

# Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 26  
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**STOP PRESS!!!**

**MFH in the News- see page 7 for details!!**



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**Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group**

part of the  
Research School of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences *in the*  
School of Medicine *within the*  
Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences.

[www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/maternalfetalhealth](http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/maternalfetalhealth)

From January 1<sup>st</sup> the School of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences changes its name to School of Biomedicine. The Head of School remains as Tony Freemont and the Head of School Administration is still Lucy Crompton.

Within Biomedicine we are now part of the Developmental and Regenerative Biomedicine Research Group alongside Genetics, Endocrine Sciences and Tissue, Injury and Repair. The head of the Research Group is Julian Davis, with Melissa Westwood acting as a local contact for forms etc.

Staff should update their CVs accordingly.

## Page 2: New PhD Students

Please join me in welcoming Isaac Huen and Chloe Duval to the Group.

Isaac is from the Bioinformatics Institute and will be working with Colin and Ed in MFH and David Morris and Jo Naish in Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering. The title of his project is, "Use of MRI for the detection of the trophoblast environment."

Chloe is working on a collaborative project between Sue Kimber in FLS and Jo Glazier in MFH, looking at the effect of parathyroid hormone related peptide on placental development and fetal growth. She will be concentrating on the differentiation of trophoblast cells and the transport functions of the placenta and how this relates to fetal growth!

Welcome to you both!

## Page 3: MRes Poster Session

The 1<sup>st</sup> MRes poster session (for the Generic Research Methods module) was a great success which was well attended and encouraged lively discussion. It was a great opportunity to hear about the student's projects and we hope they found the feedback valuable. Congratulations to all of the students and a big Thank You to everyone who attended.



(From left) MRes students Antonieta Rotolo Pulido, Lamia Zafrani, Uzo Sampson, Lynne Warrander, Laura Hopkins, Nathalie Robinson, Fiona Mackie, Mais Al Junaidy and their Course Leaders John Aplin and Rebecca Lee Jones

## Page 4: Successes

Well done to Reproductive Health who won the trophy for Highest Recruitment to Clinical Trials across Greater Manchester for April-September 2009 at the Greater Manchester Comprehensive Local Research Network meeting!

Congratulations to Leroy and everyone involved in our recruitment at every level.



*Winners (from left) Helen Miller, CLRN Research Midwife; Leroy Edozein, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist; Sarah Leo, St Mary's Divisional Research Manager and Sue Woods, CLRN Research Midwife*

Jenny Myers has received a £18,500 Starter Grant for Clinical Lecturers from Academy of Medical Sciences and Wellcome Trust for her project, 'Could a protein-labelling approach improve our ability to quantify candidate biomarkers for pregnancy complications?' Great News Jenny!

Congratulations to Alex Hezell who has received continued funding from the Peel Medical Trust supporting the EGF and IUGR project.

Andrea Ditchfield and Alison Cooke won prizes for their Poster Presentations at the Trust R and I exhibition! Well done both of you!

## Page 5: Successes Continued

Congratulations to Ian and Deborah Crocker on the birth of their daughter Lucy Elizabeth Crocker who was born on Friday 8th January, 5:12pm, weighing 8lb 1oz. She arrived rather quickly in the end being delivered in the induction suite.

It is good to see Ian back at work and not looking too bleary eyed even though we've heard Lucy is nocturnal!



## Page 6: Publication Successes



Please include: **Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre, University of Manchester** when papers are submitted. You should also acknowledge that the Group is supported by the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and (if appropriate for your study) the Greater Manchester Local Comprehensive Research Network.

Kusinski LC, Jones CJ, Baker PN, Sibley CP, Glazier JD. Isolation of Plasma Membrane Vesicles from Mouse Placenta at Term and Measurement of System A and System beta Amino Acid Transporter Activity. *Placenta*. 2009 Nov 30. [Epub ahead of print].

Impact Factor: 2.78

Forbes K, Souquet B, Garside R, Aplin JD & Westwood M. TGFb receptors I/ II differentially regulate TGFb1 and IGFBP-3 mitogenic effects in the human placenta. *Endocrinology* (2010) In Press

Impact Factor: 4.95

Dilworth, M.R., Kusinski, L., Cowley, E., Ward, B.S., Husain, S.M. Constância, M., Sibley, C.P. & Glazier, J.D. Placental-specific *Igf2* knockout mice exhibit hypocalcaemia and adaptive changes in calcium transport. *PNAS* (2010). (In press).

