Social Responsibility Update

International Perspectives

Inspiring the next generation

B!RTH festival

Linnean Society Lecture
Introduction from the Vice Dean for Social Responsibility

Professor Mahesh Nirmalan, Vice-Dean for Social Responsibility and Public Engagement, explains the importance of incorporating equality, accountability, care and compassion as key components of everything we do within the Faculty.

Be the change that you want to see in the world
Social Responsibility (SR) is one of the three key goals of the University of Manchester, alongside research and teaching; and we have a unique opportunity to translate this high-level commitment to direct action as our students and staff deal with a multitude of problems affecting health and well-being in our immediate neighbourhoods and the wider world.

Developing socially responsible graduates
Clearly, SR is not a stand-alone agenda item and we recognise that for it to be truly meaningful, it needs to be fully embedded into the core activities of our Faculty – teaching, learning and research. Therefore: presenting our students with an intellectually challenging curriculum; ensuring that the delivery of our programmes brings out the best in all our students irrespective of their backgrounds; ensuring that our researchers focus their minds on issues that could transform lives in a sustainable fashion; and making sure that our research is accessible to the wider public so that the outcomes are not confined to the scientific journals and the ivory towers of learning.

Engaging with local communities
The Faculty benefits from the very experienced staff in the Centre for Engagement and Involvement (CEI), an overarching institution that coordinates our wider engagement and involvement with our immediate neighbourhoods, patients, patient-groups and other stakeholders. Our ultimate aim is that this institution will be referred to as ‘Our University’ or ‘Our Faculty’ by those ordinary people living and working within Greater Manchester – that would indeed be a true measure of success.
The Faculty is also developing extensive plans for engaging with the Devolution in Greater Manchester agenda (Devo Manc). We have sought and received favourable responses to becoming stakeholders in shaping plans that will focus on health promotion within the 12 neighbourhood footprint for Greater Manchester.

An international perspective
A Faculty of our size and aspirations needs to have its presence felt in the international arena; and it is heartening to see many members of the Faculty already involved in projects across low and middle income countries dealing with issues that affect day-to-day living. The long-term interests of the Faculty in terms of sustainable student recruitment, research opportunities etc. are linked to our willingness to be engaged in activities that impact countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America that are fast developing with an avid appetite for knowledge, learning and higher training. We have to be out there with an open mind to engage with many of their pressing problems.

SR as business as usual
Social Responsibility is already embedded in many aspects of the Faculty’s day-to-day operational activities – from HR, where we ensure fairness and transparency in how we recruit, manage, promote and reward staff and students, to placing sustainability and the environment at the heart of all our cross-Faculty decision-making processes.

Commitment to the University of Manchester
We have given real meaning to the expression ‘putting our money where our mouth is’ in relation to how we have approached the SR agenda – we will continue to do so.

Focus on...

Directors for Social Responsibility
Introducing recently appointed Directors for Social Responsibility – one for each Faculty School.
The directors will be responsible for building on and enhancing the excellent reputation in social responsibility of the two legacy Faculties; and for ensuring that their School develops and delivers an exciting strategy in social responsibility, which is in keeping with the vision and aspirations of FBMH.

Director of Social Responsibility for the School of Biological Sciences is Suzan Verstappen. Suzan is a Senior Research Fellow in the Division of Musculoskeletal and Dermatological Sciences, where her research focuses on the treatment of juvenile idiopathic and rheumatoid arthritis. She has been involved in PPI/E activities within the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research for several years and was the Social Responsibility Lead within the Institute of Inflammation and Repair in 2015-2016.

Natalie Gardiner is appointed Director of Social Responsibility for the School of Medical Sciences. A lecturer in the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Gastroenterology, Dr Gardiner’s research focuses on nerve dysfunction in diabetic neuropathy – a common secondary complication of diabetes mellitus. For the last five years she has coordinated the Women in Life Sciences (WILS) group; has been a member of the Equality and Diversity Leadership and ATHENA SWAN teams in the Faculty of Life Sciences; and has been involved with widening participation events with local high schools.

