

Bradford ChemBio

What's been going on in our school for the past three months...
April – June 2023



@UoBChem

@UoBBio



Have an item for the newsletter? Email k.riches@bradford.ac.uk or m.sutherland@bradford.ac.uk with 'Newsletter' in the heading

Welcome!

Welcome from your Newsletter Editors...

A warm welcome to all staff and students, old and new. We hope you enjoy this latest edition of the School newsletter, covering all the fantastic things that you have achieved between April and June 2023.

We start with the brilliant success of **Dr Sobia Kauser**, **Dr Richard Telford** and the rest of the CAYMAN team in securing recognition from the Vice Chancellor's Outstanding achievement awards. It is great to see the hard work of our staff being recognised and held up as inspirational examples to the wider University.

The Centre for Skin Sciences have had an excellent quarter for research income with a new BBSRC grant led by **Prof Julie Thornton** and a Brad-ATTAIN studentship being awarded to Dr **Karthic Swaminathan**. From all your pictures, we can see that conference season is in full swing and hope everyone is enjoying showcasing the high quality research that our School produces, whether that be in the USA and Europe, or just down the road in Manchester! We've also had some exciting innovations in teaching and it's brilliant to see this being recognised by other Universities as well.

Thanks again for all your submissions and please do keep them coming – they are always a pleasure to read!

All the best, **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** and **Dr Mark Sutherland**



Outstanding Achiever Awards

Many congratulations to our wonderful staff for winning not just one, but THREE prizes at the **Vice Chancellors Outstanding Achievers Awards** on the 27th of April.

Team CAYMAN led by **Dr Richard Telford** won the knowledge exchange category and Team MARILUTM led by **Dr Sobia Kauser** won the EDI award. Sobia also won an individual commendation for her work in raising awareness in equality, diversity and inclusion. It is brilliant to see the hard graft and commitment of our staff, working fantastically well in teams with others from professional services across Contracts & Finance (CAYMAN), Health and Safety & Disabilities (MARILUTM) rewarded.



New Staff

Hi, I'm **Dr Sara Henderson** and am very happy to have joined the Biomedical Sciences and Centre for Skin Sciences teams here at Bradford for the next couple of years. It's my first proper time living in the north of England so thank you all for being kind to this very lost neurodiverse Southerner!

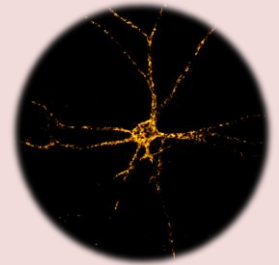
I started my research life at the EMBL Hamburg (6-month MRes project on Crystallography of mycobacterial drug targets). I then moved to Norwich for a PhD on mycobacterial DNA gyrase focusing on crystallography with Prof Tony Maxwell at the John Innes Centre. I stayed for a very short but successful Post-doc after finishing. Other life priorities (athletics) then led me to staying in Norwich to do an evolutionary microbiology focused Post-Doc at the Norwich Medical School (Dr Benjamin Evans). This was super interesting and focused on how anticancer chemotherapy treatments may impact antimicrobial resistance with a big focus on topical skin cancer treatments. After the completion of this project, I moved to the Institute of Microbiology and Infection to work with Professor Joan Geoghegan initially on the microbial attachment of *S. aureus* to corneocytes in eczema. I am pleased to share that this work has just been accepted for publication in Microbiology.

I am excited to have the opportunity to start some of my own research on the skin microbiome in dermatitis over the next couple of years. I am particularly interested in understanding the impact environmental agents and treatments have on the skin microbiome in the context of eczema, and starting to work on the chicken and egg problem of do the microbiome changes cause or are they causative of the skin changes in eczema. I am also both totally excited and extremely nervous about overcoming the challenges that teaching will bring.

And for anyone wondering, at the weekends I like to long jump, and do the odd heptathlon and might even be contemplating another tetradecathlon...



I'm **Dr Stuart Dickens** and I am a cellular neuroscientist who is interested in the role of the role of the brain extracellular matrix in development, disease, and ageing. Specifically, I am fascinated by the perineuronal net, a specialised neuronal coating made of proteins and sugars. This complex structure forms a honeycomb lattice on some neurons, stabilizing synapses within its holes. It works to restrict aberrant plasticity and its appearance heralds the developmental change from a juvenile brain to a mature brain. Its dysregulation is associated with a myriad of disorders, including epilepsy and schizophrenia. Learning how we can modulate PNNs could help reactivate plasticity in the adult brain, helping recovery in spinal cord injury and dementia.



