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Welcome from the EBI Director

Welcome to the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute’s Newsletter. Here you will find information about funding opportunities, events and other news from the Institute. The Institute is one of four University Research Institutes (URIs). As a URI we work across all Faculties at the University of Bristol. We also always look for new collaborative opportunities with external partners. So if you are a University researcher, work in healthcare, an academic institution, industry or are a member of the public, and are interested to find out about collaboration with us please get in touch with the EBI team. You can find out more about the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute and all funding opportunities on our website.

Funding:

- Research for Health Challenge

Thank you to all researchers at the University of Bristol who submitted their proposals for solutions to address this year’s challenges formulated by healthcare professionals in Bristol. We will be announcing the awarded projects soon: watch this space.

- Support for researchers wishing to apply for Wellcome Trust Investigator awards

We are offering support to researchers planning to apply for an Investigator Award from the Wellcome Trust (Investigator Awards in Science and Investigator Awards in Humanities and Social Science). Please talk to your Head of School in the first instance if you are interested in this opportunity. For more information please contact ebi-health@bristol.ac.uk. Applications are considered on a rolling basis.

- Clinical Primer Scheme
The EBI’s flagship Clinical Primer scheme will be launched the week commencing 6 November 2017. For further details and to apply please visit our Clinical Primer Scheme page. The closing date for applications will be Monday 8 January 2018.

- Improving health through better use of data project ideas

Are you interested in finding new data sources in health organisations, local authorities and universities? Do you have ideas about linked data projects? Do you want to work with people developing and delivering health services and interventions to create new projects? On 19 September 2017, 95 delegates including many University of Bristol academics attended our workshop about improving health through better use of data. We focused on creating a ‘health data inventory’ and how it could be advanced. Pilot funding and resource may be available from the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for University of Bristol researchers to develop high quality linked data projects using the inventory. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, please contact lisa.king@bristol.ac.uk.

- EBI Early Career Fellowship

The Institute will be advertising an EBI Early Career Fellowship as part of the Vice-Chancellor’s Fellowship Scheme soon. In addition, our annual EBI Early Career Fellowship scheme will be launched in early 2018. Please watch EBI website for further announcements.

- The UK Prevention Research Partnership call

The UK Prevention Research Partnership (UKPRP) is a new funder partnership focused on improving population health and reducing health inequalities, through the primary prevention of non-communicable diseases. It aims to bring together interdisciplinary teams to help deliver sustainable, implementable and cost-effective solutions. Read more about UKPRP (report and slides from a recent information event) here and keep an eye on the UKPRP website for the forthcoming funding call announcements.

News:

- Building Global Partnerships for Global Challenges: save the date

Next year (11-13 April 2018), the University of Bristol will be hosting an international conference to support new interdisciplinary connections and generate new research partnerships to tackle global challenges. This event will provide an opportunity to hear directly from those working in-country on global challenges, identify new partnerships, share your research and consider how it could be applied in new areas. Funding is available to support international participation. University Research Institutes will be providing further information shortly.

- New Centre for Health, Law and Society at the University of Bristol

The new Centre for Health, Law, and Society at the University of Bristol was officially launched on 5 October 2017. The Centre promotes cross-disciplinary and cross-sector
perspectives on the impacts of law and governance on physical, mental and social wellbeing. Based within the University of Bristol Law School, the Centre comprises leading scholars whose work focuses on wide-ranging practical areas including clinical medicine, reproductive care, mental health, social care, and public and global health. Find out more about the work of the Centre on its website.

- **Fun Palaces come to Bristol**

  This October EBI supported health-inspired Fun Palaces across Bristol to launch Healthy City Week. Around 300 people took part in the creative activities to talk about individual and environmental health, from using pom poms on Bristol Ferry, to sharing their own health tips to playing games devised by University of Bristol researchers and customising YoBikes... We are now working towards 2018's Fun Palace weekend: to find out more and to take part please contact ellie.shipman@bristol.ac.uk or read more on the EBI website.

- **The Lancet Commission on pollution and health**

  The Lancet Commission on pollution and health just published its report. This most comprehensive global analysis to date finds toxic air, water, soils and workplaces kill at least 9 million people a year and warns the crisis ‘threatens the continuing survival of human societies’. Read the full report including available cost-effective pollution control solutions and strategies on the Lancet website.

- **The Brilliant Club opportunity**

  Are you a PhD student or a Postdoc looking for meaningful, paid teaching experience? Wellcome Trust and The Brilliant Club are offering you an opportunity to become a Scholars Programme tutor in 2017-18, supporting pupils to develop the academic skills, knowledge and confidence needed to progress to highly-selective universities. To find out more and to apply visit EBI website. Deadline for applications 4 November 2017.

- **PreScribed on tour**

  PreScribed (a Life Written for Me), originally commissioned for the Feel It festival and based on the research conducted at the University of Bristol, is a theatre piece by Viv Gordon exploring the mental wellbeing of GPs and front line NHS workers. After a two week run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival it is currently touring GP Training centres around the UK and involves undergraduate theatre makers in venues from Gloucester and Bridgend to London and Wrexham with rave reviews. For more information visit EBI website.

**Funded Projects:**

- **A new avenue for synthetic bone grafts**

  Bone grafts are the second most commonly transplanted tissue after blood transfusions. The use of synthetic bone graft substitutes is increasing, but the challenge is to make them as ‘clever’ as their natural counterparts in stimulating fusion with the host bone. Bristol
researchers believe a tiny lipid molecule could provide the answer. Read more about this project on the EBI website.

