

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR HEALTH



Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of your ReaCH Newsletter! As always, this highlights great news from our colleagues, their postgraduate students and research partners, including grant awards, innovative partnerships, engagement with politicians, recognition of outstanding contributions, successful PhD vivas, publications, and much more. We are hugely grateful to Karen McDairmant and MarySarah Erickson for creating this colourful compilation, in collaboration with our colleagues in Corporate Communications Team.

YEAH! Prof. Sebastian Chastin and Dr. Bryan McCann have secured funding for an EU consortium to co-create an entirely novel digital platform to empower young people, particularly those living in areas of deprivation, to make better lifestyle choices. Prof. Heather Lynch, with colleagues from the School of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment, other universities around Scotland and local organisations, have been awarded a NERC grant for their project Muir is Tir, which focuses on how communities in Barra and Vatersay adapt to coastal changes.

Colleagues have also been extraordinarily successful in forging impactful, novel partnerships. In the Scottish Knowledge Exchange awards, Dr. Bryan McCann's Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) charity won the Making a Social Difference category, while his partnership with Sport Aberdeen was shortlisted for this same category. As if that wasn't sufficient, Bryan was also 'Highly Commended' in the Knowledge Exchange Champion category. Prof. Gordon Ramage has also been awarded a KTP with the Haleon team in Weybridge, focusing on the oral microbiome. Prof. Niall Strang is part of the NeurEYE research team, an innovative partnership with data scientists, clinical researchers and high street opticians that is pioneering a digital tool that can predict a person's risk of dementia from a routine eye test, based on the world's largest eye scan database.

Our colleagues' research expertise has been sought after by various politicians: Prof. Lorna Paul had a visit from MSP for Glasgow (Region) Pam Duncan-Glancy about her Stroke Association-funded project PeRsonAlised Community-based Telerehabilitation post StrokE to increase rehabilitation time and improve motor recovery (PRACTISE) study. Prof. Andrew McAuley was invited to give evidence at Westminster on Glasgow's pioneering Safer Drug Consumption Facility. Andrew's outstanding contribution to public health saw him elected recently as a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health through Distinction.

Our new GCU Propel Leadership and Development programme for mid-career researchers launches this spring. It will develop a cohort of interdisciplinary research leaders across GCU to lead larger or more complex research grants. Congratulations to SHLS colleagues Dr Pauline Campbell, Dr Christine Hazelton, Dr Norah Palmateer, Dr David Whiteley and Dr Mark Williams who will join the inaugural cohort!

We applaud our PhD researchers who successfully passed their viva: Amy Webster, Stefanie Schnabel, Amy Kennedy McEwan, Kidest Nadew, Gary Kainth, Emily Davis and Michelle Rutherford. Of course, there is more to celebrate along the PhD way than reaching the destination; a number of our PhD researchers have contributed to important conferences, including Ebube Nwarunma and Kate Sloan. Congratulations go to Fatimoh Ojuade, who won the prestigious Dom Spina prize at the British Pharmacological Society's event.

As always, we have included a selection of newly published papers, particularly from our PhD researchers, which shows the quality and diversity of the research undertaken within ReaCH. Please keep sending us your good news ReaCH@gcu.ac.uk, we are already working on the next edition!

Prof Carol Emslie and Prof Frederike van Wijck, Co-Directors of ReaCH

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Researchers say YEAH! to improving the lives of young people across Europe

Glasgow Caledonian University researchers and partners from across Europe have secured more than £8 million from the European Union to co-create behavioural coaches to improve the health of children and adolescents throughout Europe.

They have launched a new five-year project, entitled YEAH! (Youth Health from a Holistic Perspective), to create a unique digital platform aimed at empowering young people to make better lifestyle choices, particularly those living in areas of multiple deprivation. The project is being led by the University of Grenoble Alps in France and involves 16 organisations, including Glasgow Caledonian, representing 10 countries across Europe.



The ambition of YEAH! is to co-create personalised digital behavioural coaches for children aged 8-10 and adolescents aged 14-16 years across Europe to improve their nutrition, sleep, physical activity and social relationships. Researchers in Glasgow Caledonian's School of Health and Life Sciences' Research Centre for Health (ReaCH) Health CASCADE are playing a pivotal role in the new project. They have been awarded £1m of the funding to use their evidence-based co-creation methodology to build the foundations of the project.

