

Blueprint



Staff News for the University of Oxford • October 2007

- 
- A photograph of several people sitting at outdoor tables in a cafe setting. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt and glasses is smiling and talking to an older man in a purple shirt. Other people are visible in the background, some sitting at tables and others standing.
- ▶ **Alumni reunited**
 - ▶ **Where Oxford meets India**
 - ▶ **Medical interactions**



Dick Mäkin



Museum of Natural History



Top: Fresh on the scene – this year's Freshers can get up to speed with their own website

Centre: Cast of thousands – the University Natural History Museum's much-loved dinosaur is a plaster cast

Bottom: Engineering history – Lord Jenkin (right) presents Dr Alistair Howatson with Frewen Jenkin's engineering instruments

Cover: Oxford alumni (pictured here at the Saïd Business School) enjoyed sunny skies and stimulating company at the first ever Collegiate University Alumni Weekend in September (see p3). Photo: Greg Smolonski

► The Bodleian Library's application to build a book depository at Osney Mead, which was approved by the Oxford City Council Strategic Development Control Committee on 26 September, is now to be referred to a full Council meeting on 19 November. The move follows the circulation of a petition amongst the Councillors which attracted sufficient signatures for the decision to be 'called in' to a full meeting.

► A new website for Freshers launched by the Oxford University Student Union was a huge success, receiving around 2000 hits in its first two weeks. An OUSU Facebook group set up in August also proved highly popular. Information about the Student Union, its activities and services is at its new website www.ousu.org.

► Leading international academics in art, archaeology and history gathered at the Ioannou School for Classical and Byzantine Studies recently alongside conservation and museum display experts to discuss the long-standing practice of making and displaying plaster cast copies of sculpture. Common in museums throughout the world, casts are a distinctive art form and are sometimes more valuable than the originals.

► Lord Jenkin of Roding, the grandson of Frewen Jenkin, the first Professor of Engineering Science at Oxford University, formally launched Oxford's Centenary of Engineering Science on 15 September. Year-long celebrations will include special lectures, a photography competition, a debate on engineering education and a commemorative book by Dr Alistair Howatson. A special display will feature Frewen Jenkin's engineering instruments, returned to the family by the son of a Jewish refugee whom Frewen Jenkin had helped to rescue from Nazi persecution. A Centenary Appeal will also seek to establish six graduate studentships.

► The Bonn-Oxford Theological Seminar, which has met every two years since 1977, celebrated its 30th anniversary last month. A new agreement for continued collaboration between the twin cities was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood and the Rector of the University of Bonn, Professor Dr Matthias Winiger. The initiative has resulted in collaborative publications and regular student exchanges.

► The James Martin 21st Century School has a new home in the old Indian Institute building on the corner of Broad St and Cattle St. The School, an umbrella body that brings together ten research institutes across the University to tackle the challenges of the 21st century, invites all members of the University to tour its new building and meet some of the James Martin Research Fellows at its Open Morning on 25 October. Details at www.21school.ox.ac.uk.

► Oxford University is one of several universities that will participate in an undergraduate sponsorship scheme run by Aldi, the UK discount retail chain. For the next three years, the student achieving the highest mark in the Economics paper in the first year examination of the Economics and Management Course will be awarded a £1000 prize.

A new look for *Blueprint*

Welcome to *Blueprint*, relaunched this month as a full-colour newsletter that aims to interest, entertain and inform all University of Oxford staff.

Whether you are an administrator or an academic, a Head of House or a head gardener, a student or a secretary, a technician or a tutor, you will know that the University never stands still. Research frontiers are constantly being pushed forward, people arrive and leave, successes are recognised and celebrated, and college and cultural activities abound.

The role of *Blueprint*, then, is to provide a snapshot of this constantly moving scene. Within these pages you will find a lively mixture of news and features that we hope will reflect the richness and diversity of university and college life.

As the Editor of *Blueprint*, I am delighted to be able to hold up a mirror to the University and perhaps thereby shine light into corners where you might not normally look. In this, I will be supported by the experience and expertise of the press office and publications teams within the Public Affairs Directorate.

But, most importantly, please tell me what you would like to see reflected in *Blueprint*. Comments and ideas for contributions can be emailed to me at blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk. It's your University; it's your newsletter.