I am also interested in the protective role this thick sugary coat plays in the brain. The PNN can protect neurons against external stressors, and I have shown that it can protect neurons from death in Parkinson's disease. I use a mixture of cell culture and animal models for my research. I did my bachelors of neuroscience at the University of Leeds where I did a year internship at the Mayo Clinic with Dr Springer investigating the role of ubiquitin E2 enzymes in regulating PINK1/Parkin mediated mitophagy in Parkinson's disease. This started my interest in neuronal vulnerability and resistance. I then took this on to my PhD under Dr Kwok at the University of Leeds, where I established the PNN as a neuroprotective barrier and established a long-term neuronal culture that develops PNNs. I then came to Bradford to do my post-doc with Ritchie Williamson and Micregen investigating the efficacy of a novel stem cell drug on different animal models of neurodegeneration.

New Professor

Congratulations to **Prof Krzysztof Poterłowicz** on his recent promotion. Krzysk will continue to lead in development of methods, policies, training and implementation of open and fair data science, particularly in the fields of bioinformatics and biomedical science.



New Roles

Dr Stacy-Paul Wilshaw (School of Pharmacy) will joins us as **Director of Studies** once **Dr Jenny Waby** transfers from Director of Studies into **Biomedical Science programme lead**.

Dr Juanvi Canet-Perez is the School's latest **mental health first aider**.

Team Bradford Festival

Well done to everyone who took part in the Team Bradford Festival this year! An excellent time was had by staff and students alike, and congratulations to team BioMinions for winning the silver medal.



BBSRC

Prof Julie Thornton was successful in her bid for an **UK Ageing Networks Global Partnering Award** entitled, 'Ageing Research Networks Global Partnering Awards UK, Singapore, and Australia', This follows on from the success of SMiHA, one of the UKRI (UKAN) Ageing Networks <https://www.ukanet.org.uk/>

Bradford via SMiHA will be the lead institution in this ambitious project to link along with six of the other 11 UKAN networks with partners in Singapore and Australia on ageing research.



Project CAYMAN

Project CAYMAN concluded on the 1st of July 2023, with over 65 completed commercial engagements with SME businesses in the Leeds City Region. The team are now reviewing final paperwork and preparing for a final audit. Thanks to **Dr Richard Telford** and Jason Jones for overseeing this mammoth body of work that's already led to further engagement and commercial contracts with industry spinning off from this initial funding!

Brad ATTAIN PGR Scholarship

Dr Karthic Swaminathan has won a BRAD-ATTAIN PhD Studentship with Sherif El-Khamisy (ICT) and Arathy Sasikaly (CPES). The project is entitled "novel functionalized nanoparticles with smart release drug delivery system to treat cancers of unmet need".

Papers in Press...

Botchkarev VA, **Fessing MY**, Sharov AA. **Deciphering a message from the nucleus: How transcription factors and spatial chromatin interactions orchestrate epidermal differentiation.** *J Invest Dermatol.* 2023;143(7):1117-1120

Fenwick NW, Michalik A, **Telford R**, Johnson AW, **Martin WHC**, Bowen RD. **Proximity effects in electron ionization mass spectra of substituted cinnamamides.** *Eur J Mass Spectrom* 2023;29:75-87

Frezman IM, **Parthasarathy A**, Miranda RR, Watts LM, Hudson AO. **Chromatographic isolation of potentially novel antibiotic compounds produced by Yimella sp. RIT 621.** *BMC Res Notes* 2023;16(1):114

Henderson SR, Geoghegan JA. **The A domain of clonal complex 1-type Fibronectin Binding Protein B promotes adherence and biofilm formation in Staphylococcus aureus.** *Microbiology* 2023 in press

Long R, Huang S, Wu H-K, Iqbal N, **Wu N.** **Metal-free oxyacetoxylation of arylamines and ynamides to construct α -acetoxyl amides.** *Eur J Org Chem* 2023 in press

Nicu C, Jackson J, Shahmalak A, Pople J, **Ansell D**, Paus R. **Adiponectin negatively regulates pigmentation, Wnt/ β -catenin and HGF/c-Met signalling within human scalp hair follicles ex vivo.** *Arch Dermatol Res.* 2023;315(3):603-612

Sterle M, Durcik M, Stevenson CEM, **Henderson SR**, Szili P, Czikkely M, Lawson DM, Maxwell A, Cahard D, Kikelj D, Zidar N, Pal C, Masic LP, Ilas J, Tomasic T, Cotman AE, Zega A. **Exploring the 5-substituted 2-aminobenzothiazole-based DNA gyrase B inhibitors active against ESKAPE pathogens.** *ACS Omega* 2023 in press

Wang X, Ramos R, Phan AQ, Yamaga K, Flesher JL, Jiang S, Oh JW, Jin S, Jahid S, Kuan CH, Nguyen TK, Liang HY, Shettigar NU, Hou R, Tran KH, Nguyen A, Vu KN, Phung JL, Ingal JP, Levitt KM, Cao X, Liu Y, Deng Z, Taguchi N, Scarfone VM, Wang G, Paolilli KN, Wang X, Guerrero-Juarez CF, Davis RT, Greenberg EN, Ruiz-Vega R, Vasudeva P, Murad R, Widyastuti LHP, Lee HL, **McElwee KJ**, Gadeau AP, Lawson DA, Andersen B, Mortazavi A, Yu Z, Nie Q, Kunisada T, Karin M, Tuckermann J, Esko JD, Ganesan AK, Li J, Plikus MV. **Signalling by senescent melanocytes hyperactivates hair growth.** *Nature.* 2023;618(7966):808-817