Health CASCADE lead Professor Sebastien Chastin and Senior Lecturer in Psychology Dr Bryan McCann will be heavily involved over the five years but for the first two, they will be establishing co-creation laboratories and coordinating research in six different countries. They will run a massive randomised trial involving behavioural experts from France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, the UK and Romania, and are seeking advice from more than 7,000 people who work with young people, from parents and teachers to healthcare professionals and local authorities, to find out the needs of children in each country. Dr McCann's role will be to reach out to those who work with children and parents to help develop a personalised prototype of a behavioural coach that will work in Scotland, and coordinate the research in the six trial countries.

[Read more](#)



Bryan and Professor Chastin attended the YEAH! launch event in Brussels on Thursday 21st January 2025, meeting partners (see photo, Bryan is second from the right) from 16 organisations representing 10 countries across Europe to start the exciting work to deliver this innovative intervention.



MSP visits Glasgow Caledonian to find out more about life-changing stroke research

Glasgow Caledonian University welcomed MSP for Glasgow (Region) Pam Duncan-Glancy on campus to showcase a new project aimed at reducing disability in stroke survivors.



Researchers at Glasgow Caledonian, funded by the Stroke Association, have launched a study looking into how intensive physiotherapy, partly delivered remotely, can change the lives of people who have had a stroke and their families. Ms Duncan-Glancy, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Education, was keen to visit our Glasgow campus to find out more about the 'PeRsonALised Community-based Telerehabilitation post StrokeE to increase rehabilitation time and improve motor recovery: a feasibility study (PRACTISE)'. Ms Duncan-Glancy said: "Scotland's universities are leading the way in research, and it was an honour to see that in action with the Stroke Association at Glasgow Caledonian University. This project between the third sector and Glasgow Caledonian has the potential to significantly improve the lives of many people living with a stroke. I look forward to hearing more about the success of the project once completed."

She was given a tour of the University's School of Health and Life Sciences' state-of-the-art Simulation Centre, which looks and feels like a real hospital with adult and paediatric wards, an emergency room, and X-ray, radiotherapy and home environment suites. Ms Duncan-Glancy met Professor of Allied Health Science Lorna Paul, from the Department of Physiotherapy and Paramedicine, who is leading the three-year study, which will work with up to 60 people within two months of having their first stroke. During the visit, Ms Glancy was also introduced to Michael Foley, Stroke Association Public Affairs and Campaigns Officer in Scotland, PRACTISE study co-ordinator Dr Colin Shore, and co-applicants in the study - Professor of Neurological Rehabilitation Frederike Van Wijck, Professor of Nursing Lisa Kidd, Professor of Health Economics Helen Mason and stroke survivor Keith Jenkinson.

[Read more](#)



Stroke survivors need tailored support to cope with aftermath

Stroke survivors need tailored support to help them cope with the significant long-term disruption they face in their lives, according to a new study.

Thirty people shared their stories of how the aftermath of having a stroke impacted their personal and social lives, in a paper published by the journal Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences. The study, based on research carried out by Glasgow Caledonian PhD researcher Joseph Hall, is the result of a unique collaboration between Glasgow Caledonian's Media and Journalism Department and the Research Centre for Health. Dr Helena Bassil-Morozow worked with Professor Frederike van Wijck on the project, alongside Professor Thilo Kroll of University College Dublin. Thirty survivors were interviewed from across the UK, aged 31-86, on the disruption having a stroke has had on their sense of identity. The participants reported a complete change in how they perceive themselves, relate to the world and engage socially.



AI software tool aims to use high-street eye tests to spot early signs of dementia risk

Glasgow Caledonian University Vision Sciences Department has joined data scientists and clinical researchers in working with high-street opticians for the first time to develop a digital tool that can predict a person's risk of dementia from a routine eye test.



The NeurEYE research team, led by the University of Edinburgh, with support from Professor Niall Strang from the Vision Research Group in Glasgow Caledonian's Research Centre for Health (ReaCH), has collected almost a million eye scans from opticians across Scotland, forming the world's largest data set of its kind. The scientists will use artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyse this image data, linked to relevant patient data on demographics, treatment history and pre-existing conditions. This data is anonymised and patients can't be identified, but it allows researchers to find patterns that could indicate a person's risk of developing dementia, as well as giving a broad picture of brain health. The data will be held safely in the Scottish National Safe Haven which provides a secure platform for the research use of NHS electronic data. This resource is commissioned by Public Health Scotland and hosted by the Edinburgh International Data Facility through EPCC at the University of Edinburgh.

