

Blizard Executive Board (BEB)

Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 13:30, Large Cloud

MINUTES

Present:

Mary Collins (MC)	Jurgen Groet (JG)	Adina Michael-Titus (AMT)
Sam Matthew (SM)	William Alazawi (WA)	Miguel Branco (MB),
Claire Cox (CC)	Tania Maffucci (TM)	David Kelsell (DK)
Carlos De Oliveira (CDO)	Emily Lay (EL)	Louisa James (LJ) on AM's behalf

In attendance:

Part 1: Preliminary items	
1.	Apologies for absence: Rachael Parker (RP), Adrian Martineau (AM), Xavier Griffin (XG), Nawaz Ahmed (NA), Priya Garcha (PG)
2.	Minutes from last BEB meeting held on 28 May: approved
3.	Matters arising: none
Part 2: Agenda items	
4.	Honorary Professor for submission to HAC Elizabeth McGregor 's application was approved by BEB members to be submitted to next HAC (Honorary Appointments Committee) on 18 November.
Part 3: Standing items	
5.	Report from Centre Leads Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research - Drs Matthew Caley and Emanuel Rognoni are close to closing the deal on a EB-therapy Clinical Research Organisation (CRO: contract hub) with funding including overheads for three years (about £800K) from DEBRA Austria company to fund contract research drug testing/gene therapy etc in the blistering skin diseases (epidermolysis bullosa of which some are very severe plus lead to skin cancer/death e.g. RDEB). Additionally, the charity DEBRA UK are visiting FMD EB associated researchers to consider further grant investment. SCION are funding contract research already with a new grant (about £80K) to Mat Caley et

al. A positive outcome from this and are other aligned research within CBCR could be that the Blizzard becomes a hub at for testing/developing therapies for rare skin diseases.

- **Centre for Immunobiology** (LJ on AM's behalf)
 - Two candidates for a nonclinical TB Centre Microbiology Professor post are interviewed today.
 - Currently working to find lab space, particularly in tissue culture (TC) for new recruits. LJ sent MC a document with updated info after looking into immunobiology TC situation as some of the rooms may have to accept a small number of people from other Centres. MC confirmed that CAT3 is for TC and asked LJ to put people in touch with existing users.
 - Centre for Immunobiology Away Day off-site meeting in September has been planned to integrate new recruits.
 - QMUL Global TB symposium was held on 12-13 June.
 - MC reported that on Monday 16 June there was an External Advisory Board meeting for QMUL & Barts TB Centre with advisors from Liverpool, Imperial and UCL. The meeting will take place again in two years to see results.
- **Centre for Genomics and Child Health**
 - The new ResM course proposal will be going through the FMD Executive Board on 19 June.
 - Most of Inderjeet Dokal's stuff has been moved out his former office and it is now in the storeroom on the ground floor. SM confirmed to MB that Estates deadline to refurbish office is end of July/beginning of August.
- **Centre for Neuroscience, Surgery and Trauma**
 - NST has recruited a new PhD student whose work will be part of the Neuromodulation in Traumatic Brain Injury £6.7M award from ARIA (PI: Mr Aimun Jamjoom from Queen's Hospital, Romford, Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer in the Blizzard). The primary supervisor will be AMT.
 - Hoping for progress with the appointment of a Senior Lecturer in Cognitive Neuroscience.
- **Centre of the Cell (CoC)**
 - All going well and next update will follow in July meeting.

6. **Report from Director of Education**

- Students' firms slightly down compared with last year. Some mitigation in scholarship for a programme last year (many applications for 1 place); no scholarship for that programme now.
- Ongoing recruitment activity/marketing campaigns. A LinkedIn campaign is starting and JG and MC asked Centre leads to help spread this information through FMD colleagues.
- Centre Education lead job description to be advertised as this role comes to an end of term soon. A Bones & Joint Health Centre Education lead has to be recruited.

7. **Blizzard Education Allocation Model (BEAM)**

- BEAM will be launched in mid-July. Jacqueline Rappoport (EDI) is currently giving feedback from an EDI perspective to rephrase some of the questions.

8. **Report from Director of Research**

- Grants: proportion of staff members submitting grants has increased to 78%. Number of grants remains stable but quantum has increased.
- WA raised at a faculty level the need for clarity on how PS Transformation structure will impact research activity but he has not had a clear response as yet.
- Barts Charity DTP (Doctoral Training Partnership) nonclinical stipend was presented to Charity and outcome awaited.

- No candidates for Future Leaders Fellowship from FMD went through, but there is a new Clinical FLF coming soon.
- Wellcome will continue their clinical DTPs.
- Impact cases for REF: Blizzard contributing well to these. MC suggested that once submitted posters should be done and displayed.
- External Advisory Board will be held on 24 November.
- Grant writing workshops will start late June/early July and CDO will email dates. WA asked Centre leads to nominate individuals for writing cadre – to and discuss this with nominees.

9. **Barts Charity bids**

- WA asked Centre leads to encourage their staff to apply for seed funding no matter if amount is small.
- It is expected that £500,000 project grant is awarded once only to researchers (provision to ask for exceptions).
- Transformational Funding: any ideas to be discussed informally with WA/MC first; request from Dean for Research not to approach charity directly.

