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In this issue:

Funding:

- Research for Health Challenge
- Confidence in Concept call is open
- Antimicrobial Resistance in a Global Context
- Second GCRF Collective Fund call
- PhD students from India seeking host institutions
- Technology Touching Life

News:

- New Director for Elizabeth Blackwell Institute
- New position: EBI Diversity and Inclusion Champion
- Informatics service support for health and biomedical research
- Better use of health data
- Fun Palaces
- EBI-commissioned theatre goes to Edinburgh Fringe

Funded Projects:

- Recent EBI awards:
  - Clinical Primer scheme
  - Bridging Funds for Senior Fellows
  - Discipline hopping for postgraduates
  - Translational Acceleration and Knowledge Transfer (TRACK)
  - Confidence in Concept (CiC)

- Preventing progression in diabetic kidney disease
- Solving the mystery of deep brain stimulation in pain relief
- Prehabilitation: boosting patients' powers of recovery before surgery
- 'Gold standard' novel therapies evaluation model for children with leukaemia
- Bristol researchers lead the way for next generation of hip implants
• Developing new approaches to treatment of autoimmune conditions
• Helping frail older people stay out of hospital
• Reducing heart risk from fluid overload in children on dialysis

Events:

• Elizabeth Blackwell Annual Public Lecture, 2 November 2017
• Bristol Arts on Referral Alliance exhibition and tour, 22 June 2017
• EBI Fun Palaces workshop, 27 June 2017
• NIHR Public Health Research event, 14 July 2017
• Big Data in Biology and Health 2017, 25 September 2017

Funding:

• Research for Health Challenge

This scheme aims to encourage healthcare practitioners, the public and University of Bristol researchers to work together to develop innovative thinking around clinical problems. During the first stage we invite challenges from healthcare practitioners. On 13 July 2017 we will be opening the call for all University of Bristol researchers to apply for funding from the EBI to enable them to solve selected challenges. Keep an eye on our Research for Health Challenge page for further details.

• Confidence in Concept call is open

The University has funding available to support health related translational projects which are at the proof-of-concept stage (MRC Confidence in Concept Awards). The closing date for outline applications is 28 July 2017. Further information on the EBI Funding page.

• Antimicrobial Resistance in a Global Context

This is a £10 million call under the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) cross-research council initiative in partnership with the Department of Health. The call aims to support three to four interdisciplinary research consortia taking a whole systems approach to identify the burden and primary drivers of AMR and specifically antibacterial resistance (ABR) in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Research that investigates ‘One health’ and models the dynamics of ABR between animal, human and the environment will be of high priority. This call has two stages, an obligatory developmental phase (this call) to provide seed funding followed by a consortia phase. Deadline: 11 July 2017. More information on the MRC website.

• Second GCRF Collective Fund call
Research Councils UK are pleased to announce that a second GCRF Collective Fund call will be launched in late summer 2017. This call will establish a cohort of large-scale Global Challenges Interdisciplinary Research Hubs, which will be expected to deliver integrated and innovative international research programmes meeting the aims of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

- PhD students from India seeking host institutions

PhD students from India are seeking a host institution and supervisor in order to apply for the Newton-Bhabha PhD placements call that is currently open. PhD topics are primarily within the areas of health sciences, pharmaceutical sciences and biological sciences, and are listed on the Universities UK website. Please contact newton@international.ac.uk if you would like to request any further information about any of the projects or lead applicants. Deadline for receipt of applications 21 August 2017. Placements to take place between March to December 2018.

- Technology Touching Life

Technology Touching Life (TTL) is a £3 million call for Networks, jointly supported by BBSRC, EPSRC and MRC. The aim of TTL is to foster interdisciplinary research into innovative, and potentially disruptive, technological capabilities that will drive world-leading discovery research in the health and life sciences. The MRC anticipates funding 3-6 networks. Networks are intended to be UK-wide and be open to participants from different disciplines and institutions. There will be a University of Bristol major bids process in place and those interested should contact jacqui.oakley@bristol.ac.uk. Internal deadline for expressions of interest is likely to be 26 June 2017.

Please remember to visit EBI website for other funding opportunities.

News:

- New Director for Elizabeth Blackwell Institute

We are delighted to welcome Rachael Gooberman-Hill, Professor of Health and Anthropology, as an incoming Elizabeth Blackwell Institute Director. She will take over from Professor Jeremy Tavaré, founding Director of the Institute, on 1 August 2017. Read the full announcement on the EBI website.