[Read more](#)

Scottish island communities work with scientists to develop nature-based solutions to coastal erosion

Social and environmental scientists from Glasgow Caledonian University are collaborating with island communities in the Outer Hebrides to develop nature-based solutions addressing the damaging impact of climate change on coastal areas.



The four-year project, Muir is Tir (Land and Sea) – Adapting to Coastal Change on Barra and Vatersay, focuses on tackling coastal erosion while promoting environmental and community wellbeing. The islands of Barra and Vatersay are significantly affected by erosion, particularly along the sand dunes and beaches, due to exposure to storms and rising sea levels of the Atlantic Ocean. The coastal erosion threatens businesses, homes and landmarks. Natural ways to manage erosion in past projects elsewhere by the University have involved using shellfish reefs or timber structures.

Professor Heather Lynch from the University's School of Health and Life Sciences will lead the initiative, alongside Professor Slobodan Mickovski and Dr Alejandro Gonzalez-Ollauri from the School of Computing, Engineering and Built Environment. Funded by an £800,000 UKRI Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) grant, the project engages a multidisciplinary team from Glasgow Caledonian, the University of St Andrews, the University of Edinburgh and the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI). Working in close partnership with local organisations — such as Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh (Barra & Vatersay Community) Ltd; Voluntary Action Barra and Vatersay; and Eoligarry crofters — the project draws upon community expertise and scientific research. Collaborators also include The Blue Carbon Group, Nautilus Club and others dedicated to sustainable land and sea stewardship.

[Read more](#)

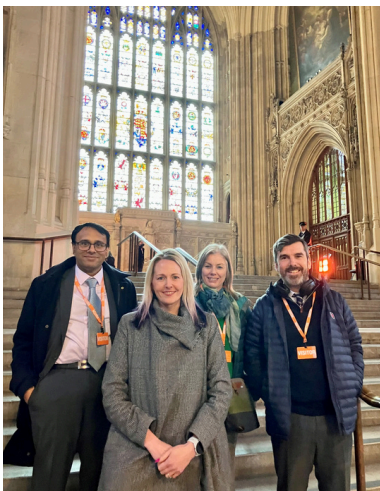


MSK team measuring cartilage stiffness to test new knee arthritis treatment

Dr David Hamilton, Dr Lisa Wright and Dr Diane Dickson from the Musculoskeletal Health (MSK) research group are working with local surgeon Prof Graeme Hopper to evaluate whether ultrasound imaging can 'see' the improvements in knee cartilage that are suggested following a new injectable hydrogel treatment for knee arthritis.



Stiff swollen and painful joints are a huge societal problem affecting quality of life for around 1 in 4 adults. Arthrosamid is a new treatment, that promises pain relief and reduced knee stiffness by treating the joint synovitis that accompanies knee arthritis. The hydrogel integrates with the lining of the knee joint to thicken that tissue, proposedly providing a barrier and reducing pain. While pain relief following treatment has been demonstrated in clinical trials, this mechanism of action has not been well established clinically, and the GCU team secured funding from the manufacturer, Contrura international, to carry out a proof of concept study applying our state of the art shear wave sonoelastography ultrasound scanner to directly evaluate the stiffness of the synovial membrane and to see if this changes post- hydrogel injection. The team hope to be able to quantify and qualify how the stiffness changes and then design experiments to measure this in longitudinal trials.



Public Health Professor gives evidence at Westminster on UK's first drugs consumption room

Glasgow Caledonian University Professor in Public Health Andrew McAuley was among a panel of experts who gave evidence to Westminster's Scottish Affairs Committee on the UK's first safer drugs consumption facility in Glasgow.

The panel told MPs it will take several years for the full health impact of the facility to be understood. However, they said international evidence suggests that local communities will see benefits from such facilities.

Professor McAuley, from the School of Health and Life Sciences' Research Centre for Health (ReaCH), was invited to give evidence on the opening day of the inquiry into Glasgow's Safer Drug Consumption Facility, known as the Thistle Centre. The facility was officially opened in January and provides a safe space where people can inject drugs under clinical supervision while offering a range of other support services. The pilot scheme in the city's east end is designed to reduce public drug use and its impact on individuals and communities. The new inquiry into the facility follows on from a previous investigation by the Scottish Affairs Committee into problem drug use in Scotland in which Professor McAuley attended as an expert witness in 2019. During a wide-ranging session spanning more than 90 minutes, Professor McAuley answered questions on the root causes of problem drug use in Scotland, the case for the facility in Glasgow and the evaluation methods.