Finally, David Allison is the new Director of Social Responsibility for the School of Health Sciences. David is currently a Reader in Pharmacy Education in the Division of Pharmacy and Optometry and is also the Director for the bespoke Pharmacy Foundation Year Programme. Since 2013 David has been the academic lead for Social Responsibility and Widening Participation within Pharmacy where his interests have focused on working with young learners from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds to encourage and inspire them into higher education.

Academic Leads
Also within our team, Carsten Timmerman has been appointed as Academic Lead for the Museum of Medicine and Health and Shaun Speed is the Academic Lead for Widening Participation.

Centre for Engagement and Involvement
The Centre for Engagement and Involvement, managed by Hawys Williams provides a one-stop shop for information, resources and advice on community engagement as well as supporting the wider Social Responsibility team.
Ugandan Health outreach programme

This past summer, nine medical students and one geography student from the University of Manchester went to Gulu, Northern Uganda, on the Manchester Global Health Society’s month-long health outreach programme.

There they joined colleagues from Uganda and Belgium in facilitating the Northern Uganda Village Health Outreach Project (NUV-HOP).

Hosted by local families so they were able to fully immerse themselves in Northern Ugandan culture and life, the students observed and assisted local healthcare staff as they provided free health services to impoverished rural communities around Gulu; the overall goal being to improve living conditions in underprivileged communities by establishing an affordable healthcare provision and empowering individuals through education and longer term health services.

The outreach clinics provided outpatient consultations, basic medications, family planning services, cervical cancer screening, HIV testing and counselling, safe circumcision and Hepatitis B screening and vaccination.

The students also delivered health education talks to the local community and schools. In addition to visiting nearby homes to assess living standards, whilst in Gulu, the students also shadowed staff in the local hospital, giving them an opportunity to be exposed to treatment of diseases specific to sub-Saharan Africa, and an opportunity to gain valuable insight into a different healthcare system and the challenges it faces.

NUV-HOP is a project that empowers students to make positive impacts on communities in need, it encourages multicultural collaboration and for students to see themselves as global citizens. It is an incredible learning experience for all involved and, most importantly, has a beneficial impact on those communities that are struggling.

The Manchester Global Health Society intends to continue to grow and develop links with Gulu, and assist in the provision of sustainable community healthcare practices.

Are you... somebody’s type?

NHS Blood and Transplant worked with the Faculty to enable staff and students to discover their blood type.

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With 6,000 units of blood needed each day in the UK, the demand for new blood donors is high. The event on Thursday & December helped to raise awareness of this need and many attendees made group appointments to donate blood at Plymouth Grove on Upper Brook Street.

The project, led by Dr David Allison, Social Responsibility Director, School of Health Sciences, aimed to strengthen links with the local Blood Donor Centre, and allow staff and students to make a difference.

With a continuous queue throughout the event, the Blood Donor Unit tested the blood types of around 60 people. Over 75 people signed up to donate blood in the future.

During January, 29 people signed up to donate, of which 19 people donated. Those 19 donations went towards saving or improving up to 57 lives!

Neil Simms, the Senior Marketing Co-ordinator for Donor Centres in the North, commented on the success of the event:

“It was great to see so much interest amongst students and staff to becoming a blood donor and the response blew us away. It exceeded our expectations!

“We are looking forward to welcoming those who enrolled as donors in the coming weeks, ready to roll their sleeves up and become life savers!”

Dr David Allison, and Professor Mahesh Nirmalan, Vice Dean for Social Responsibility and Public Engagement, commented:

“A truly phenomenal response to the blood donor campaign from staff and students made us feel so proud of what The University of Manchester can do as an organisation that can touch and affect everyone’s lives.”

Further details of our campaign or how to attend are available online at www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/somebodystype

A dose of antibiotics awareness with Faculty school visit project

As part of World Antibiotic Awareness Week in November, FBMH announced a new programme of visits to local primary schools to spread the message about using these medicines in a way that helps prevent the serious problem of bacteria becoming resistant to them.

FBMH students, through the Medics in Primary Schools organisation and supported by Pharmacy students, are helping to spread the message by beginning a campaign of primary school visits within Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

Lydia Bagg, a fourth year medical student said: “Working with young children is a fantastic opportunity to get them to think about different medicines. We’ll be using games and quizzes to give simple messages about reducing the spread of germs and reducing antibiotic resistance.”

