

'DISCOVER RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES'

23 SEPTEMBER 2026



TODAY'S PANEL



DR JASON BRUCE

Director of Postgraduate
Research (School of
Medical Sciences)



AADHI

Postgraduate researcher



VRINDA

Postgraduate researcher



ZAHRAA

Postgraduate researcher

DISCOVER RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

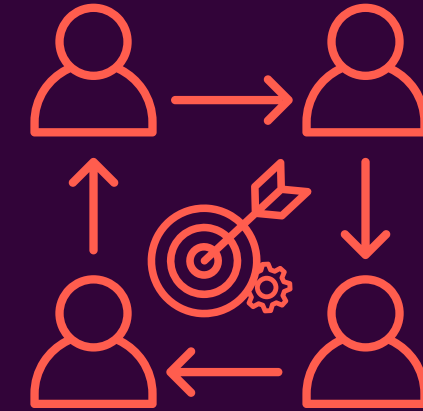
Today we'll help you understand where you and your interests fit in the School by exploring:



**How our research moves from
discovery to real-world impact**



**The breadth and scale
of research across our six divisions**



**How our research
crosses disciplines**



**Our connections with
healthcare and industry**



**Our research environments
and community**



**Our research
impact and reputation**

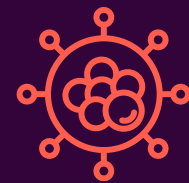
RESEARCH FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

Whether your passion is understanding how biology works or addressing real-world challenges, the School offers opportunities to develop research that can contribute to both scientific discovery and meaningful impact.

Home to research spanning



**Cardiovascular health
and disease**



**Cancer research and
treatment**



**Dentistry and
oral health**



**Developmental
biology and medicine**



**Human physiology
and disease**



**Medical education
and healthcare
innovation**

Understanding health and disease

Disease mechanisms, human development, physiology,
cancer biology

Translational medicine

Diagnostics, experimental medicine, clinical studies,
precision medicine

Improving healthcare

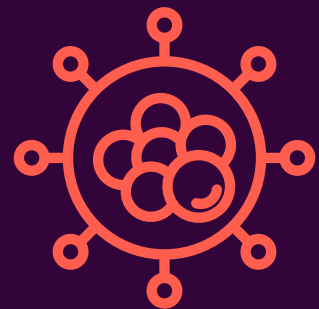
New treatments, clinical trials, healthcare innovation,
better patient outcomes

History of science and medicine

BREADTH AND SCALE OF OUR RESEARCH

Whether you are interested in understanding disease, developing new treatments or improving healthcare, the School offers opportunities to undertake research with clear routes to patient benefit.

Six research divisions:



Cancer Sciences

Molecular Cell Biology of Cancer, most cancer types
Immuno-oncology,
Radiotherapy, Proton therapy,
Biomarker, Imaging



Cardiovascular Sciences

Stroke, vascular dementia,
heart failure, hypertension
cardiovascular genetics



Dentistry

Biomaterials & Biomechanics,
Craniofacial development, Oral
health inequalities, Dental
Health Policy, Digital Health



Developmental Biology and Medicine

Maternal and fetal health
Paediatric growth &
development
Developmental biology



Integrative Physiology

Biological timing, Obesity &
diabetes, Gastroenterology &
hepatology, Endocrinology
Organ function, disease and
regeneration



Medical Education

Medical & Health Education,
History of Science & Medicine,
Health Workforce Research