[Read more](#)





Glasgow Caledonian University launches innovative work experience programme

Glasgow Caledonian University has launched an innovative programme to help students gain the skills and experience they need to bolster their employment opportunities.

The Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BIO) is promoting the BIO Recruitment Initiative for Developing Graduate Experience (BRIDGE) programme which is jointly funded by the University's MINT fund (GCU Foundation and Alumni Team in collaboration with the GCU Careers Service) and is open to students who have completed a Master's programme in a science discipline.

Students from Glasgow Caledonian University can apply for two graduate research assistant positions. Here, they will have the opportunity to gain 'real world' paid work experience, while being supported by university staff to build on the knowledge and skills they need to successfully further their careers. Frances MacInnes, senior lecturer, BIO department, said: "The BRIDGE programme is a unique initiative we've developed in the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BIO) in collaboration with the Careers Service, to support Masters graduates in the School of Health and Life Sciences as they transition from academia to professional life. The programme provides important practical experience with tailored support from university staff to help develop new skills and build professional networks. "It's incredibly rewarding to see our graduates thrive and take confident steps into their future careers."

[Read more](#)



Expert appears on the 'Big Drink Rethink' podcast

Glasgow Caledonian University Professor Carol Emslie appeared on the 'Big Drink Rethink' podcast, which explores how and why alcohol culture is changing in the UK, ahead of International Women's Day on March 8.

The podcast called 'The Gendered World of Alcohol Marketing' can be found [here](#). It attracts more than 5,000 listeners to the insightful episodes, which feature celebrities such as Adrian Chiles, health experts, academics and influencers. Podcast host Anna Donaghey invited Professor Emslie to appear on the show after seeing her interview on Panorama last November - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0025fyj>. In the podcast, Anna describes struggles with her own drinking and how she now works as a life coach to help others reflect on their relationship with alcohol. The audience for the podcast is very broad, including those who are sober curious, those currently re-evaluating their relationship with alcohol, and as those experiencing problems with alcohol.

Professor Emslie said: "It was fascinating talking to Anna on her 'Big Drink Rethink' podcast. We discussed how alcohol is increasingly sold to women using pink and sparkly packaging, sophisticated images of female friends having fun, and aligning brands with empowered, strong women.

[Read more](#)



Infection experts head-hunted by world-leading journal to write fungal risks review

Glasgow Caledonian's internationally-renowned Professor of Infection Prevention and Control Gordon Ramage and top microbiologist Dr Ryan Kean have published an important review on fungal pathogens.



The pair's reputation for research excellence triggered a request from Nature, the world's leading multidisciplinary science journal, to carry out a review of the breadth and growing impact fungal biofilms have on patients and the mechanisms promoting biofilm formation, focusing on how targeting these can improve treatment and potentially save lives.

They produced the review in collaboration with three other international experts from the European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Study Group for Biofilms (ESGB) – Riina Rautemaa-Richardson, Craig Williams and Jose Lopez-Ribot.

Biofilms are communities of one or more types of microorganisms which cause a slimy build-up of bacteria and fungi that can grow on many different surfaces such as medical devices and bladder catheters, and cause infection. Infection from fungal biofilms are difficult to diagnose and treat. Left untreated, they can lead to the life-threatening infection sepsis.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has categorised four critical priority fungal pathogens that are considered an urgent antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threat and all four feature in the new Nature article. The 'Fungal biofilms in human health and disease' review has been published in the Nature Reviews in Microbiology journal. The year-long review was a culmination of more than 25 years of research in the field by Professor Ramage and Dr Kean's many years of expertise investigating bacterial and fungal infections.

[Read more](#)

Professor contributes to 40 years of social enterprise celebrations

Professor Seb Chastin participated in the Scottish Government's Changemakers Debate, celebrating 40 years of social enterprise.



Ceteris Scotland celebrated its 40th anniversary with a high-profile Changemakers event hosted at the Scottish Parliament in January. The event aimed to foster dialogue around collective strategies for addressing critical societal challenges, including the rise of artificial intelligence, the ongoing climate emergency, and the complexities of an ageing population. This exclusive, invitation-only gathering was designed for senior leaders and decision-makers across the public, private, and third sectors. Keith Brown, Member of the Scottish Parliament for Clackmannanshire and Dunblane, led the event. Discussions centred on how collaboration can spark transformational change and shape a sustainable future for Central Scotland. Professor Chastin, who is Professor of Health Behaviour Dynamics, and has led several EU-funded social innovation projects, will join a roster of speakers comprising prominent CEOs, directors, and board members from influential organisations.