Sally Croft
Editor, *Blueprint*

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Suggestions and items for possible inclusion in *Blueprint* are welcome and should be sent to blueprint@admin.ox.ac.uk

For the latest news about the University, see www.ox.ac.uk/news

For *Blueprint* advertisement information, see p11

Finance institute open for business

The Oxford-Man Institute, intended to become the world's leading interdisciplinary academic institute for research in quantitative finance, is now officially open.

Quantitative finance is defined as all systematic and quantitative methodologies, analysis techniques and theory that are applicable to the investigation and allocation of economic and financial resources within the professional management of capital. Research at the new Institute will particularly focus on alternative investments.

Based at Blue Boar Court in Oxford, the Institute will house about 10 full-time researchers and staff and a further 10 senior faculty members spending substantial time at the Institute. The initiative brings together researchers from across

the University, including the Departments of Economics, Engineering Science, and Statistics, as well as the Mathematical Institute, the Computing Laboratory and the Saïd Business School.

Man Group, the world's largest hedge fund group, is the sole provider of the core funding for the Institute. Man's initial contribution to the centre is £13.75m: £10.45m for the initial five years plus £3.3m for an endowed chair to be called the Man Professor of Quantitative Finance.

Man Group will house its own research laboratory in the same building as the Institute, giving academics increased direct access to industry-leading practitioners and Man Group staff a closer interaction with an outstanding academic community.

Prompt treatment after a minor stroke brings major benefits



Simon Fraser, Hexham General/SPL

A disabling major stroke could be prevented

Treating patients immediately after a minor stroke reduces the early risk of a major stroke by 80 per cent, Oxford research has found.

In the week after a TIA (transient ischaemic attack, or 'mini-stroke') or a minor stroke, a person has a one in ten chance of a major stroke. Professor Peter Rothwell showed that rapid treatment reduces that likelihood by 80 per cent. 'That kind of risk reduction is very rare in modern medicine,' he says. 'We normally get excited about 10–15 per cent.'

Current lack of provision in the UK, with a 14-day average waiting list at TIA and minor stroke clinics, means that thousands of patients per

year have major strokes before they are seen and treated. The Department of Health is committed to acting on the new results, published in *The Lancet*, and the findings are already being used to redesign stroke prevention services in the UK and elsewhere.

A paper in *Lancet Neurology* published on the same day examined what kind of urgent treatment works best. A group of 400 minor stroke patients received either statins or clot-busting drugs within 24 hours. Dr James Kennedy and Professor Alastair Buchan reported that while clot-busting drugs were effective, statins made no difference.



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Alumni inspired

Over 700 Oxford University alumni and their guests travelled from all parts of the UK and across the globe to take part in the first ever Collegiate University Alumni Weekend on 14–16 September.

The 'Meeting Minds' programme offered a packed three days of 110 events that included expert lectures, discussions on the future of broadcasting (with BBC Director General Mark Thompson), musical events and tours of the University's hidden historical gems. Oxford alumnus Melvyn Bragg led a panel discussion on Oxford's contribution to the history of thought and Lady Antonia Fraser reflected on her work as an historical biographer. Many of the University's leading academics gave presentations and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood, gave a talk reflecting on the University today and looking forward to the University of tomorrow.

The event was extremely well received by attending alumni, whose graduation dates ranged from 1930 to 2006. A video overview of the weekend and other highlights can be viewed at www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk/multimedia.

Grave goods go online

An illustrated online inventory of Anglo-Saxon graves and grave goods in Kent has been set up under the direction of Professor Helena Hamerow at the Institute of Archaeology.

Kent is the oldest of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and has an abundance of cemeteries dating from this period. The grave goods they contain reflect the close ties to the Frankish world that lie behind the county's precocious development in the 5th to 7th centuries.

Excavations in the 18th century uncovered over 1000 graves, and the need to publish these remarkable finds to a modern standard led Sonia

Hawkes of the Institute of Archaeology to begin work on this material in 1961. The objects were x-rayed, photographed, described and drawn, resulting in a massive archive, but the costs

involved in publishing such material in a printed volume would be prohibitive.

Online publication has the added benefits of instant worldwide access and a search facility. The *Novum Inventorium Sepulchrale*,

which was funded by an award of £113,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Board's Resource Enhancement Scheme, can be found at web.arch.ox.ac.uk/archives/inventorium.

