HYMS has achieved a bronze award from the Athena SWAN Charter in recognition of its support for women in science.

It has been granted the award under the national scheme, which recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) in higher education.

The Dean, Professor Trevor Sheldon, said: “We are delighted to have received this award in recognition of our efforts to change and improve our practices. We will build on our bronze award to further advance the careers of women who teach and research in areas relevant to health and medicine. This marks the first step; we still have much to do to foster a culture where women are given every opportunity to succeed. I would like to thank the many people who contributed to our submission and who are helping to transform our medical school.”

As part of the requirements for the submission, HYMS has developed an action plan to support the development of all its academic staff. The plan includes a number of initiatives to support its staff, particularly female academics. These include mentorship, career development support, instituting a prize for most outstanding woman in science.

Professor Una Macleod, who led the submission, said: “HYMS aims to provide a working environment where all staff are encouraged to work to their full potential and are rewarded without regard to gender, race, age, sexual orientation, disability or belief. We are currently undergoing a process of change and are determined that any cultural barriers to all our staff, including women, meeting their full potential will be removed.”

(continued on page 2...)

**Home or care?**

Researchers at HYMS and the University of York are launching a new multi-disciplinary project to examine what works best for abused or neglected children – going into care or staying at home with support.

The study, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, will find out whether going into care can improve their wellbeing and life chances or whether it instead compounds the effects of children’s previous experiences of abuse or neglect.

Running from April 2014 to March 2016, the study will use the Born in Bradford survey, an NHS initiative and one of the biggest and most important medical research studies undertaken in the UK. The survey has been tracking the lives of 13,500 babies and their families since 2007.

**NIHR funding award**

Professor Miriam Johnson has been awarded a National Institute for Health Research doctoral research fellowship in palliative care for £281,000.

The funding will support senior palliative medicine trainee and postgraduate student Dr Jamilla Hussain for a three year project investigating how missing data can be minimised and managed in palliative care clinical trials. The project supervisors are Professors Miriam Johnson (HYMS), Martin Bland (Department of Health Sciences, University of York) and David Currow (Flinders University, Australia).
Over 200 members of the public, staff and students attended the inaugural Allam Lecture given by Sir Magdi Yacoub.

Sir Magdi, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Imperial College, London, concluded a full-day conference organised by the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research which also featured talks by Professors Alyn Morice, Peter Barnes, John Cleland and Andrew Clark.

Sir Magdi's talk on 'The threat and the glory of science and medicine' blended philosophy and clinical science to discuss the importance of understanding the humanities in medical practice as well as the state of modern organ transplantation.

Professor Morice, Head of the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research, said: “Feedback from the event has been extremely positive, and we have received messages congratulating us on the educational content, organisation and good fun had on the day!”

Guests included the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull, the Mayor of Beverley, and Vice Admiral Bob Cooling. Dr and Mrs Allam later hosted a reception and dinner at the KC Stadium.

Bronze Athena SWAN award for HYMS

(...) continued from page 1

The Athena SWAN Awards recognise success in developing employment practices to further and support the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) departments in academia.

Overall, 125 departments and universities submitted for an Athena SWAN award in the April 2014 round, and 89 were successful – a 71% success rate. The disciplines with the highest number of submissions were medical and dental schools.

The University of York also had its bronze Athena SWAN institution award renewed, as well as a bronze award for the Department of Mathematics. These are in addition to existing awards for the Departments of Psychology and Physics (silver awards) and the Departments of Computer Science, Health Sciences and Electronics (bronze awards).

The Athena SWAN Charter is owned by Equality Challenge Unit. An independent evaluation by Loughborough University shows that membership of the Athena SWAN Charter helps to advance women’s careers and has a positive impact on changing the culture and attitudes in member institutions.