Glasgow Caledonian wins big at Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards

Glasgow Caledonian University took home prizes in major categories at the 10th Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards held in March.

Susan Armstrong, Knowledge Exchange Lead at the University, was recognised as a Knowledge Exchange Hero for her contributions to advancing Glasgow Caledonian's initiatives in this field. Her strategic and collaborative approach has strengthened the University's engagement with industry and academia, benefiting both the academic community and external partners. Susan said: "It's fantastic to receive this recognition.



It reflects not only my contribution to the Knowledge Exchange at Glasgow Caledonian but also my academic colleagues' enthusiasm to undertake Knowledge Exchange activities, which makes my work in this area hugely enjoyable.

Glasgow Caledonian's collaboration with the Scottish Action for Mental Health (SAMH) charity was also a winner in the Making a Social Difference category. The partnership has led to the review, redesign and delivery of SAMH's Psychological Wellbeing services. This collaboration, led by Glasgow Caledonian's Dr Bryan McCann, resulted in the development of the Time for You service, providing free, immediate mental health support to thousands of individuals. The service is delivered by the University's Trainee Psychologists, enhancing both public access to mental health resources and training opportunities for students.

Dr McCann, a researcher and Senior Lecturer in the School of Health and Life Sciences' Department of Psychology, was highly commended in the Knowledge Exchange Champion category. He has played a key role in fostering strategic partnerships within the physical activity and mental health sectors. His efforts have enhanced student placements, secured funding for knowledge exchange programmes and contributed to improving health and wellbeing across Scotland.

[Read more](#)



Professor awarded Faculty of Public Health Fellowship through Distinction

Glasgow Caledonian University Professor in Public Health Andrew McAuley has been elected as a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health through Distinction in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field.



Professor McAuley, who said he was “incredibly honoured and proud” to be elected, will be formally admitted to the Fellowship through Distinction at the Faculty’s awards ceremony on Tuesday, June 24, in London. The [Faculty of Public Health](#) is the professional standards and membership body for public health specialists and practitioners, and has about 6000 members across the UK and overseas. Professor McAuley said: “When I started out in public health more than 20 years ago, I certainly didn’t envisage the journey that lay ahead for me, never mind achieving Fellowship status. During that time, I have worked across all the public health domains of health improvement, health services and health protection, mainly with a focus on substance use-related work but with the odd pandemic thrown in! “The Fellowship is an endorsement, of not just my own work, but that of the many dedicated and supportive colleagues I’ve worked with throughout my career. I hope to continue the journey with my teams across Glasgow Caledonian University and Public Health Scotland in the coming years.”

[Read more](#)

Substance Use Professor clinches RSE Research Collaboration Award

School of Health and Life Sciences (SHLS) Professor of Substance Use Research Elizabeth Hughes has been awarded a Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) grant to further her research into mental health illness and substance use.



The RSE’s Research Collaboration Grant will help set up the Acute Response to Emergency Mental Health and Substance use (ARMHS) Research Network, led by Dr Lisa Schölin, from the University of Edinburgh, in collaboration with Professor Hughes and Dr Gearoid Brennan, NHS Lothian/University of Edinburgh. The RSE’s Research Awards Programme runs twice a year in spring and autumn. It aims to support Scotland’s research sector by nurturing promising talent, stimulating research in Scotland, and promoting international collaboration.

The pioneering work that Professor Hughes is undertaking in the area of emergency, unplanned and crisis care for people who have multiple needs, led to the development of a successful application to the RSE to establish the research network.

Professor Hughes said: “Unplanned crisis care for people with mental health, substance use and other vulnerabilities is a significant issue for the health service and emergency services. In addition, police and ambulance services are often the only service available, especially out of hours, and there is little option for them other than to take a person in distress to the local emergency department. As this is a multi-faceted problem, this requires a multi-disciplinary approach and the aim of the research collaboration is to bring together topic and methodological expertise as well as those with clinical and practice experience, and those with lived experience, in order to prioritise research questions and develop applications for funded research. This research is especially important for Scotland given the focus on reducing drug-related deaths, tackling alcohol-related harm, and improving mental health of the population.”

