

Meeting Summary

On Tuesday 19th November 2019, the Wellcome funded clinical academic PhD/DPhil fellows from the GW4 (Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter) and Oxford Medical Sciences Division came together for their 2nd annual networking science meeting. The meeting, held in Bristol, was an opportunity for Wellcome funded clinicians from medicine, dentistry, veterinary and clinical psychology fellows to present their PhD/DPhil work and for near peer support.

The presentations were from fellows just starting their PhD/DPhil and those that are near completion. Psychiatry and mental health was the theme of the first session, which was chaired by the GW4-CAT Director, Professor John Iredale. There were presentations on nutritional psychiatry, social anxiety disorder in childhood and adolescence, social cognition in PTSD and the repurposing of L-type calcium channel blockers in mood disorders. The cardiology fellows in the room were particularly interested in this latter presentation and the cross-discipline discussions were rewarding to hear and the opportunity for alternative views and approaches from these different fields was extremely useful.

Session two of the afternoon was chaired by the Director of the Oxford Programme, Professor Helen McShane and kicked off with a presentation from a neurosurgery trainee whose PhD will explore the role of white matter tract in the pathophysiology of ictogenic networks in epilepsy. This was followed by a haematologist describing his work on understanding the graft-v-leukaemia effect in acute myeloid leukaemia. Our dental fellow then presented his findings on risk factors for head and neck cancer (smoking, alcohol and number of sexual partners). A paediatric surgeon delivered the final presentation of the day and presented his work on the molecular definition of defects driving inflammatory bowel disease.

As expected, a number of different methodologies and techniques were in use and described, all state of the art and the future of science and medical discoveries, including the use of transcriptomics, Mendelian randomisation, online platforms and the use of 'big data'.

The event was rounded off by a social occasion, giving the fellows the opportunity to discuss ideas, potential collaborations and to share the challenges and opportunities of being a clinical PhD/DPhil fellow.

The Programme follows:

Wellcome Trust Clinical Fellowship Programme
Oxford and GW4-CAT Networking Event, Engineers House, Bristol
19th November 2019

Chair: Session One: Professor John Iredale

Chair: Session Two: Professor Helen McShane

Session One

13:00 – 14:00		Buffet Lunch
14:00 – 14:10	John Iredale	Welcome and introduction
14:10 – 14:30	Rebecca Carnegie	Mendelian randomization for nutritional psychiatry: opportunities and challenges.
14:30 – 14:50	Eleanor Leigh	Adolescent social anxiety disorder: understanding psychological mechanisms as a way to improve treatment
14:50 – 15:10	Chantelle Wiseman	Exploration of the relationship between social cognition and PTSD.
15:10 – 15:30	Lucy Colbourne	An exploration of the role of L-type calcium channels in mood and its cognitive and neural correlates'
15:30 – 16:00	Tea break	

Session Two

16:00 – 16:20	Dmitri Shastin	The role of white matter fibre tract topology and microstructure in pathogenesis of ictogenic networks in foca.
16:20 – 16:40	Connor Sweeney	Understanding the graft-versus-leukaemia effect in acute myeloid leukaemia
16:40 – 17:00	Mark Gormley	Risk factors for head and neck cancer: a Mendelian randomization analysis
17:00 – 17:20	David Fawcner-Corbett	Unbiased molecular definition of epithelial barrier development and defects driving inflammatory bowel disease
17:20 – 17:25	Helen McShane	Closing Comments
17:25 - 17:30	John Iredale	Closing Comment
17:30 – 18:00		Drinks reception
18:00 – 20:00		Dinner