

# MAHSC

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC)

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

NHS

November 2010

## NEWSLETTER



Professor Christopher  
EM Griffiths, MAHSC  
Director

### Directors Diary

The two recent papers "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and "Healthy Lives, Healthy People" have laid out the intended redesign of the anatomy and physiology of the NHS. The AHSCs will have an important role in the delivering this ambitious agenda and MAHSC with its strengths in outcomes research will be to the fore. It is important that the five designated AHSCs work together to promote the added value of the AHSC designation and the academic-health partnership. In September I, along with the Directors of the other AHSCs met with Lord Howe

(Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—Department of Health) to discuss the role of the AHSCs. I was impressed with the minister's understanding of the AHSC agenda and his recognition of their added value. I am hopeful that he will visit MAHSC to see for himself what we are doing; we have a lot to be proud of.

I am pleased to announce that Susan Osborne and her team were awarded the tender for MAHSC communications. I am certain that we will be rewarded by a cornucopia of innovative ideas on how to communicate the MAHSC message locally and further afield.

The last of our Academic Section Leads has also been appointed; Professor Ashley Woodcock will head up the Inflammation and Repair Section. He takes up his post in February 2011. At the Board of Governors' meeting in early October we were handed the mandate to establish a MAHSC Research Office a virtual co-location of University and NHS Trust R&D offices to harmonise and integrate research operations and provide a shop window for clinical research in Manchester. This will build on the solid foundations laid by the excellent work of our Research Operations Manager, Sam Ryder, and her Research Operations Group.

The Wellcome Trust Children's Clinical Research Facility at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital has had overwhelming success since opening in November 2009, with the aim of testing new medicines in children and young adults to make sure that they are safe and effective. The facility is the first of its kind in the North West and one of only a small number of dedicated paediatric research facilities across the UK. To mark the one year anniversary, a 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party was thrown this on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010, for the children, families and researchers who have been involved in studies over the past year.



### MAHSC Member Successes

Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) is one of a small group of centres of clinical research excellence chosen to deliver a new £10 million Government programme that will get medicines of the future faster to patients, and secure the UK's position as the global partner of choice for research and development collaboration. Science Minister David Willetts and Health Minister Lord Howe have jointly launched The Therapeutic Capability Clusters programme which will involve the best researchers in the NHS and academia working with industry colleagues on promising new drugs and interventions. Together they will develop the best approaches to run experimental medicine studies and find novel ways to treating or diagnosing a whole range of inflammatory diseases.

Human genomics, the study of genetics and the human genome, is poised to become part of UK science lessons thanks to a new programme launched by Nowgen, part of the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre. The Nowgen Schools Genomics Programme will bring cutting-edge scientific research into schools, exciting pupils about the pace of discovery and engaging them in thinking about how advances in genetics will affect their future lives. The innovative three-year programme is being run by a team of Nowgen clinicians, scientists, national curriculum developers and educationalists.

"Top Docs" —Two University of Manchester clinical academics have been featured in a national newspaper's list of Britain's top doctors. Congratulations to Professors Chris Griffiths, MAHSC Director and Fred Wu were both named as leaders in their fields by *The Times Saturday Magazine* on 13 November.

The Christie's new £35 million patient treatment centre opened to patients on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and is set to transform cancer treatment and care. It will include the largest phase I clinical trials unit in the world, the largest chemotherapy facility in the UK and The Christie Clinic private patients' unit to increase income for their NHS services. Through providing the highest quality environment and integrating clinical trials and chemotherapy services The Christie will be able to significantly improve the patient experience and save lives – not just the lives of local patients accessing these services, but ultimately lives across the world through the clinical research taking place in this new centre.