Kentish composite brooch (watercolour by WP Herdman)



Premiere for missing music

The world premiere took place on 22 September of two pieces of music by Sir Edward German that were thought to have vanished without trace but were discovered recently by Peter Brown, Classics Tutor at Trinity College and a Director of the University's Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama.

The pieces were a March and Chorus for Sophocles' *Antigone*, composed for performance at

Wimbledon School, Surrey in 1888 but never in fact performed because of an epidemic at the school. Peter Brown discovered a proof copy of the programme for the performance, which printed the music in full. The pieces were performed by members of Charles Court Opera at the annual meeting of the Sir Arthur Sullivan Society at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

'Lost scientist' remembered

He was to chemistry and physics what Wilfred Owen was to poetry: a phenomenal talent cut down in his prime. But while most people know of Wilfred Owen, few have heard of the brilliant British physicist Henry GJ Moseley (1887–1915), part of a generation of young men lost in World War I.

On 24 September 2007 a plaque celebrating Henry Moseley's life and achievements was unveiled at the Department of Physics by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood. The plaque, which is mounted on the building where Moseley completed his pioneering work, was donated by the Royal Society of Chemistry as part of its Chemical Landmarks scheme.

A graduate of Trinity College

Oxford, Moseley was killed fighting in Gallipoli in 1915, aged just 27. Despite his youth he had already made many important contributions to science, including demonstrating that atomic numbers were not arbitrary but had a physical basis that could be measured.

This discovery (Moseley's Law) would provide a natural explanation for the way the elements are organised in the periodic table and led Moseley to predict the existence of several then-unknown elements. Moseley's work also provided one of the first experimental tests of quantum theory, supporting new ideas about the structure of the atom.

Many believe that, had he lived, Moseley would have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

Mosquito nets use reduces child mortality

Using insecticide-treated mosquito nets significantly reduces child mortality when delivered as part of national control programmes using donor support, says an Oxford University research group in Kenya led by Professor Bob Snow from the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine.

Insecticide-treated bednet coverage in Kenya has increased rapidly, from 7 per cent in 2004 to 67 per cent in 2006, reaching

even the poorest households.

The team assessed the impact of the expansion in net coverage among 3,500 children under 5 over three years. They found that the estimated rate of mortality in children reported to have used a recently treated bednet was 44 per cent less than that for children who did not use one, with an average of seven deaths averted for every 1,000 nets used. The findings were reported in *The Lancet*.



David Mevyn

Factfile

Oxford alumni currently in Parliament

- ▶ Over 140 Members of the House of Lords (of 735 sitting members)
- ▶ 107 Members of the House of Commons (of 646 seats)
- ▶ 19 Members of Gordon Brown's Front Bench team, including 7 Cabinet members
- ▶ 12 Members of David Cameron's Shadow Cabinet
- ▶ 8 Members of the Liberal Democrat Front Bench team

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Teaching abstinence-only doesn't work for youngsters

Abstinence-only programmes – teaching that no sex is the best and only way to prevent HIV – do not work, according to a major systematic review by Kristen Underhill, Don Operario and Paul Montgomery in Oxford University's Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention.

The US Senate has, however, recently agreed to put another \$141m into abstinence-only education. The 'abstinence-only' approach, favoured by the US government, reflects the notion that teaching adolescents anything about safer sex (including condom use) might confuse them and encourage risky activity.

The team's review of studies, published in the *British Medical Journal*, suggests that this is

money ill spent. The researchers looked at 13 US abstinence-only programme trials involving nearly 16,000 young people, and found that none of the programmes had a significant effect on unprotected sex, condom use, number of sexual partners, incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, or incidence of pregnancy.

So-called 'abstinence-plus' programmes, which teach condom use as a back-up to abstinence, do have some effect, however, according to another meta-analysis published by the team in *PLoS Medicine*.

US government funding, however, is directed exclusively at abstinence-only programmes – 'completely the wrong way to go,' says Dr Montgomery.



► 'Galileo's telescope' (pictured above) is an 'intervention' created by artist Roddy Bell in response to 'parent' antique scientific instruments on display at the Museum of the History of Science. Bell's objects are inventions from his work *The Book of Imaginary Science* and it is intended that their juxtaposition with museum objects sets up speculations and dialogue on their heritage, purpose and mythology, allowing the viewer a different level of interaction with the objects on display. The exhibition runs until 25 November.