[Read more](#)





Swedish TV debut for Doctoral Trainee Health Psychologist

There is not enough research into how infertility affects women from ethnic minority populations, Glasgow Caledonian Doctoral Trainee Health Psychologist Arooj Shahzadi Akram told a Swedish TV news channel.

Speaking on SVT Nyheter, Arooj, who is in her final year of the [DPsych Health Psychology programme](#), said that for some women, not being able to have children feels like a trauma comparable to a divorce or the death of a parent.

Arooj's research shows that for women from ethnic minorities, the trauma can be double. Expectations from family, culture and religion may also have significant impact lived experiences of infertility. She highlighted that in some cultures, there are traditional expectations that women should dedicate their lives to having children. Arooj hopes that her research can help support healthcare professionals when developing new methods and ways of working, and help health care professionals understand what support the affected women need. Her research work partly coincides with the University's new [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) vision](#) and [EDI strategy](#) by highlighting the importance of diversity, belonging and wellbeing with lived experiences surrounding infertility.

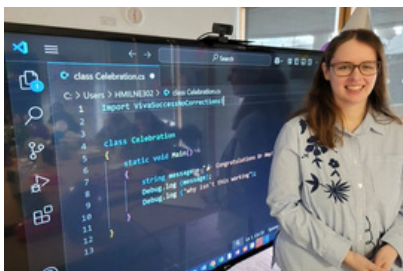
Arooj said she was delighted to get the chance to talk about her infertility research on an international media platform and thanked her research supervisor Dr Jan Smith, Lecturer in Psychology and Health Psychologist in the Department of Psychology, for her support and guidance.

[Read more](#)

PhD viva success

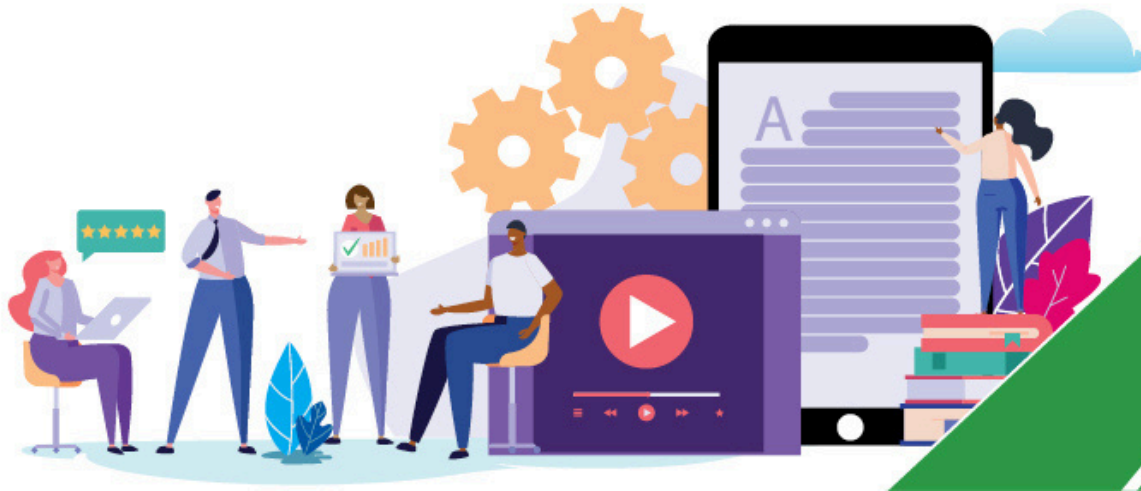
Congratulations to the following students on successfully defending their PhD theses:

- Emily Davis, 'Dancing with multiple Sclerosis: a multi-dimensional and multiple case study'
- Stefanie Schnabel, 'Stroke survivors' engagement in self-managed practice within augmented arm rehabilitation'
- Gary Kainth, 'Investigating the impact of the legal system on outcomes for infants in care'
- Amy Kennedy McEwan, 'Contextualising Hepatitis C Reinfection amongst People Who Inject Drugs' (pictured right)



- Kidest Nadew, 'Pathways to Healthier Children and Community: Assessing the contextual implementation of WHO's Health Promoting Schools Framework in Primary Schools in the Context of sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on Ethiopia'
- Michelle Rutherford, 'An investigation of the inclusion of Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapy skills and strategies in the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy curriculum'
- Amy Webster, 'Virtual Reality for upper limb rehabilitation for People with MS' (pictured left)





Conferences and events

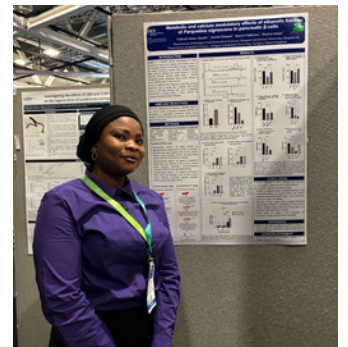
A round-up of all the latest and forthcoming event news from the Research Centre for Health.

