



Elizabeth Blackwell Institute Newsletter, 18 December 2013

Funding opportunities for all researchers

We have funds available to support a range of strategically important activities in the area of health research. We are particularly interested to hear from people who have ideas around building new interdisciplinary collaborations across two or more faculties, including links with researchers outside the traditional medical faculties, which will address major questions in health research. Please send your ideas and suggestions to the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute ebi-health@bristol.ac.uk or get in touch with one of the [EBI Team](#) directly.

For up-to-date information on our [current funding schemes and application deadlines](#) please visit our website.

New 'Clinical Pull' programme launch

The new programme, which is soon to launch, will identify a number of specific problems faced by the clinical community. These will then be presented to researchers within the University with a view of identifying the expertise to find a solution to the problem.

Get in touch with us if you want to know more and watch this space for the programme launch announcements.

Elizabeth Blackwell Institute awards 2013

During 2013 we have funded more than 25 different projects. These varied from support for our most promising young researchers to interdisciplinary workshops and research projects.

Our special congratulations go to...

- [Dr Jack Mellor and Dr Mark Dillingham](#), EBI Early Career Fellows 2012, who successfully went on to secure prestigious Wellcome Trust New Investigator awards in 2013.
- [Dr Simon Epps](#), an ophthalmologist, whose EBI Clinical Primer award led to a successful application for a Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD Training Fellowship.
- [Oluwasomidotun Idowu \(Somi\)](#), the winner of the first Elizabeth Blackwell Award for the most outstanding research project submitted by an intercalating medical student.

This award is part of the [INSPIRE Research Initiative](#) that aims to light the fire of scientific enquiry in those students who might be tempted by a clinical academic career.

The full list of [EBI Funded Initiatives](#) during 2013 can be found on the website.

Support for translational research

Elizabeth Blackwell Institute [TRACK Awards](#) (Translational Acceleration and Knowledge Transfer Awards) support health related research projects which have translational/commercial potential.

We congratulate this year's recipients...

Julian Paton – *Novel physiological pacemaker device for improving cardiac output in heart failure;*

Emma Robinson – *Evaluation of an automated rodent assay of emotional behaviour for depression research and safety pharmacology;*

Emma Clark – *Using women's experience of back pain to discriminate between older women with and without osteoporotic vertebral fractures;*

Jaap Velthuis – *A novel sensor system for Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy;*

Kevin Gaston – *Production and characterisation of a phosphor-PRH monoclonal antibody;*

Ariel Blocker – *Pilot studies for generating peptide-based inhibitors of virulence-associated bacterial type III secretion systems (T3SS);*

George Banting – *Tetherin as a non-invasive biomarker for breast cancer with metastasis to bone.*

National Academic Compound Collection

This project received initial pump priming support from us to begin collating novel synthetic organic molecules that had been made in the School of Chemistry. This included physical as well as virtual compounds present in PhD theses. As a result of this initial project, Professor Tim Gallagher, Dean of the Faculty of Science, led a bid to the Royal Society of Chemistry to scale this up to a national level. The long-term goal of this initiative is to identify compounds that could be useful in biomedical context as tool compounds and for drug development purposes. Bristol-based in silico screening teams (Mulholland and Sessions) are involved.

If you have a target protein of interest (for which a crystal structure is known), that you would like to screen against this compound collection (possibly up to 50,000 compounds) please contact Richard Sessions at r.sessions@bristol.ac.uk.

The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute Annual Lecture

The descendants of the Blackwell family who attended the [EBI Launch in July 2013](#) have provided a donation that will be used to support an annual lecture to be given by a woman in

the field of Public Health and Preventative Medicine. Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England, and previously Director General of Research and Development and Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health and National Health Service in the United Kingdom, has agreed to give this inaugural public lecture which will be delivered in the Wills Memorial Building at a date to be announced in 2014.

West of England Academic Health Sciences Network (WEAHSN)

Professor Lars Sundström, EBI Director of Partnering, has been appointed as Director of Enterprise and Translation for the newly formed [West of England Academic Health Sciences Network](#) (NHS). The AHSN's remit is to link NHS, academic and industry partners and to accelerate the development and uptake of novel innovations into the NHS. This initiative provides substantial opportunities for the academic community to engage with industry and the NHS and to develop new ideas that have an impact on health care delivery.

Patient and Public Involvement in health research

If you work at the University of Bristol and are involved in health research, you can now get support and advice on patient and public involvement (PPI) from the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute. We can advise you on PPI in research projects and offer you access to the Institute's [Public Advisory Group](#). We work closely with the [Centre for Public Engagement](#) and [People and Research West of England](#) and can coordinate PPI training sessions as well as help you engage external partners in health and social care (e.g. community groups, patient networks etc.).

For further information on our [involvement and engagement](#) portfolio, please get in touch with the Public Engagement Associate for Health Research, Sonia Vougioukalou S.A.Vougioukalou@bristol.ac.uk.

If you would like to keep receiving news from the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute in future, please subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).

Wishing you a happy New Year!