Parent friendly-plaudit for University

Oxford University is one of the most parent-friendly higher education employers, according to a *Guardian* survey. The University was rated as one of three 'best in sector' higher education institutions in what the newspaper believes to be the first survey of parenting benefits across a wide range of British employers.

The University received its top ranking because its provisions go well beyond statutory requirements. Eligible mothers receive 26 weeks' full pay followed by 13 weeks' statutory

maternity pay while on maternity leave. Fathers or partners are entitled to two weeks' leave on full pay, which can be taken from seven weeks before the birth and up to 26 weeks afterwards. Eligible employees adopting a child are entitled to virtually identical arrangements.

Once parents return to work, the University offers flexible working schemes and up to two days' paid leave for emergencies.

Oxford currently has 219 full-time equivalent subsidised

workplace nursery places, some at University premises and some at private nurseries. Parents can pay for their childcare using a salary sacrifice scheme or virtual vouchers, which mean savings in tax and national insurance. There are also holiday play schemes on offer to help keep children busy outside school terms.

► For a full listing of Oxford University events open to the public, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/nb/events.shtml

Viewfinder found

Our saintly statue (see p12) is of St Edmund of Abingdon and was installed this summer in the churchyard of St Peter-in-the-East. The medieval church is now the college library of St Edmund Hall.

The statue was commissioned by the St Edmund Hall Association to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the granting of the College's Royal Charter on 15 February 1957. The sculptor was Rodney Munday (SEH, 1967, English).

St Edmund of Abingdon, the first Master and Theologian of this University to become Archbishop of Canterbury, taught in and around the Church of St Peter-in-the East during the years 1195–1201 and 1214–1222.



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As India celebrates 60 years of independence, *Blueprint* explores

As a new term begins in Oxford, in India applicants for next year's undergraduate courses are being interviewed in Delhi and Bangalore. The University is keen to attract students from the subcontinent, who have traditionally looked to the US and Australia for overseas study, and Oxford tutors travel to India (and, indeed, to some other parts of the world) to interview applicants who cannot reasonably be expected to come to Oxford for the purpose.

The University's interest in things Indian goes back five centuries (see timeline). The number of Indian nationals studying at Oxford has steadily increased and today stands at 257. In addition, research collaboration between Oxford and India is flourishing in a number of areas across the University.

One such area is theoretical physics. 'India has built up a strong position in theoretical sciences since independence, so as to be arguably the most influential in Asia today – leading Indian research centres now attract back young physicists from prestigious institutions abroad,' says Oxford-based Professor Subir Sarkar, who is one of the drivers of a research network between Oxford physicists and several high-profile Indian institutions. 'When we started our collaboration, our philosophy was to work from the ground up and establish links on an individual level, so that we ensure that mutual interest is maintained.'

What started as personal research links

Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, in conversation with the Chancellor after receiving his Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law in July 2005



Rob Judges

has now developed into an Oxford-India network in theoretical physics which includes the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Kolkata and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai. The network has been funded by the John Fell OUP Research Fund, which was set up specifically to foster creativity and a proactive approach to research opportunities.

'We could shoot neutrinos through the Earth from the proposed UK Neutrino Factory in Oxfordshire to the India-based Neutrino Observatory'

'Both sides benefit from the collaboration,' Professor Sarkar says. 'We have now created the momentum which allows us to exchange graduate students and the possibilities for cooperation are endless. In the long term, we may even benefit from the physical distance between India and Oxford because we could, for example, shoot neutrinos through the Earth from the proposed UK Neutrino Factory in Oxfordshire to the India-based Neutrino Observatory. One of the amazing discoveries of recent years is that neutrinos change from one kind into another as they travel through space and it turns out that 7,000 km is a "magic baseline" for testing certain fundamental laws of Nature in these ghostly transmutations.'

Another recently established research network focuses on a pressing health problem. 'It's estimated that by 2020, India will see about three million cancer cases a year – that's 17.5 per cent of all cancer cases worldwide,' says Professor David Kerr, Rhodes Professor of Cancer Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology at Oxford, who leads the India-Oxford Cancer Network. Established in 2005 with initial infrastructure support from GlaxoSmithKline, the network includes leading senior oncologists at six Indian cancer centres and is the first collaboration of its kind. It works closely with other collaborators in running feasible and appropriate trials within India.

