

BHRC update – November 2009

Further information is available at www.bhrc.ac.uk

Senior Translational Research Fellowship (STRF) Scheme

Twelve STRF posts have already been allocated and eight appointments have been made. Expressions of interest proposals for the remaining 3 posts have been invited from the Faculties of Biological Sciences and Engineering with the aim to receive full applications and allocate the 3 posts by January 2010.

Name	Title	Start Date	Lead Faculty	Linked Faculty
Steven Johnson	Nanostructured Electronic Devices for Biomolecular Sensing & Analysis	Jan 2009	ENG	FMH
Aleksandra Radjenovic	Musculoskeletal Imaging	Apr 2009	FMH	ENG
Georgia Mavria	Cancer Angiogenesis	Apr 2009	FMH	TBC
Francesco Del Galdo	Musculoskeletal Biotherapy	Sept 2009	FMH	TBC
Rongjun Chen	Molecular Self Assembly for Targeted Drug Delivery	Oct 2009	MAPS	TBC
Robin Bon	Medicinal Chemistry linked to Cardiovascular Disease	Nov 2009	MAPS	FBS
Katarzyna Kita-Tokarczyk	Medicinal Chemistry for Targeted Drug Delivery	Nov 2009	MAPS	TBC
Stephen Griffin	Cancer Biotherapy	Jan 2010	FMH	FBS
TBC	Artificial Probe-Molecules for Detection and Analysis of the Clinical Proteome	TBC	FBS	FMH
TBC	Target Validation	TBC	FMH	MAPS
TBC	Organotypic Models in Regenerative Medical Engineering	TBC	FBS	ENG
TBC	Quantum Dots for Advanced Biomedical Imaging	TBC	MAPS	FMH

Technology Groups

Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology (MCCB) Technology Group: current projects include Development of novel Anticoagulants, Novel therapies of Hepatitis C, Novel HDAC inhibitors and Therapies for Rheumatoid Arthritis. Dr. R Foster has been involved as a Co-Investigator in one EPSRC and one BBSRC research grant proposals.

Informatics Technology Group: a review of the requirements for this group is currently being undertaken to assess requirements and ensure synergy with existing provision.

Biomarker Tools and Reverse Genetics Group (BTRG) Technology Group: currently finalising their business plan and are expected to start recruiting in the first quarter of 2010.

BHRC Activities

Workshop / Away Days

Past Events

1. Neurosciences Away Day
26th November 2008 (66 Attendees)
2. Nutrition and Obesity Workshop
27th July 2009 (65 Attendees)
3. Biomarkers in Clinical Care Workshop
9th October 2009 (68 Attendees)

Forthcoming Events

1. Chemistry and Biology Away Day
10th November 2009
2. Virology Away Day
4th December 2009
3. Neuroscience Away Day
14th December 2009
4. Clinical Imaging Workshop
TBC

Networking Events

Past Events

1. Virology – Oncology
21st July 2009 (19 Attendees)
2. Academic Surgical Clusters
21st September 2009 (16 Attendees)

Forthcoming Events

1. MCCB Technology Group series
October 2009 – January 2010
2. Imaging and MCRC
TBC
3. Imaging and GI
TBC

The BHRC is currently planning events for 2009/10 and welcomes suggestions on relevant research themes. Please contact Dr Nadina Grosios for further information (K.Grosios@leeds.ac.uk).

Problem Solving Fund

The problem solving fund is available throughout the year for applications to resolve short term funding problem areas in ongoing translational research which have the potential to generate long-term external funding. Of the 26 applications, 9 have currently been funded. These include:

- Manipulating endothelial progenitor cell phenotype to enhance vascular repair in high-risk humans (Prof. Mark Kearney)
- Implementing a novel approach to high-throughput screening of membrane transport proteins as potential drug targets (Prof. Stephen Baldwin)
- High throughput sequencing of cancer transcriptomes to discover new oncogenic viruses (Prof. Eric Blair)
- Development of a novel anticoagulant with minimal bleeding risk (Dr Helen Philippou)
- Development of the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) p7 ion channel as a therapeutic target (Dr Stephen Griffin)
- Profiling plasma microRNAs to diagnose breast cancer recurrence (Dr Thomas Hughes)
- Sounding Out Knee Function (Dr Todd Stewart)
- Loss of CTCF binding as a readout for epigenetic abnormalities in leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndrome (Prof. Constanze Bonifer)
- Targeting the late Na⁺ current to prevent arrhythmia in carbon monoxide poisoning (Prof. Chris Peers)

The next deadline for applications is **5.00pm on Monday 30th November**.

Support for Collaborative Activity

The BHRC management team are working with leading academics to develop a variety of multidisciplinary research bids, including, Predictive Biology / Systems Medicine (Transformation Fund); MRC Doctoral Training Centre; EU FP7 Innovative Medicines Initiative; Applied Health Research (Transformation Fund). The team are also working with academics and clinicians to maximise the opportunities available from translational funding schemes available through NIHR, Research Councils or other Funding Bodies (e.g. MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme -DPFS, WT Seeding Drug Discovery, EPSRC Healthcare Partnerships).