

Committee and Representatives



Early Career Researcher is as rewarding as possible.

The committee is here to ensure that your experience as a Postdoc /

Postdoctoral / Early Career Researcher Academic Committee

- **Professor Roy Bicknell** (<mailto:r.bicknell@bham.ac.uk>) - Chair
- **Dr Nick Jones** (<mailto:n.d.jones@bham.ac.uk>) - School Lead, Immunity and Infection
- **Dr Dave Withers** (<mailto:d.withers@bham.ac.uk>) - Deputy School Lead, Immunity and Infection
- **Professor Ed Rainger** (<mailto:g.e.rainger@bham.ac.uk>) - School Lead, Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- **Professor Attila Sik** (<mailto:a.sik@bham.ac.uk>) - Deputy School Lead, Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- **Dr Zubair Ahmed** (<mailto:z.ahmed.1@bham.ac.uk>) - Deputy School Lead, Clinical and Experimental Medicine
- **Dr Sally Roberts** (<mailto:s.roberts@bham.ac.uk>) - School Lead, Cancer Sciences
- Vacant - Deputy School Lead, Cancer Sciences
- **Dr Richard Shelton** (<mailto:r.m.shelton@bham.ac.uk>) - School Lead, Dentistry
- **Dr Melissa Grant** (<mailto:m.m.grant@bham.ac.uk>) - Deputy School Lead, Dentistry
- **Dr Raoul Reulen** (<mailto:r.c.reulen@bham.ac.uk>) - School Lead, Health and Population Sciences
- **Dr Karla Hemming** (<mailto:k.hemming@bham.ac.uk>) - Deputy School Lead, Health and Population Sciences
- **Professor Steve Watson** (<mailto:s.p.watson@bham.ac.uk>) - Graduate School, CMDS

Administration

- **Lesley Bodenham** (<mailto:l.h.bodenham@bham.ac.uk>) - Project Manager
- **Dr Sarah Knaggs** (<mailto:s.knaggs@bham.ac.uk>) - Research & Knowledge Transfer Office
- **Sheetal Patel** (<mailto:s.patel.1@bham.ac.uk>) - Human Resources
- **Elaine Clough** (<mailto:e.clough@bham.ac.uk>) - People and Organisational Development
- **Jackie Hawkins** (<mailto:j.o.hawkins@bham.ac.uk>) - Research facilitator

Ex officio

- **Professor Prem Kuma** (<mailto:p.kumar@bham.ac.uk>) - Director of Education

Postdoctoral / Early Career Researcher Postdoc Representatives

- Immunity and Infection: **Dalya Rosner** (<mailto:d.rosner@bham.ac.uk>) and **Ditte Hedegaard** (<mailto:d.c.e.l.hedegaard@bham.ac.uk>)
- Health & Population Sciences: **Bai Li** (b.li.3@bham.ac.uk)
- Clinical and Experimental Medicine: **Louisa Jeffery** (<mailto:l.e.jeffery@bham.ac.uk>) and **Felicity de Cogan** (<mailto:f.decogan@bham.ac.uk>)
- Cancer Sciences: **John Reynolds** (<mailto:j.j.reynolds@bham.ac.uk>) and **Karen Campos Leon** (<mailto:k.camposleon@bham.ac.uk>)
- Dentistry: **Sonam Kalra** (<mailto:s.kalra.1@bham.ac.uk>)
- Life and Environmental Sciences: **Daniel Stones** (<mailto:d.stones@bham.ac.uk>)

A message from Felicity de Cogan...

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Felicity completed her PhD at the University of Manchester under Dr Julie Gough. She then moved to the University of Birmingham for a Post-doc in the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences, before joining the NIHR Trauma centre between CEM and UHB. Her research interests lie in the designing novel therapeutics and delivery systems to target biomarkers in ocular diseases. As part of PERCAT I aim to both communicate the workings of the PERCAT committee to the CEM postdoc population, and in turn feed postdoc comments and suggestions back to the committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any issues that you feel I could help with.
(<mailto:v.e.smith@bham.ac.uk>)

A message from Louisa Jeffery...