The network evaluates new treatments for a range of cancer types including gall bladder, liver and cervical cancers, which are more prevalent in India than in Europe or North America. It aims to help move novel anti-cancer therapeutics from the laboratory into the clinic and to test their promise in



The India connection

each stage of clinical trials. It also helps Indian colleagues to better utilise their skills and expertise in research areas that were once dominated by their pharmaceutical colleagues in the west.

According to Professor Kerr, 'The network has achieved its initial goals and has also developed a successful training programme for its members. Dedicated trial coordinators have been introduced at each site and the network has succeeded in earning the respect of both the Indian regulatory authority and the Indian government. The success has been encouraging and we are now looking to increase the current six sites to approximately ten.'

In the world of business, March 2006 saw the launch of the annual Oxford-India Business Forum, organised by the Saïd Business School to debate current economic issues. Alongside Oxford's Chancellor, Lord Patten, speakers at the inaugural event in New Delhi included Montek Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Indian Planning Commission, and Mr Naresh Chandra, former Indian Ambassador to the USA. The second meeting, held in Mumbai earlier this

some current collaborations with the University of Oxford



year and again attended by the Chancellor, concentrated on new approaches to development in India.

The complex world of India today is also set to become an area of graduate study with the creation of an Oxford MSc in Contemporary India. The course, which the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies will launch next academic year, is aimed mainly at those with a good first degree in social sciences (though others with relevant qualifications and experience will be considered).

'I want to do everything in my power to dynamise the study of contemporary India' says Professor Barbara Harriss-White,

- ▶ Oxford is one of the leading centres in the west for the study of India
- ▶ Famous Oxford alumni from India include two Prime Ministers (Dr Manmohan Singh and Indira Gandhi), one President (Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan) and two Nobel Prize winners (Amartya Sen and V S Naipaul)
- ▶ The Rhodes Trust offers four Rhodes scholarships to Indian nationals per year
- ▶ 2007 marks the 60th year of Indian Rhodes Scholars coming to Oxford
- ▶ Oxford houses the largest collection of Sanskrit manuscripts outside India

Professor of Development Studies, who has been instrumental in creating the course. 'I think this degree is unique. Our students will learn about India's achievements in parallel to learning about the country's persistent problems: it's the largest democracy, a regional superpower and has had great IT business success on the one hand, but there is political violence, widespread environmental degradation and human development failure on the other.' She adds: 'We will teach the students "real knowledge" about contemporary India but also the social sciences skills necessary to analyse the theoretical foundations of that knowledge.'

Dr Heather Bell, Director of International Strategy at Oxford, is excited about the array of activities: 'It's terrific to see such momentum being built in our engagement with India across the University. There is so much going on: we also have a new MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies, which enrolls its first students in October; Vinay Menon and our colleagues at the Business School are currently working hard to create an India Business Research Centre; Maria Misra, who leads the overseas interviewing effort, has a new book out on the history of India; and Stephen Kennedy continues his longstanding collaboration with southern Indian academics on the causes of endometriosis...It's an exciting time.'

In a Radio 4 interview a little while ago, Chancellor Chris Patten summed up Oxford's

Oxford-India timeline

- 1579** Father Thomas Stephens, from New College, is the first recorded Englishman to arrive in India. The letters he sent his family from India lay the foundation of the Anglo-Indian literature
- 1630** William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury and graduate of St John's College, Oxford, presents an album of Mughal paintings to the Bodleian Library. They are the first Indian paintings given to any Western library
- 1681** The East India Company supports four scholars per year at the University
- 1832** The Boden Chair of Sanskrit is endowed by Colonel Joseph Boden of the East India Company
- 1871** The first Indian students come to Oxford when entry is no longer confined to members of the Church of England
- 1883** The Indian Institute at Oxford University is founded. The Indian Institute Library, part of the Bodleian Library, is founded three years later
- 1908** The number of Indian students rises sharply as they are exempted from examinations in Latin and Greek
- 1912** Oxford University Press India is established
- 1936** The first Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics is appointed
- 1961** The Indian Institute's teaching facilities move to the new Oriental Institute and its art holdings go to the newly created Department of Eastern Art in the Ashmolean a year later
- 1982** The Asian Studies Centre is founded at St Antony's College
- 2002** Oxford's first Professor of Indian History and Culture is appointed

attraction to India and vice versa: 'We do have to invest if we want to be a significant player in India's future, and if we want India to be a significant player in our future. We both stand to gain from this. We stand to gain in investment, in high-tech R&D, and we stand to gain by attracting a lot of very bright young people – as bright as they come.'

