

NEWSLETTER

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR WHG STAFF AND STUDENTS



Director's Update

*We're coming back,
We're coming back,
We're coming,
We're coming back to work!*

A graphic of musical notes and a treble clef on a staff, positioned behind the text.

I hope you are all as excited as I am about the prospect of more people returning back to the building over the next few weeks. Please ensure that you read David Bartle's emails regarding the RTOSW process. This is a phased return, and you should be engaging with your line managers regarding your return to working in the building. Please get in touch with David if you have questions.

I like to extend my thanks to David Bartle and Mel Matthews for all of their extremely valuable help over the summer. David is continuing to do a sterling job providing business management cover while Sue is on a period of extended leave.



The summer finally saw the removal of the MRI magnet from the building, the first part of the major renovations that will be taking place in the building. I would like to thank Boyd and his team for their exceptional efforts in this operation.

I was blown away by the talks during the Together Day. All of the speakers did an amazing job and showcased their science fantastically. Congratulations to all our prize winners.

With the start of the new term, I hope you will all take the opportunity to have a 'spring clean in the autumn' in your laboratories and offices. It's a great chance to dispose/recycle any old, unused equipment and consumables that have been sitting around gathering dust. Please contact Lab Support if you require assistance.

John Todd, October 2021



NEWSLETTER

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR WHG STAFF AND STUDENTS



Nechama Tatz-Wieder wins NDM prize for 'Outstanding work outside of degree'.

Nechama, a DPhil student in the Whiffin group, has won the NDM prize for 'Outstanding work outside of degree'. Group Leader Nicky explains why this award is so deserved:

“Returning to work after having children is far from the norm for Orthodox Jewish women. Nechama made a difficult choice to take on her DPhil whilst raising a toddler. Recognising the difficulties facing women in her community, Nechama has this year founded and run an initiative to help young Orthodox Jewish women explore career options not otherwise commonly accessible to them. She has curated a large network of mentors of varied professions, who are paired with young women, to provide advice to broaden their horizons. Nechama has extended this initiative to work on a national basis, generating contacts within, and providing mentorship connections to the majority of Jewish communities across the UK. Nechama also provides support to schools, organising careers events where young Jewish women, at a vital stage in their education, can receive guidance on career paths.

Nechama has also used her extensive knowledge of genetics in healthcare through voluntary work, both, at 'Jnetics', where she assists their mission to improve management, diagnosis and prevention strategies for people with Jewish-specific genetic disorders, and at 'Hertility', where she provides insight to the founders on issues surrounding women's health and prenatal genetic screening.

Nechama is a truly inspiring individual and is an example to us all on how we can turn our own personal challenges into efforts to help others through them. I am sure you will agree that she is fully deserving of this award.”

Professor Julian Knight wins the Mary Lyon medal 2021

The Genetics Society Mary Lyon medal to “reward outstanding research in genetics to scientists who are in the middle of their research career” has been won by Julian Knight, Deputy Director of the WHG and Director of GMS Training programme.



EASD-Novo Nordisk Foundation prize

John Todd is the recipient of the 2021 EASD-Novo Nordisk Foundation prize. “The EASD-Novo Nordisk Foundation Diabetes Prize for Excellence recognizes a body of research which has led to significant advances in the understanding, prevention or treatment of diabetes or its complications.”

<https://youtu.be/SXHuXyApxm8> <<https://youtu.be/SXHuXyApxm8>>



Anjali Hinch wins Wellcome-Beit Prize

Following on from her Henry Dale Fellowship award, new group leader Anjali Hinch has also been awarded a Wellcome-Beit Prize which is given to the “most promising fellows who are starting to lead their own independent research programmes.”



Peter Donnelly wins Royal Society Gabor Medal 2021

The Gabor Medal 2021 is awarded to former WHG director Peter Donnelly. This is in recognition of his ground breaking work “in the genomic revolution in human disease research, transforming the understanding of meiotic recombination, and for developing new statistical methods.”