A large and active research environment

£30M

annual research income

515

research profiles

319

projects

research.manchester.ac.uk

17,711

research outputs

922

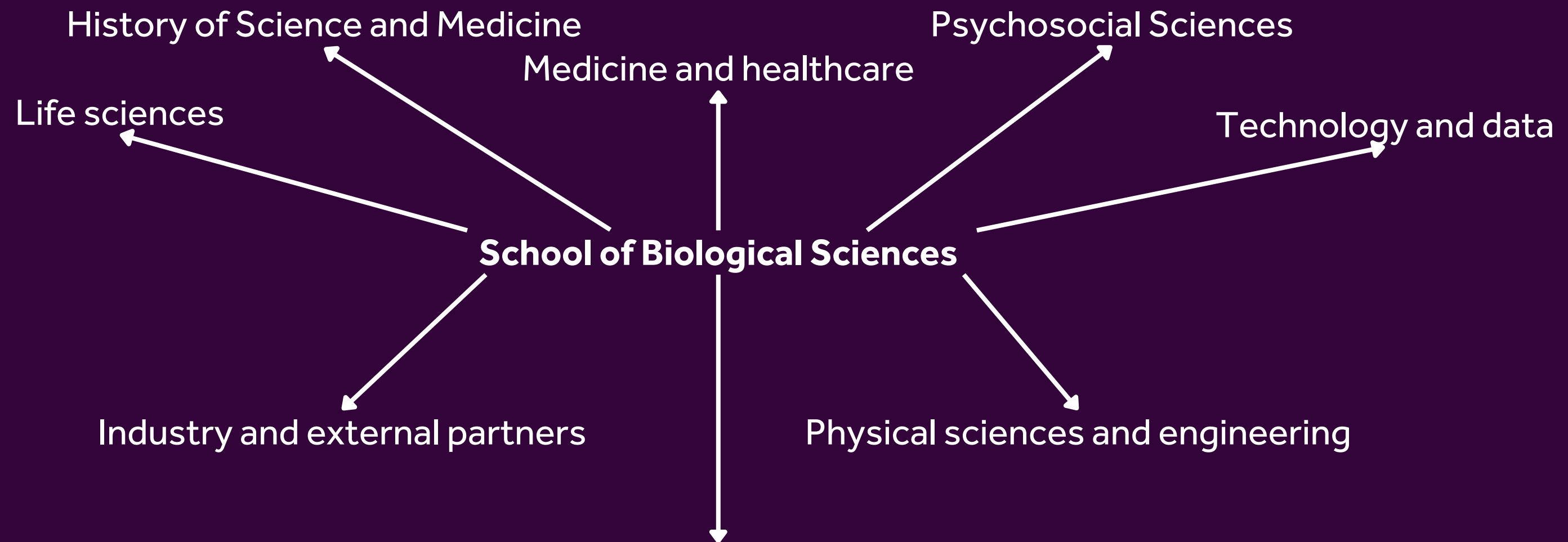
student theses

Notable alumni

Dame Sally Davies, former Chief Medical Officer for England
Sir John Sulston, Nobel Prize winner