- **Novel insights into appetite control**

It’s one of the biggest public health problems facing society today: one in three adults and three in ten children worldwide are overweight or obese. Why do some people seem to ignore their body’s internal fullness signals and continue eating high-calorie foods in the face of weight gain? Brain imaging could shed new light on what goes wrong. Find out more on the EBI website.

- **Population data for better health**

An EBI-funded study to improve health and social outcomes for children in care could be an important first step towards developing a ‘digital population health laboratory’ to boost the health and wellbeing of people in Bristol. Professor John Macleod from Bristol Medical School and his team linked data from Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) with the National Pupil Database of educational data for pupils in England. Read more on the EBI website.

- **Can opioids make pain worse by disturbing sleep?**

One in four of us will suffer chronic pain in our lifetime. Opioids such as morphine can sometimes help. However, deaths relating to opioid use have trebled in the last 20 years. Greater understanding of the risks and benefits of opioids could result in better and safer management of chronic pain. Dr Jonathan Brooks at the School of Experimental Psychology, and his team, set out to measure sleep patterns in patients with chronic low back pain to see whether opioid-related sleep disturbance influenced the amount of pain reported. Read more on the EBI website.

- **Novel pacemaker technology for treatment of heart failure**

Implantable devices to restore heart rhythm (eg pacemakers) are commonly used to treat heart failure and other cardiac diseases. Ground breaking technology, developed by Professor Julian Paton, School of Physiology and Pharmacology, Bristol and Dr Alain Nogaret, Department of Physics, Bath and supported by the EBI, promises to revolutionise the therapeutic potential of these implants. Read more on the EBI website.

- **Link between mother’s and child’s mental health**

Dr Rebecca Pearson, Centre for Academic Mental Health, will lead a five-year study to investigate how a mother’s mental health and personality affects her child’s mental health. The study builds on previous investigations, including work originally funded by an Elizabeth Blackwell Early Career Fellowship. Read more about the project on the University of Bristol website.

**Public Engagement**
• Welcome to Didier Laval

The EBI team is delighted to welcome Didier Laval, our Public Engagement Associate, to the team. Didier has a background in Physics and Theatrical Studies, and has been working in Public Engagement with several European science centres before joining the EBI. His current role is to curate and implement the EBI Public Engagement programme, as well as to advise and support EBI-funded researchers on their public engagement plans. Didier joined the EBI team because Georgia Bladon, whom many of you may know, is on secondment to the Wellcome Trust. You can reach Didier on didier.laval@bristol.ac.uk

• EBI Public Advisory Group: call for researchers

Would public input from communities or patient groups be beneficial to your research or your funding application? All University of Bristol researchers, from any faculty, working on health-related research have an opportunity to discuss their work with and receive feedback from the EBI Public Advisory Group. If you would like to share your research with the Group at the next meeting, please send your expression of interest to ebih-admin@bristol.ac.uk by 17 November 2017 or contact our Public Engagement Associate Didier Laval.

Forthcoming Events:

• Elizabeth Blackwell Annual Public Lecture, 2 November 2017

Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners Helen Stokes-Lampard and theatre maker Viv Gordon will share the stage for the institute’s fourth Annual Public Lecture. Time: 7:30pm. Venue: St George's Bristol. Book your free ticket here. Places are still available but are going fast!

• Global profile of people who inject drugs, 1 November 2017

IAS Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor Louisa Degenhardt will give a talk ‘Global profile of people who inject drugs: systematic reviews of prevalence of injecting, key health harms and coverage of interventions’. Time: 4:15pm, Venue: Seminar Room LG08/09, Canynge Hall, 39 Whatley Road, Bristol, BS8 2PS. No booking required, all welcome.

• The UoB Centre for Health, Humanities and Science launch event, 8 November 2017

Members of the University, health care professionals and the public are invited to the Centre launch event on the 8th November 2017,13:00-20:30, G.2, Cotham House, University of Bristol, Bristol BS6 6JL. The Centre’s aim is to establish University of Bristol as a leader in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research.
at the intersection of humanities, medicine, health and science. More details on the [EBI website](#).

- **Climate change in the UK: what will be the impact on health, mortality and frontline NHS services? 21 November 2017**

In association with the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group, this panel discussion held at Portcullis House, Westminster, London, SW1A 2LW, will examine policy to mitigate the impact of climate change on health and healthcare services. Further information on the [Policy Connect](#) website.

- **Health and social care event, 23 November 2017**

Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, National Assembly for Wales, will speak about his personal experience of moving between research and politics, researching policy and making policy. Time: 7:30pm. Venue: Coutts Lecture Theatre, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1RJ. To book your place visit [EBI website](#). All welcome.

- **EBI Biomedical and Health Sciences Industry Day, 29 November 2017**

Building on the success of our two previous Industry Days, this year we are running an interactive event, focusing on health-related research as well as building and strengthening links with industry. For more details and to register for attendance visit [EBI website](#).

- **Complexity and writing for impact, 4-15 December 2017**

IAS Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor Alex Clark, University of Alberta, will be visiting the University of Bristol Department of Population Health Sciences in December. He will deliver a series of seminars and a workshop on complexity and writing for impact and will also be available for one-to-one meetings. The full programme is on the [EBI website](#). Please email Barbara.Caddick@bristol.ac.uk if you would like to attend the workshop or want to meet with Professor Clark on a one-to-one basis.

The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute gratefully acknowledges financial support from the University of Bristol and the [Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund](#).