nellist, a second year student in the School of Physics and Astronomy, has won an award to spend a semester at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

This award is one of only seven given to students throughout Europe to go to NUS, one of the world's leading universities.

The DUO Fellowship Fund aims to promote exchanges between students from three Singapore universities and European universities. Students from any academic field can apply.



Nine students have been awarded prestigious £10,000-a-year scholarships to study at The University of Manchester.

The awards are reserved for 'the best of the best'. Only the very highest academic credentials are considered, with eligibility depending not only on at least three "A" grades at A-level, including grade "A" in every module, but also on the results of a "Thinking Skills Assessment," a special examination and an interview.

In addition, the award holders have demonstrated personal qualities indicating that they have the potential to make distinctive contributions to the University and the wider community.

The University of Manchester wants to strengthen its reputation as a preferred destination for many of the best and brightest students from across the UK and throughout the world. This new President's Awards programme of up to ten generous, highly prestigious scholarships is one element in a range of programmes designed to encourage outstanding students to come to Manchester, irrespective of their capacity to pay.

The President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, in congratulating the new President's Scholars, said how important it was for one of the country's foremost research institutions also to be seen to be investing heavily in creating opportunities for students. Professor Gilbert said: "We want the brightest young people in the UK increasingly to see Manchester as a logical and rewarding choice, just as we want a wider scholarship programme to ensure

that no able student is denied a place in Manchester because of an inability to pay."

Accompanying these Awards, Manchester has a multi-million pound programme of widening participation scholarships and bursaries reserved for able students from low-income families.

The University also invests very considerable time and resources into a range of widening participation initiatives concentrating on the needs of primary and secondary schools and their pupils in educationally deprived areas of Greater Manchester.

The nine inaugural Award holders are:

- David Appleyard, 18, from Skircoat Green in Halifax (BSc Management)
- Thomas Esler, 19, from By-Cupar in Fife (BA Classics)
- Katie Maltman, 18, from Ilkley in West Yorks (MB ChB Medicine)
- Philip Bull, 18, from Meir Park in Stoke-on-Trent (MPhys Physics with Astronomy)
- Rupert Gaze, 35, from Stalybridge (MB ChB Medicine with foundation year)
- Christopher Devlin, 19, from Limavady in Londonderry (BA Law with Politics)
- Ruth Watkinson, 19, from West Bridgford in Nottingham (BSc Biochemistry with industrial experience)
- Kiran Horwich, 18, from Ealing in London (BA History)
- Laura Roddis, 18, from Wrexham in North Wales (BSc Speech and Language Therapy)

In brief

University Engineers meet up with German counterparts

Germany was the destination for a team from the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences as they took part in an exchange visit to learn new ideas.

A delegation from the School of Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering (MACE) recently visited Hannover University to meet up with counterparts to discuss topics in Precision Engineering.

The two-day visit was set up through I*Proms, the European Network of Excellence on Innovative Production Machines and Systems.

Delegates took part in a number of presentations and also visited a factory that specialises in ABS and EBS (vehicle braking) technologies.

Nicola scoops top award at **BBC Sports Awards**

First year medical student Nicola Pugh has been awarded Young Performer of the Year at the BBC North West Sports Awards for trampolining.

Nicola, who is on the



and gymnast Beth Tweddle. Nicola is Great Britain Champion for double minitrampolining and finished fourth in the European Championships in May.

an award at the ceremony

alongside boxer Amir Khan

Law lectures

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer of Thoroton will be visiting the University to give a lecture. The event will be hosted by the School of Law and will take place on Friday 9 February 2007. The event will start at 5pm and further details can be found on the Law School website at www.law.manchester.ac.uk

Malaysian visitors enjoy VIP trip to Old Trafford



Two young Malaysians enjoyed a visit to the UK and box seats to watch Manchester United play Chelsea after winning a competition with The University of Manchester and the British Council.

25-year-old Mooi Yen Nian, a Senior Executive at Bank Negara, and 23-year-old management trainee Aileen Wang Jin Jen, watched the biggest game of the season so far from the University's VIP box at Old Trafford and were also given signed United shirts. They also toured the University and the Manchester Museum

Manchester is one of the UK's most popular destinations for Malaysian students, with more than 450 students registered at the University last year.

Mooi told Unilife: "This is a dream come true for me -I was particularly interested in a postgraduate course at The University of Manchester but now this is a once in a lifetime experience I will never forget."

Professor Rod Coombs, Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development (pictured left), said: "We were delighted to host both Mooi and Wang in Manchester and provide them with all they want to know about our postgraduate courses."