Wilson C, Zi M, Smith M, **Hussain M**, D'Souza A, Dobrzynski H, **Boyet MR.** **Atrioventricular node dysfunction in pressure overload-induced heart failure involvement of the immune system and transcriptomic remodelling.** *Frontiers in Pharmacology* 2023;14:1083910

Zhu S, Liu H, Davis T, **Willis CRG**, Basu R, Witzigreuter L, Bell S, Szweczyk N, Lotz MK, Hill M, Fajardo RJ, O'Connor PM, Berryman DE, Kopchick JJ. **Promotion of joint degeneration and chondrocyte metabolic dysfunction by excessive growth hormone in mice.** *Arthritis Rheumatol* 2023;75(7):1139-1151

Frits Sobel Award

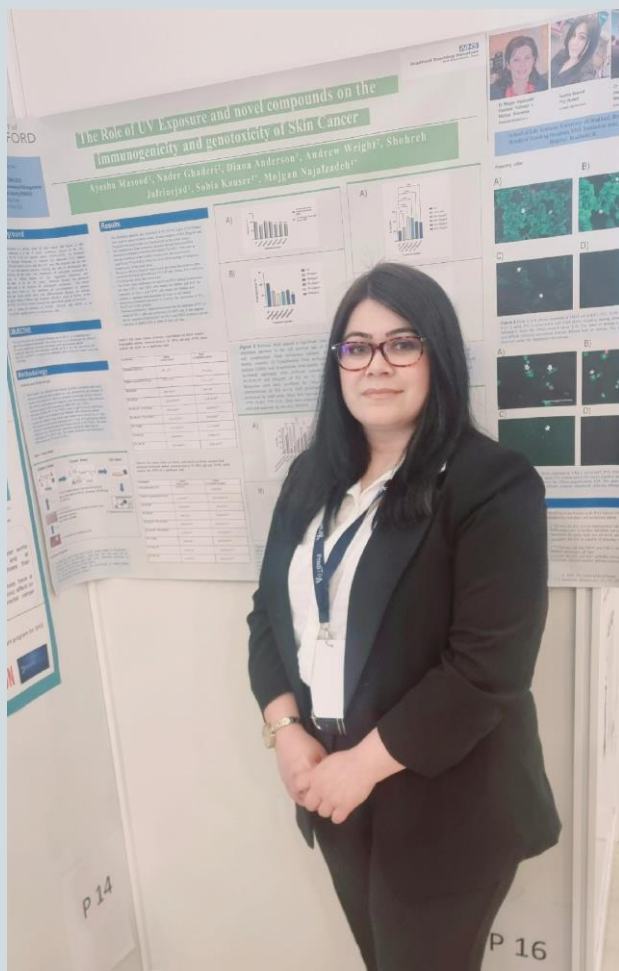
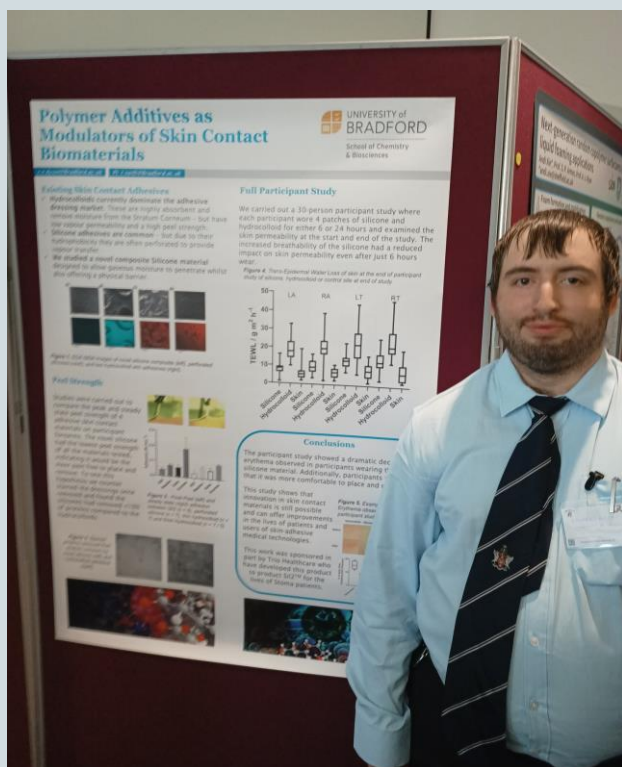
On May 17th, **Prof Diana Anderson** was invited to attend a meeting in Malaga in Spain to receive the **European Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society (EEMGS) Frits Sobels Award, 2023**. Frits was the founding editor of the journal Mutation Research.