Dear Postdocs and Early Career Researchers,

I have been a member of the School of Immunity and Infection postdoctoral community since January 2011 and prior to becoming a postdoc in the school I completed my PhD here under the supervision of Professor David Sansom and Dr Karim Raza. These past four years have enabled me to



gain an understanding of the School, including its organisation and areas of research. Throughout this time I have represented the School in a number of events, speaking at several national and international conferences and at the SET for Britain poster conference held at the Houses of Parliament. In addition I have assisted with Arthritis Research UK fundraising projects at the university, speaking to potential sponsors about our research. These events have led to £90,000 being donated so far. Lastly, I also contribute to teaching within the College, facilitating in medical student tutorials and supervising project students. I consider myself to be approachable, attentive, and truly interested in the needs of others. Therefore, please feel able to approach me at any time for advice or with suggestions of ways to improve the postdoctoral/ early career researcher training programme or facilities. (l.jeffery@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:l.jeffery@bham.ac.uk>))

A message from John Reynolds and Ed Miller...



Dear Post-docs and Early Career Researchers

I joined the School of Cancer Sciences as a post-doctoral researcher in January 2011. Prior to this I worked at the Genome Damage and Stability Centre at the University of Sussex for 6 years, during which time I completed my PhD. The research I have undertaken during my research career has been mainly focused on understanding the links between DNA damage and human disease, and in the future I aim to become an independent researcher running my own laboratory pursuing this research interest.

I have temporarily taken over the role of Cancer Sciences representative for the Postdoctoral / Early Researcher Career development And Training (PERCAT) committee from Rebecca Jones who is currently on maternity leave.

Although our primary role as post-docs/early career researchers is to perform research and generate data there are many other aspects to our job, including grant writing, budgeting, lab management, reviewing papers and mentoring students. Indeed at times it seems that the learning curve of post-doctoral research is as steep, if not steeper, than that of PhD studies. However I relish the challenge of academic research and am always keen to gain experience in all aspects of this job.

I am always happy to help so if you have any queries or need any help with anything then please don't hesitate to contact me.



Dear Post-docs and Early Career researchers

I have worked as a Research Technician in the School of Cancer Sciences since 2005. I work in the same laboratory as John Reynolds the second Cancer Sciences PERCAT rep. During this time I have completed a part-time PhD, graduating in July 2014. My work involves studying the link between human disease and mutations in DNA damage response proteins.

Whilst working towards my PhD I became aware of PERCAT and the great support and training it provided, to the point I attended several of the workshops looking at career paths for Post-docs. Therefore I am extremely glad to now be a part of PERCAT and I hope my input will be of value.

If you have any queries, suggestions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

A message from Sonam Kalra...



Dear Postdocs and Early Career Researchers,

I have been a member of the School of Dentistry postdoctoral community since August 2013. My research interests include investigating neutrophil activity and behaviour in the pathogenesis of peri-implant disease.

Prior to becoming a postdoctoral researcher, I had completed my PhD within the same faculty under the supervision of Dr. Owen Addison and Professor Iain Chapple. My PhD study was on the 'Impact of Titanium wear products accumulation in the Peri-Implant environment.' These past four years spent within the School have been invaluable as have enabled me to gain a thorough understanding regarding the School research facilities and widen my skills as a researcher. At many occasions, I have represented the School in a number of national and international conferences. Currently, I represent the School as a Mentor for International students and have also received the opportunity to monitor and train Undergraduates. I am delighted to have received this opportunity to become a representative for the PERCAT committee as I believe I may possibly provide a bridge and contribute in providing accessible new opportunities to Postdocs which may further be useful for future career plans.

Therefore, please feel free to approach me (s.kalra.1@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:s.kalra.1@bham.ac.uk>)) for any advice and/or any suggestions you may wish to bring forward in aiming to improve postdoctoral research training programmes provided at the UoB institution.

A message from Bai Li...



Dear Postdocs and Early Career Researchers,

I am a postdoctoral research fellow at the Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics within the School of Health and Population Sciences. My primary research interests include societal/environmental determinants and prevention of childhood obesity and other preventable chronic diseases.

I am also a founder member of the International Social Marketing Association. She is also the Head of International Communication and Collaboration for the College of Design, Guangxi Arts University, China. Outside of academic life, I am an artist and musician. I have won international gold/silver/bronze prizes for drawing, singing and music recital and has exhibited my art work (some permanently) in over 9 countries including the UK, US, Japan, Russia, Norway, Mongolia and China (mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan). You can contact me on b.li.3@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:b.li.3@bham.ac.uk>)