Dr Tim Westlake, Director of International Development, hosted the visitors: He said: "Our winners have discovered that they can receive a first class education at our campus, but also how living in Manchester is a stimulating, exciting experiencing thanks to its multicultural nature."

News

Winning ways

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in the North West has chosen the University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Gilbert, as its business leader of the year, and Renovo, a University spin-out company, as its emerging business of the year.

Professor Gilbert was recognised by the CBI for his work in launching and leading the University since its establishment in October 2004 following the merger of the Victoria University of Manchester with UMIST. The judges acknowledged Professor Gilbert's role in launching the University's ambitious Manchester 2015 Agenda and overseeing the largest campus rebuilding programme ever in British higher education, with a £630million plan to deliver eight new buildings and a number of major refurbishment projects by 2010.

Under Professor Gilbert, The University of Manchester has been named Sunday Times



University of the Year for 2006 and University of the Year by the Times Higher Educational Supplement in 2005.

In addition, the CBI chose Renovo, a University biotechnology spin-out company, as the region's emerging business of the year.

Renovo, based at the Manchester Incubator Building, was set up and managed by Professor Mark Ferguson of the Faculty of Life Sciences. The company develops drugs to prevent scarring.

Renovo floated on the London stock exchange in April, raising some £50 million, valuing the company at more than £200 million.

The University of Manchester has set up more than 70 businesses and University of Manchester Intellectual Property Limited (UMIP) nurtures these businesses until they are ready to go it alone in the outside world.



Student overcomes obstacles to graduate

A totally deaf Japanese student has overcome hearing and language problems to graduate from the University with flying colours.

Kenichiro (Ken) Onishi has thanked University and Faculty disability co-ordinators for supporting him to achieve an MA in International Relations.

Ken became totally deaf at the age of two after contracting mumps while living in Japan. As such he has never learnt to speak and has had to learn to communicate by sign language and by writing.

However Ken has not let adversity stand in his way and with the help of the University Central Disability Support Team and Pat Horrocks, Social Sciences Disability Co-ordinator, he achieved a merit for his dissertation paper on the discourses of Human Rights in Islamic countries.

Ken, communicating by writing, said: "When I started my MA studies I was concerned that as an international disabled student any funding for disabled students would be denied. However my worries were quickly removed when I was offered computer equipment to help me."

Ken's course was mainly seminar based and to help him communicate with staff and other students the University provided a staff member and an electronic note-taker to relay messages in a quick and efficient manner. The electronic note-taker also

had the added benefit of allowing Ken to keep his files up-to-date.

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Left to right Pat Horrocks, School Disability Co-ordinator, Ken and Bryan Coleman, Disability Officer.

Ken, who plans to take a PhD and train as a solicitor, said: "I strongly believe that my achievement would not have been possible without the support of the disability office."

Pat Horrocks said: "Ken's achievement has been fantastic and shows that a disability does not have to be a problem to a student who is positive and well supported."

Professor William Callahan, Co-Director of the British Inter-University China Centre, supervised Ken throughout his dissertation and said: "It was a pleasure to see the smile on Ken's face at his graduation, and we hope that his story will show what can be achieved with a little bit of help, and will encourage others to seek the support of the Disability Team."



Brain scanner reaches patients

The Wolfson Molecular Imaging Centre has carried out its first positron emission tomography (PET) brain scan on a patient volunteer.

The £22million Centre houses amongst the world's most advanced brain and body scanners, and its High Resolution Research Tomograph (HRRT) brain scanner is unique in the UK. It is the highest resolution clinical PET camera in the world, allowing researchers to see how the brain functions and its metabolism at work.

A 77 year-old former RAF pilot and air traffic controller volunteered to be the first patient through the brain scanner, as part of a study of early Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Researcher Stephen Carter of the School of Psychological Sciences is investigating the transition from mild cognitive impairment (MCI) to early AD, as MCI is often considered a precursor of Alzheimer's*.

He said: "It is of significant clinical importance to be able to detect the early changes associated with Alzheimer's Disease and thereby enable more accurate diagnosis, as by the time dementia is currently diagnosed significant and irreversible brain damage has typically already taken place. Early detection could identify possible candidates for future clinical drug trials before large-scale global damage has occurred.

"Combining our new-breed, high-resolution PET scanner with MRI scanning in a single research environment allows us to compare the brain functions of MCI and probable AD patients in a unique way. Our machine also allows us to accurately measure deposition of the protein amyloid in the brain, which is not possible with standard PET scanners."

