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Director’s Update

I hope you are all staying safe and sane. This year is moving incredibly fast and our interactions are growing at the same pace. Recently, we were chosen to lead theme one of the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium (UK-CiC), a £6.5M award from UKRI and NIHR. The Consortium brings together 17 different immunology research centres to investigate the immune response to COVID-19 with aim of bringing clinical benefit to patients within 12 months.

The LBIII, as part of the Infection, Immunity, Inflammation and Repair domain was recently reviewed by the faculty and gained flying colours. In particular, we were congratulated on the critical interactions we have made across the University and the numerous “big ideas” we are critical for. The opportunities are so many and varied that the review team agreed that a “hands on” deputy was required. After consultation, I’m pleased to say that Dr John Grainger has agreed to take on this role. John is already making an invaluable contribution to the success of UK-CiC by driving the generation of the “500 immunomes” that involves merging immune datasets across the country in collaboration with Magnus Rattray and colleagues at Oxford.

The LBIII along with the WTCCMR and MCRC are looking forward to hosting our first cohort of students on the Wellcome Trust ICD PhD programme who start in October (albeit remotely).

Finally, I would like to thank the incredible efforts of everyone in the Coronavirus Immune Response and Clinical Outcome (CIRCO) team who have worked incredibly to help deliver Manchester’s agenda in research.

Best wishes

Tracy

Deputy Director’s Update

I’m enthusiastic to take on this new role to support the development of interdisciplinary immunology and inflammation research at The University of Manchester. This has been an extremely challenging time for researchers in the Lydia Becker Institute but I’ll be working hard with Tracy, the branch leads and management and admin team to ensure that we are in a good position to take advantage of new research opportunities that arise over the coming months.

Best wishes

John
Welcome

Fong Kuan is a developmental neurobiologist. She obtained her PhD from the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden, Germany in the lab of Wieland B Huttner. There, she investigated the molecular mechanisms leading to the expansion of the mammalian neocortex during evolution. She subsequently did her postdoctoral training in the lab of Oscar Marín at King’s College London, looking at the role of programmed cell death in sculpting cortical circuits in early postnatal development. Fong Kuan will be based in the Michael Smith building where she will focus on understanding the molecular mechanisms leading to cellular homeostasis in the cerebral cortex by focusing on the relationship between pyramidal cells and microglia during early postnatal development.

A warm welcome is also extended to all our new PhD students, we wish you all the best in your studies, and also our new affiliates in the Cancer Immunology branch who we look forward to collaborating with.

Bill Ford Friday (BFF) Forum

In honour of Professor Ford the Bill Ford Chair of Cellular Immunology was created at the University, which was recently held by Professor Werner Muller prior to his retirement and is currently held by Professor Richard Grencis. Bill Ford started the first immunology seminar series in Manchester, and these were held on Fridays – so it is only fitting that the new forum for scientific discussions on anything immunological is named after him – the Bill Ford Friday (BFF) forum.

The BFF forums have been continuing via Zoom and now include a virtual ‘Pub BFF’ on the last Friday of each month. There have even been some discussions not revolving around COVID-19! *If you would like to join in please contact Fiona or Lisa who can send you the meeting link.*

Congratulations

Prof Tony Heagerty received an accolade from Portraits from NHS Heroes. Prof Heagerty, Head of the School of Medical Sciences, returned to frontline work as the COVID-19 pandemic worsened. Prof Heagerty said it was “the right thing to do”,

Dr Doug Dyer was awarded BSMB (British Society for Matrix Biology) young investigator award and this involved giving the Professor John Scott lecture at the recent BSMB meeting.

Invited Seminars

Prof Tracy Hussell presented Longitudinal Host response to Coronavirus in hospitalised patients at the European Respiratory Society Virtual Conference on the 6th of September. Her presentation had over 7500 views.
Dr Gloria Lopez-Castejon gave a talk on 22nd Sept titled “How do macrophages activate the inflammasome in response to danger?” as part of the Autophagy, Inflammation and Metabolism seminar series at the University of New Mexico (US).

Prof Judi Allen presented her work on Macrophages in tissue repair: Lessons from Helminth infection at the Manchester Immuno-oncology Network on the 29th of September.

