



CONNECTIONS

OxRSS provides Oxford research staff with a voice and networking opportunities

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CONNECT WITH US

Receive up to date information on staff events! Sign up to the staff list by sending a blank email to our [mailing list](#) or follow us on social media.

✉ committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk

 @ResStaffOxford

 [OxRSS Connections](#)

STAFF DINNER AT CHRIST CHURCH

On February 2, 2016, OxRSS kicked off the year with a college dinner at Christ Church! The dinner was immensely popular and was attended by 47 research staff members. At the start of the evening, attendees dressed in formal attire got to know

each other over sparkling wine and elderflower cordial in the Buttery Bar. At 8pm, they moved into the McKenna Room to sit for a delicious three-course dinner. Co-Chair, Steven Chance, welcomed everyone to the inaugural OxRSS college dinner and thanked Lorraine Mumtaz and the OxRSS Events team for organising the



special event. After dinner, everyone moved into the Christ Church Dining Hall for coffee and mints by the lit fire places. It was a lovely evening that OxRSS hopes to repeat on a bigger scale. We'd love to hear from you for future event ideas!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 15 February, 09:30-13:00, [Welcome Event for Research Staff](#)
- 25 February, 17:30-21:00, Curry night, University Club, email [us](#)
- 29 February, 16:00-17:15, Mindfulness training, sign up [here](#)
- Join [Magdalen Film Society](#) to watch weekly-themed films!

NEWS FROM YOUR DIVISIONAL REPS

As part of our effort to provide research staff a voice within the university, OxRSS has set up representatives to liaise with administration to learn about divisional strategies that affect staff, and to promote research staff interests at the divisional level. Here are updates from the representatives of MPLS (Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences) and of Medical Sciences.

MPLS

The new Head of Division, Professor Donal Bradley, aims to strengthen cross-disciplinary research and promote the training of new researchers. In the coming years, the division will continue to address the issue of career progression for research staff. As part of this goal, MPLS departments have been developing a common policy and paperwork to ensure that every researcher employed within MPLS has a

career development review within the first 6 months of starting their contract and every subsequent year. As part of its outreach work, MPLS is also looking to collaborate with the industrial park in Sozhou, China, to promote future research.

Medical Sciences

The divisional representatives are keen to get in touch with postdoc and staff societies within the MedSci division to learn more about the issues that face research staff within each department. The divisional board is also keen to learn more about research staff interests, so please get in touch with the representatives if you have any concerns or issues.

You can get in touch with your divisional representatives by emailing us at committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk.

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Oxford Learning Institute runs courses to provide training and support for research staff interested in teaching. Each division runs an initial seminar course to provide an overview of teaching at Oxford. You can also join the Teaching Fellowship Preparation Programme

and complete a teaching portfolio for accreditation by the Higher Education Academy. Another great way to get involved is to provide tutorials within a college. To find out more about teaching, visit the [Teaching and Supervision website](#).

NEW TO THE UNIVERSITY?



The University hosts a welcome event for research staff three times per year. Meet other researchers, and get information on support and career development for staff! You may also find useful information regarding the University, welcome events, accommodation, and other general information [here](#). The next event is February 15.

FEATURED PROFILE

Dr. Jim Dunford

Senior Research Associate, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics

Jim is a Senior Research Associate at the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Science (NDORMS). He is also a Departmental Safety Officer and sits on the Botnar Management Committee, the Departmental Safety Committee (NDORMS and Kennedy), Medical Sciences Skills Training Committee, Medical Sciences Graduate School Committee, and the University Radiation Protection Advisory Group.



What is your research background?

I am a biochemist and have worked on the pharmacology of osteoporosis drugs for 15 years (5 years at Aberdeen and 10 years at Oxford). I conducted my PhD in Interleukin-1 signal transduction at Sheffield University, and then worked as a Molecular Gerontologist at the University of Sunderland.

Currently, I am working on the epigenetics of bone disease/bone loss and the role of epigenetics in osteoblasts.

What do you do on a typical day?

My role never has a typical day – there is always something different to think about. Usually I have at least one or two lab projects on the go along with PhD student supervision and preparing papers for submission to scientific journals. My lab work involves some protein purification and drug screening along with enzyme and protein expression. Added to this, I often have to deal with any health and safety issues that may arise in the laboratory, such as conducting health and safety inductions for new staff and students and facilitating inspections by the university safety office.

What are three things you would recommend for researchers in early career development?

My career advice to researchers is that publishing and writing grants is very important, along with networking and good time management. Make time for the jobs which will ensure the security of your position or advance your career. A lot of effort can be wasted doing things that don't contribute to your career progression. The take-home message? Prioritise your career and remain focussed.

What is your favourite place in Oxford and why?

I have travelled around the UK a lot and lived in places such as Sheffield, Sunderland and Aberdeen before settling in Oxford. The city of Oxford is a beautiful with a friendly University that has excellent research facilities. When making a choice, the Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers are among my favourite places to visit.



Natural History Museum, Oxford. Image from www.artfund.org

BICYCLE THEFT AND SAFETY

Cycle theft is the most prevalent crime across the University. Locking your bike with a D-Lock to something strong and securely anchored is one of the best ways to protect it. Security Services has a stock of good-quality D-locks available for staff and students at a special price of just £15.

To purchase a lock, call the team on 01865 (2)72941. You should also security-mark your bike frame with your name and postcode and

register it on the University Cycle Registration Scheme. This means you are far more likely to be reunited with your bike if it is recovered after being stolen. To register your bike, call Security Services on 01865 (2)72944.

If your bike is stolen, Stolen Bikes UK provides a number of services to help you recover it, including [FindThatBike](#) and [CheckThatBike](#).

USEFUL LINKS

Career development, workshops, fairs and personal development

[Careers Service](#)

For one-on-one meetings with a Careers Adviser, and workshops and events specific for research staff.

[Code of Practice for the Employment and Career Development of Research Staff](#)

The University's commitment to supporting the careers of researchers.

[Research staff groups by department](#)

This website contains information on research staff groups in each department.

[Oxford Learning Institute](#)

Obtain support for personal and professional development via courses and seminars on management, teaching, and personal development.

[Support for researchers](#)

This website contains information on support available to research staff from across the University.

[Vitae](#)

The national researcher development organisation.

Other resources

[IT services](#)

For technological and computing assistance

[New research staff](#)

This website provides information for research staff who recently joined Oxford.

Social opportunities

[Oxford University Club](#)

Members and staff of the University are welcome to this sports and social Club.

