

Blizard Executive Board (BEB)

Monday 18 March 2024 at 10am, Large Cloud

MINUTES

Present:

David Kelsell (DK) Chair	Inderjeet Dokal (ID)	Claire Cox (CC)
Rachael Parker (RP)	Adina Michael-Titus (AMT)	Tania Maffucci (TM)
Sam Matthew (SM)	Adrian Martineau (AM)	
Carlos De Oliveira (CDO)	Will Alazawi (WA)	
Nawaz Ahmed (NA)	Jurgen Groet (JG)	

In attendance:

Part 1: Preliminary items	
1. Apologies for absence: Mary Collins (MC)	
2. Minutes from last BEB meeting held on 19 February: approved.	
3. Matters arising: - DK welcomed Abigail Coetzee (AC) and Metka Gorkic (MG) to BEB committee as postdoc and PGR representatives respectively. - MCB to send flowers to MC on behalf of BEB members this week while she is on sick leave.	
Part 2: Agenda items	
4. Blizard Summer Symposium - Members agreed Wednesday 3 July for the symposium to run from 1:30pm followed by afternoon tea party from 4:30pm. - External keynote speaker from Cambridge/Oxford area was proposed and action for all Centre leads to make suggestions as to who this could be. - Structure will be focused on postdocs this year, one per Centre. Action for Centre leads: to send possible keynote speaker and postdocs names to CDO.	
5. Prof Minicozzi's Honorary Reader application for HAC submission: Approved. Applicant works closely with Prof Andy Silver. Supported in terms of Clinical Trials.	
Part 3: Standing items	
6. Report from Centre Leads:	

❖ **Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research:**

- Nothing to report.

❖ **Centre for Immunobiology:**

- After bid for TB Centre was approved by Research Strategy Board and preliminary application considered by Barts Charity it is now going to next stage in June.
- Prof Graeme Meintjes, newly appointed Clinical Professor of Infectious Diseases, joined the Centre for Immunobiology on 1 March.

❖ **Centre for Genomics and Child Health:**

- Centre Education lead appointed after interviews held on w/c 26 February.
- Discussions regarding timing of appointing Clinical Senior Lecturer in Haematology are on-going.
- Clinical Senior Lecturer in Molecular Neuropathology was appointed in March.

❖ **Centre for Neuroscience, Surgery and Trauma:**

- AMT suggested that Honorary staff from all Centres are invited to be involved in Blizard Seminars so that they can have a platform to contribute. Agreed by all members.

❖ **Centre of the Cell (CoC):** as per report circulated ahead of meeting:

- Bookings for the year continue to be strong. During Science Week (March 11-15th) 15 outreach sessions are run in schools, 6 science shows and 6 STEM Pod sessions. Also launching a new schools package to deliver a day long experience centred around careers. This full day Key Stage 2 offer will see schools enjoying our Lab Skills and Microbe Detective workshops followed by our STEM Pod experience.
- This Easter holiday a range of shows to cover different age-groups will be offered. Slots are booking up fast <https://www.centreofthecell.org/events/public-events/>
- This year, CoC collaboration with LifeArc will include working with the Cambridge Science Centre, CSC, who are moving to new premises in the Cambridge Science Park. CSC will develop physical exhibits and we will develop digital content with all activities then used in both locations. We will learn from each other's expertise and experience, and we are pleased that Centre of the Cell's work will reach Cambridge audiences. Our 2024 project is likely to focus on anti-microbial resistance and we are looking for 'science champions' from the Blizard. If anyone from Blizard is interested in working with CoC, please contact Content Developer Freddy Green, f.green@qmul.ac.uk
- Four proposals have been submitted for Centre of the Cell's website refresh project and we are now liaising with the Queen Mary web team, branding, comms, and procurement before moving to the next stage.
- The next Big Question Lecture will be given by Prof Will Alazawi on 21 March at 6pm. CoC team welcome all and ask to spread the word <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-liver-what-does-it-do-and-what-happens-when-it-goes-wrong-tickets-807670924477>

7. **Report from Director of Education**

- Mix Mode Education (MME) provision discussed in last BEC meeting and decided that this can be determined at programme level. Additionally, it looks like guidance on MME might be going through senate, so this may change. Determining engagement will need to be Tier 4 compatible.
- NSS submissions (73.4%, 3rd highest out of 18 programmes in QM) are looking good for BSc Neuroscience – special thanks to Alex Clark for playing a substantial role in NSS returns.
- Student numbers (PGT) report circulated by NA shows that Blizard has a 37% increase in firms compared to last year.

- Due to changes from applications to offers, student will move faster from application to firm compared to last year. This will make the increases look better than they are. Although we are doing well, we are not quite 37% up on firms compared to last year. Students moving faster from application to firm is likely be a positive as some students started considerably late on their respective programmes this year.

8. **SWARM and BEAM**

- Nothing to report.
- JG clarified that Centre leads have access to data so that meetings can be set up with individuals and feedback to them.
- Individuals will get an Education score card next year based on a traffic light system.