Dr Madhvi Menon co-hosted a webinar with The Scientist on the 6th of October. The webinar covered immune responses to COVID-19, where Dr Menon described immune profiling of UK patients, and immune signatures associated with severe cases.

**Upcoming Seminars of Interest**

**MIG Seminar Series**

This year the MIG seminar series will kick off with a series of presentations by our very own Immunologists, updating us on the research going on in their labs.

**Greater Manchester Immunology Group Seminar Series 2020-2021**

All seminars at 12-1pm until Christmas will be via Zoom unless otherwise stated
Contact: matthew.hepworth@manchester.ac.uk, john.sofe@manchester.ac.uk

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London Infections & Immunity Symposium
Jean Langhorne, Mike Blackman and Steve Ley are organising the second London Infections & Immunity Symposium. This will take place at The Francis Crick Institute on November 2/3, 2020.

The meeting will highlight the latest Infections and Immunity research from groups working in London, with a special COVID-19 session.

The Keynote speakers are Doreen Cantrell (University of Dundee) and Rino Rappuoli (GSK).

The link for the programme can be found at:
https://www.crick.ac.uk/whats-on/london-infections-and-immunity-symposium

Alongside the featured talks and keynotes, early career researchers will be given the opportunity to give short talks and present posters, which will take place over a virtual poster gallery.

Due to ongoing social distancing measures, the symposium will be run as a "hybrid" event with a limited number of in-person places in the auditorium alongside virtual attendees. You will need to register via eventbrite for this symposium and will then receive your Zoom invitation.

The meeting will be free-of-charge.

Trans-Atlantic Journeys in Cell and Gene Therapy
Date: Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December 2020

Time: 14:00 – 18:00 GMT

Join us for this international virtual meeting, running simultaneously across time zones in Canada and the UK to develop future collaborative projects and link in existing collaborative networks.

Key Topics include:
- Tumour infiltrating lymphocytes
- Cell and Gene therapy in a Paediatric setting
- CAR-T, TCR-T and beyond
- Models for academic and industry collaboration

See the flyer below to find out more and reserve your free place via Eventbrite.
Immunology Teaching

Our second cohort of five undergraduates from the BSc Immunology programme are graduating this year. This includes three intercalating medical students.

Prizes/awards were received by Leoma Bere who won the Immunology Programme Prize and Katie Hughes who won the HS Raper Prize for the top Intercalated Science Student. Fatima Ahmed was our first direct entry student to the newly established BSc Immunology Programme in Sept 2017 and she also achieved a Stellify Award. Congratulations!

Public Outreach and Patient Engagement

PPIE Opportunity

The National Aspergillosis Centre based at Wythenshawe Hospital holds monthly patient meetings and are looking for volunteers to come and talk at one of these meetings (dates available from June 2020).

The patient meetings take place on the first Friday of every month at Wythenshawe Hospital, in the North West Lung Centre.

Speakers are required to arrive for 12.30 for a 1pm start time for their talk (20 -30 min talk followed by questions). They usually have around 10 people in the room, a very well informed group who ask lots of questions. The talks are broadcast live on Facebook and they record the meeting too. They usually get a total audience of 300-500 in the 2-3 days following the meeting.

Talks can be about any topic that might be of interest to people living with chronic aspergillosis. Many of our patients have comorbidities including COPD, asthma, bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis. The talks do not have to be specifically about aspergillosis. Topics with an immunology theme would be very welcome.

If you are interested in taking part please let Fiona know and she will co-ordinate with Helen Findon who runs these events. This is a great opportunity to get involved in some real PPIE.
LBIII in the press

In the Mail (republished via This is Money), Prof Jorgen Vestbo commented on a new study which found social smokers are twice as likely to die of lung disease, and eight times as likely to die of lung cancer, than non-smokers. Prof Vestbo said the study was important because it “shows that smoking less will probably not have the effect that people are hoping for”.

Dr James Fildes was quoted in the New Scientist, commenting on work to revive damaged organs by connecting them to a pig’s blood supply. Dr Fildes said the work was “remarkable”, noting how delicate the lungs are.

An issue of the Medical Independent published on 25 May includes a feature on a lecture from Prof Rachel Watson [p30]. Prof Watson had recently given a lecture to UCD’s Charles Institute Seminar Series, on the mechanisms of skin ageing and photodamage.