The Centre's Director Professor Karl Herholz said: "This first patient brain scan represents the whole essence of the WMIC; bridging the gap between advances in the lab and their application to help patients. We hope that a convergent approach that investigates the multiple aspects of physiology and cognition at play in AD can be developed, which will enable early accurate diagnosis and distinguish MCI patients who will progress to full AD from those who will not."

*Not all patients diagnosed with MCI progress to a clinical diagnosis of AD.

Knowledge and Technology Transfer



Aquacart could improve health

A University researcher has won a prestigious award for an innovation which could help deliver pollution-free water to people around the world.

Dr Nigel Brown (left) has been given the Award for Innovation by the Royal Society of Chemistry Process Technology Group, in recognition of five years of research into a system called Aquacart, which removes toxic organic contaminants from waste water.

Harmful compounds can be removed from sewage and waste water by a process called 'activated carbon adsorption' – a technique used in kitchen water filters.

On an industrial scale the carbon used is regenerated at high temperature, which is a complex and costly business.

Dr Brown's Aquacart system makes use of a new material called Nyex. This has a high electrical conductivity allowing fast, effective and cheap electrochemical regeneration, which allows the material to be used again.

Using this technology, it appears that pollutants are completely destroyed, leaving no residue.

The award from the RSC recognises the practical application of Dr Brown's innovative cleaning process, which is housed in a special unit.

For the first time, this unit allows simultaneous and continuous adsorption and regeneration to take place.

"The supply of safe water to the world's people, animals and plants will be an over-riding concern of the 21st century," said Dr Brown. "I hope this will make a small, yet significant, contribution to a healthier world."

Aquacart's development has been possible thanks to grants from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP), is now helping Dr Brown explore Aquacart's commercial potential.

Dr Brown completed a PhD within the School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science in 2005 and is currently continuing his research within the School.

New ideas venture out

An ambitious student has scooped a £1,000 first prize in The University of Manchester's Venture Out competition for an idea that could vastly improve quality of life for amputees.

Marcus Haggers, 24, is one of dozens of students who entered Venture Out, an ideas competition for individuals or teams, which is open to all students from The University of Manchester.

Marcus, who started a one-year postgraduate Master of Enterprise (MEnt) in Computer Science at the University this year, put forward an idea for a system that senses the 'electrical' activity of the human nervous system within the body.

It's hoped this technology can then be used to give people who have lost arms or legs greater flexibility and control of prosthetic limbs.

"A lot of development work is needed but I'm looking to get backers for the idea by the end of the course or within the next 18 months," said Marcus. "The plan is to produce a computer-based proof of concept and take it forward from there."

Lynn Sheppard, Acting Director of Manchester Science Enterprise Centre said: "The aim of the competition is to give students across the whole University the chance to turn their ideas into reality and learn more about the process of new venture creation."



Rebecca Hughes (kneeling), Lynn Sheppard, Abdellah Berrouk (kneeling), Jez Chance, Marcus Haggers, Robert Quinn, Fionnuala Costello.

Other winners include Abdallah Berrouk of MACE for an easy to use and accurate tonometer for diagnosing glaucoma and Ann-Marie Hamilton of Psychology for an alternative source of energy for domestic use.

A high number of entries was received from students of all four Faculties – and due to the high standard of entries, the judges decided to award two additional prizes.

Hang Cui of Manchester Business School was commended for his innovative set of measuring spoons and Robert Quinn of Life Sciences was commended for his bus tracking system idea. The winner of the 'student's favoutite' award was Rebecca Hughes of Life Sciences for Green Switch.

The competition is sponsored by AstraZeneca and Manchester Science Park and supported by Barclays, Eversheds, Thread Creative and the University of Manchester Incubator Company.

The next stage of the competition, Venture Further, is running this semester and will give entrants the opportunity to actually start their own businesses with a $\pm 25,000$ first prize. Check out the website for more details.



Research

War zone artists make a drama out of a crisis



Six artists from across the world paid a visit to the University to explain their work in war zones and places of conflict.

The directors, playwrights and actors from Lebanon, Sudan, Burundi, Kosovo, Sudan and Congo joined staff at the Martin Harris Centre to talk about their work.

They also watched a new play by Congolese band Britannia Rhumba and Congolese writer Frederick Yamusangie which played to packed audiences.

Part of the Exodus Onstage - Refugee theatre festival, the gathering talked about their work at a public event in November organised by the University's In Place of War Project. In Place of War researches and creates performances in sites of armed conflict. It also supports and documents performance work by artists and communities displaced by war.

So far, the project team have worked in post genocide Rwanda , Palestine and Israel, Sri Lanka, Northern Ireland, Indonesia, Sudan, Kosovo and refugee and asylum seeking communities within the UK.