- New position: EBI Diversity and Inclusion Champion

We will soon be announcing an exciting opportunity to join the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute team as a Champion of equality, diversity and inclusion within health and biomedical research communities at the University of Bristol. Please contact nina.couzin@bristol.ac.uk for further information and if you are interested in the role.

- Informatics service support for health and biomedical research
The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute, through its Wellcome Trust ISSF Award, and match funded by the University of Bristol, invested in two posts that are openly available to help support all health and biomedical researchers across the University in their informatics needs. Find out more on the EBI website.

- Better use of health data

**Bristol Health Partners**, which represents the city's major health institutions, is working with the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute to map the local health and social care information in our region. This project will, for the first time, create an inventory of the databases in local organisations that could be used for research and service planning. Find out more on the Bristol Health Partners website.

- Fun Palaces

Welcome to Ellie Shipman who joined the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute team to run the ‘Fun Palace ambassadorship’ awarded to EBI this year. Fun Palaces is a national project facilitating community-led art and science activities with the aim of building community and cultural partnerships and supporting grass roots engagement with health research. This year, a climax of the project will be a weekend of activity 7 - 8 October in Lawrence Hill and Avonmouth as well as satellite events across Bristol. We will be looking for researchers and community groups, organisations and artists to get involved and collaborate on these projects so if you are interested get in touch via the EBI Fun Palaces website or at fun-palaces-ebi@bristol.ac.uk

- EBI-commissioned theatre goes to Edinburgh Fringe

**PreScribed (a Life Written for Me)** was commissioned by Elizabeth Blackwell Institute in 2016 for the Feel It Festival. The witty, emotive, theatre piece tells a story built from University of Bristol research of the challenges facing GPs in the current NHS and gives a voice to the estimated 13,000 UK GPs living with mental ill health. This year, **PreScribed** will build upon that legacy in a two week run at the renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Catch the show at 3:30 - 4:30 pm between 15 - 25 August at The Sanctuary, ZOO Venues. Buy tickets on the Edinburgh Fringe website or catch readings from the show at the EBI Annual Public Lecture.

**Funded Projects:**

- Recent EBI awards:

  - Clinical Primer scheme

Congratulations to Georgia Connolly (Clinical Sciences), Peter Edwards (Social & Community Medicine), Emily Milodowski (Veterinary Science) and Rob Gregory (Physiology, Pharmacology & Neuroscience), who received EBI Clinical Primer awards and will begin their placements later this year. Further details about their projects and the scheme can be found on our Clinical Primer funding page.
- **Bridging Funds for Senior Fellows**

We are pleased to announce that Sara Alvira de Celis (Biochemistry) was awarded funds to investigate 'Structural studies of the co-translational translocation pathway'. Further information about the scheme can be found on our [Bridging Funds for Senior Fellows](#) funding page.

- **Discipline hopping for postgraduates**

Congratulations to Mark Olenik (Maths) and Dylan Bergen (Clinical Sciences) who received funding from the scheme to enable them to ‘discipline hop’ and experience a new field. Further information about their projects can be found on our [Post Graduate Extension](#) scheme funding page.

- **Translational Acceleration and Knowledge Transfer (TRACK)**

Following a highly competitive application process two TRACK projects were awarded to Alastair Wilkins (Clinical Sciences) and Alan Emond (Social & Community Medicine). Further details about their projects and the scheme can be found on our [TRACK](#) funding page.

- **Confidence in Concept (CiC)**

With support from the Medical Research Council, the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute funded four projects to support health related translational research. Congratulations to John Day & Alastair Poole (Physics and Physiology, Pharmacology & Neuroscience), Jaap Velthuis (Physics), Massimo Antognozzi (Physics) and Richard Lee (Clinical Sciences). Further details about their projects and the scheme can be found on our [CiC](#) funding page.

- **Preventing progression in diabetic kidney disease**

Glitazones are drugs used to treat type 2 diabetes because they improve insulin resistance and reduce progression of associated kidney disease. But how do they work? The EBI’s Clinical Primer scheme for early-career clinicians has allowed a Bristol-based clinician, Dr Caroline Platt, to explore this question. Read more on the [EBI website](#).

- **Solving the mystery of deep brain stimulation in pain relief**

Trainee neurosurgeon Dr Hugh Sims-Williams wanted to build a career in clinical academia, ‘to challenge current practice and break the stigma whereby neurosurgery equates to poor quality of life’. A Clinical Primer scheme allowed him to pursue his passion for investigative practice and research. Read more on the [EBI website](#).