EEMGS

Ayesha Masood presented her PhD work on the role of UV exposure and novel compounds on the immunogenicity and genotoxicity of skin cancer at the **European Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society conference** in May 2023.

MACRO

Ed Dyson attended the **MACRO Young Researchers Meeting** as a representative of the University of Warwick, and presented a poster on some of the commercial work coming out of the polymer biomaterials laboratory.



Johnson Matthey

Dr Debbie Crawford attended the **Johnson Matthey Annual Conference** on 18th and 19th April, when her PhD student, Aaron McCalmont (joint PhD with Queen's University Belfast) presented a talk 'Sustainable Synthesis of Pharmaceuticals by Twin-Screw Extrusion'.

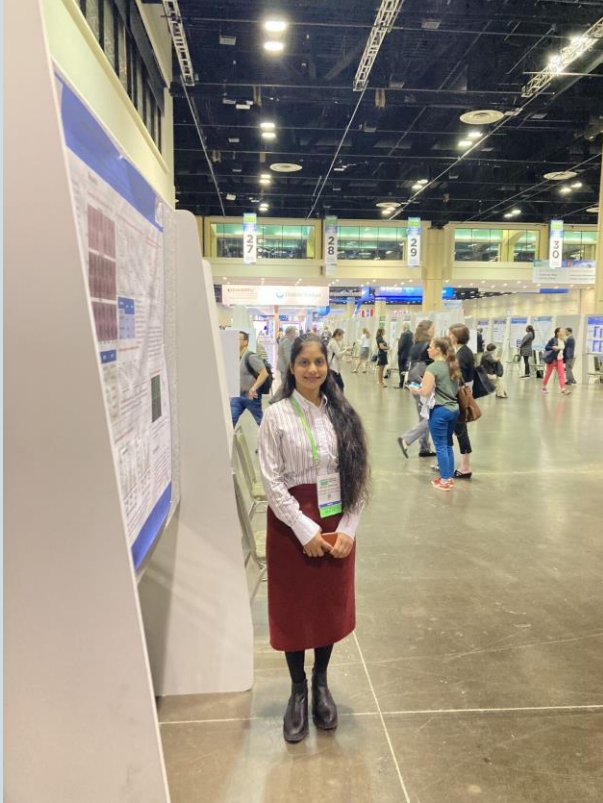
Debbie also attended the EU Horizon Impactive Training School on Scale-Up of Mechanochemical Processes from 27th - 29th March, and presented a talk 'Twin-Screw Extrusion - the future of industrial mechanochemistry'.

SSI Collaborations

Representing the University of Bradford at the SSI Collaborations Workshop 2023: In May, **Xenia Perez-Sitja**, Data Stewardship Community Manager, was invited to be on the Steering Committee of the 15th and largest of its kind **Software Sustainability Institute Collaborations Workshop 2023**. She was also sponsored to attend the entire event and co-lead one of the day's sessions to discuss the benefits of champion programmes. This invite results from a successful partnership with the SSI through the UKRI-funded ELIXIR-UK Fellowship led by **Professor Krzysztof Poterłowicz**.

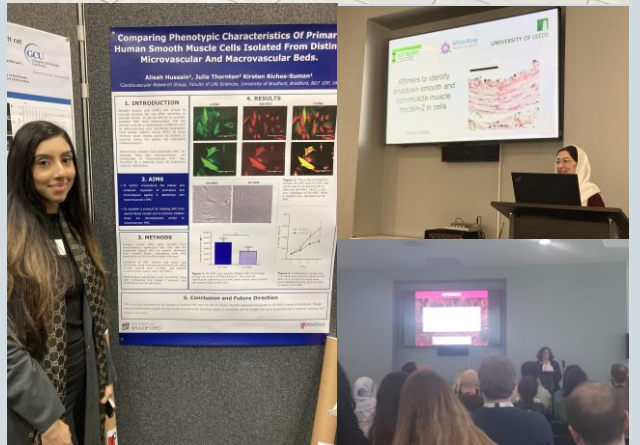
AACR

Mitali Singhal presented the work from her PhD on antineoplastic anthracyclines in breast cancer at the **American Association for Cancer Research** annual meeting in Florida in April 2023.



NCRG conference

Cardiovascular researchers from the school attended the **Northern Cardiovascular Research Group** conference in Manchester in April 2023. Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman gave an invited talk on vascular smooth muscle cell heterogeneity whilst her PhD student Malika Zahedi (joint with the University of Leeds) also spoke on her findings on myosin 2. PhD students Alisah Hussain and Asare Amankwah also had poster presentations from their PhD work comparing dermal and saphenous smooth muscle cells, and the impact of RhoA on smooth muscle cell biology.