The visitors came from Lebanon, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Burundi.

Professor of Drama, James Thompson, said: "Performance is a powerful way for people to articulate what has happened to them and provides a way for them to comes to terms with such tragedies.

Some of the most astounding and demanding performance projects in recent years have come from areas most affected by wars.

"We in the department are interested in initiatives such as theatre in refugee camps, in war-affected villages, in towns under curfew and in cities under siege.

"We want to know why in times of disruption have individuals and communities turned to performance?"

Parental genes do what's best for baby

A molecular 'battle of the sexes' long considered the major driving force in a baby's development is being challenged by a new genetic theory of parental teamwork.

Scientists in the Faculty of Life Sciences say the prevailing view that maternal and paternal genes compete for supremacy in their unborn offspring fails to answer some important questions relating to offspring development.

In fact, rather than a parental power struggle, the researchers suggest that certain offspring characteristics can only be explained by their theory of genetic cooperation.

"When we are conceived we inherit two copies of

every gene – one set from our mother and one from our father," explained Dr Jason Wolf, who

our father," explained Dr Jason Wolf, who led the research. "But some genes – through a process called genomic



imprinting – only use one parent's copy; the spare copy from the other parent is silenced by a chemical stamp."

The concept of imprinting has long puzzled scientists as it appears to undermine the natural benefits organisms gain from inheriting two sets of

genes. If one copy of a gene is damaged, for instance, then the second copy can compensate; imprinted genes lose this safeguard and so are more susceptible to disease. Errors in imprinting have also been linked to cancer and other genetic disorders.

Scientists have argued that the reason some genes only use or 'express' one copy is due to a conflict between paternal and maternal interests.

"The idea that imprinting evolves because of conflict between males and females over maternal investment in their offspring has become a generally accepted truth that has remained largely unchallenged," said Dr Wolf.

"But we have shown that selection for positive interactions between mothers and their offspring, rather than conflict, can produce the sorts of imprinting patterns we see for a lot of genes."

New anti-psychotic drugs no better than older, cheaper ones

Research led by the Division of Psychiatry has found that schizophrenia patients respond just as well - and perhaps even better - to older psychiatric drugs as newer, costlier alternatives.

According to the study, patients with schizophrenia whose medication is being changed gain little from being put on the newer drugs - despite their much larger market share. This runs contrary to the widely-held view that second-generation antipsychotics are safer and more effective.

Antipsychotic medication is the main method of treating schizophrenia, with most UK patients currently receiving second-generation drugs. Previous trials suggested these were more effective and better tolerated than the first generation, leading most experts to recommend using them first despite their additional cost.

The NHS commissioned the study to assess whether these costs were off-set by improvements in patients' quality of life or resort to health and social care services. "We thought that we would show the NHS that their misgivings were unfounded," study leader Professor Shôn Lewis said.

However, after studying 227 schizophrenia patients who were randomly assigned to one class of drug or the other, the results failed to reveal the advantage in side effects or effectiveness predicted for the second generation drugs. Instead there was a trend towards the older drugs working better. Shôn said: "We were so certain we would find exactly the opposite that we went back and checked the data. "But it all suggested that careful prescribing of first-generation anti-psychotics, at least in the context of a trial, is not associated with poorer efficacy or a greater adverse effect.

"A parallel trial did show that the second-generation drug clozapine improved quality of life and symptoms better than the other newer drugs," he continued. "However, our research suggests that second-generation anti-psychotics are not the great breakthrough they were once thought to be – and certainly may not justify their ten-times-higher price tag.

"Further trials to evaluate both the role of secondgeneration anti-psychotics and the usefulness of cheaper, older drugs could save the NHS millions of pounds."



Boost for new cancer therapies

Scientists have revealed the critical role a key enzyme plays in helping cells divide in what could prove an important breakthrough for new cancer therapies.

Cells divide to form two identical cells as part of the body's natural development and replenishment processes but when cells divide in an abnormal manner, tumours can develop.

Research has shown that an enzyme called 'Polo kinase' is involved in normal cell division but that it also goes into overdrive in cancer helping cells to multiply in an uncontrolled way.

Clinical trials on drugs that block the actions of Polo kinase started in the United States last year but the complete picture of how the enzyme assisted the cell-division process has not been clear until now.

Writing in the highly respected science journal, Nature, a team of researchers from the Universities of Manchester and Newcastle-upon-Tyne have described a new way in which the enzyme works.