GCU student wins top prize at the British Pharmacological Society's annual event

Pharmacologists from Glasgow Caledonian University's Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences joined 800 delegates from across the world at the British Pharmacological Society's (BPS) annual event which was held in Harrogate this year.

A key highlight of this year's event was the University's third year PhD student Fatimoh Ojuade (pictured) winning the prestigious Dom Spina Prize for experimental design and analysis for her poster presentation on "Metabolic and calcium modulatory effects of ethanolic fraction of *Parquetina nigrescens* in pancreatic β -cells". She was awarded £250 as part of the prize.

The event provides professionals working in biological and biomedical sciences with an excellent opportunity to hear about the latest developments in pharmacology education and research and to share their learning.



Global impact for blood cancer research at Glasgow Caledonian

Glasgow Caledonian University blood cancer scientist Dr Mark Williams and PhD student Ebube Nwarunma were invited to attend the American Society of Hematology (ASH) conference in San Diego to showcase their latest research.



Dr Williams was delighted that his Nigerian PhD candidate (focusing on immuno-oncology) Ebube, who works closely with him in the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, was asked to give a talk and poster presentation on their research tackling drug-resistance in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) patients. Chemotherapy is a treatment designed to destroy cancer cells but some cancers find ways to survive, making treatment less effective. Ebube's research focuses on a surprising way cancer cells gain this

resistance - by "stealing" mitochondria (the tiny powerhouses that generate energy) from immune cells called macrophages. Dr Williams said he was incredibly proud of Ebube's achievements and they were "blown away" by the reception his presentation and the research that's going on in his cancer labs received during the conference.

[Read more](#)



BCOVS 2025 at Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow Caledonian University's Vision Sciences Department has announced that the University will be hosting the 2025 British Congress of Optometry and Vision Science (BCOVS) in September this year.

BCOVS brings together researchers from across the fields of optometry, orthoptics, ophthalmology, vision science and psychology, promoting inclusion and accessibility. Dr Sven Jonuscheit, Research Group Lead for the Vision Research Group in the School of Health and Life Sciences' Research Centre for Health (ReaCH), said: "We are continuing BCOVS' long-standing tradition of celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of our research community while fostering an inclusive, collaborative environment. The conference is open to vision researchers at all stages of their careers, BCOVS especially welcomes submissions from PhD students and early-career researchers. The conference offers delegates excellent opportunities for networking and scientific exchange in a friendly setting."

The event will take place on Monday and Tuesday, September 1 and 2, at Glasgow Caledonian University. Further information, including registration details, will be available soon. For any enquiries, you can reach the organising committee at bcovs@gcu.ac.uk.

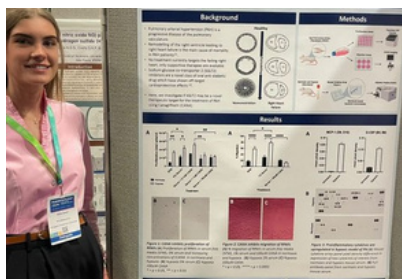


Academic Research Poster Abstract Runner up

Dr Jennifer MacDonald, who co-leads the NIHR-funded LUSTRUM2 project (Programme Development Grant) with Professor Claudia Estcourt, was recently awarded Academic Research Poster Abstract Runner up at Scotland's national DigiFest conference, Celebrating digital health innovation at the end of 2024. Jen was invited to give an oral presentation of the poster content which detailed the project team's extensive work with young people and young people of Black Caribbean heritage to co-produce two digital interventions (short films) to increase sex partner STI and HIV testing.

Other events

Highlights from conferences and events over the last few months.



Kate Sloan presenting at the British Pharmacological Society's annual meeting.



Great start to our new Knowledge Transfer Partnership. Visited the Haleon team in Weybridge to kick off our work on enhancing our understanding of the oral microbiome.