NEWSLETTER

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR WHG STAFF AND STUDENTS



Public Engagement Update

Expressions of interest wanted – working with festivals

As part of our ongoing partnership with the British Science Association, we're offering funding to science festivals to run events about our research, and we're looking for researchers who are interested in teaming up with these festivals!

Very roughly how it'll work is: you say now whether you're interested. In November, I help you put together a short bio. We then share a big document with all these bios with the science festival network saying 'here are interested folk!'. Festivals then say 'hey, I'd like to work with this person, we have a cool idea for an event' OR 'hey, this person seems cool, maybe they can help us come up with an event'. We then do a bit of pairing up, based on who wants to do what. We can then provide funding. You get bespoke training and support to help it all work nicely. You get to work with a great science festival to do an event that works for you and them, we reach audiences all over the country, everybody wins! And, it's worth saying, that the science festivals community are a very creative bunch, so feel free to specify 'I don't like giving big talks' or the opposite! All things are possible.

Drop WHG PE Officer Brian Mackenwells an email (bmwells@well.ox.ac.uk) if you'd like to sign up, or to find out more details. He has gantt charts and everything.

OGC Update

OGC has moved to biochemistry to free space in the WHG to allow the centre refurbishment to start. With a two-week move window, OGC is already back up and running.

OGC has signed an Agreement with Olink (<https://www.olink.com>) to set up a new Proteomics Service for end-to-end protein biomarker discovery. Dr Paola Piazza, OGC head of Innovation, and Bobby Bojovic are working with Olink on the logistics of setting up this exciting addition to our portfolio. If you are interested to learn more or have samples you would like to run, please get in touch with Paolo directly for more information ppiazza@well.ox.ac.uk.

Starters and Leavers

We'd like to offer a warm welcome to the following new starters:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Aabda Subhani | Luciana Gneo | Brynelle Myers |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|

Farewell and good luck to the following leavers:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Abigail Semmens | Camilla Ip | Charlotte Moore |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------|

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Santiago Revale | Athina Paterou | Ash Hutchison |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| David Flores Santa Cuz | Sarah Briggs | Alexander Hargreaves |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Iliana Peneva | Line Sahli |
|---------------|------------|

NEWSLETTER

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR WHG STAFF AND STUDENTS



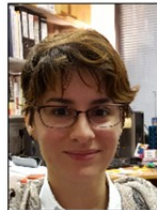
EDI Update

WHG EDI Award 2021

The 2021 WHG EDI Award for excellent citizenship goes to Carla Cohen, Luiza Mendonca, and Betina Nair!! Over the course of this year they have made outstanding contributions to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the Centre - actively helping to create a positive community and work environment. A big thank you and congratulations from all of us!!



Carla Cohen



Luiza Mendonca



Betina Nair

Welcome to WHG EDI for new starters

A warm welcome to all our new students and staff from the Wellcome EDI Officer Maddie (madeleine.welland@ndcn.ox.ac.uk) and the WHG EDI Champion Calli (cdendrou@well.ox.ac.uk)!

If you are interested in helping to promote a positive research culture, in raising awareness of issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), and in making a difference in the WHG please contact us!!

This year we are focusing on two main EDI projects:

- Our translation project will survey the current EDI landscape of the Wellcome Centres, with an end goal of translating activities, initiatives and best practice between the Centres and beyond, into the host departments. Our hope is to connect the communities of staff and students across all centres, and promote EDI activity and engagement.
- The Mental Health and Intersectionality project will be based on qualitative research conducted across the centres, and be led by a steering group of diverse participants. This project will be research-led, targeting areas of improvement and Centre-specific needs, and establish realistic, achievable steps we can take to improve the work lives of all staff and students.

To find out more about how to get involved please email us and feel free to check out the following links:

WHG EDI website: <https://www.well.ox.ac.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity>

WHG EDI intranet: <https://www.well.ox.ac.uk/internal/equality-diversity-inclusion>

WHG EDI padlet (for anonymous posting): https://padlet.com/whg_edi/5tbw7eb2q0gc4ia0

Our science is better if we are diverse. Our workplace is better when we are inclusive.



Image: Andy Jones / Wellcome / Interest