"Enzymes are proteins that speed up or 'catalyse' the body's chemical reactions such as those required for normal cell division," explained Professor Andrew Sharrocks, lead researcher in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

"As its name suggests, the enzyme we have studied is from a group known as kinase enzymes which use a particular chemical – a phosphate – to catalyse the reactions that lead to cell division.

"Our study has identified a new target protein that uses these phosphate groups to switch on genes and alter the properties of cells.

"When the actions of enzymes like Polo kinase go unchecked, cells divide in an uncontrolled manner to form tumours. However, if we block their activity using chemical inhibitors the cells can no longer divide and the cancer cannot grow and spread."

The identification of a new key step in which Polo kinase functions confirms the choice of this enzyme as a target for anti-cancer drug development and will spur on efforts in this direction.



In brief

Young Biotechnologist of the Year

Dr Stephen Richardson of the Division of Regenerative Medicine was named Northwest Young Biotechnologist of the Year at the NWDA's annual BioNow awards in mid-November, for the lower back pain (LBP) treatment he has developed using a patient's own stem cells.



Gym membership not just a way keep in trim

A University of Manchester researcher says the huge growth in the popularity of health clubs and gym membership is down to the human need for kinship and not just a way to keep fit.

Professor Nick Crossley, from the School of Social Sciences, spent three years studying the world of gyms to shed some light on the activity to which 14 per cent of the population are now involved – according to a 2002 citizen's audit.

He said: " Gyms are almost as popular as trade union membership at 16 per cent of the population, double that of church/religious membership - at seven per cent and over four times greater than membership of environmental, animal rights or women's groups at three per cent each.

"My research has shown that its popularity reflects the fact that going to your gym is more than an effort to lose some weight. I have found that gym-based friendships, learning experiences and feeling better about yourself are an important part in this trend as well." Profile

Guy's goals

Considering that he left school at 18 to join the BBC to train (and qualify) as a radio engineer, it seems remarkable that Simon Guy is now Professor of Architecture. "At school, I enjoyed music and being a dj, and my goal was to join the BBC and get into radio," he says. And he did, successfully. But, having completed his training, he realised that being on the technical rather than the creative side of broadcasting was not for him - and he set himself another goal. Aged 21, he wanted to break out and experience other cultures, so he took the back packers' trail to India and Nepal for a year. Then he set himself the goal of extending his education and returned to University to read Humanities. "Having specialized so young I was very keen to explore a range of perspectives from photography to philosophy", he says.

It was after that that things began to come together to shape his future career - and bring him to the then unlikely destiny of Architecture from a particular aspect. He went to York to do an MA in the Sociology of Contemporary Culture, following which an

unexpected research opportunity came up.

The research was to do with understanding buildings - their culture, technology and materiality. In other words, the interplay of architecture and cities and the lives of the people who live in them. So, the dye was cast. Off he went to the research post at Newcastle and ended up with him spending 12 action-packed years there, during which he co-established the innovative Centre for Urban Technology, was appointed to a Chair in Architecture, and became Dean of Research, which clearly reflected his enthusiasm for championing interdisciplinary research.

The key to the research which has earned him an international reputation is pulling together previously disconnected research fields like architecture and urban planning, the property sector and utilities industry. In developing and applying an innovative socio-technological approach, he has attracted more than £1.6 million of research income, significantly spread across the social sciences (ESRC), engineering (EPSRC), environmental (Global Environmental Change) and economic themes (Cities and Economic Competitiveness).

As well as working closely with academic, professional and industrial colleagues with specialisms in architecture, planning, property and social infrastructure, connecting them to the wider debate of urbanism, Simon has an international agenda. He has established links across Europe and America, completing many research projects and publications. And he has held Visiting Research Fellowships in leading institutions from Texas to Tokyo.

"I believe passionately in interdisciplinary and international research, concerned with issues which affect our everyday lives and the cities which we inhabit," he says. One of his current major projects, for instance, is concerned with the practices of domestic energy use and how widespread fascination with new forms of lighting, heating and even cooling our homes is affecting attempts to reduce carbon emissions.

On the back of his track record, his goal here is to establish social science-based research into architecture and urbanism and build a research group of international standing. "It's an exciting new challenge and nowhere is better placed than



"I believe passionately in interdisciplinary and international research, concerned with issues which affect our everyday lives and the cities which we inhabit..."



Manchester to meet it," he says. The team he is building here and the appointments he has already made (including an environmental psychologist, a sociologist and a geographer/planner) reflect the disciplinary mix underpinning his approach.