The visit this month by Oxford tutors to India should help achieve these aims.

Oxford welcomes first Weidenfeld Scholars



New arrivals – Weidenfeld Scholars from many countries meet at the Martyrs' Memorial

The first ever group of Weidenfeld Scholars have begun their graduate studies under a scholarship scheme that provides financial support for the leaders of tomorrow, jointly funded by Oxford University and the Weidenfeld Institute for Strategic Dialogue.

The 17 students come from 12 countries and are studying a range of subjects including law, environmental change, migration and development.

The Weidenfeld Scholarships are designed to complement the University's existing range of scholarships, including the famous Rhodes Scholarships, and are open to candidates primarily from Eastern Europe (including Russia), North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. The scholars' financial support covers all University tuition fees and living costs, amounting to £25,000 per year for each student. This year's scholars come from Kyrgyzstan, Croatia, Azerbaijan, Israel, Belarus, the Lebanon, Slovakia, Egypt, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The inaugural Weidenfeld Scholars were selected from all eligible students already accepted for a Master's or doctoral course starting this year. The programme aims to promote the post-university careers of its scholars through work placements, long-term mentoring, and leadership and conference programmes.

The scholars are expected to return to their country of origin in due course and play a significant leadership role in public life in their own countries or internationally.

Immunologist honoured



Professor Herman Waldmann, head of the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, has been selected to receive the 2008 Thomas E Starzl Prize in surgery and immunology. The prize, named after the man who performed the first human liver transplant, was established in 1996 and has so far been awarded to 13 international leaders in organ transplantation and immunology. Professor Waldmann is being honoured for his outstanding achievements in immunology and the major impact these achievements have had on organ transplantation.

Academy awards

Nine academics from Oxford are among the 48 new Fellows elected recently by The British Academy, the national academy for the humanities and social sciences.

Dr Toby Barnard is a Lecturer in History and a Fellow of Hertford College. His research interests lie in the political, social and cultural histories of Ireland and England (1600–1800).

Professor John Barton is Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture. His interests lie in The Old Testament; theory and practice of biblical interpretation, biblical ethics, history of the Old and

New Testament canons, and prophecy in ancient Israel.

Professor Harvey Brown is a Professor of Philosophy of Physics. His research interests lie in the foundations of quantum mechanics, relativity theory and thermal physics, and the role of symmetry principles in physics.

Professor Andrew Burrows is Norton Rose Professor of Commercial Law and a Fellow of St Hugh's College. His interests are English law of obligations, especially the law of restitution/unjust enrichment and remedies for breach of contract and torts.

Professor Catriona Kelly is Professor of Russian and Co-director of the European Humanities Research Centre. Her interests are Russian cultural and social history

from the late 18th century; the history of childhood, and Russian national identity in the late Soviet and post-Soviet eras.

Professor Richard McCabe is Professor of English Language and Literature and a Fellow of Merton College. His research interests are early modern literature in its historical and intellectual contexts, especially poetry and drama; Edmund Spenser's engagement with Gaelic Ireland, the dynamics of Tudor and Jacobean patronage, and the aesthetics of Renaissance tragedy.

Mr Nicholas Purcell is a Fellow in Ancient History at St John's College. His research focuses on Roman social, economic and cultural history, combining the evidence of inscriptions, literary texts, and

archaeology; and the place of ancient history in the long-term history of the Mediterranean basin and its adjoining regions.

Professor Kevin Roberts is Sir John Hicks Professor of Economics. His research centres on microeconomic theory; and the foundations of welfare and public economics, social and collective choice, quotas and rationing, and the theory of market and general equilibrium.

Professor H Peyton Young is a Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College; and a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Washington DC. His interests are game theory and its application to the evolution of social norms, learning and innovation, theories of distributive justice, and the design of legislative systems.

arrivals board

Michael Davys Professor of Neuroscience

Jonathan Flint, Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Research Fellow at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, John Radcliffe Hospital, and Professor of Molecular Psychiatry and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist has been appointed to this post.