Research publications

RECENT publications by HYMS staff include:


Funding for toxin study

DR THOZHUKAT Sathyapalan has been awarded a grant of £72,649 from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for the experimental study of deoxynivalenol (DON) biomarkers in urine. DON is a substance that is sometimes present in certain types of foods and can be harmful to humans. It is a mycotoxin produced by fungi which are abundant in various cereal crops (wheat, maize, barley, oats, and rye) and processed grains (malt, beer and bread) which contaminates predominantly grains and grain-based products and causes gastrointestinal problems, immunosuppression and interferences with reproduction and development of humans and animals. The study is being carried out in Norway, Italy and the UK. It will provide EFSA with high quality, fit for purpose data regarding typical DON exposure assessment across representative European countries and population groupings, which can support the setting of new legal limits for dietary exposure to DON.

National recognition

DR CHRISTINE Leary, Consultant Embryologist with the Hull IVF Unit at Hull Royal infirmary, recently reached the finals of the Chief Scientific Officer’s Awards 2014. She was nominated in the category of Service Innovator, based on her work to improve the care given to prospective parents via the city’s IVF Unit. Dr Leary is a HYMS postgraduate student and honorary lecturer.

Labs on award shortlist

THE ALLAM Building laboratories have been shortlisted for a 2014 S-LAB Award in the category of New Research Laboratories. The Awards scheme, which recognises excellence in laboratory design, operation and management, aims to highlight as many examples of good practice and innovation as possible. The Awards will be presented at a prestigious ceremony preceding the Supporting World Class Science conference at King’s College, London, in September.
Postgraduate Research Conference 2014

The programme for the Third Postgraduate Research Conference 2014 has now been finalised.

As in previous years, it will showcase the diversity and high-quality of postgraduate research in HYMS.

The conference will be held on Friday 6 June 2014. Online registration and ticketing is now open and will close on Friday 30 May. If you wish to attend please ensure you book a ticket. Follow the link to download the conference programme and to register online for a free ticket.

HYMS Education Conference: call for posters

Poster proposals are invited for the HYMS 9th Education Conference which will take place on Wednesday 17 September 2014.

If you would like to present a poster on the theme of traditional and novel approaches in engaging students in the clinical teaching and learning environment please.

Publications for Tom and Leen

Congratulations to Year 5 students Tom Solan and Leen Tannous who have had their research published.

Tom’s paper, ‘Mercury exposure in pregnancy: a review’, is published in The Journal of Perinatal Medicine and investigates how mercury exposure in pregnancy has been associated with both pregnancy complications and developmental problems in infants. The paper is co-authored by Dr Stephen Lindow of Hull Royal Infirmary and the Centre for Education Development.

Leen’s paper, ‘A short clinical review of vaccination against measles’ appears in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine Open and looks at the important clinical aspects of measles and the need to restore ‘herd immunity’ within the UK population. The paper is co-authored by Dr Gavin Barlow, Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases at Castle Hill Hospital, and GP Dr Neil Metcalfe.

Student essay competition

The Pain Relief Foundation is running a UK medical student essay competition.

To take part students should write an essay of not more than 3000 words on an aspect of chronic pain. The winner will receive a prize of £500 and the winning entry must be presented at the Pain Relief Foundation.

The closing date for entries is 31 July 2014. Further information and entry forms can be found on the Pain Relief Foundation website.

Maintaining effectiveness, preventing burnout

Some 120 East Riding GPs took a step back from clinical practice to attend a HYMS primary care short course entitled “Maintaining effectiveness, preventing burnout.”

The event was commissioned by East Riding Clinical Commissioning Group as part of its Protected Time for Learning programme, in which all practices in the area close for an afternoon to support educational activity.

An introductory session was led by Professor Ian Watt, Head of the HYMS Centre for Health and Population Sciences, with subsequent workshops available on Practitioner Health, Mindfulness, Time Banks and Demand Management.