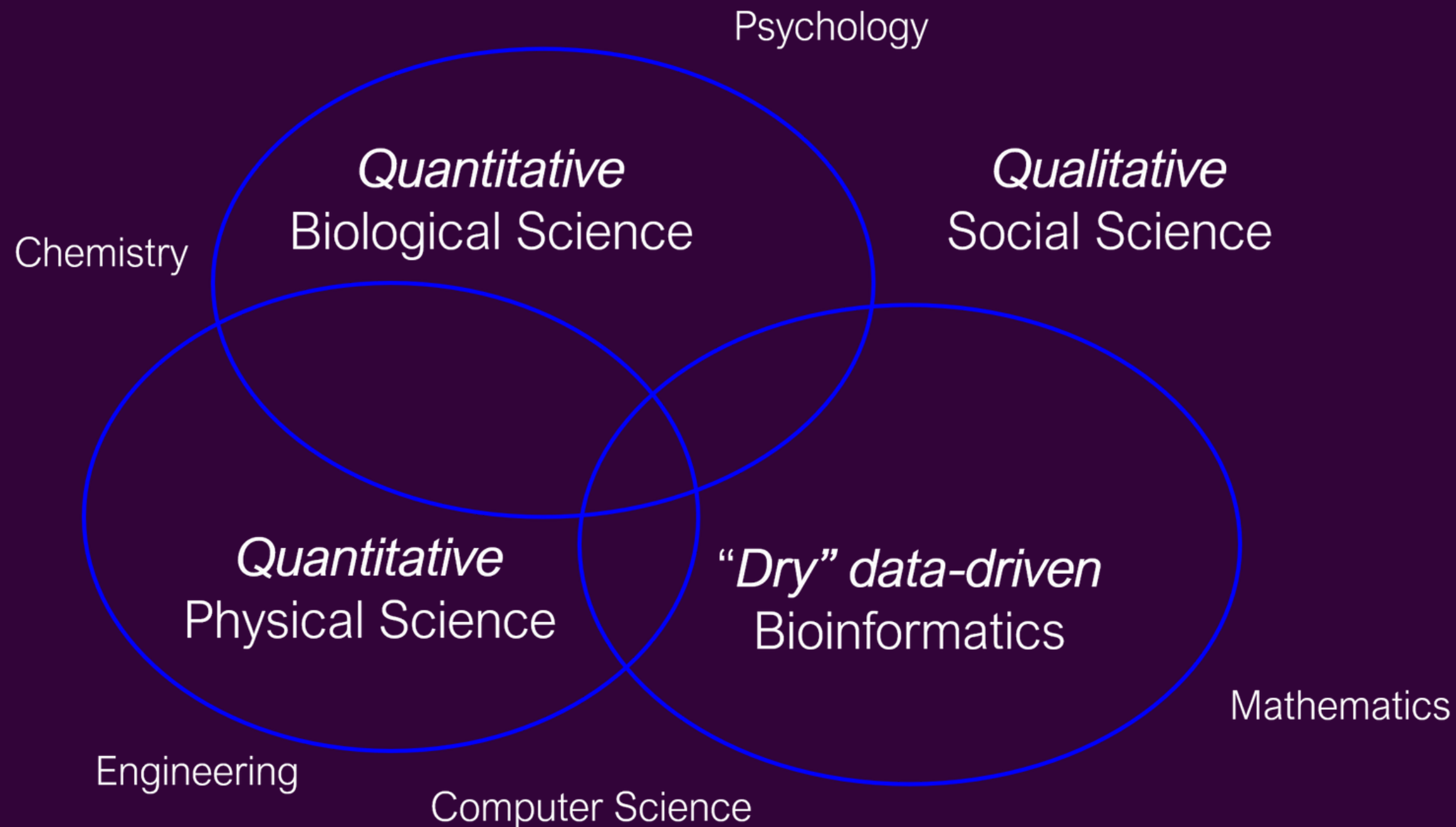
HOW OUR RESEARCH CROSSES DISCIPLINES

Your PhD may be based in one research area or group, but you'll get the opportunity to collaborate with researchers from different disciplines across the University, helping you tackle more complex questions, access specialist expertise and technologies, and broaden the impact of your research.



HOW OUR RESEARCH CROSSES DISCIPLINES

Your PhD may sit within one division, but many of today's health challenges require expertise from multiple disciplines. Working across research areas can help you answer bigger questions, access specialist facilities and develop broader skills and perspectives.



OUR CONNECTIONS TO HEALTHCARE AND INDUSTRY

The School works across Manchester's health and research environment. Depending on your project, these connections could influence your research question, methods, setting and route to impact.



Healthcare links

- Local NHS trusts
- £59.1m NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre
- Clinical and translational research environments
- Specialist hospitals and healthcare providers
- Research focused on patient benefit



Industry and sector links

- Pharmaceutical and biotechnology organisations
- Diagnostics and healthcare technologies
- Medical device development
- Consumer health
- Research commercialisation and innovation

OUR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

As a postgraduate researcher, you'll be part of both a specialist research environment and a wider research community, giving you access to additional expertise, facilities, collaborations, networking opportunities and career development beyond your immediate project.

Our research environment includes:

Manchester Cancer Research Centre

bringing together discovery, translational and clinical cancer research.