Educated at Oxford, Professor Flint has applied molecular tools to detect small chromosomal rearrangements in children and adults with learning disabilities; the test that he developed for such abnormalities has been widely adopted in clinical genetics centres throughout the world. His work on characterising the ends of human chromosomes led to the first sequence map of a human telomere and he is also investigating the genetic basis of common psychiatric disorders, particularly anxiety and depression.

Professor Flint also becomes a Fellow of Merton College.

Professor of Neuroimmunology

Lars Fugger, Professor of Clinical Immunology and Senior Clinical Research Fellow in the MRC Human Immunology Unit at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine and Honorary Consultant in Clinical Immunology at the John Radcliffe Hospital, has been appointed Professor of Neuroimmunology. A Danish national, Professor Fugger trained initially at the University of Copenhagen and at Stanford University.

Professor Fugger's research has identified some of the principal players that cause auto-immune attack in multiple sclerosis and explained how a virus may start the disease. In January 2007 he became chairman of the Danish Medical Research Council.

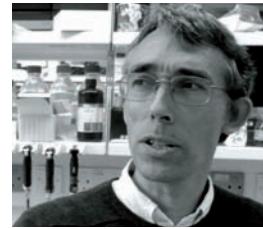
He also becomes a Fellow of Oriol College.

Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetic Science

Irene Tracey, Professor of Pain Research and Director of the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain (FMRIB), has been appointed as Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetic Science.

After studying at Oxford, Professor Tracey attended Harvard Medical School as a Research Fellow. On her return to Oxford she helped establish the FMRIB Centre. She is also founder and Head of the Pain Imaging Neuroscience Group. Her research uses non-invasive imaging methods to investigate human pain in both the injured and non-injured state and how pain perception changes as a result of pharmacological and psychological interventions; her research group is widely regarded as the premier pain imaging team worldwide.

Professor Tracey also becomes a Fellow of Pembroke College.



New appointments:
(top to bottom)
Jonathan Flint, Lars Fugger, Irene Tracey



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Research and real patients together move medical science forwards



From bench to bedside – and back again

Oxford's medical sciences division has set its sights high: tackling the leading causes of death by finding better treatments and vaccines for stroke, cancer, HIV, TB, malaria and other killers. It's an ambitious aim by anyone's standards. Small wonder that medical sciences is the biggest academic division of the University, accounting for around two thirds of external research income and over a third of academic staff. But medical science at Oxford goes beyond the University: one of the reasons this research can be so ambitious is that the division operates in partnership with local NHS Trusts, working directly with practising doctors and Oxfordshire patients.

'Our partnership with the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health

Partnership allows us to take research from fundamental science right through to treatments for patients,' says Dr Ken Fleming, head of the medical sciences division. Trevor Campbell Davis, Chief Executive of the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust, agrees that unity is vital. 'The Oxford brand has never been stronger in biomedical science, or throughout the NHS,' he says. 'In a world where global brands are of increasing importance, the common purpose of the University and Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals enables us to work as a single organisation in research, teaching and clinical excellence.'

A handful of researchers have paid contracts with both the University and an NHS body. Then there are the many NHS consultants and GPs who hold honorary positions in the University and contribute to its teaching of medical students; some

of these are also active in research within the University. Conversely, many University staff undertake clinical and teaching and research duties (including responsibility for clinical trials under honorary contracts) within the NHS. Professor Alastair Buchan, a world authority on stroke, is one example.

With both of his hats on, Professor Buchan last year led a joint hospital-university application to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for 'Biomedical Research Centre' status, highlighting 14 areas where joint research was particularly strong, including cancer, stroke, diabetes and vaccines. Oxford was duly selected to be one of only five 'Comprehensive' centres of excellence across England, a status bringing in £11.5m a year for five years to fund extra infrastructure and staffing to support possible breakthroughs.

The award was granted on the back of a long history of successful collaborations, dating back to 1976, when the 'Oxford knee' (a partial knee replacement now given to 10,000 people a year) was invented collaboratively by engineers and surgeons, and beyond. The Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM) was a strong example for the application, having provided since 1999 state-of-the-art healthcare for metabolic diseases such as diabetes alongside research. The centre, based since 2003 in the Churchill hospital, treats thousands of patients a year and also produces research breakthroughs, such as the recent collaborative identification by one of its researchers of a gene involved in obesity and three novel genes involved in susceptibility to type 2 diabetes.