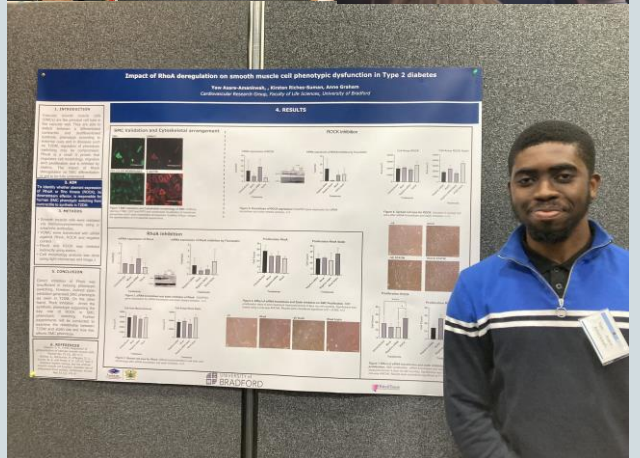


ScotChem

Tom Swift presented a poster at **ScotChem - Polymer and Soft Materials Conference II** at the University of Edinburgh on the 4th of May. This poster was entitled 'Polymer Additives as Modulators of Skin Contact Biomaterials'

University workshop

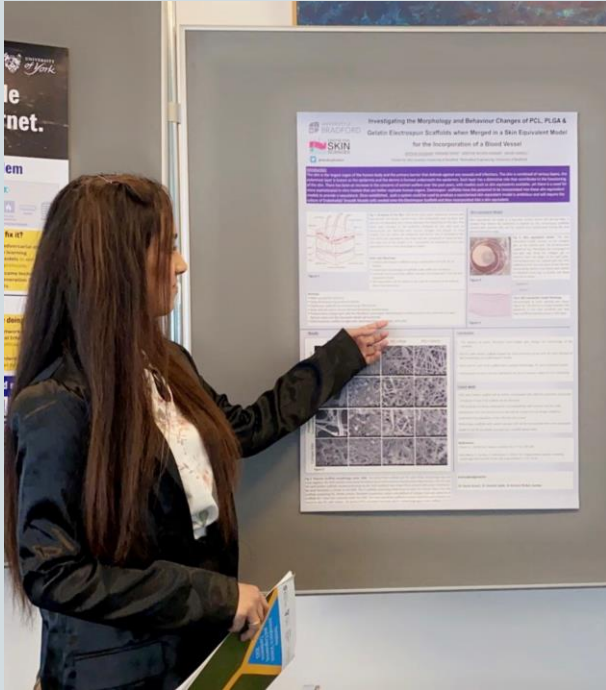
In April, Xenia Perez-Sitja, Data Stewardship Community Manager, was invited to deliver a workshop at the **Health Services Research and Pharmacy Practice Conference** at the University of Bradford. The workshop, titled "Castles under fire: A tale about research data", had a great turnout. She discussed data stewardship to build awareness. With an interactive and playful session, attendees identified the personas involved in data management and played pretend to invest in the best ideas to tackle research data management.



Research

YISEC

Ayesha Hussain presented her PhD work on electrospun scaffolds for wound healing at the **Yorkshire Innovation in Science and Engineering conference** in June 2023, hosted by the University of Bradford.

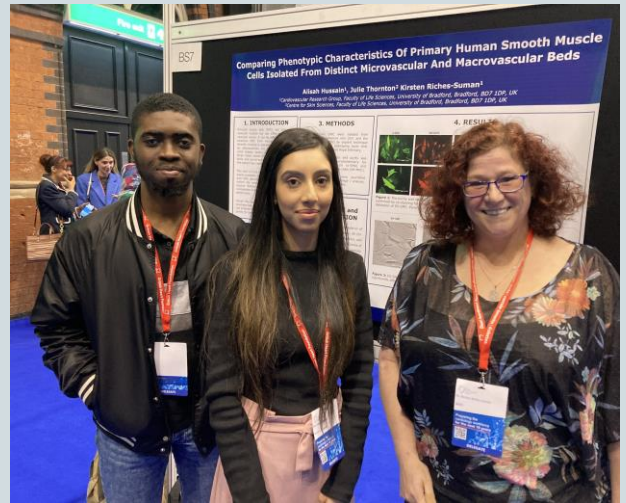


BSCR

Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman and her PhD students **Alisah Hussain** and **Yaw Asare-Amankwah** attended the joint British Society for Cardiovascular Research, British Cardiovascular Society and British Atherosclerosis Society annual conference in Manchester on 5th-6th June. Alisah presented two posters from her PhD and each will be featured as a published abstract in the journal Heart.

Hussain A, Thornton MJ, Riches-Suman K. Comparing phenotypic characteristics of primary human smooth muscle cells isolated from distinct microvascular and macrovascular beds.

Hussain A, Asare-Amankwah Y, Qureshi S, Wood IC, Turner NA, Porter KE, Tedder A, Riches-Suman K. Defining the miRnome of vascular smooth muscle cells from patients with type 2 diabetes



ISID

In May, **Prof Julie Thornton** presented the most recent data from the long-standing collaboration with Aveda at the inaugural meeting of the **International Societies for Investigative Dermatology** in Tokyo. However, the most talked about event at the conference was the earthquake at 4am and whether Professor Shinya Yamanaka would turn up to give the Guest Lecture the next day – of course he did!