### Tell MAHSC/ ASK MAHSC

Are you a MAHSC member with a good news story about your organisation, your team or an individual? Let us know and we will try to feature on this newsletter. Please email [mahsc@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mahsc@manchester.ac.uk) with subject line 'MAHSC newsletter'. Have a look on the MAHSC website for further information [www.mahsc.ac.uk](http://www.mahsc.ac.uk). MAHSC 'HQ' is hosted by the University's Faculty of Medical & Human Sciences (FMHS) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Simon Building. We can be contacted on 0161 306 0639 or via email at [mahsc@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:mahsc@manchester.ac.uk)

## People & Places

**Congratulations to Amelle Harle who has been awarded an NIHR Fellowship for her PHD.** Amelie is an SpR in lung oncology who will be investigating cough in cancer and its management. Cough is under-researched. It represents a significant cause of morbidity and distress in lung cancer patients and their carers. Treatments are inadequate. Progress has been hindered by the lack of suitable assessment tools. A longitudinal survey will be conducted to determine the incidence, frequency, severity, impact and correlates of cough in lung cancer. A small cohort will undergo cough monitoring. A feasibility trial will then be conducted in preparation for a phase III trial, comparing methadone and simple linctus. This research will improve cough treatment and patient quality of life by better defining cough and providing a treatment evidence base. This fellowship bridges oncology, nursing, and respiratory.

**Nineteen GP practices in the Greater Manchester area have been commended by Donal O'Donoghue, National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, for improving care for people with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).** A 12 month CKD quality improvement collaborative, funded by the CLAHRC for Greater Manchester, came to a successful close on 22nd September at a key summit event attended by all primary care teams taking part. The practices were from four local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) – Bolton, Stockport, Salford and Ashton, Leigh and Wigan. For more information please visit: <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/>.

**The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility Manchester (WTCRF) recently celebrated its 100,000<sup>th</sup> participant visit to the Facility** since its opening in November 2001. The 100,000<sup>th</sup> participant was Ms Leslie Dickinson, taking part in Professor Rayaz Malik's trial funded by the National Institutes of Health (USA): Corneal confocal microscopy: A non-invasive surrogate for diabetic neuropathy. With around 10,000 participant visits a year, the Facility provides specialist space for clinical researchers, as well as other NHS partners. During the first nine years the Facility has housed over 400 researchers from across more than 30 different research areas.



Prof Malik,  
Prof Heagerty with  
Ms Dickinson

**More people in Manchester are taking part in NHS clinical research than almost anywhere else in the country, according to latest figures released by the Greater Manchester Comprehensive Local Research Network (GMCLRN).** Greater Manchester currently has 12,864 patients on cancer trials, 1,299 patients on mental health trials and 700 patients on diabetes trials as well as thousands of patients on various other clinical trials. Figures show that more than 21,000 people across Manchester have taken part in NHS research since April 1, 2010 to November 8, 2010. This is excellent news as the NHS strives to put patients at the very heart of healthcare.



### Post-stroke Review Pilot Project The Evaluation Report

Over the past several months, the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) for Greater Manchester and The Stroke Association have been working on a collaborative pilot project exploring the potential role The Stroke Association's Information, Advice and Support Coordinators could play in delivering the six month stroke review, a key, yet challenging, requirement of the National Stroke Strategy and the Department of Health's 2010/11 Accelerating Stroke Improvement Programme. Fifteen coordinators from ten pilot sites nationwide have been involved in the project, reviewing the needs of stroke survivors using GM-SAT: the Greater Manchester Stroke Assessment Tool. **This pilot project has now come to a close and a copy of the Post Stroke Review Pilot Project Evaluation Report is available at <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/tsapilotproject>, together with an aphasia-friendly copy of the executive summary, frequently asked questions and a standard slide set.** Should you require any further information about the pilot project, please do not hesitate to contact Katy Rothwell ([katy.rothwell@nhs.net](mailto:katy.rothwell@nhs.net)) or Chris Larkin ([chris.larkin@stroke.org.uk](mailto:chris.larkin@stroke.org.uk)).

**Dr Rich Ferrie, Head of Biomedica Group, UMIC and Dr Linda Magee, MAHSC's Chief Operating Officer, chaired the two Judging Panels for the Manchester Workshop of the National Biotechnology YES competition.** The workshop was sponsored by UMIC and industry partners and held at Manchester United Football Club, Old Trafford 10-12 November. The competition aims to develop entrepreneurial and business skills in post-graduate and post doctoral life scientists and medics. Each team works on their fictitious business over three days and then presents it to a panel of IP, financial, marketing and commercialisation experts. The winning teams were DentRegen (University of Manchester) and Microbe Solutions (University of Manchester). Good luck to both teams at the national final in December. For more info see <http://www.biotechnologyyes.co.uk/>.

