

The background features a watercolor-style profile of a human head facing left. The colors transition from purple and blue at the top, through yellow and orange in the middle, to green and teal at the bottom. Several large, semi-transparent circles in various colors (blue, purple, green, pink) are overlaid on the image. In the top left corner, there is a purple rectangular box containing the text 'MANCHESTER 1824'.

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

**SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

BIOLOGY,

MEDICINE

AND

HEALTH

Spring 2018

THE **COMMUNITY** ISSUE

MANCHESTER SCIENCE FESTIVAL

TEAM UGANDA

CONFLICT DISABILITY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



MATERNAL AND FETAL HEALTH

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Introduction

We are at a landmark moment in Greater Manchester's longer history. The devolution of health and social care spending and decisions to the Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership presents a once in a generation opportunity to improve health and wellbeing across our communities.

This will allow us to address the long and persistent history of health inequalities which cause the people of Greater Manchester to suffer some of the worst health outcomes in the UK. Our Faculty is already committed to making a difference to our local communities by sharing knowledge, resources and visitor attractions. But we can use the wider opportunities provided by Devo

Manc to be even more ambitious about making a difference. Relationships, built on mutual respect and shared aspiration, are the bedrock of successful community engagement. Through the efforts of our students and staff across biology, medicine and health, we have a vibrant programme of work with schools, young people, volunteers, patients and third sector organisations. This feature of our magazine is a snapshot of this engagement. While we nurture and grow these established relationships, let us also actively seek to build new relationships and work with communities who are particularly disadvantaged because of health, social or economic factors. In this way, we can contribute to the wider work across Greater Manchester to improve lives, as well as enriching our own.

Stephanie Snow, Academic Lead for Engagement and Involvement

“ We can use the wider opportunities provided by Devo Manc to be even more ambitious about making a difference. ”



Be Inspired



As a part of Black History Month, University staff were invited to a lunchtime event celebrating Equality and Diversity in the workplace.

The event focused on the benefits of mentoring, particularly for underrepresented groups, including women and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff.

Talks on mentoring were given by Suzy Firkin and the University's Staff Development Advisor, Denise Fieldhouse, followed by panel discussions. Suzy is a Principal Consultant for the WISE campaign, whose mission is to recruit, retain and promote women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) roles. Suzy and Denise discussed the true meaning and importance of mentoring.

“A wide range of staff attended and everyone got something out of the session. Suzy Firkin was very engaging and made everyone think about the support structures required for career development.”

Hema Radhakrishnan,
Associate Dean for Social
Responsibility

The panel of BAME and female staff broached how mentoring has helped them, both by being mentored and having mentees. This opened the floor to contributions from other staff, many of whom had not appreciated the merit of mentoring until the session.

Before you were born

The University of Manchester's Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre (MFHRC) - one of the largest pregnancy research groups in Europe, hosted an interactive public engagement event, 'Before You Were Born' that attracted more than 200 people, from babies to pensioners.

Increasing awareness of pregnancy problems, educating about lifestyle and pregnancy, and creating opportunities for the public to get involved in MFHRC's research were all discussed. 50 staff, research midwives, clinicians and postgraduate students delivered the event, engaging the public through interactive table-top science stands, the 'little lab' for younger children, 'meet the scientist' short talks, and information on specialist pregnancy clinics, as well as art, crafts and poetry.

Thanks to funding from FBMH's 'Engaging our Communities' funding, there was no charge to attend this successful day which demonstrated the importance of involving local communities with the University's work.



PPIE event marks Social Responsibility commitment

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health's Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) work was celebrated at an event attended by students, staff and collaborators from the public. As well as talks by students, Dr Caroline Sanders, Senior Lecturer in Medical Sociology highlighted the 'Partnerships and Perspectives' of PPIE.

Sarah Collins, lead for communication in Manchester Medical School, led a session in which guests learned circus skills to explore new ways of using the Arts to promote involvement and engagement. The University's Director of Social Responsibility, Dr Julian Skyrme, commented: "It was really pleasing to see so many local community collaborators with the Faculty's work have their involvement recognised – our 'inspiring communities' strategy in action!"

The presentation of 'Outstanding Contribution to PPIE' Awards recognised the commitment and positive impact made through involvement and engagement activities by awarding staff, students, groups, and public contributor's projects.

For more information, visit:

www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/connect/social-responsibility/



Team Uganda

Five students from the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health are taking part in Team Uganda - the University's flagship overseas volunteering project which is a partnership with Support and Love Via Education (S.A.L.V.E.), a charity based in Manchester and working in Uganda.