The school visits are not the only activity planned. Dr Roger Harrison, Senior Lecturer in Public Health, has also formed a partnership with two prominent student societies: the Global Health Society (GHS) and the Medics in Primary Schools society.

Working with the GHS, an event discussing antibiotic resistance, Antibiotics resistance: A global ticking timebomb, will take place on Thursday, 17 November.

This event will feature presentations from leading experts from Thailand, the US, and in the UK from London, Oxford and closer to home in Manchester.

Clarissa Hemmingsen, first year medical student and President of the Global Health Society said that: “Interest in this week’s event is overwhelming—it’s a brilliant way for the public and students to learn about antibiotic resistance and differences in other countries.”

Dr Harrison said: “This work is all about getting the message out to people; that around the world we have turned to antibiotics too often, and even used them when science shows it’s impossible for them to help, such as with a basic cold.”

He went on to say how: “There are thousands of students coming to Manchester every year – so it’s not only the public we’re concerned about. Using support from the student societies is brilliant and makes links across different degree courses too.”

World Antibiotic Awareness Week also featured European Antibiotic Awareness Day (16 November). Staff and students raised awareness via information stalls in Stopford, Jean McFarlane and the Students’ Union.
Manchester scientists present work in Costa Rica to Ambassadors of Latin America

Andrew Gray from the Manchester Museum and Professor Amanda Bamford of the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, were recently invited guests at a meeting in London of UK ambassadors of South and Central America.

The meeting of the Group of Ambassadors of Latin America (GRULA) included a luncheon at the Intercontinental Hotel on Park Avenue and a presentation by Mr Gray and Professor Bamford highlighting the outcomes that have materialised from the excellent relationship the University and Costa Rica have developed.

The invitation followed years of amphibian conservation work being carried out by Manchester Museum and through the more recent creation of a student field course in Costa Rica and an holistic environmental education initiative developed by both members of staff.

The meeting, hosted by the Ambassador of Costa Rica, His Excellency Mr. J. Enrique Castillo Barrantes, provided an excellent opportunity to show the University of Manchester’s commitment to developing effective international collaborations and potential in supporting teaching, research and worldwide cooperation.

His Excellency wholeheartedly thanked the staff saying, “It was a great day for Costa Rica and its embassy in London. I am so proud that we can show the University of Manchester and Costa Rica’s commitment to science and environment protection.”

Andrew Gray says, “It was a privilege to be invited as guests to the meeting, a unique experience and one we will never forget. We greatly appreciate the relationship that we continue to build in support of all our joint Costa Rican efforts and hope our input at the meeting will facilitate many more opportunities for international collaboration and the development of academic links.”

Professor Amanda Bamford says, “It was a great opportunity to present our work in Costa Rica; highlighting our collaborations with local schools, both in Costa Rica and Manchester. Importantly, we were able to showcase the University of Manchester students’ key role in developing many of the education resources used in our community environmental programmes.”

Since the meeting several new developments have already started presenting themselves for the University, including the possibility of new student placement opportunities and research collaborations in other parts of Latin America.

10,000 Actions

The University of Manchester has embarked upon the biggest environmental sustainability initiative in the higher education sector, engaging every member of staff in collective, measurable improvement.

Each member of staff has been given the opportunity to learn about the key issues of sustainability such as travel, purchasing and energy, and the actions they can take to make a big difference.

An online tool has been developed for University staff, based on the University’s own research and experience, to enable all staff to develop a personal sustainability action plan. We’ve also made an online tool made available to our 8,000 suppliers to encourage them to reflect on their own sustainability practices.

Environmental sustainability is a priority for the University, and is central to our core goal of social responsibility.

The University campus is the size of a small town, stretching over 667 acres and with up to 50,000 people using its facilities every day. 4,500 tons of waste are produced each year and £50,000 a day is spent on energy consumption.