**A new website has been launched to support the care of heart failure patients, and the work of carers and professionals across NHS Manchester.** The website provides a one stop shop for patients, carers and health care professionals to access resources, services and contacts available across NHS Manchester. Information, resources, patient stories, videos and guidelines on the site will also benefit heart failure patients and professionals further afield. The site has been created by the heart disease theme working in collaboration with NHS Manchester and is now live and available to view at <http://clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/heartfailure>.

## Funding



A team investigating how genes respond to hormonal changes and inflammation has been awarded a Wellcome Trust grant of £1.24 million for a five-year study. The research programme at the Na-

tional Institute for Health Research's Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) is led by Professor Julian Davis, a consultant endocrinologist at Manchester Royal Infirmary and leader of The University of Manchester's Developmental Biomedicine Research Group. The team will study how the body produces an important hormone, prolactin, which is one of many hormones made by the pituitary gland in the brain.

A specialist in genetic medicine at the National Institute for Health Research's Manchester Biomedical Research Centre is leading a multi-national team investigating the genetics of immune system disorders. Professor Yanick Crow has been awarded a European Union grant of €5.4m over three years to investigate Nuclease Immune Mediated Brain and Lupus-like (NIMBL) condi-

Dr Nicholas Webb, Consultant Paediatric Nephrologist at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, has been awarded a grant of £734,697 by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme. The funding is to perform a national, multi-centre, randomised controlled study of different prednisolone treatments in childhood nephrotic syndrome. The study, known as the PREDNOS study, will involve 225 children in over 50 centres, who will receive either eight weeks or sixteen weeks of prednisolone therapy.



**The Dynamics of Disease—A Workshop on Medical Systems Biology, 14-18 February 2011.** Dedicated days on cancer and brain disease are included. This workshop is open for registration. For more details please see the website: <http://www.mib.ac.uk/postgraduate/DTC/FirstWorkshop>

## Training

# Excellence in Adult Forensic Mental Health Practice

The Edenfield Centre is providing a range of expert training courses in clinical risk assessment and management practice.

The training courses are led by nationally and internationally recognised experts in the field of adult forensic mental health.

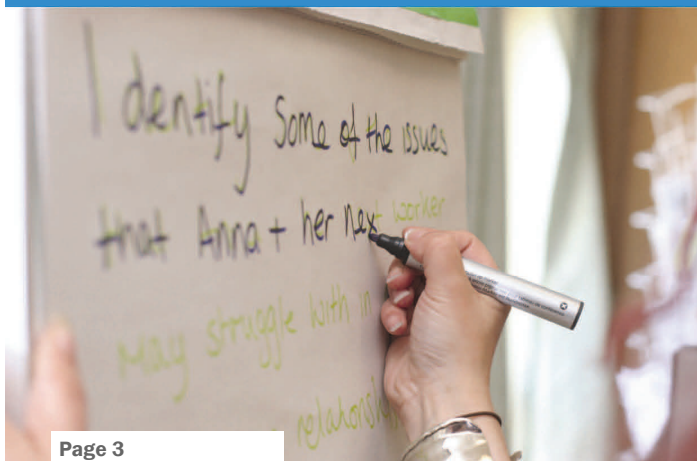
It is essential that practitioners adhere to best practice in making well formed judgements about risk of harm and its management. The two-day training courses are run in Greater Manchester and cost £350.

Part of Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, the Edenfield Centre is a medium-secure mental health unit and has just been shortlisted for the 'Mental Health Services Provider of the Year' in the 2010 Royal College of Psychiatrists Awards.