9. **Report from Director of Research:**

- Individual grants/funds/projects applications keep increasing. Although Faculty information suggests that Blizzard is behind BCI and WHRI, CDO is looking into completeness of these data.
- Lifelong Health and Early Cancer Detection: WA asked centre leads to be proactive and search for themes we could work on for future MRC CoRE bids.
- A “good news and prizes” inbox and web page in Blizzard website is currently being created and will include staff who receive nominations, prizes, research awards and other good news such as paper publications or other recognition.
- Lab Archives: Feedback received from users is that the purchased version does not have an “inventory” section so staff are buying it themselves. iPads have not yet arrived for laboratory use.
- REF: approval for some salaries for professorial level could help import REF returnable individuals. There is the possibility to recruit 15 people across FMD, both Clinical or Non Clinical. This comes from strategic funding and not from Blizzard Institute budget. WA pointed the need to recruit people paying attention to collegiality as key beyond CVs and asked Centre leads to send him details of any possible candidates.
- WA to report on Research Strategy Board meeting minutes from next BEB onwards. He will invite Prof Amrita Ahluwalia (Dean for Research) to BEB.

10. **Barts Charity bids**

- TB bid went through to next stage in June.
- Traumatic Brain Injury did not go through.

11. **Report from Principal Laboratory Manager**

- Electrical shutdown is scheduled for weekend 23-24 March in Abernethy building – the building will need to be vacated by all users from 12pm on Friday 22 March to allow for the electricians to begin the work. The Blizzard laboratory management team will be onsite for the duration of this work. Staff will be able to access the laboratory facilities on Monday 25 March as usual. No car parking allowed in Abernethy yard.
- As CL3 shutdown starts today CL3 users in Abernethy were inducted to use CL3 suites in the Blizzard.
- The MSC tender has been awarded to Haier.
- Pipework project East side of the Blizzard building will cause disruptions to Tissue Culture rooms over next two years.
- 3rd floor Abernethy is being refurbished as lab area for Mark Bradley’s group.
- 30 tablets have been ordered for use with LabArchives but not yet delivered and will be handed out by Lab management on first come first served basis by signing in and out.

12. Report from EDI representative

- Sabrina Skeete has been nominated as the EDI PS lead. A 'Meet the EDI' session to listen to staff and students and gather ideas, suggestions was recently run.
- Milk expressing room: still pending to hear on the Garrod Building wellbeing room. In the meantime, we had the H&S approval to use a room for those who need to express milk or breastfeed and a comms will be circulated this week. As the room is still mainly used for other reasons, staff will be asked to get in contact with TM and then they can be directed to CC who will provide the specific info on the H&S room, including the training. Also information will be circulated about free period products that are available in the toilet next to the Nucleus.
- Anti sexual violence training sessions and material: the first three sessions with Ana Flores have been well attended. Three more sessions are scheduled and invitation to register have been circulated to staff. We will need to think about online training. We now have a flyer with QR codes to access the information around support (both the anti-sexual violence/harassment and the anti-bullying/harassment material) more directly.
- Career events initiatives: TM and Daniele Bergamaschi run four sessions of the Life Science Forum for SBBS UG students. Although attendance was low there was very good feedback from the students. TM will resume this initiative next year, in the first semester when attendance would be better. TM, Jordi Lopez-Tremoleda and Emanuel Rognoni are setting up two career event workshops in June for our Master student. RP and TM met with the QMUL Research Career Consultant to set up individual events for our PhD students and postdocs at the Blizzard. TM will discuss this at the Student Staff liaison committee on 19 March (for PhD) and at the Blizzard Postdoc working group.
- Outreach activities: the Centre of the Cell Summer schools will run in two sessions (12 students each): two days in the lab (July 30 & 31 and August 20 & 22). The In2STEM summer school will run in the week starting August 5 (10 students). We will run them in the teaching lab in Abernethy and TM will start contacting soon those who volunteered to help running these initiatives.

13. Institute monthly finance report

- Currently slightly behind cash generatio target.
- Richard Stenning is looking into the issues with research grant overhead income.
- Non-essential expenditure is on hold. RP asked to cut on spending.

14. Blizzard Environment

- 4 blinds motors will have to be repaired. Date to be confirmed but no scaffolding will be needed.
- Blizzard mews project: currently the total budget is £3.5M and discussions are being held to reduce it.

15. Risk register – reviewed quarterly (Nov/Feb/May/Sep)

- Next review in May.

Part 4: Documents for information only (any points for discussion will be on the agenda)**16. Blizzard Honorary/Visiting applications**

- Honorary applications below were submitted for approval to BEC in February and to BRC in March.
- Applications pending further information will be approved by chair's action.
Standing action: MCB to add MC's signature and to send to HR for letter of appointment to be issued.

<i>Surname, Initial</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Approved/Pending</i>	<i>Outcome after BEB</i>
Arshad,H	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Barrett,M	Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Hanjra,F	Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Kabrhel,C	Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Patel,K	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Qazi,F	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Van Embden,D	Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Vris,A	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Dantham,S	Research Fellow	G&CH	Approved	
Jaffer,O	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Loey-Lung-Yi,M	Research Fellow	IB	Approved	
McCullagh,J	Clinical Senior Lecturer	NST	Approved	
Nicely,L	Clinical Research Fellow	NST	Pending	Approved
Puentes Corredor,F	Research Assistant	NST	Approved	
Takhashi,K	Research Fellow	NST	Approved	
Thomson,J	Clinical Research Fellow	CB&CR	Not required	
Xiong,S	Research Fellow	IB	Approved	

Part 5: Other business

21. **Any other business:** none

Date of next BEB meeting: **Monday 20 May at 10am, Large Cloud**

Outstanding action list

Meeting date	Minute Reference	Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Outcome
Item 4	18/03/24	to send possible keynote speaker and postdocs for summer symposium to CDO	Centre leads		