S.A.L.V.E. works with children on the streets in Jinja, using the power of education to provide opportunities for them to leave their difficult pasts behind them and move off the streets towards a brighter future. This is the third year of the project; student volunteers have been involved with delivering environmental, IT and community research projects and a holiday camp.

"This project particularly attracted me because it will have a long-term influence on the lives of the children living on the streets of Jinja beyond just the time that we spend in Uganda."

Zeeshan Kamzi, a first year medical student

Further details are available via the Team Uganda blog:

uomteamuganda.wordpress.com/blog/

Hospital Saturday Fund grants

awarded to eight medical students



Eight medical students in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health have been awarded Hospital Saturday Fund Elective bursaries, enabling them to undertake placements in countries across sub-Saharan Africa or south-east Asia. Each of their projects will provide much needed medical care to low-income rural communities.

One of these students, Adam Bhanji, has secured an elective with the Vine Trust organisation providing medical care to remote communities in the Amazon, Peru. He will work on a ship equipped with operating

theatres and dental surgeries, providing urgent medical care to communities who would otherwise have little or no access to healthcare. As part of this project, he will have the opportunity to help with the treatment of patients with NOMA, a disease similar to 'gum disease', which is much more common in areas with high levels of malnourishment.

These electives are an invaluable opportunity for our medical students to learn from the expert clinicians working on these projects, build links with medical centres across the globe, and contribute to reducing global health inequality. These projects will give students the opportunity to work with diverse teams from a range of backgrounds and countries, and develop their skills in challenging environments with limited resources.

'The Jubilee Hope' - One of the Vine Trust's medical ships



New partnership to raise awareness of post conflict disability

Leading researchers from The University of Manchester, The University of Gulu in Uganda, and Health Education England (HEE) are to work together to facilitate activities around post-conflict disability across low and middle income countries in Africa and Asia. The initiative is supported by several higher education and affiliated healthcare institutions.



The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health already leads on several pioneering projects, delivering the underlying ethos and vision around this key issue, which it shares with the University of Gulu. The partnership was marked during a visit by Ugandan colleagues to Manchester.

Professor Mahesh Nirmalan, the Faculty's Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility said:

"The agreements signed between the Universities of Gulu, Manchester and HEE will strengthen our Faculty's desire and intent in making 'post-conflict disability' a flagship programme within our ambitious Social Responsibility agenda."

The visit included inspiring talks from Professor Ged Byrne, Director of Education at the HEE, and Professor Emanuel Moro, Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Gulu.

Welcoming guests to the Faculty, Professor Ian Greer, Vice-President and Dean, said:

"Universities are not about research and teaching alone, they are about transforming people's lives, transforming their health and their aspirations, turning hope into reality. The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health is delighted to play a part in driving forward positive partnerships to make changes happen".



Student recognised by PM

for charity work

It's not every day that a letter drops through your letterbox from the Prime Minister. But Rathaven Gunaratnarajah, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health Medic and founder of life-changing medical charity The Little Things, has received a personal letter from the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Theresa May, inviting him to be presented with a Point of Light award.

Rathaven founded the charity in 2013 after a spell volunteering in a hospital in Tanzania opened his eyes to the difficulties doctors have to face in other countries. He has overseen the completion of three healthcare projects, using approximately £95,000 raised by student volunteers from across the UK, and is now also raising money through corporate grants with support from schools and the local community.

The charity has worked in Tanzania, Sri Lanka and now Manthali, in Nepal, where Rathaven hopes to raise £50,000 to support Tamakoshi Co-operative Hospital.

Rathaven said: "I am delighted and sincerely grateful to the Prime Minister for honouring me with a Point of Light Award. It truly is inspiring and empowering to see The Little Things being recognised, and I would like to clarify that this award is in recognition of everyone who has contributed time and effort to support the charity."

In the letter to Rathaven, Mrs May said: "Your work with The Little Things is improving access to vital medical equipment for thousands of people and is making a real difference in communities around the world. Your commitment is highly commendable, and you should be proud of how you have inspired others to volunteer for the cause."

To find out more about The Little Things, visit:
TheLittleThings.org.uk
[Facebook.com/TheLittleThingsCharity](https://www.facebook.com/TheLittleThingsCharity)

Social Responsibility

Funding showcase



A showcase event to highlight the achievements of 24 recipients of Engaging our Communities and Social Responsibility in the Curriculum grants has been hosted by the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health.