Prof Catherine O’Neill is quoted in the Mail, commenting on whether soaps with ‘friendly’ bacteria can improve skin health. Prof O’Neill says there’s a lot of “hogwash” in the field, and data “just isn’t there” to support a lot of claims.

In an article from BBC Future, Prof Sheena Cruickshank discusses the first vaccination campaign in England; inoculation against smallpox, led by Dr Edward Jenner. Prof Cruickshank said the initial experiments were ethically dubious, and doctors at the time would have known little about the biological mechanisms of immunity.

Coronavirus in the press

An update to date list on all the press coverage of COVID_19 related research going on in the institute can be found on our website.
Grants

Since inception PIs in the Lydia Becker Institute have been awarded over £56M in grants, representing a success rate of approx. 41%.

![Awards by HESA category chart]

Publications

Since the institute started, 129 papers have already listed the institute as an affiliation.

Below are the papers published since our last newsletter.

**Jul-20**


Aug-20


Sep-20


**Pure**

Pure automatically pulls through any papers to your research explorer page. However your papers will not pull through to the Lydia Becker Institute Research Explorer page unless the Institute is listed as your main affiliation. If it is not your main affiliation in Pure, you will need to manually edit the metadata for each paper and add the Lydia Becker Institute as an organisational unit. It is important to have all relevant papers pull through to the Institute research explorer so that we can generate metrics on publications for the Institute. Instructions on how to do this are below.

**Affiliating your Pure records to your Institute**

If you work as part of one of the University Institutes, you may wish to affiliate relevant records in Pure to that Institute. Records you could affiliate could include publications, activities or datasets for example.
By affiliating records to your Institute, you help to populate your Institute’s page on the Research Explorer portal, which gives an overview of all activities in the Institute.

The steps below illustrate how to affiliate a publication record to your Institute, but the same steps apply to any type of record in Pure.

To affiliate a record -

- Open any record in Pure you are named on to edit it.
- Where you are named on the record, click ‘edit’.
- Under the section entitled ‘Affiliation on the research output’ click the box labelled ‘Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation’
- Click the ‘update’ button.
- When the editor window closes, click the ‘save’ button.

If you do not see the option for your Institute please contact your Institute Manager.
Researcher Profile – Barrier Immunology
This issue we have a profile from Dr Amy Saunders, a Sir Henry Dale Fellow working on Skin immunity.

What is the interest in your lab / research area?
The focus of my lab is to understand how the skin immune system is regulated. In particular, we research mechanisms in healthy skin which prevent inappropriate inflammation occurring in response to innocuous stimuli, or promote the resolution of inflammation. We also determine if these regulatory mechanisms are dysregulated in inflammatory skin disease such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, and if this dysregulation is a factor underlying disease. Our research also has a focus on rare immune cell subsets such as ILCs and gamma delta T cells, which play key roles in driving these inflammatory diseases.

Where and with whom have you studied?
I obtained a degree in Biochemistry from the University of Warwick, before undertaking a PhD with Geoff Butcher at the Babraham Institute as part of Cambridge University. After my PhD I moved to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, where I did a postdoc in Pauline Johnson’s lab, before I moved to the University of Manchester on an internal fellowship when the MCCIR was started. I was then awarded a Wellcome Trust and Royal Society Sir Henry Dale Fellowship which has allowed me to expand my lab and develop my own research area.

What first drew you to your area of research?
I have personally suffered from a number of unexplained skin reactions and I am fascinated with the wide variety of rashes that occur on the skin in response to a range of stimuli. I am also intrigued by two phenomenon associated with
the inflammatory skin disease psoriasis. The first is the Koebner phenomenon where psoriasis is triggered in response to skin damage, and the second is the symmetric pattern of lesions that is commonly observed in psoriasis patients. Therefore there is a number of particularly interesting biological anomalies driven by the skin immune system that are fascinating and are not yet understood.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career so far?
I have faced different challenges along the course of my career, from the steep learning curve of being a first year PhD student, to grappling with moving continents and dealing with being the only postdoc in the lab, to starting my own lab and having to learn a lot of extra leadership skills, to trying to balance work and life commitments when starting a family. Although each of these has been a challenge, the hardest has been leading a lab through pregnancy and maternity leave. Twice!