His own appointment, which he took up a year ago when he decided to move on from Newcastle, also reflects his interdisciplinary approach, since he is Professor of Architecture within the Faculty of Arts, Head of Discipline within the School of Environment and Development and Director of UMARC which forms part of the Manchester School of Architecture, a partnership between this University and MMU. "The fact that it is a curious institutional position excites me," he says. "It links our research centre with a wide range of disciplines, with our neighbour institution and with the professional education and practice a large."

The titles of some of his books, as author or editor, show the purpose of his work:

A Sociology of Energy, Buildings and the Environment (Routledge 2000), Development and Developers:

Perspectives on Property (Blackwells 2002), Reinterpreting Sustainable Architecture (Routledge 2006)

"Because of my background in social science and engineering, I enjoy connecting the technical and social aspects of design, development and cities," he says. "I also enjoy the opportunity my research brings me to collaborate with academic and professional experts in so many areas, from design to property management, GIS modelling to transportation planning, environmental science to econometric analysis and so on."

Apart from his enthusiasm for and focus on his work, Simon has a relaxed style and a ready sense of humor. He is also enjoying the social pleasures of Manchester, particularly the music (jazz and classical) and the accessibility of the Peak District for walking. And coming here has brought him back to his home region - he was born and had his early education in Formby (which accounts for his supporting Liverpool FC), before going off to the BBC as a teenager with a goal.

CV

Name Simon Guy

Education

1992 MA (Distinction) Sociology of Contemporary Culture, University of York, ESRC funded.

1990 BA (Hons) 1st Class, Humanities, University of the West of England.

1984 ETSI - BBC Professional Engineering Diploma.

Present Appointment

Professor of Architecture and Director, University of Manchester Architecture Research Centre (UMARC).

University of Manchester Appointments

2002 - 2004 Dean of Research, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

2000 - 2004 Member University Research Committee.

2000 - 2001 Chair Research Committee, Faculty Law, Environment and Social Sciences.

1998 - 2003 Director Centre for Urban Technology.

1999 - 2001 Alternative Head of School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.

1998 - 2001 Research/RAE Coordinator School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.

Brief Career History 2002 - 2005 Professor of Urban Development, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Newcastle.

2000 - 2002 Reader in Urban Development, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, University of Newcastle.

1998 - 2000 Lecturer in Built Environment, Department of Architecture, University of Newcastle.

1994 - 1998 Senior Research Associate, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Newcastle.

1992 - 1994 Research Fellow, School of Social and International Studies, University of Sunderland.

1990 - 1991 Lecturer, City of Bath College of Higher Education.

1982 - 1987 BBC Engineer, Broadcasting House, London.

What's On

The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

Indigo: A Blue to Dye For from 20 Jan to 15 April 2007

The Object of Encounter: Resonance and Wonder to March 2007

Featuring Walls: celebrating three centuries of wallpaper decoration to 30 Sept 2007

The Textile Gallery

The new displays are arranged thematically around subjects such as Rites of Passage, Inspiration for Design and Recycling, with each highlighting the wide geographical and historical range of the collection.

TOURS AND EVENTS

Every Saturday at 2pm there is either an Exhibition Tour or an Eye-Opener Tour.

Opening hours Mon to Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 2pm - 5pm **FREE** Admission

Collection Exhibitions Archive Now Online

The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage at: www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450 whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

Courses for the Public

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) runs a large and varied programme of courses designed for adults studying part-time whether for pleasure or personal/professional development. Most are open to beginners and no prior knowledge is assumed unless stated. Concessions are available to staff and graduates of the University of Manchester. Brochures/application forms available.

CCE, 1st Floor, Humanities Devas Street 0161 275 3275 www.manchester.ac.uk/continuingeducation

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy SUNDAY WORSHIP

11am Holy Communion 12.15am Bible Study 12.45 Lunch (1st Sunday) 6.30pm Evening Worship (term-time only)

FOYER 10am - 5pm An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends. A tea/coffee machine is available.

Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894 email sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

RC Chaplaincy, Avila House

Mass Times (term-time only) SUNDAY: 7pm (in the Holy Name Church) next door to Chaplaincy Mon, Wed, Fri: 6pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel Tues, Thurs: 12.15 pm in the Chaplaincy Chapel

Oxford Road (opposite the Students' Union) 0161 273 1456

www.rc-chaplaincy-um.org.uk

The Jewish Student Centre and Synagogue Hillel House, Greenheys Lane. 0161 226 1139 rabbiyy@hotmail.com www.rabbiyy.com

International Society

Sat 27 Jan **Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet and Chester**

Sat 3 Feb Liverpool with Guided Tour

Sun 4 Feb Manchester United `Theatre of Dreams Tour'

Opening hours Mon-Fri 9.30am – 7.00pm (during term time) Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm (during vacation)

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar) 0161 275 4959 int.soc@anchester.ac.uk www.internationalsociety.org.uk



Contact Theatre

Wed 17, Thur 18 and Sat 19 Jan **Contact Young Actors Company Auditions** Visit our website for details.