AWERB

On 12th of May 2023, **Dr Gisela Helfer, Dr Stuart Dickens, Zoe Smith** and **John Bland** went to the University of Manchester for a training day on 'Maximising the effectiveness of your AWERB'. AWERB is the **Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body** that oversees animal work at the University of Bradford to improve science and animal welfare. The training was very interesting and will undoubtedly be useful for the upcoming Home Office Facilities Audi Visit in July.

BioNOW

Dr Gill Westgate played an instrumental role in organising the Yorkshire Bio-partnering event in April. **Prof Julie Thornton** presented a recent case study on linking with industry (Labskin) with a KTP award.

EHRS

In June, a delegation from CSS, **Dr David Ansell**, **Dr Gill Westgate** (organising committee) and **Prof Julie Thornton** (invited plenary speaker) attended the **European Hair Research Society** conference in Sheffield. The Welcome reception was at the Winter Gardens



Bradford Impact Festival

The inaugural **Bradford impact Festival** was held in June and aimed to increase awareness within the university of the different ways in which our research can and does have impact. **Prof Julie Thornton** was one of the panel members at the Q & A session on "making impact waves with business and industry" whilst **Dr William Martin** took part in the "weird science dissemination" session. **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** presented the community impact that the **Plastic Surgery and Burns Research Unit** has, in addition to the innovations that have come from the department and are now adopted in clinics throughout the world.



Upcoming conferences

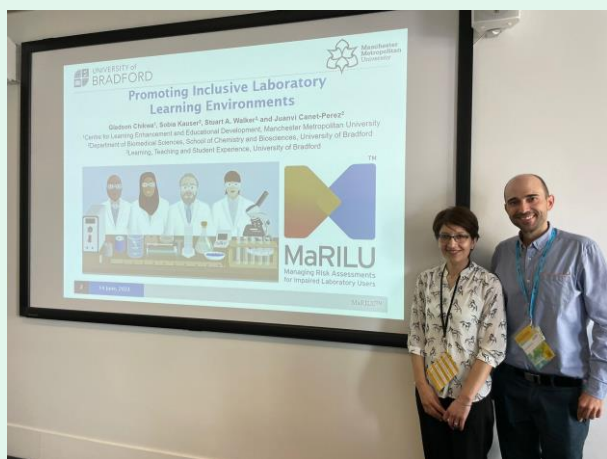
On the 25th September, **SMiHA** will be hosting their first conference at the Manchester Marriott Victoria & Albert Hotel. The theme of the conference is ageing and the skin microbiome: Passengers, partners and perpetrators. Please see the SMiHA website or contact **Dr Omera Bi**, SMiHA network manager, for more information.



We are delighted that the **British Society for Neuroendocrinology** conference is coming to Bradford in September 2025. **Dr Gisela Helfer** submitted the bid with support from Bradford 2025 and the trustees and members overwhelmingly voted for Bradford as the venue for 2025. We are very much looking forward to hosting the event.

Learning and Teaching Conference

Dr Sobia Kauser and **Dr Juanvi Canet-Perez** went to the Manchester Metropolitan University **Learning and Teaching Conference** on 14th June. Sobia delivered a presentation on Inclusive Learning Environments and the development of the MaRILUTM system and Juanvi's presentation was on our current project Building Teaching Laboratories of the Future. There were lots of commendations from the delegates on the fantastic work UoB is doing in this area and collaborations were built with MMU for future projects in this area and to share our good practices on inclusivity in learning and teaching.



Brad iCOUNT Training

Dr Karthic Swaminathan and **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** attended the Brad iCOUNT training session on the unique challenges that present to PhD students of black and minority ethnic backgrounds. The session was very informative and engaging and included a keynote from Prof Jason Arday who was recently appointed as the youngest black professor ever at the University of Cambridge.



External Examining

In June, **Prof Julie Thornton** travelled out to Malaysia where she is the External Examiner for the Anglia Ruskin University accredited Biomedical Science degree at the Malaysian Allied Health Sciences Academy (MAHSA) University in Kuala Lumpur. The link tutor is no other than one of our previous colleagues **Dr Joe Bird**!



MSc Conference

The MSc conference took place on 16th to 19th of May when our MSc students presented their presentations on their projects. The students did very well and it was interesting to learn about all the different projects that are going on in our School. Thanks to all staff who supported the conference and many congratulations to **Folakemi Olujimi** (16th), **Johnseey Johnson** (17th), **Mutmainha Kofoworola** (18th) and **Mihrunnisa Akhtar** (19th) for winning the Best Talk of the Day awards.