The engagement and involvement of patients and members of the public in research, teaching and learning is an integral part of the way the Faculty works.

Dr David Allison, who leads on Social Responsibility for the School of Health Sciences, said: "The showcase demonstrated the breadth of ideas, the commitment and the passion for Social Responsibility among staff, postgraduates and members of the public, providing a platform to share ideas and to nurture new collaborations."

FBMH launched the Engaging our Communities grants to transform conceptual ideas into sustainable Social Responsibility and Public Engagement activities

Due to the success of the projects, the Faculty is launching two new funding calls for the next academic year. For further information please visit:

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/bmh/social-responsibility/>

Science Stroke Art

The Science Stroke Art collaboration between The University of Manchester and the Stroke Association uses creative arts/science activities to build understanding of the impact of strokes.

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health's Engaging Our Communities fund made it possible for the 'Stroke, Self and Brain' project to happen, using art workshops to bring together patients and carers with medical students, scientists and artists.

The workshops have used different creative techniques to explore the damage that occurs during a stroke, such as recreating the brain using coloured tissue paper, with brain scans to inform the creative work. Stroke survivors reported that the project helped them gain a better understanding of the effects of stroke through learning from the medical students, as well as raising their self-esteem and self-understanding. Medical students and staff similarly gained from the stroke survivors a better understanding of the impact of stroke.

Project Lead Dr Stephanie Snow commented on the event: "Bringing medical students and stroke survivors into the same creative space allowed stroke survivors to share their experiences and for medical students to really understand what the impact of stroke was on everyday life."

Watch the video at:
<http://bit.ly/2AKRnkX>

Waste Medicines and the Environment

Undergraduate Pharmacy students have developed a Waste Medicines and the Environment project to raise awareness of the impact medical waste has on the environment, guide the public about the safe disposal of medicines and, ultimately, reduce the negative impact medicines have on the environment and biodiversity.

Funding from the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health's Engaging Our Communities fund has allowed the project team to develop numerous promotional materials including posters, a website, a social media campaign, and events at community pharmacies.

The students have worked with a network of Greater Manchester pharmacies to highlight the environmental benefits of returning unused medications.



Manchester Science Festival

From killer fungus outbreaks to chocolate biscuit impact testing, the annual Manchester Science Festival gave University academics the chance to inspire families.

From Killer Fungus outbreaks to Chocolate Biscuit Impact Testing, the event was packed full of family-friendly events inspired by real science, with something to amaze everybody at this annual celebration of all things scientific.

Aeon: Patient X - an immersive theatre experience.

Imagine a world where genetic technology can generate a human lab rat, a 'biode' without consciousness or emotion. Does this present an opportunity for advanced human research without the ethical cost? This was the dilemma posed by Aeon: Patient X, a drama staged at the University.

Participants were asked to consider this scenario: a biode is infected with a highly contagious virus ready to cause mass human destruction. The vaccine is in the hands of the deranged Dr Mendel of Aeon, who is committed to a world where the weak die and the immune survive. Actors and FBMH scientists took the participants through the dialogue step by step, physically moving the audience through the scenes filled with remains from a recent fatal outbreak.

The event mixed theatre, video and science, prompting searching questions from the audience fielded by evolutionary biologist Professor David Robertson, immunologist Jo Pennock and bioinformatics PhD student Alexandra Martin-Geary. The event made the hairs stand up on the back of people's necks and the engagement was palpable. "If you need me, I will just be in this cupboard" was the favourite quote of the day from an apprehensive member of the public. Aeon was storytelling at its absolute best; the protagonists were persuasive in the science-fiction scenario. What would you do?

Aeon was funded by The Arts Council, the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health and the **Wellcome Trust** Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) public engagement award.

Killer Fungus takes over Manchester Science Festival

A 40-strong team of clinicians and scientists delivered the Killer Fungus event at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI).

The exhibit, which attracted 1,300 members of the public, used the entirety of the enormous MOSI Power Hall to deliver two events showing the breadth, wonder and deadly nature of fungal contributions to life and death on Earth.

An app-based role-playing game, Outbreak, pitched 38 teams of impromptu scientists against a deadly killer fungus to resolve a mystery illness sweeping Manchester. Arriving to breaking news from the BBC of a mystery illness causing fatal meningitis among the Greater Manchester population, teams were immersed in a battle, alongside real-life clinicians and scientists, to collect field samples, witnessing the effects of the disease on human patients, and examine clinical data and pathogenic genetic code. They frantically worked against the clock to crack the source of the outbreak.