Thurs 18 Jan 12.30pm **RAW** Jam Monthly lunchtime Rhythm and Words Jam at Contact Lounge

Sat 20 Jan - 7.30pm £10/£6 Drill Hall presents Signs of a Diva Emotional rollarcoaster of signed songs by Deaf diva Caroline Parker

Sun 21 Jan £4 Sketch City A monthly Sunday session of art, music and chilled out vibes

Monday 22 Jan 6.30 - 9.30pm FREE Drama Drop In

Taster sessions in the performing arts for beginners aged 13 - 16.

Thurs 25 to Sat 27 Jan - 7.30pm £6 / £4 Live & Direct This year's Live & Direct sees Annie George,

Jonathan Man and Keith Saha showcasing their directorial debut.

Wednesday 31 Jan 7.30pm £10 / £6 **Culture Word presents** BrothaTalk with Julian Daniel, Segun Lee French, Mabrak, Dike Omeje and John Siddique.

For information on other events please visit our website.

Oxford Road, Manchester Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600 www.contact-theatre.org

Jodrell Bank

The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of redevelopment. The Visitors Centre currently has a café, an exhibition space and a 3D theatre open, and visitors can still explore the various trails and the natural habitats of the Arboretum's 35 acres with its 2000 species of trees and shrubs and National Collections.

Jodrell Bank Observatory Macclesfield, Cheshire 01477 571339 www.jb.manchester.ac.uk







John Rylands University Library (Deansgate)

The John Rylands Library, Deansgate is coming to the end of a three year, £16.5 million transformation. The Library is due to re-open to the public in spring 2007. The temporary Special Collections Reading Room which has been operating from the Main Library is now closed to readers. Special Collections reader services will re-open on Tuesday 10 April 2007 in the John Rylands Library, Deansgate. During the closure period we shall do our best to meet the needs of readers who require urgent access to specific items and would appreciate advance notice of such requests whenever possible. If you have any queries about Special Collections reader services, please telephone 0161 275 3764 or visit our website at www.manchester.ac.uk/library

Music and Drama at Manchester

Thurs 25 Jan 1.10 pm Quatuor Danel

Profundity and tunefulness in one of Schubert's most popular chamber Works; and deceptive simplicity from Shostakovich disciple Miecczysiaw Weinberg.

Fri 26 Jan 7.30pm Quatuor Danel

Beethoven's Op.18, modernistic Weinberg, and a life-affirming piece from Schubert featuring a dream-team of extras.

The Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama Bridgeford Street Manchester M13 9PL 0161-275 8951/8950 boxoffice@manchester.ac.uk www.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

Burlington Society

The Society of Mature Students and Postgraduates in the Universities of Greater Manchester

Burlington Rooms, Schunck Building, Burlington Street (next to JRUL) 0161 275 2392 www.burlington.man.ac.uk

The Manchester Museum

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS Wild Britain until Sun 25 Feb 2007

Ben Hall is rapidly developing a reputation as one of the UK's best young wildlife photographers. In this, his first major exhibition, you will see the outstanding quality of his pictures of Britain's wildlife and also learn something of the craft of nature photography.

EVENTS

Some of the highlights for January include:

Sat 20 & Sun 21 Jan **Victorian Gentlemen** Collect an `I've spied Mr Pye' sticker from Graeme Pye Esquire, somewhere in the Museum today.

Fri 26 Jan 11am-12 noon **The Magic Carpet** Stories from around the world introducing the Museum to the under 5s

Sat 27 Jan_11am-4pm

Big Saturday RaW – storytelling in gallery spaces and in the special BBC Storymaker Theatre.

Presented as part of the BBC Reading and Writing Campaign and National Storytelling Week. Most big Saturday activities are free but some may cost £1.50. All ages.

Prebooked Family Events (0161 275 2648)

Drop-in Family Events (£1 per child, unless otherwise stated. For group bookings please call 0161 275 2648. Children must be accompanied by an adult).