Other upcoming events for primary care clinicians include:
- ‘Managing medically unexplained symptoms in primary care – a practical guide’, 20 June 2014, 9am-5pm
- ‘Confidence in kidney care’, 24 June 2014, 2pm-5pm, Tickton Grange, Beverley
- ‘Motivational interviewing for long term conditions and lifestyle-related health problems’, 27 June 2014, 10am-4pm, Fenestra Conference Centre, Scunthorpe

For further information, please contact jackie.houlton@hyms.ac.uk

Staff news

Welcome to ...

William Atkinson, Admissions Assistant, based in York.

Andrew Murphy-Pitcock, who will be working in Hull with Ros Low as Student Liaison Manager and will take over the role on her retirement later this year.

Goodbye to ...

Liz Allen, Research Manager, who has been with HYMS for more than 10 years.

New roles for ...

Dr Colin Jones has taken up the role of Associate Dean for Assessment.

Dr David Hepburn has been appointed Academic Lead for Phase III and will take over his new role from Dr Colin Jones at the start of the next academic year.

Congratulations to ...

Roxana Freeman, PA to Head of Centre for Anatomical & Human Sciences, and her husband Richard on the arrival of their newly adopted daughter Keira.

Clinical teaching awards

Nominations for the HYMS clinical teaching excellence awards, reported in the April issue of the HYMS Sheet, have now closed.

The level of response has been high, attracting well-considered nominations from students for each of the three categories. Thanks to all the students who participated and expressed their appreciation for their clinical teachers.

A total of 74 nominations for staff from across the HYMS patch have been received. Results will be announced at award ceremonies to be held in June in each of the HYMS areas, and to which nominees and students will be invited.

Hull staff survey

Don’t forget to complete the staff survey, details of which all HYMS staff should have received by email from the University of Hull.

Please do complete the survey, whether you are based at one of the Universities or in the NHS. If you have any questions, please contact deansoffice2@hyms.ac.uk
Call for ideas

THE FOURTH annual York Festival of Ideas will take place from 12-22 June 2014. As part of the festival, the University of York is hosting two marquee-based events in Parliament Street, in the city centre. These will take place on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 June. The purpose of this initiative is to bring scientists, health-care and public-health experts out of the lab to talk face-to-face with the public about their work. If you would like to participate in these events please click on the link for further information.

Patient treatment ethics

A PANEL of experts will gather at a conference at the University of York to examine the ethics of withdrawing treatment from vegetative and minimally conscious patients. Hosted by the University’s Centre for Chronic Diseases and Disorders, and supported by the Wellcome Trust, the conference on 9 May 2014 will feature leading scholars, medical and legal experts. They will discuss the ethical, clinical, philosophical, economic and sociological perspectives of withdrawing treatment.

Hull health hub news

THE APPOINTMENT of architects and other design contractors for the new Health Hub was approved by the University of Hull Finance and Investment Committee earlier this month. The design team has since been appointed by the university and plans are progressing to begin a consultation process with staff and students.

HyM’s links in

HYMS now has Linked In pages which can be found at: http://linkd.in/1lFgn1K
If you have a Linked In account, please visit the pages, follow them and encourage your connections to follow them too! If you have any comments or would like to post anything, please contact emma.edmunds@hyms.ac.uk

CCMR projects receive funding

Researchers at the Centre for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research have received funding:
Professor Khalid Naseem has been awarded a British Heart Foundation grant of £181k to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying platelet activation by oxidised low density lipoproteins.
Professor Andrew Clark has been awarded $427,420 (around £250,000) by Amgen (Applied Molecular Genetics) to provide plasma samples and associated datasets from the Cardiology Lifelab facility in a project entitled ‘Characterisation of differential molecular pathogenesis of HFpEF and HFrEF in a cohort of heart failure patients – lifelab’. The award was made to Professor Clark with consultancy of Professor John Cleland, Imperial College, London.

Stories with the mouse symbol 📚 have more information in the news section of the HYMS website, where you will also find breaking news, updates and images.
www.hyms.ac.uk/news