Visitors also learned about fungi and the diseases they cause by playing computer games, viewed microscopic examples of fungal pathogens colonising agar plates and lung tissue, and made Play-Doh models of innate immune cells attacking fungi.

The app was developed by Dr Jo Pennock, lecturer in immunology, in collaboration with Oropendola Productions (film and photography) and Playfuel, and funded by the Wellcome Trust (ISSF), British Society for Immunology and Biochemical Society.

Seventh Success

for Science Spectacular

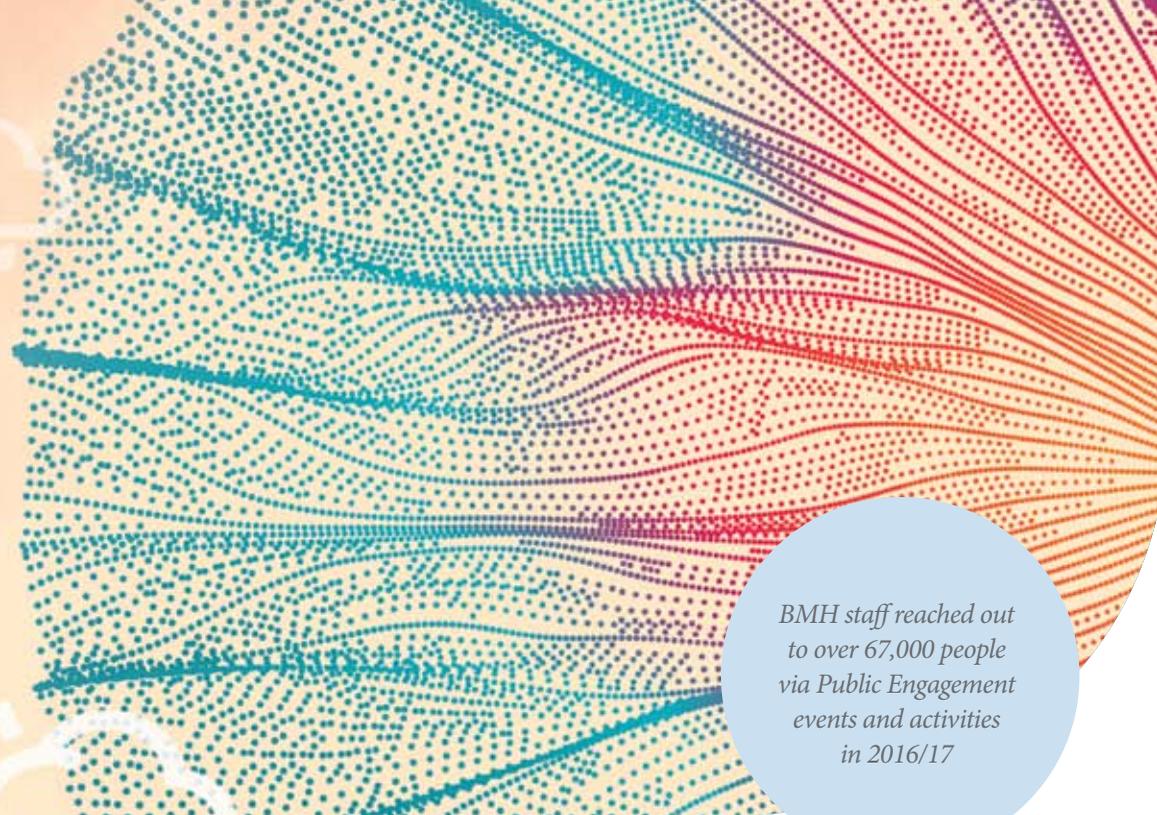
Science Spectacular took Manchester by storm as clouds and tornadoes were mastered by the public at the 7th annual interactive science event.

180 researchers delivered 40 interactive science activities to 1,500 members of the public on the University of Manchester campus. The day included challenges, experiments and demonstrations, showcasing the research taking place across the University, such as the Centre for Atmospheric Science helping families to control weather indoors. Other activities included a gigantic game of Operation, using genetic code to

build Lego robots, and a science-art exhibition exploring placental structure and function. The public were encouraged to explore both buildings via the 'secret corridor' that links the Whitworth and the Museum. Prizes were awarded to children for participating in activities, and they wrote feedback on a 'graffiti wall' at the end of the day.

One family said of the event: "We had a fabulous day and learnt a lot; great for 4, 8 and 42-year-olds!"