Opening hours

Open: Tues-Sat 10 - 5pm Sun-Mon (and Bank Holidays) 11- 4 pm FREE Admission

Oxford Road, Manchester 0161 275 2634 www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

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Gig Guide Manchester Academy MANCHESTER ACADEMY 1, 2 & 3

Mon 15 Jan Academy Unsigned 136 Tue 16 Jan A Wilhelm Scream Wed 17 Jan

Norma Jean + He Is Legend Justin Currie Academy Unsigned 137

Thur 18 Jan Homemade Memory

Fri 19 Jan The Blood Brothers Nightmare of You

Sat 20 Jan Kerrang Tour 2007 feat. Biffy Clyro, The Bronx, The Audition and I Am

Ghost Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly

Sun 21 Jan John Cale

> 7 -

Mon 22 Jan **The Boy Most Likely To** Tue 23 Jan Scott Matthews Mon 29 Jan Bruce Cockburn Nerina Pallot

Sun 28 Jan

Thur 1 Feb

Ben Taylor

Fri 2 Feb Clap Your Hands Say Yeah + Cold War Kids + Elvis Perkins Brian James Gang

Sat 3 and Sun 4 Feb NME Awards Indie Rock Tour 2007 feat: The Automatic + The View + The Horrors + Mumm-Ra

Mon 5 Feb Black Label Society CANCELLED (PLEASE DON'T BLAME US!)

DON'T BLAN Thurs 8 Feb

+44

Sat 10 Feb

Fri 9th Feb Guillemots The Get Happy Tour feat: Bowling For Soup,

Son of Dork, Wheatus

& Army of Freshmen

Thurs 25 Jan

Mindy Smith

Jamie T

Soil

Califone

Hellogoodbye Fri 26 Jan Cute Is What We Aim For

Tickets from: Students' Union, Oxford Road Piccadilly Box Office @ easy Internet Cafe (c/c) 0871 2200260 Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL 0161 275 2930 www.manchesteracademy.net

Youngsters are aiming high

A report has shown that more than 1,000 students across the North West have been able to benefit from The University of Manchester's Widening Participation Summer Schools since 2004.

The three-year programme of activity, funded by the Government's flagship Aimhigher programme and the European Social Fund, has demonstrated Manchester's extensive commitment to reaching out to young people who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

In the past three years of the project, the Student Recruitment, Admissions & Widening Participation Division has worked with colleagues in academic Schools and cultural and administrative services to run residential activities for pupils across a wide spectrum of ages.

Aiming to break down both real and perceived barriers to higher education, campus-based

activities have included the Year 10 'Step Ahead' programme, a week-long 'Wise-Up' event in Year 11, a Performing Arts Summer School and a Year 12 'Applic8' programme focusing on getting into HE.

A number of Summer School 'graduates' are now students at Manchester. Charlotte Jones and Peter Bebbington (pictured) both attended a Manchester Summer School in Year 11. As undergraduates they now work as 'Student Ambassadors'. "The Summer School made a massive difference to my confidence" said Charlotte, now in her second year of an LLB in Law. "By working as a Student Ambassador I'm now able to help inspire others who, like me, are the first in their family to consider higher education".



Saskia Metcalf, who coordinated these Aimhigher/ESF Summer Schools said: "It's pleasing Manchester has been recognised for the breadth of activities that have helped extend opportunities to so many young people across the region. Credit and thanks must go to the range of people who help make our Summer Schools a success - be it catering and residential staff, academics, support staff or our own undergraduate student ambassadors. We look forward to working with colleagues again on a range of new activities from 2007."

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Museum Piece

The bird that glows in the dark

This isn't the dead parrot sketch but - if you look at the photograph you will see a glowing parrot. No, seriously, parrots glow - well, they fluoresce, strictly speaking when you place them under UV light.

Researchers discovered some time ago that birds can see ultraviolet light. In poetic terms, birds see a wider rainbow than we do and many birds have ultravioletreflecting feathers.

Some parrots go one better and have a special yellow pigment that absorbs the UV wavelengths, this excites the pigment molecules and re-emits it as a yellow glow.

Researchers discovered that parrots use this special pigment to select a mate by placing harmless sunblock on a budgerigar's yellow face: the female budgerigar lost interest as the UV could not reach the pigment and the male budgerigar would have seemed dull to the female.



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Next issue is 5 February 2007

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News and story ideas

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tel	0161 275 2112
email	uninews@manchester.ac.uk
online	www.manchester.ac.uk/staffnet/news
Deadline	Noon 18 January

Events Contact

Events and listings information Philippa Adshead 0161 275 2922 email unievents@manchester.ac.uk Deadline Noon 18 January

Adverts Contact

Ads and distribution queries Internal Communications Office

tel email Deadline 0161 275 2113 uniads@manchester.ac.uk Noon 18 January

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