To view the current programme of courses and make a booking visit: <http://www.gmw.nhs.uk/C15/Workshops/default.aspx>

**Quote 'e-advert' to receive a 10% discount on the cost of a course!**

**Greater Manchester West**
  
Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust



## Events

**TRUST GRAND ROUND**  
**MAHSC**  
**19<sup>th</sup> November 2010**  
**Venue: Salford Royal NHS**  
**Foundation Trust**  
**(Humphrey Booth Lecture Theatre)**

**PROGRAMME:**

12.30pm	Buffet Lunch
1.00pm	Opening of Event – Jim Potter, Chairman of the Trust
1.05pm	Introduction – David Dalton, Chief Executive
1.10pm	“What can MAHSC do for you?” - Professor Chris Griffiths, MAHSC Director
1.35pm	“What you can do for MAHSC” - Professor Bill Ollier, R&D Director
1.45pm	Closing Remarks – Dr Chris Brookes, Medical Director

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust logo

MAHSC is a partnership between The University of Manchester, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, NHS Salford (Salford Primary Care Trust), Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust

Company Registration Number: 7083058

**Phagenesis Limited, a leader in technology for the treatment of swallowing dysfunction, has raised £2 million of investment to support the development of a new class of treatments for stroke patients who suffer from dysphagia, a common condition that prevents or impairs the safe swallowing of food and drink. The company, which was spun out of the University of Manchester, has been successful in rapidly attracting funding from a number of experienced investors.**

For more information on these stories and more from the MAHSC members see the following websites:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/>  
<http://www.christie.nhs.uk/press/default.aspx>  
<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/News/Pages/news.aspx>  
<http://www.mhsc.nhs.uk/>  
<http://www.srht.nhs.uk/media-centre/latest-news/>  
<http://www.salford-pct.nhs.uk/News.aspx?section=5>  
<http://www.cmft.nhs.uk/trust/latest-news.aspx>

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MAHSC has been hosting a series of MAHSC Grand Rounds at our member organisations. The most recent events were held at Manchester Mental Health & Social Care Trust on the 8th December and Central Manchester University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust as part of their Research and Innovation Exhibition on the 29th November. The aim of the series is to raise awareness locally of what MAHSC is, of what it aims to achieve and of what this means to the MAHSC partners and their staff. In addition, the events emphasised what MAHSC can do for its partners, the Trusts and University and what University & Trust staff can do to engage with MAHSC in order to realise its objectives. Events at the Christie NHS Foundation Trust, The University, Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospital South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust (UHSM) were held earlier this year. UHSM have since followed up with a highly successful MAHSC themed R&D Conference on 10th November.

## Business

**On October 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, ICON Development Solutions Manchester was granted Supplementary Accreditation as a Phase 1 Unit by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).** This prestigious accreditation was awarded for ICON's purpose built Clinical Pharmacology Unit, situated on the Central Manchester University Hospitals' campus – the largest academic campus in Europe. It permits ICON to carry out all Phase I trials including First in Human trials requiring review from the Expert Advisory Group. The 34-bed unit was officially opened in September 2010 and focuses on using translational medicine to speed up the development of new drugs, realising benefits for patients as quickly as possible.

**Blow, the Northwest Regional Development Agency's (NWDA) biomedical cluster support group, held their annual Northwest Biomedical Awards at Mere Golf & Country Club on Thursday 11 November.** MAHSC hosted a table at the dinner which was attended by 270 guests. The event is a showcase of the very best of biomedicine in the region. Winners included: Epistem Plc who won **Northwest Company of the Year**; BioOxyDyn, **start up of the year**; **Healthcare Project of the year** was Ferestim, Professor Jackie Oldham, Manchester University. Jackie is Director of MIMIT (Manchester: Integrating Medicine and Innovative Technology) a programme funded by the MAHSC partners which facilitates collaborations between clinicians, scientists, engineers and industry to develop innovative technology for patient benefit. Runners up included: Professor R A Malik, Central Manchester University Hospital & University of Manchester - **Development of corneal confocal microscopy—Innovation in Diagnostics Project of the Year**; Maria Basanta, University of Manchester; Leonard Ebah, University of Manchester—**Promising Biomedical Technologist**; and Professor Ludwig Neyses, University of Manchester, **Novel Contraception—Emerging Technology Project of the Year**.