CRUK Manchester Institute

world-leading cancer discovery and translational science.

The Christie

One of Europe's leading cancer centres and home to the UK's first high-energy NHS Proton Beam Therapy Centre.

NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre

Supporting the translation of research into improved healthcare and patient outcomes.

Our research community

Researchers at every career stage, from PhD students to postdocs to internationally recognised research experts

Clinicians and healthcare professionals working across biological, medical and health sciences

Researchers from around the world bringing diverse perspectives and experiences

Opportunities to connect through institutes, centres, seminars, conferences and networking activities

A community tackling a diverse range of global challenges through collaborative research

OUR RESEARCH IMPACT AND REPUTATION

The School is continually undertaking research that has real-world impact.

Your research could deepen scientific understanding, influence policy, support new technologies, improve healthcare or help address some of the biggest biological and health challenges facing society.



1st
in the world for
sustainability impact
Times Higher Education (THE)
Sustainability Impact Ratings (2026)



93%
of the University's research activity
was rated as 'world-leading' or
'internationally excellent'
Research Excellence Framework
(REF) (2021)



6th
in the UK
QS World University Ranking (2027)



Prof. Emma Davidson
Reducing future cancer risk and
saving lives through testing
women with endometrial (womb)
cancer for Lynch syndrome
Cancer Sciences



Dr Michaela Goodwin
Contemporary evidence on
water fluoridation informing
national and international public
health policy
Dentistry



Prof. Alexander Heazell
Preventing Stillbirth and
Improving the Quality of Care
After a Baby Dies
**Developmental Biology &
Medicine**



Prof Matthew Krebs
Transforming Cancer Care
Through National
Implementation of ctDNA Liquid
Biopsy for Precision Treatment
Cancer Sciences



**Prof. Adrian
Parry-Jones**
Reducing mortality via the 'ABC'
care bundle for intracerebral
haemorrhage
Cardiovascular Sciences



Prof. Martin Rutter
Groundbreaking strategic partnership
with Eli Lilly and Company (Lilly) - £256M
5-year real-world clinical trial of
tirzepatide (mounjaro) on weight loss,
diabetes prevention, and obesity-
related complications (SURMOUNT-
REAL UK).
Integrative Physiology

CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence



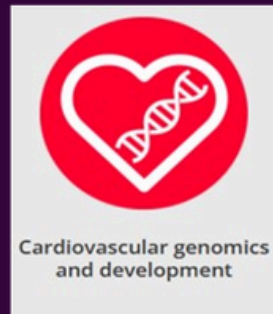
Prof Liesl Zühlke
University of Cape Town
South Africa

2026 L'Oréal-UNESCO - Women in Science International Laureate

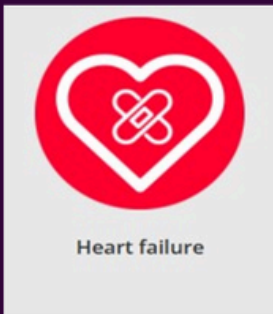


Prof. Bernard Keaveney:
Director

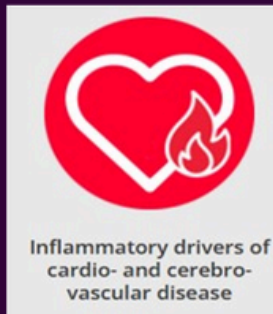
Genome-wide association study of congenital heart disease in a sub-Saharan Africa



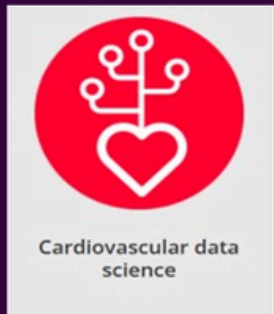
Cardiovascular genomics and development



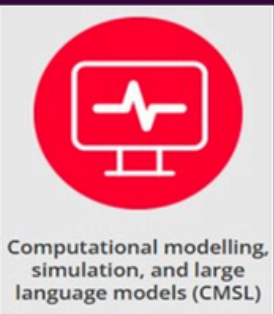
Heart failure



Inflammatory drivers of cardio- and cerebro-vascular disease



Cardiovascular data science



Computational modelling, simulation, and large language models (CMSL)