The event allowed the public of all ages to discover more about our research, as well as allowing our researchers to share perspectives and be inspired by our local community.



BMH staff reached out to over 67,000 people via Public Engagement events and activities in 2016/17

A Masterclass

in movement

Mirrors, animal movements and dancing were the focus during Manchester Science Festival when the Body, Eyes and Movement (BEAM) lab hosted 'A Masterclass in Movement.'

The event, at Manchester Museum was held in collaboration with Dr Gayathri Ganapathy, Founder and Artistic Director of 'Equilibrium Dance and Arts'.

Children and adults were encouraged to think about why we dance and how it affects the brain and our feelings. Guests learned about how the brain controls movements with information from the senses, and the importance of action observation and imitation.

Facing Out

Living with a facial disfigurement can be socially isolating. A Facing Out event hosted at the Whitworth Art Gallery brought people with facial cancer together to explore how the Arts can contribute to healing.

Renowned sculptor, Eleanor Crook, introduced participants to the anatomy of the face through creating wax sculptures of the skull whilst people with facial cancer joined doctors, specialists, former patients, medical students and Arts for Health practitioners to discuss living with an altered appearance. They discovered how engaging in the Arts and culture can help some people to heal well following an illness.

The artist Lucy Burscough discussed her practice of using art as a medium to explore elements of biomedical science, and what it means to live with an altered or disfigured appearance. She commented: "The event uses art as a way of developing conversation between patients and staff, and encourages people to develop a social network with others who can understand."



Anne-Marie Martindale is a social anthropologist whose doctoral research looked at discrimination against people with facial disfigurements. At the event, she addressed the impacts of disfigurement as portrayed in popular culture. She explained that the event was a great opportunity for interdisciplinary work: "It's important to bring anthropologists, artists, psychological workers and members of the public together to tackle discrimination against people with facial disfigurements, as all of us need to think of solutions."



Spotlight on

Professor of Nursing, Ann Louise Caress

Ann-Louise Caress is a Professor of Nursing, holding a joint appointment with the new Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust. Her particular interests are in renal and respiratory problems, she recently won the Faculty award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Patient and Public Involvement'.



What does your role entail?

My work within the trust is mainly based around developing evidence-based practice and research in the Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Research Unit. Within the University, I'm part of the professoriate, one of a cast of thousands.

Earlier this year you put on a dance event for people with lung problems. What inspired you to do this?

I'm very interested in novel approaches to symptom management. Remaining physically active is challenging to people with chest problems and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) in particular. People suffering from these conditions become very inactive as they become frightened of becoming breathless. So I became interested in looking at ways to support people to remain physically active. I came across Kate Gee, who

had set up a cardiac rehab programme based on dance. I thought that if it works for heart patients, it would probably work for people with COPD.

I talked to the patients at a British Lung Foundation support group; people were quite wary. They felt that it would make them miserable as they used to dance, but can't anymore. So I thought it might not work – but we wouldn't know until we tried it. Leading the dancing we had the Prairie Dogs, a local line-dancing group, and the Northern Ballet School, as it was their 40th anniversary. During the first segment, very few patients got up and danced, but after watching others with disabilities doing it, nearly everyone was up and dancing by the next segment.

I was probably quite ambitious starting so big; it ended up being bigger than we'd initially thought, as we wanted to do something with groups from all across Greater Manchester.

I wouldn't have been able to do it without funding from the Faculty's Engaging Our Communities Initiative.

How did this funding help the event?

The funding made it possible to hire a good venue and cater for everyone, but the biggest expense was actually getting people there, as they're low mobility. If they had to get there under their own steam, they wouldn't have come. As we were trying to get as many people involved as we could, we organised transport; we brought people in from as far as Blackpool.

What got you interested in working in this field?

There is a lovely community feel within the respiratory community. It's a bit of a Cinderella; in terms of need, they're terribly neglected. COPD is set to become the third biggest

killer in the world by 2030; and yet, relatively speaking, compared with cancer and heart disease (in both of which the mortality is declining) COPD is the only major disease where mortality is still increasing. So the respiratory community feels like we're all pulling in the same direction. People with COPD are often very disadvantaged, facing a lot of stigma and discrimination and personal challenges. It's a group of patients I feel really passionate about supporting, even if it's doing small things to make their lives better.

What are your hobbies?

My husband and I tap dance and we used to do ballroom dancing. We also ice-skate. Over the summer, I fell skating, and found out 3 months later I had broken my shoulder!

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MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Social Responsibility

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