What is the best advice you have been given?
To only hire people that you actually like. It makes it much easier to put your efforts into training staff and students if you really care about them succeeding and being the best that they can be.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the laboratory?
Most of my “free” time is taken up by my two daughters aged 4 and 1, but I still try to go for hikes and runs (usually a literal school run), and I used to enjoy yoga and horse riding before having a family.

Any tips for a successful research career?
Follow your passions, stand up for yourself and ask for help when you need it.

COSMIC Trial – Cancer Immunology
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester are trialling innovative artificial intelligence (AI) wireless monitoring technology that could lead to quicker interventions for patients with COVID-19.
The (COntinuous Signs Monitoring In Covid-19 patients) COSMIC-19 pilot study aims to identify in advance patients who will deteriorate, and predict those who will need intensive care treatment.

Conducted at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI), part of MFT, and The Christie, COSMIC-19 aims to recruit 60 inpatients being cared for on general wards, who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

Approximately 10 to 20 per cent of hospital inpatients with COVID-19 will need intensive care. Older, male patients with underlying health issues such as a heart and lung conditions or diabetes may be at the highest risk. Patients on the trial will be monitored for 20 days until either placed on a ventilator or discharged from hospital. The research team are using a state-of-the-art monitoring platform, which uses wireless, wearable sensors to automatically collect and analyse each patient’s vital signs such as pulse rate, temperature, breathing and oxygen levels in real time.

Such detailed vital signs monitoring is not normally available on hospital wards in the UK, with these observations usually recorded periodically by nursing staff. The patients taking part in the study will still receive the NHS standard of care, based on the usual checks from ward nurses.

Together, the team will use AI to look for patterns in the patients’ vital signs that could alert the medical team if the patient is deteriorating. If the data indicates that the patient needs critical care, the medical team can intervene earlier, giving patients the best chance of recovery.

The COSMIC trial, led by Professor Fiona Thistlethwaite, medical oncologist at The Christie, said: “Unfortunately some patients who are suffering from COVID-19 on our hospital wards can become seriously unwell. By using this system, we hope to be able to identify these patients early and this may mean we can optimise their management without the need for them to go to intensive care.

“We can also monitor the patients’ vital signs on a screen located in a different part of the hospital, and we hope that eventually this will mean that as well as keeping our patients safe, we can reduce exposure to the virus for our staff.”

Dr Anthony Wilson said: “The intensive care team at MFT has cared for many people with COVID-19 infection in the last four months. We are really grateful for patients like Lucinda who have agreed to take part in priority COVID-19 research.

“We are excited to be trialling new technology in Manchester that may allow us to intervenr earlier and give patients a greater chance of getting better. This technology is a glimpse of how we will monitor hospital patients in the future and it’s fantastic that MFT and The Christie are frontrunners in such innovation.”

This study is funded by UKRI’s industrial strategy challenge fund and The Christie charity and involves a collaboration with Zenzium and Aptus Clinical; two healthcare technology companies based in Greater Manchester. The monitoring platform is developed by Isansys Lifecare.

For more information, please see [here](#).
iMATCH funding extended – Cancer Immunology

Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre network awarded £9.5m further investment

The UK Government grant will support new and existing projects until March 2022.

Funding will ensure that the positive impact of the ATTC network continues; further optimising the UK ecosystem for routine adoption of advanced therapies.

UK, 10th September 2020 – The Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre (ATTC) network has been awarded a total of £9.5 million to fund an additional 12 months of the programme. £6.5 million has been granted from the Government’s Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and an additional £3 million from its Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF), managed by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The funding will support additional initiatives through to March 2022 and continuation of certain centre and network projects which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This award builds upon the significant success of the ATTC network to date. The UK accounts for 12% of global advanced therapy medicinal product (ATMP) clinical trials and the network supports half of those.

Projects that will be delivered from this new funding include expanding the network, standardising best practice for routine clinical delivery of advanced therapies in the NHS, and the nationwide provision of educational programmes to carers and healthcare professionals.

The ATTC network was established in 2018 through funding from UKRI’s Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund in response to the challenge faced by the NHS in the adoption of these potentially life-changing, but highly disruptive, treatments. The network comprises three regional UK centres (Innovate Manchester Advanced Therapy Centre Hub (MATCH), Midlands and Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre (MW-ATTC) and Northern Alliance Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre (NA-ATTC)) operating within the NHS framework and coordinated by the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (CGT Catapult).