We’ve built environmental sustainability considerations into all of our campus development, with energy efficiency a priority in new buildings and in the refurbishment and renovation of existing buildings. Our goal is to reduce campus carbon emissions by 40% by 2020, from the baseline figures of 2008.
Manchester Medical Students at the B!RTH festival at the Royal Exchange Theatre

Medical students from the University played a unique role in the B!RTH theatre festival – a series of theatrical events and debates through a partnership between the Royal Exchange Theatre and the Oglesby Charitable Trust.

Professor Nirmalan is one of a number of academics and students who took part in B!RTH which shone a spotlight on global childbirth inequalities – an area which fits with our research beacon for addressing global inequalities.

Through an interactive workshop, students took the audience through the entire birth process using educational mannequins. This was followed by a student-run session on the global potential complications that can occur during childbirth and the different outcomes for women depending on where they live.

Finally, historical developments in delivery of babies were demonstrated using objects from the University’s Museum of Medicine and Health.

Professor Nirmalan said: “The B!RTH festival provided a unique opportunity to use art and theatre as a medium for communicating health messages that have National and International ramifications. The contributions made by the Manchester University students enhanced the credibility of this event.”

Partnering with The University of Manchester, B!RTH also involved academics from humanitarian areas of the University. B!RTH took place at The Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester from 19–22 October, 2016. The plays are available for free download and use anywhere in the world at: www.birthdebate.com

Read more about the addressing global inequalities research beacon online: www.manchester.ac.uk/research/beacons

Linnean Society Annual Lecture

The University of Manchester in collaboration with The Linnean Society and Manchester Museum hosted the 2016 Irene Manton Lecture to celebrate the significant contribution made by women to the Natural Sciences.

Irene Manton was the first female president of the Linnean Society, a British botanist who continued her studies at the University of Manchester, resulting in a PhD.

“The talk was fab...”

A varied audience of over 80 attendees came along to the lecture, organised by the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, in collaboration with the Linnean Society and Manchester Museum, it was particularly pleasing to see so many sixth form students amongst the group.

“...amazing to see research hot off the press...”

The meeting was chaired by Hema Radhakrishnan, Associate Dean for Social Responsibility and was joined by Dianne Edwards, President of the Linnean Society who introduced Irene Manton’s work and the impact that she made on botany.

“Great to be part of celebrating women in science...”

Dr Sheena Cruickshank, key speaker, talked passionately about her research, which is focused on the body’s immune response to injury or infections such as parasitic worms. Her interactive lecture included animations and 3D images of this fascinating and (in Sheena’s own words) sometimes ‘icky’ world of parasites.

“Great talk, extremely engaging and easy to follow, great examples used, thanks!”

Professor Mahesh Nirmalan, Vice Dean for Social Responsibility within the Faculty, said “Biology, health and imaging technology was brought together in this inspirational lecture and the Q&A session – with the participation of primary and secondary school children, confirmed how engaged they were in science. This was an example of science communication at its very best.”

“Funny and interactive, really enjoyed the lecture and how it was made relatable to our lives.”

Following the lecture, Dr Cruickshank said, “It was a real honour to give the lecture and I really enjoyed the fantastic questions from the audience – hopefully there are some budding biologists in the future!”

The Faculty plans to continue holding this annual event as part of its Community Engagement and Involvement programme contributing to the University’s Social Responsibility strategic goal.

All quotes are comments from the audience.

Illustration shows Irene Manton.
Inspiring the future of our next generation

“Great, informative, amazing” – these are just some of the few words used by Year 8 pupils to describe the Charlotte Beswick: Inspiring Futures Event that took place on 7 December at The University of Manchester and Manchester Museum.

This inspiring event was set up in honour of Charlotte Beswick, the first curator of the University’s Museum of Medicine and Health. Charlotte’s desire to pass her inspiration for this event.

Thirty-two pupils from schools across Greater Manchester had the opportunity to be inspired in medicine’s multi-disciplinary approach through the fascinating story of Charnley’s hip joint, developed in the North West and considered one of the most important 20th Century British innovations.