The key to the partnership between patient treatment and research, and between the hospitals and the University, is that the two complement rather than compete with one another. Professor David Kerr, one of the lead researchers for Oxford's new Institute for Cancer Medicine, to open in 2008 (by no coincidence just over the road from Oxford's new £100m cancer hospital), says: 'We can take novel treatments that have emerged from research and give them to patients – and then we can complete this "virtuous circle" by monitoring how effective they are and taking those results back into research to improve the treatments. In other words, we take research work from the bench to the bedside and back again.'

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pigeonhole

▶ A brand new artificial grass sports area with floodlights providing tennis and five-a-side football facilities all year round is now available at The University Club. The Club, which provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities for all postgraduates, staff, retired staff and alumni of the University and associated institutions, is also this year offering a retro '70's Christmas Menu (fancy dress optional) at just £15 for two courses. See www.club.ox.ac.uk.

▶ More than 200 University staff are enjoying cycling to work knowing that it has cost them, on average, £170 less than it would have done without the University's bicycle sacrifice scheme, launched one year ago. The scheme – which allows participants to purchase any make and model of bike from their local bike shop – has also saved the University nearly £17,000 in reduced employer's national insurance contribution payments. For details, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/travel/sssbike.shtml.

▶ Enjoy a 10 per cent discount on your purchases from The University of Oxford Shop in the High Street by showing your university staff card. The shop sells a wide range of goods including clothing, housewares, prints, stationery, toys and other gift ideas. View the merchandise at www.oushop.com, but purchase in person to obtain the discount (not applicable to items already on special offer).

Illustration: David Mostyn

Viewfinder

▶ Where could you spot this studious saint on a seat? Answer on p5.



Rodney Munday

Why am I here?

Kate Aydin is Sustainable Development and Waste Management Officer. She is based at the University Estates Directorate



In a nutshell, what do you actually do?

I write papers and reports with recommendations on how the University can become more environmentally responsible, and coordinate cross-departmental initiatives that are based on reducing the University's impact on the environment.

Why do you do it?

Environmental impacts are taking their toll on society and it's rewarding to be working in this field at such a pivotal moment in time.

What do you most enjoy/dislike about it?

It's a very creative role, and varied, in that it requires a strategic, in-depth approach to developing environmental improvements, and I get to meet people from all different areas of the University. I most dislike it when people are not logical when discussing environmental issues and refuse to engage in sensible debate based on factual evidence and common sense.

When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be an ice-dancer.

And what actually was your first job?

Working as an English Teacher in Brescia, Italy.

How did you get from there to here?

After seven years teaching in Italy, I returned to Oxford to study Art and Publishing and then worked in academic publishing for a while. After about three years I was looking for a job with 'meaning' – so that I could make a difference to society – and I applied for a job as a Community Recycling Officer. Suddenly I realised I had changed my career! Through my job I have become more involved in sustainability and, after

several promotions, I came to work at Oxford University – in sustainable development and waste management. I've been in this post for two and a half years.

What has been your most embarrassing moment, either personally or professionally?

While teaching English, explaining to a class of Italian businessmen what bonfire night is. Through a series of gesticulations, I explained (reverting to English words occasionally) that in the UK we 'build huge bonfires made of wood and set them on fire'. For those of you who don't speak Italian, 'bonfire' is 'il faló' in Italian, and 'bonfires' is 'i faló' (it's an irregular plural). I wrongly thought the plural of 'faló' was 'falli' – the meaning of which I'll leave you to look up in an Italian dictionary! Needless to say the men in the group looked very alarmed, and when they explained my linguistic error, I become very red.

Aside from work-related things, what's on your desk at the moment?

A mobile phone, a bottle of water, environmental-related newspaper cuttings, a couple of plants.

What interests, hobbies or activities do you enjoy outside work?

I'm studying for an MSc in Integrated Environmental Management and am also an artist, so I'm planning to build up my portfolio this year, perhaps culminating with an exhibition.

If you could go anywhere, do anything on your day off, what would it be? And who (famous or otherwise) would you take with you?

I'd have roller skating lessons with a top dance instructor in London, and I'd take Madonna with me.