- **Prehabilitation: boosting patients’ powers of recovery before surgery**

Improving patients’ health and fitness before a major operation can reduce the risk of complications and help recovery. Yet its potential has not been sufficiently explored. Bristol
clinicians and researchers aim to improve surgical outcomes in cancer patients by boosting health in the vital weeks before surgery. More information is on the EBI website.

• ‘Gold standard’ novel therapies evaluation model for children with leukaemia

Leukaemia causes more deaths in childhood than any other cancer. New treatments are needed, but also more reliable tests to decide which drugs should go to clinical trial. Collaborative research at Bristol has delivered a pioneering model of childhood leukaemia that is far more accurate than standard laboratory tests in evaluating novel therapies. Read more on the EBI website.

• Bristol researchers lead the way for next generation of hip implants

Total hip replacements are one of medicine’s success stories – but they eventually wear out, and sometimes complications develop that require further surgery. Now pioneering research in biomaterials at the University of Bristol could herald a new generation of biomimetic implants that could last a lifetime of use. Read more on the EBI website.

• Developing new approaches to treatment of autoimmune conditions

There is a problem with the traditional treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory conditions. Steroid therapy doesn’t always work, and immunosuppressant drugs can have toxic side effects. Bristol researchers, with the help of an award from the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute, are working to overcome this using novel ways of targeting disease causing cells. Read more on the EBI website.

• Helping frail older people stay out of hospital

Our ageing population, with an associated rise in the number of people living with frailty, is increasing pressure on hospital services in a financially squeezed NHS. If support for these more vulnerable patients were given earlier, fewer might be hospitalised. Bristol researchers collaborated with health and social care practitioners to review a toolkit for identifying and assessing frail older people in primary care. Read more on the EBI website.

• Reducing heart risk from fluid overload in children on dialysis

Teenagers on kidney dialysis have a high a risk of heart disease – as high as people 50 years older in the general population. One major problem is that there has been no reliable method of measuring fluid overload, a condition that can cause heart damage. A novel use of ultrasound developed by Bristol academics could address this, and lead to more accurate dialysis prescriptions and improvements in children’s long-term cardiovascular health. Read more on the EBI website.

Forthcoming Events:

• GPs on the Brink: Elizabeth Blackwell Annual Public Lecture, 2 November 2017
The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute welcomes Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners Helen Stokes-Lampard and theatre maker Viv Gordon to share the stage for the Institute’s fourth Annual Public Lecture on 2 November 2017, 7:30 pm. Venue: St George’s Bristol. More information including booking details on the St George’s booking page.

- **Bristol Arts on Referral Alliance exhibition and tour, 22 June 2017**

Wellbeing Arts, an arts and health referral programme, are hosting an exhibition to celebrate the launch of Bristol Arts on Referral Alliance (BARA) and explore mental health in The Vestibules in City Hall and would like to invite you for a free lunchtime tour and workshop from 12 noon to 1 pm, Thursday 22 June 2017. RSVP via Eventbrite. Contact ellie.shipman@bristol.ac.uk for more information.

- **EBI Fun Palaces workshop, 27 June 2017**

The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute and Fun Palaces invite you to a free workshop to find out more about Fun Palaces initiative and find out how anyone, anywhere can make a Fun Palace. Join in to gain public engagement experience and share your research more widely. When: Tuesday 27 June, 1.30 to 4.30 pm. Venue: Barton Hill Settlement. RSVP and more information via Eventbrite or contact ellie.shipman@bristol.ac.uk

- **NIHR Public Health Research event, 14 July 2017**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has a Research Design Service (RDS) which is organising events offering an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of our Public Health Research (PHR) programme. The programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. 14 July 2017, Bristol, plus other dates. More details on the EBI event page.

- **Big Data in Biology and Health conference, 25 September 2017**

Registration is open for the second conference on Big Data In Biology and Health organised by the Wellcome Genome Campus. The conference will bring together a wide group of researchers including computational biologists, computer scientists, epidemiologists and clinicians from academia and industry. More details on the EBI events pages.

The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute gratefully acknowledges financial support from the University of Bristol and the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund.
To view previous issues of our newsletter visit the EBI website.
If you have any news or events that you would like us to include in our newsletter, please get in touch at: ebi-health@bristol.ac.uk

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