Since its creation, the network has worked with 64 partners in industry, academia and the healthcare system to advance the global competitiveness of the UK cell and gene therapy ecosystem. Among many achievements so far, the programme has created over 80 new high skilled jobs and trained over 2,700 people across multiple industries. The network has also supported two international companies to open offices in the UK and established an industry Advisory Group of 39 partners to encourage pre-competitive collaboration across the industry.

Science Minister Amanda Solloway said:

“We want to build back better by putting the UK at the forefront of new technologies to create high-skilled jobs, increase productivity and grow the economy as we recover from coronavirus.

This new funding will strengthen the UK’s global status in a range of areas, including advanced medical treatments, helping us develop innovative solutions to some of our biggest global challenges and creating jobs in rewarding careers right across the country.”

Funded by

Coordinated by

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CARDIOVASCULAR IMMUNOLOGY AND MULTI-MORBIDITIES

Lead: Dr Ashraf Kitmitto
Division of Cardiovascular Sciences
School of Medical Sciences
ashraf.kitmitto@manchester.ac.uk
0161 306 4186
Deputy Lead: Joy Wang

Seminar Schedule – Cardiovascular immunology and multi-morbidities
Please see below for the schedule for the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences seminar series.

CARDIOVASCULAR SEMINAR SERIES
September-December 2020

Thursdays 1.00 pm

15th October
PhD WIP:
Yusuf Alimi: Title TBC
Tayyiba Azam: Title TBC
Ahmed Alotaibi: Title TBC
https://zoom.us/j/93221131694
Zoom meeting ID: 932 2113 1694
22rd October  Prof Andrew Dowsey, University of Bristol (andrew.dowsey@bristol.ac.uk): "Handling and presenting uncertainty is key to the interpretation of proteomics data" 
https://zoom.us/j/95774454945
Zoom meeting ID: 957 7445 4945

29th October  PhD WIP: 
Cecilia Facchi: "Investigating the role of Salt-inducible kinase 2 (SIK2) in the heart" 
Lina Laid: Title TBC 
Lucy Roberts: Title TBC 
https://zoom.us/j/92400624903
Zoom meeting ID: 924 0062 4903

5th November  Dr Adam Greenstein: 
“Mechanosensitive calcium signalling as a novel target to reverse obesity-related hypertension”. 
https://zoom.us/j/94681427735
Zoom meeting ID: 946 8142 7735

12th November  PhD WIP: 
Matthew Smith: Extracellular Matrix Remodelling in Ageing-Related Sinus Node Disease 
Jade Taylor: Characterisation of cerebral artery function in a mouse model of cerebral amyloid angiopathy 
Sana Yaar: 'Cardiac responses to air pollutants in mouse models of health and disease' 
https://zoom.us/j/95188722803
Zoom meeting ID: 951 8872 2803

26th November  PhD WIP: 
Cathal Hannan: Title TBC 
Pia Morales Araya: Title TBC 
Rida Raja: Title TBC 
https://zoom.us/j/94288299182
Zoom meeting ID: 942 8829 9182

3rd December  Dr Anisa Jafar 
“Medical documentation in disasters”. 
https://zoom.us/j/99249682216
Zoom meeting ID: 992 4968 2216

10th December  Dr Stephanie Bosworth-Worton Title TBC. 
https://zoom.us/j/92212883039
Zoom meeting ID: 922 1288 3039
No news for this edition.

COVID publications from immune-informatics:
A number of COVID-19 relevant papers not included in the above list have also been published.

1. Proteomics and Informatics for Understanding Phases and Identifying Biomarkers in COVID-19 Disease
   https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.jproteome.0c00326

2. A consideration of publication-derived immune-related associations in Coronavirus and related lung damaging diseases
COVID Research in Immune Tolerance
Prof Clare Mills is part of a collaboration working on COVID-19MS funded by UKRI? She is co-I on this with Perdita Barran from Chemistry who is the overall PI. The grant is supported by ManARTS tissue bank with Angela Simpson, Steve Hughes and Tim Felton.

Researcher Profile in Immuno-matrix
This issue we have a profile from Dr Dominik Ruckerl, who works on the plasticity of macrophages.