Biomedical Science Poster Day

A new final assessment has been introduced this year for the Biomedical Science Research Projects module, created and coordinated by **Dr Juanvi Canet Perez**. Students created a poster based on their research project results that they presented in a 'conference style' poster session. The session took place on Thursday 18th May 2023 in the Atrium. Each student was assigned a 15min slot. In this time the student delivered a short presentation (max. 5min) followed by questions by two markers (approx. 5min). BMS Year 1 and Year 2 students were invited to have a look at the posters displayed. The Careers department advertised the event to external companies and some of them attended, alongside two external examiners.

Feedback from staff, external examiners and students was excellent. These are some of their comments:

'Thank you for organising a fantastic poster day. I really enjoyed the day and the students showcasing all their hard work, I was very impressed by the high standard of some of the posters'.

'Congratulations on a very successful poster presentation day. Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed the opportunity and I think the changes you have made have really enhanced the module. It was a pleasure to be able to come up and speak to staff and students'.

Juanvi would like to thank all staff that contributed to this successful poster day: the Porters team, the 20 academic staff the carried out the marking and the Biology technical team that help him to move furniture and poster boards and to identify and display all posters.



Admissions and Outreach

Admissions

Before reporting on Admissions and marketing I would like to welcome **Dr Clare Peyton** to the team who will be replacing **Dr Deborah Crawford**. Thank you for all your work Debbie. We are also saying good bye to **Dr Yvonne Nyathi** as PG lead for admissions for Biomed, thank you for your contribution.

As the academic year draws to a close and applications submitted either directly or through UCAS, the Outreach and admission teams have still been working hard over the last few weeks to promote our courses. We have had some visits to schools and Nigel Futter (Admissions) organised a teachers/career advisor day on the 5 July. This was well attended even with teachers strikes and about 45 attending. The Biomed/HCS presentation received both good interest and feedback.

We still need volunteers for a few Open days for both Chemistry and Biomed on Saturday 7 October, please see the link on

https://unibradford.ac.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/chembio-allstaff-group/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BF0E93598-51E2-43A0-8975-5743AA1CD704%7D&file=2023%20Open%20Days.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true

We are approaching 'Clearing', the busiest time of year. You should have all received an invite to attend training on E-vision for clearing and the use of Cirrus for calls, please make sure you attend.

On Wednesday 9 August we will have a discussion around clearing and update on both Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences course so all staff are aware of 'selling' points as to why Bradford is the right University.

Dr Mark Sutherland, Director of Marketing and Admissions

Soapbox Science

In May, **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** took to the streets of York to explain to the public how amazing blood vessels are. Over 135 passers by had a great time taking part in the activities, including our very own **Dr Philip Drake** who happened to be walking past! **Soapbox Science** is a global initiative to raise awareness of women and girls in STEM research. Kirsten found the day exciting and rewarding and would encourage all female-presenting or non-binary scientists who are interested in public engagement to look out for future opportunities.



I'm a Scientist

I'm a Scientist have released a summary of the March 2023 online event, and a report of the sessions can be found online (imascientist.org.uk).

Dr Tom Swift took part in 13 chat sessions with different primary schools, enabling the event to reach over 971 students across 49 different schools in the UK. Tom was singled out for some excellent examples of student engagement and hopefully encourage students to continue studying STEM subjects.



YouTube video

Dr Mike Fessing has made a short YouTube video with the university production systems, using the award from the Publication of the Month award. His video on 'The role of UV exposure and novel compounds on the Immunogenicity and genotoxicity of skin cancer' can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBKFVWDCYf0&t=26s>

Admissions and Outreach

School visits

On Wednesday 24th May we hosted an outreach event on G floor labs attended by 15 Year 12 students from **Nelson & Colne College**. The session was led by **Dr Juanvi Canet** and **Dr Mark Sutherland**. Students learnt about the importance of spectrophotometry, one of the most useful methods of quantitative analysis to measure levels of disease markers in biological samples. The session went very well. Students were very engaged and provided very positive feedback. Central outreach team and college staff have also provided great feedback about how the day run.



In June, **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** visited **Peel Park Primary** to speak to year 6 pupils about becoming a scientist. The ward that Peel Park serves has one of the worst levels of socioeconomic deprivation in the UK and Kirsten was speaking as part of their 'Inspiring the Future' week.

Café Scientifique

The School has been well represented at Café Scientifique over the past few months. **Prof Anne Graham** gave a talk about gestational diabetes at the National Media Museum, explaining what gestational diabetes is, both the short-term and long-term risks associated with it and why this is of particular importance for Bradford.

In June, Café Scientifique found a new home at Brewdog in Bradford, while the National Science and Media Museum is closed for refurbishment. In celebration of Diabetes week, the first speaker in Brewdog was **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman** who explained how diabetes makes blood vessels confused, and what this can mean for patients.

For more information and to book your free tickets please visit the National Science Media Museum website <https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/whats-on/cafe-scientifique> or follow us on twitter @BfdCafe.

We are now working on the programme for the next academic year. If you know of any good speakers or any topics that you want us to cover, please get in touch.