Solanky, N., Requena Jimenez, A., D'Souza, SW, Sibley, C.P. & Glazier, J.D. (2010). Expression of folate transporters in human placenta and implications for homocysteine metabolism. *Placenta*, 31: 134-143.

MFH will be making a big splash once again at this year's SGI Conference in Orlando. We have had 15 posters that have been accepted and Karen and Peter have been selected to give Oral presentations. We shall be holding a review of the Conference on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 9am, Seminar Room A/B. Anyone interested in what was presented is welcome to attend.

If you have an abstract accepted for publication please email [lauren.moss@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:lauren.moss@manchester.ac.uk) a copy of the publication for the newsletter, but also so that the information can be passed on to the Press Officer Aeron Howarth who will contact local/national press.

## Page 7: MFH in the News!

Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre was visited by Joe Lewis and his family last month. Joe's placenta stopped working properly at 25 weeks, and had to be delivered at 27 weeks weighing just 1lb 13oz.

The Manchester Evening News joined the family's visit and the full story can be found at:

[http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1189221\\_joe\\_six\\_meets\\_docs\\_who\\_saved\\_his\\_life](http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1189221_joe_six_meets_docs_who_saved_his_life)



## Page 8: Applications for Funding

All applications for new awards need to have the "costing form" completed. There is a very real possibility that we will be externally audited next year and they will want to understand how we obtain the PI time etc on our applications. The costing form is available at:

<http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/intranet/cls/research/ResearchApplicationProcess/>

If you need any guidance on how to complete the form please feel free to contact your RBM who would be very happy to take you through the form.

Amanda Jolly

(Amanda.jolly@manchester.ac.uk ; 275 1181)

In addition the University is about to implement a new costing tool (PFACT) which means things may take a little longer until they are up to speed with this new system and in turn will mean you will have to allow more notice than usual if you need costings working out.

## Page 9: Training available for students

Below is a summary of the upcoming training courses being held by the Faculty research training team.

You can find full details of the courses, and how to book, on the training team webpage.

<http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/trainingteam/Training/Programmes.aspx?PageId=3-0>

### **February**

1/8 Introduction to Statistics

2 Effective Publications

4 Scientific Creativity

9 Critical Analysis of Research

Papers

16 Optimising your Scientific Poster

18 Managing the Relationship with  
your Supervisor

24 Graduate Teaching Demonstrators/  
Assistants Training

## Page 10: Regular Meetings

### Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group Tuesday 'Work in Progress' Meetings

Seminar Room A/B  
Research Floor  
5th Floor  
St Mary's Hospital

08:45 – 09:45

09/02/2010	Nicky Sapsford, Christal Fisher	Helen Miller, Sarah Coleman
16/02/2010	No Meeting	No Meeting
23/02/2010	Alison Cooke, Richard Blankley	Sue Woods, Khiria Alsaghiri
02/03/2010	Deirdre Thajam, Melissa Brereton	Stephania Calabrese, Kim Hannam

### Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group Wednesday Lab Meetings

Seminar Room A  
Research Floor  
5th Floor  
St Mary's Hospital

09:00 – 09:30

For more information email  
[jean.french@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jean.french@manchester.ac.uk)

10/02/2010- CANCELLED

10/03/2010- Laura Kusinski

17/02/2010- Deirdre

17/03/2010- None- SGI

24/02/2010- Paul Brownbill

31/03/201- Caroline Wright

03/03/2010- Christina Hayward

07/04/2010- Paula Diaz

## Page 11: External Regular Meetings

### Tissue Systems External Seminars 2010

Michael Smith Lecture Theatre

Thursdays, 12 noon

4<sup>th</sup> February

Tony Ng (King's College London)

'An integration of optical proteomics and mathematical approaches to define pathways and make predictions for cancer patients

25<sup>th</sup> February

Elizabeth Robertson (University of Oxford)

Genetic regulation of cell decisions in the early mouse embryo

Faculty of Life Sciences,

AstraZeneca 2010 Seminar Series

Wednesdays, 12 noon

February 3 - Stopford LT6

Fran Balkwill (London)

Targeting Cancer-related Inflammation

February 10- Stopford LT6

Angus Lamond (Dundee)

New Approaches to Studying the Cell Nucleus:

2nd Generation Proteomics and Super Experiments

February 17 - Stopford LT6

Dirk Gorlich (Heidelberg)

The permeability barrier of nuclear pore complexes

February 24 - Stopford LT6

Gail Martin (UCSF)

FGF signalling in vertebrate development: the importance of getting it right