What is the interest in your lab / research area?
I work on the plasticity of macrophages and their contribution to fibrosis and other pathologies. Macrophages are a fascinating cell type as they adapt their behaviour to their surroundings and vice versa, the tissue environment programs macrophages to tailor their response to

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infectious agents or injury. This makes macrophages very effective immune cells as well as essential housekeepers maintaining tissue homeostasis. Unfortunately, macrophages sometimes get it wrong and instead of helping the body actually promote and perpetuate pathology and it is this contradictory behaviour I am trying to disentangle.

Where and with whom have you studied?
I did my undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering at the TU Berlin, Germany. My final year thesis (Diplomarbeit) in the lab of Dr. Rötzschke investigated the effect of small organic compounds on cell-extrinsic antigen loading of MHC-II molecules. Thereafter, I went to the Research Center Borstel, Germany for my PhD in the lab of Prof. Christoph Hölscher. There my work focused on the role of IL-12 family cytokines in murine Mycobacterium Tuberculosis infection and it was this work that triggered my love for macrophages. One of the major findings from our and other labs at the time was that limiting the immune response can be more beneficial to a host than killing the invading pathogen. But it was clear even then, that macrophages do more than just kill bacteria. Consequently, I subsequently went to the lab of Prof. Judith Allen in Edinburgh to study macrophages in the context of helminth infection and injury repair. I stayed for 9 years in Edinburgh and moved to Manchester in 2016 taking up my independent Stepping Stone Fellowship.

What first drew you to your area of research?
Macrophages have been a central component of every research project I was involved in since my undergraduate studies. However, my great fascination with these cells started during my PhD, where it became obvious that these cells are not just dumb killing / eating machines, but actually regulate their own as well as other immune cells in a very intricate manner.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career so far?
Becoming independent and convincing funders to part with their money. Doing Science and discovering new things is great fun, but convincing people outside of your field of interest why your research is crucial and an important step forward is tough.

What is the best advice you have been given?
A postdoc in the lab I did my final year thesis in told me "Jeder ist seines eigenen Glückes Schmied". A German proverb which roughly translates to “Life is what you make of it”. The stress being on ‘you’. So, don’t expect others to tell you what to do, but go ahead and make your own fortune.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the laboratory?
I like travelling and visiting other places. Be this in the UK or around the world. Seeing new places, meeting new people and experiencing new points of view puts your own life and your own priorities into perspective. Getting that extra star on your data might not be as important as you think.

Any tips for a successful research career?
Just do it! When contemplating your next step in your career, there is no time like the present. Advice I myself didn’t heed at the time and have regretted it ever since. The earlier you start planning your next steps the more chances you have to succeed.
No news to report for this edition.

Geoffrey Jefferson Institute of Brain Research (Neuro-Immunology)
You may be aware of the development of a Neuro institute that will be called the Geoffrey Jefferson Institute of Brain Research. This is being led by Andy King and Stuart Allan and David Brough has led the development of neuroimmunology within this. The institute will have a disease focus on neuro-oncology brain tumours and stroke, with neuroimmunology as one of the cross cutting themes, along with imaging, pathology and rehabilitation. A major focus of the institute will be the use of human samples and tissue and translation, and it will be primarily based in the Clinical Sciences Building (CSB) at Salford Royal. We have already been staffing the labs there due to staff number restrictions and the fire in Hill and the labs are fully operational. Given that the brain bank is in the building, neuropath is going to be there, and the surgeons can have fresh human brain tissue delivered to you in the lab within 30 mins there are really exciting opportunities to be had.
Neuroimmunology is going to be central to this institute and it is really important that the Becker is an important partner in its development. Neuroimmunologists can access the labs and facilities to use unique banks of tissue and work closely with clinicians and clinician scientists. Therefore David Brough will be leading up this interaction and Dr Kevin Couper will take over as Lead of the Neuro-Immunology branch. The role of deputy will be discussed at the next Lydia Becker Institute Management Board meeting.

No news to report for this edition.

**Shutdown fun**

For this issue and as autumn has arrived, for the chance to win a £5 voucher, we would invite you to send in a photo/image that summarises the season.

Please send your image to Fiona.foster@manchester.ac.uk /lisa.oneill@manchester.ac.uk before November 30th 2020, entries will be judged by Prof Hussell and Dr Grainger and the winner announced December 4th 2020.