10. **Report from Principal Laboratory Manager**

- CL3 manager post shortlisting will take place this week aiming to interview next week.
- PO raised for new CL3 microbiological safety cabinets for lab 96C.
- Queen Mary Research and Innovation Awards 2025: congratulations to Luke Gammon from Phenotypic Screening Core Facility who has received a Research Technician Highly Commended award.
- Lab space: currently clearing out space for 19 new people from new groups coming to the Blizzard. This will involve some groups having to be moved to a different space within the labs.
- CC made members aware of upcoming shortage of lab management staff in the facilities during summer holiday period.

11. **Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF)**

- LEAF Roadshow at the Blizzard coffee morning on 24 June will take place when Lab Management will be available to help answer any questions related to LEAF.
- TM will talk briefly about LEAF in the Blizzard Staff Open meeting on 18 June.

12. **Report from EDI representative**

- New milk expressing/breastfeeding room: TM keep sending weekly emails to get an update.
- Summer schools: TM is organising the sessions and will contact next week all people who offered to help.
- Anti bullying and harassment: still waiting for approval of the risk assessment for the intermediaries (as part of the anti-bullying and harassment working group's action plan).
- MC reported that this year's Staff Survey results on reported bullying and harassment have not improved and will meet with RP for an action plan. MC will address this in her introduction to the Blizzard Staff Meeting on 18 June.

13. **Institute monthly finance report** (SM on RP's behalf)

- We are £1.4M ahead of our cash generation target and have done especially well on non-pay. We need to continue as we have been and minimise expenditure.
- FRF (Flexible Research Funds): there are £418,000 which should be spent by 31 July not to lose it if it was set up in August 2024. MB will talk to SM about it.

14. **Blizzard Environment** (SM on RP's behalf)

- Spikey project update: the new sound proofing pod has been ordered. Installation will take place out of hours during August/September.

- Charles Mein (Genome Centre manager) and team have been relocated to the first floor South side of Blizard building. SM is liaising with him regarding network equipment that has to be moved there.

15. **Risk register** – (February and September only)

- To be reviewed in September.

16. **Comments from postdoc and PGR students' reps**

- The Whitechapel postdoc society has hosted the final workshop of their three-part series with an external careers coach.
- The committee is planning for next year and are aiming to get funding from the Whitechapel institutes.
- PGR updates: no update in PG's absence.
- Information and pictures regarding PGR and postdoc reps will be presented during TM's EDI section of the Blizard Staff meeting on 18 June to facilitate communication as action from last BEB meeting.

Part 4: Documents for information only (any points for discussion will be on the agenda)

17. **Blizard Honorary/Visiting applications**

- Honorary applications submitted for approval to BRC in May and June, and to BEC in May.
Standing action: MCB to add MC's signature to form and to process through Oleo for HR to issue letter of appointment.

<i>Surname, Initial</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Approved/Pending</i>	<i>Outcome after BEB</i>
Aktar,R	Senior Research Fellow	NST	Approved	
Alrashed,A	Research Fellow	NST	Pending	Pending
Cipriano,B	Clinical Research Assistant	IB	Pending	Pending
Dukes,J	Research Assistant	NST	Pending	Pending
Higgings,C	Research Assistant	BJH	Approved	
Idrees,R	Research Fellow	NST	Approved	
Lee,I	Clinical Senior Research Nurse	IB	Pending	Pending
Molloy	Research Fellow(*)	BJH	Approved	
Quiambao,G	Clinical Research Nurse	NST	Pending	Pending
Rivera Cubero,C	Clinical Research Assistant	NST	Pending	Pending
Yongco	Research Nurse	NST	Pending	Pending
Grecia,J	Clinical Research Assistant	NST	Approved	
Huda,M	Clinical Senior Lecturer	GCH	Approved	
Kerry,G	Clinical Research Fellow	IB	Approved	
Martinez,P	Clinical Research Assistant	NST	Approved	
Pullicino,J	Lecturer	CBCR	Approved	
Tudehope,F	Research Fellow	NST	Approved	
Yiasemidou,M	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Chaplin,C	Clinical Research Fellow	IB	Approved	
Alves Machado,C	Visiting Research Fellow	NST	Approved	
Grimaldi,C	Visiting Research Fellow	IB	Approved	
Dibor,C	Honorary Research Fellow	IB	Approved	
Allorto,N	Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Glasgow,S	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	

Peck,G	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Ross,M	Clinical Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Smith,S	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Trivedy,C	Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Wickham,A	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	

Part 5: Other business

24. Any other business: none

- AMT asked for an update on PS Transformation. MC confirmed that a consultation document went to Unions on 2 June and has been distributed to impacted staff. As part of the consultant process, Francesca Gliubich is meeting with impacted staff to discuss role options. The formal consultation period ends on 9 July, and the decision outcome paper will be provided to the trade unions and staff with an updated Equality Analysis on 22nd July.
- SM asked Centre leads to encourage their staff to attend the Special Coffee Morning on 22 July to wish all the best to those leaving the Blizzard on 31 July. MC added that Centres are welcome to do their own farewell to their staff.

Date of next BEB meeting: **Monday 21 July 2025 at 10am, Large Cloud**

Outstanding action list

Meeting date	Minute Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Outcome