Manchester-GlaxoSmithKline Institute for Small Vessel Diseases

PHD OPPORTUNITIES IN CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

British Heart Foundation Multidisciplinary PhD Programme
CHAIN (Connecting Hearts And mINDs) consortium



CANCER RESEARCH

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

MANCHESTER CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE



Oglesby Cancer Research Building



Flagship £150m Paterson Building



Christie Cancer Treatment Hospital



Prevent Breast Cancer Research Unit

Prevent Breast Cancer is building a world-class resource for breast cancer prevention research. Learn more about the Prevent Breast Cancer Research Unit today.



Prof Sacha Howell
Director



Prof Rob Clarke
Deputy Director



Dr Bruno Simoes
Senior Research Fellow

Article Anti-progestin therapy targets hallmarks of breast cancer risk

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The Sarah Harding Breast Cancer Appeal

Thanks to the Sarah Harding Breast Cancer Appeal, an innovative study has been made possible.

Donate to the appeal today



CANCER RESEARCH UK

RadNet Manchester

Discover the Radiation Research Unit, in collaboration with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, helping to develop new clinical treatments in radiation oncology.

Manchester scientists receive £5.9 million boost to pioneering radiotherapy research programme

Cancer Research UK will invest a total of £5.9 million to develop new radiotherapy technologies and techniques over the next five years. In close collaboration with The Christie, the funding will support University of Manchester researchers to discover ways to improve radiotherapy treatments including the use of virtual clinical trials.



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CANCER EARLY DETECTION



Explore how Manchester is driving innovation in cancer early detection as part of a £50M international alliance established to help detect cancer sooner.



PHD OPPORTUNITIES IN CANCER RESEARCH

MCRC/CRUK-funded Non-Clinical PhD Studentships

NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)-funded PhD programme

CRUK RadNet Allied Health Professionals (AHP) PhD programme

ACED 3-year Clinical PhD Programme

MB-PhDs

Christie NHS Foundation Trust Clinical PhD programme

Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) Programme

CRUK Black Leaders in Cancer PhD Scholarship programme

Leeds Manchester Newcastle Sheffield
4Ward North PhD Academy

OUR CONNECTIONS TO HEALTHCARE AND INDUSTRY

Depending on your project, you may have opportunities to work alongside healthcare professionals, industry partners, patients or external organisations and see how research informs healthcare, influences decision-making, shapes new products and technologies, or improves outcomes for patients and wider society.

School links

Local
NHS trusts

£59.1m NIHR Manchester
Biomedical Research Centre

Clinical and translational research
environments

Health-focused institutes,
centres and networks

Sectors



Healthcare and clinical
research



Pharmaceutical and
biotechnology



Consumer health

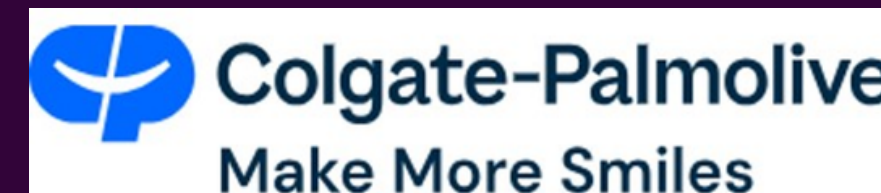


Diagnostics and
technology development



Policy, public health
and awareness

Industry partners



WHERE COULD YOUR PHD FIT?

Start with your interests, curiosity and motivations, then explore where they might fit within the School:



- What problems would you most like to help solve?
- Which topics do you find yourself constantly wanting to learn more about?
- What impact would you like your research to have?
- What could you happily spend three to four years exploring?
- How does your background fit available projects?