Dr Steven Patterson and Fatimoh Ojuade at the Diabeets UK Professional Conference 2025.





Selected Publications

Some of the latest selected publications from GCU staff are listed below. To view an article, please click on the title.

- Adult co-creators' emotional and psychological experiences of the co-creation process: A Health CASCADE scoping review protocol
- Co-creation experiences among adults in diverse contexts: A Health CASCADE scoping review
- Barriers and facilitators for physical activity in people living with chronic pain: a systematic review and combined analysis
- Real-Life Physical Activity in Community-Dwelling Older Adults over a Year with Changes in COVID-19 Restrictions in Norway
- Feasibility of a laboratory-based protocol for measuring energy expenditure and accelerometer calibration in adults with intellectual disabilities
- Use of accelerometer data to measure and interpret free-living physical activity: BASES expert statement
- Clinical and cost effectiveness of home-based health promotion for older people with mild frailty: A randomised controlled trial
- Measurement invariance of the Self-Stigma of Mental Illness Scale (Short Form) across Scottish and Australian adults living with severe and enduring mental illness
- Public and professional stakeholders' perceptions of alcohol advertising and availability policies: A qualitative study
- Sibling sexual abuse: What do we know? What do we need to know? Stage 1 analysis of a 2-stage scoping review
- Barriers and facilitators to accessing sexual and reproductive health services for people with severe mental illness: a systematic review
- Exploring the gender gap in young adult mental health during COVID-19: Evidence from the UK
- Systematic review of evidence for conservative management of pelvic organ prolapse in younger women
- Urinary incontinence, faecal incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse symptoms 20 to 26 years after childbirth: a longitudinal cohort study
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the antimicrobial stewardship workforce in Scottish acute care hospitals—a qualitative study
- Transfer of microorganisms from dry surface biofilms and the influence of long survival under conditions of poor nutrition and moisture on the virulence of *Staphylococcus aureus*
- Study of the structure of hyper branched polyglycerol coatings and their anti biofouling and anti-thrombotic applications
- Nanotopography influences host-pathogen quorum sensing and facilitates selection of bioactive metabolites in mesenchymal stromal cells and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* co-cultures



The work of nine senior researchers in ReaCH is recognised in the most recent Stanford/Elsevier database of top-cited scientists for the last year. This publicly available database classifies the top 2% of scientists across the 174 scientific sub-fields based on publication citation metrics.

The current version (7) is based on Scopus data updated to the end of citation year 2023

The nine ReaCH researchers recognised are:

Prof Marian Brady (Synergy)

Prof Seb Chastin (Data Science for the Common Good)

Prof Suzanne Hagen (Ageing Well)

Dr David Hamilton (MSK Health)

Prof Andrew McAuley (Blood Borne Viruses)

Prof Lorna Paul (Synergy)

Prof Dawn Skelton (Aging Well)

Prof Gordon Ramage (SHIP)

Prof Alan Tomlinson (Vision)

Dr Peter Yates recorded a podcast about #SiblingsToo: Sibling sexual abuse – What do we know about SSA, Siblings Too Podcast. [Listen now](#)

He also featured in an Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) blog on Dismantle the frame: Reflections on a scoping review of the SSA literature. [Read more](#)

Dr Liza Morton has had the adaptation of her book noted by Dr Pauline Aiston (Clinical Psychologist, Bristol Health Institute) in the South Wales and South West Congenital Heart Disease Network newsletter. [Read more](#)

“Outta sight, outta mind?”. What do the public and professional stakeholders think about alcohol policy?

Blog written by Dr Elena Dimova (add more details). [Read more](#)

Occupational Therapy Blog

[Read the latest blogs](#) from the Department of Occupational Therapy & Human Nutrition and Dietetics including:

- The Final Blog - Bye for just now!
- Z is for Zeitgeist
- Imagine a Man

SHIP Blog

[Catch-up on the latest blogs](#) from the Safeguarding Health through Infection Prevention (SHIP) research group including:

- Footloose in Delhi: A Podiatrists Journey
- Net Zero Healthcare: Rethinking Infection Control for Sustainability

NESSIE Blog

[Read the latest blogs](#) from the NIHR Synthesis Scotland Initiative (NESSIE) including:

- Spotlight on researchers - Professor Emma France
- Update on Exercise for people with existing vascular disease as a tool for secondary prevention