The event started with a presentation on Charnley’s story led by Widening Participation Fellows, Samuel Hey and Umar Khai. Pupils then went to Manchester Museum and participated in three interactive workshops. In Medicine through the Ages’ led by Cat Lumb, pupils completed a research task about the historical and current use of plants in treating illnesses. Amanda Conwy, who led the ‘Medical Careers’ workshop, challenged students to think about all the people involved in the life of a patient undergoing hip replacement surgery.

In the ‘Medical Objects and their Histories’ workshop led by Dr Carsten Timmermann with Museum volunteers Peter and Julie Mor, pupils worked with historical prosthetics and hip replacements.

During the afternoon, Dr Christopher Blanford and his team from the School of Materials, challenged the students to draw upon Charnley’s genius and assimilate what they have learnt to solve a bioengineering challenge. Students competed in groups to repair broken bones using a selection of adhesives and repair materials. The repaired bones were tested by hanging weights on them and the team who made the strongest bone received a special prize at the end of the day.

Professor Christopher Blanford, who coordinated the bone repair challenge, said: “The best part for me was talking with the students afterwards as they compared their techniques. They were thinking like trained scientists and engineers: analysing their results, working out how they could do it better, and considering how they would test their ideas. When I heard this, I knew we had made an impact.”

Stephanie Seville, Heritage Assistant at the Museum of Medicine and Health said: “I was particularly impressed with the confidence and maturity of the students to get involved in group discussions. “During the inspirational closing speech by Vice Dean for Social Responsibility and Public Engagement in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, Mahesh Nirmalan, when asked how they might change the world like those before them, their answer was “You have to believe in yourself”. I hope this group of young people took away something from the event, they might ponder and think of The University of Manchester in a positive way and somewhere they might want to come in their near future.”

Due to the generous donation of the Beswick family, the event will be repeated in future years.

University Community Festival

On 17 June 2017 the University is throwing open its doors for local neighbours to discover the variety of things we do. The event is open to all, and will give people the opportunity to come and experience our first free Community Festival packed with fun, family-friendly interactive activities. Please visit the website for the latest details: www.manchester.ac.uk/communityfestival

Public Contributor Celebratory Event

On Wednesday 26 July 2017, 12 noon onwards we will celebrate the positive difference that public contributors make to our research and teaching.

If you are a Public Contributor or a member of staff with an interest in patient and public involvement and engagement, then you are invited!

Internal Funding Calls

The FBMH Vice Dean for Social Responsibility, Professor Mahesh Nirmalan launches two brand new internal funding opportunities.

1. Social Responsibility in the Curriculum

The purpose of this call is to enable socially responsible graduates through innovative curriculum enhancement.

Up to £2000 is available for course unit leaders of undergraduate or postgraduate taught courses, funding to support social responsibility in the curriculum initiatives to run during Semester 2.

The aim of this funding is for course unit leaders to facilitate students to be encouraged to think how their enthusiasm for their subject can make a difference beyond the immediate demands of the curriculum.

Application deadline: Friday 31 March 2017

Decision provided by: Friday 14 April 2017

2. Engaging our communities

This funding aims to support public engagement activities, enabling staff and postgraduate research students build capacity within the Faculty, creating and enhancing networks between faculty and practitioners, government bodies and community groups.

Up to £1000 can be applied for and there is no deadline – staff and students are encouraged to apply as early as possible as once the fund is depleted, the call will be closed.

For further information on either of these funding opportunities please email hawys.williams@manchester.ac.uk

Join us to celebrate International Women’s Day (and it’s not just for women!)

International Women’s Day – Wednesday 8 March – is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health will be marking the day with an afternoon of activities in Roscoe Building. We will welcome guest speakers including Susan Oliver RN FRCN, MSc, OBE, Nurse Consultant in Rheumatology and Professor Maureen Baker CBE FRCPG, Immediate past Chair of Council, Royal College of General Practitioners and there will also be panel discussions.

• The panel sessions will start at 1pm, however please arrive from 12.30pm onwards for registration and light refreshments.
• International Women’s Day is not just for women – we welcome male colleagues.
• Registration is required for this event via Eventbrite.

www.internationalwomensday.com #beboldforchange

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For further information or to get involved please contact:
Email: cei@manchester.ac.uk
Web: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/connect/social-responsibility

Social Responsibility Update
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