A group of six diverse postgraduate researchers are standing in a line on a paved area in front of a large, historic stone building. The building features arched windows and doorways, with the words "UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER" visible at the top. A street sign on the left reads "OXFORD RD". The group consists of three women and three men, dressed in a variety of styles including a hijab, a niqab, and casual modern clothing. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

MEET OUR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

AADHI: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

- Second year PhD in Physiology in the Bicentenary studentship
- Previous experience as a Research Technician at University of Manchester (UoM) after completing B.Tech Bioengineering (India) and MSc Neuroscience (UoM)
- My research focuses the development of biological clock and how early life lighting impact long-term clock functioning
- Based in the Centre for Biological Timing, Europe's largest circadian research community, with access to cutting edge facilities and model organisms like *Rhabdomys pumilio*, a day active rodent offering better translational relevance.
- Access to training, networking and career development through the Doctoral Academy, Fellowship Academy and Researcher Development programmes
- My top advice: Find a specific topic that genuinely excites you. Your passion for the research is the most important driving factor of a PhD.



VRINDA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

- 2nd Year PhD in Stem Cell Biology at CRUK Manchester Institute, University of Manchester
- Funded by MRC DTP
- Previous Experience – MSc Pharmacology at King's College London, two years as a research assistant and Clinical Trials Coordinator at King's College Hospital
- Research focus – Developing platform for off-the-shelf CAR T cell therapies
- Research environment – CRUK Manchester Institute / Manchester Cancer Research Centre facilities
- •Beyond the lab: MRC DTP Student Co Chair, PGR Ambassador, and founder of StemVance (biotech spinout, Phase 1 Cancer Tech Accelerator)
- Top advice: Proactive Serendipity, choose your research topic and supervisor carefully, and engage with opportunities beyond the bench



ZAHRAA: MY JOURNEY TO POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

- I have Bachelor's degree in Dentistry and MSc in Prosthodontics from Iraq. I was then awarded a scholarship to pursue my PhD at the University of Manchester, within the division of dentistry.
- My research is about the biomechanical behaviour of dental implants. The programs diversity in the University of Manchester helped me choose my research area.
- Manchester University offers many opportunities beyond research, e.g. leadership and business management courses, ECR events, and career fairs. These are great opportunities to develop skills and build professional networks.
- There are also many social activities arranged by the university. They are a great way to meet other PGRs, make friends, and take a break from research.
- My main advice is to know your research interests and choose a supervisor whose expertise matches them.



PANEL Q&A

GOT A QUESTION FOR OUR PANEL?
RAISE YOUR HAND OR
ADD IT TO THE CHAT



NEXT STEPS

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DISCOVER MORE
INCLUDING HOW TO APPLY, AVAILABLE
PROJECTS, FUNDING AND MORE.
[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-MORE](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-more)**



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TO RECEIVE OUR FUNDING ALERTS, EVENT
UPDATES AND OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.
[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-MAILINGLIST](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-mailinglist)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

MANCHESTER
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The University of Manchester

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPEN DAY

21 OCT 26

2PM - 5PM
ON CAMPUS

'UNDERSTANDING FUNDING IN BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH'

30 SEP 26

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

'THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACTING A SUPERVISOR'

7 OCT 26

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

'PHD LIFE IN THE FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH'

11 NOV 26

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

'PREPARING FOR A PGR INTERVIEW'

9 DEC 26

1PM - 2PM
(GMT)

BOOK YOUR PLACE [UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-OPEN-DAY-BOOK](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-open-day-book)

BOOK YOUR PLACE [UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-BOOK](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-book)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

**LET US KNOW YOUR FEEDBACK VIA
OUR POST-EVENT SURVEY**

[UOM.LINK/BMH-PGR-WEBINAR-SURVEY](https://uom.link/bmh-pgr-webinar-survey)