Programme director **Gisela Helfer**



Admissions and Outreach

Pint of Science

The Pint of Science programme ran in May 2023, with a whole range of events hosted by members of our School. **Dr Gisela Helfer** gave a talk on 'The healthy fat that makes you thin' where she discussed new research from her lab showing that medium-chain triglyceride (MCT) oil can suppress appetite and reduce inflammation, a common symptom of diabetes.

Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman spoke about how ageing and disease impacts on blood vessels. Her PhD students **Alisah Hussain** and **Asare Amankwah** also presented their PhD research in an accessible way, and enjoyed their foray into science communication and public engagement.

Dr Sanjit Nayak presented his research on metal-organic frameworks and how these can be used as compact carriers for applications as diverse as drug treatments and pesticides. **Prof Anne Graham** gave a spoken word piece with Alan Dix about getting older, and **Dr Giulia Grimaldi** presented on her research on new chip technologies in medicine.

This year saw a doubling in the amount of tickets sold compared to last year which shows the growing interest in science across our city. We encourage everyone to join in when the call comes again next year (and we'll try and get photos of more of our staff)!



PhD Successes

Massive congratulations to the following PGR who have successfully defended their theses!

- PhD **Tahera Sayed Hashem Mohamed Altobalani** (supervisors **Dr Mojgan Najafzadeh** and **Prof Diane Anderson**): **Investigation of a novel formulation from umbilical cord blood stem cell-derived exosomes and antioxidant (selenium) in malignant melanoma**
- MPhil **Naila Iqbal** (Supervisors **Dr Anna Wu**, **Dr Sanjit Nayak** and **Dr Tom Swift**): **Synthesis of electron push-pull (donor-acceptor) butadienes as light-harvesting molecules**

Congratulations to the following PhD students who have passed their progression vivas:

- **Yaw Asare-Amankwah** (supervisors **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman**, **Prof Anne Graham**)
- **Junior Bowen** (supervisors **Dr Sam McLean**, **Dr Gisela Helfer**, **Dr Katie Hanna**)
- **Gwyn Dhalquist-Axe** (supervisors: **Dr Andrew Tedder**, **Dr Gisela Helfer**, **Dr Conor Meehan**)
- **Jake Hill** (supervisors **Dr Yvonne Nyathi**, **Dr Briony Yorke**, **Dr Jonathan Denniss**)
- **Ayesha Hussain** (supervisors **Dr David Ansell**, **Dr Kirsten Riches-Suman**, **Dr Farshid Sefat**)
- **Tayah Livesey** (supervisors **Dr Sanjit Nayak**, **Dr Maria Katsikogianni**, **Prof Alan Kelly**)
- **Francesca Standeven** (supervisors: **Dr Andrew Tedder**, **Dr Gisela Helfer**, **Dr Conor Meehan**)

Placements abroad

Three of our recent Biomed graduates, **Samia Abdelrahman**, **Zeeshaan Mahmoud** and **Kessar Hasnain** are doing a placement abroad together in Morocco in a biology lab. We'll have a follow-up piece in the newsletter about how they have got on!



International PhD success

Many congratulations to **Dr Francesca Manocchio** for successfully defending her PhD thesis "Interaction of phenolic-fruit hallmarks and seasonal rhythms" with summa cum laude on 16 Jun 2023 at Universitat Rovira I Virgili (supervisors: **Prof Begona Mugerza**, **Dr Francisca Bravo** and **Dr Gisela Helfer**). As part of her PhD, Francesca spent 5 months in Bradford to investigate the effect of cherries with different geographical origin and phenolic hallmark on neuroprotection under the supervision of Gisela Helfer. Well done, Francesca!



Photos from left: Francisca Bravo, Gisela Helfer, Francesca Manocchio, Begona Mugerza

Fortnight Get-together and Seminar Series for PGR ChemBio Cohort

An initiative to bring our PGR community together through a **Fortnight get-together and seminar series** is underway. This will run under the simple ethos: "by the PGR for the PGR", with our PGR students at the centre of this activity, and taking full ownership.

The series will include:

- Bi-weekly seminar
- Presentation (Research/Literature) by PGR students and/or invited speakers
- Invited speakers will be decided based on training needs/proposal by PGR students.

A SharePoint space will be created to manage and share relevant information. More information to follow.

For any information or feedback, please contact Dr Sanjit Nayak at s.nayak@bradford.ac.uk

Student Societies

We have two societies for our students – **ChemSoc**, and the **Biomedical Science Society**. Did you know you can even join both if you fancy it? Please keep an eye out as to how to join and all the different events that they put on – it's a great part of being an undergraduate. While you're at it, why not follow the School on twitter - @UoBBio and @UoBChem to find out all our latest developments.



ChemSoc

Join our LinkedIn Groups

LinkedIn is a great tool for building your professional network, showcasing your skills and can even lead to employers contacting you, rather than the other way around. Here at Bradford we have our own LinkedIn groups so please, sign up for your free LinkedIn profile at www.linkedin.com and join the community!

Bradford University School of Biomedical Sciences
Bradford University School of Chemistry

