SUMMER 2018—NEWSLETTER

A newsletter brought to you by the Newcastle Molecular Pathology Node

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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Newcastle Molecular Pathology Node Newsletter. In this edition we provide the highlights of the Node's Proximity Lab Projects and update you on Partner activities and any other relevant events and opportunities.

Don't forget you can follow us on Twitter and check the Node website for updates across all our activities.

We also welcome feedback and if there is anything you'd like featured in our future newsletters, please get in touch via pathnode@ncl.ac.uk.

Best wishes

The Newcastle Molecular Pathology Node Team

Proximity Lab Projects

The Proximity Lab has had a very high turnover of projects with over 43 projects completed, 37 ongoing and 22 projects which are awaiting confirmation of funding. Over 57% of these projects involve collaborations with Clinical Pathologists, representing an improvement in their engagement in focused research activity which is fundamental to the departmental transformation which the Node is striving to bring about.

Examples of these projects include the Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) group, led by Node Co-I Chris Lamb. The group have better defined the immunobiology of IBD, including the differentiation and spatial localization of intraepithelial T cells. Together with the Interdisciplinary Computing and Complex BioSystems (ICOS) group they have developed algorithms for rendering multi-parameter immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence in 3 dimensions in order to further delineate cell-to-cell interactions.

Grant Funding

The Node has been an influential factor in a number of successful grant and project applications totalling upwards of £8M.

One key collaboration is the MRC-Funded Pancreas Tissues Bank with Linked Clinical Data for the study of Diabetes Pathogenesis (led by Oxford, Newcastle PI Prof James Shaw; total award value £2.15M), with the Newcastle Node leading on immunophenotyping and multiplex Vectra imaging in the Proximity Laboratory.

Another exciting collaboration for the Node is the NIHR Funded I4I Innovative Prognostic Test for Early-Stage Cutaneous Melanoma (AMLo) which is led by Professor Penny Lovat (total award value £1.3M). The Node will be assisting with biomarker validation and the production of a CE Marker AMLo kit.

If you would like to apply for support from the Proximity Lab for your project, please contact histo.research@nuth.nhs.uk for more information.

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Training

Launched in 2016, the exclusively online MSc in Clinical and Health Sciences with Molecular Pathology (including Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma options) has received excellent feedback to date.

The Node's online course offers a flexible, bespoke way for you to develop your career in Molecular Pathology.

Zeeshan, a Node funded bursary student who completed a PG Cert in 2017 and is currently working towards his Masters in Molecular Pathology, wrote the following about the course;

'The online programme provides the opportunity to the individual student to develop in the discipline of molecular pathology and pursue continuing growth in understanding the complexity of health care issues at the institutional, regional and national levels'

Please contact pgclinhealth@ncl.ac.uk for further information on the course or bursaries available.

Funding Opportunities

Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF)

Following the announcement in the Spring Budget, Innovate UK will be inviting proposals within the second wave of the new Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

The Node team is currently assisting with the co-ordination of a potential Newcastle bid based around a Digital Pathology Network.

To discuss opportunities, collaborate or for more information, please contact: claire.heron@ncl.ac.uk

Biomedical Catalyst: Regenerative Medicine Research Committee

The MRC Biomedical Catalyst scheme is now open, Expressions of Interest deadline 28th June 2018.

The Biomedical Catalyst: Regenerative Medicine Research Committee (RMRC) will provide support for high quality proposals aiming to provide sufficient preliminary data to establish the viability of further progressing a regenerative medicine approach before seeking more substantive funding. It is intended to accelerate the transition from discovery research through to mature translational development projects.

The guidance notes for the call, and the full application form (submission date 28 June) can be viewed at: https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/biomedical-catalyst-rmrc/biomedical-catalyst-regenerative-medicine-research-committee-july-2018/

Node Papers

For further information on Node projects, please find below a selection of papers that have been published following on from Node activity.

Science- PMID: 28428369 DOI:10.1126/science.aah4573

Allergy- PMID: 28479159 PMCID: PMC5667587 DOI:10.1016/j.jaci.2017.01.039

Experimental Medicine- PMID: 28490441 PMCID: PMC5461001 DOI: 10.1084/jem.20161653

Haematologica PMID:28385782 PMCID: PMC5566036 DOI: 10.3324/haematol.2016.163030

Blood- PMID: 28893733 DOI:10.1182/blood-2017-03-770719

Sci Rep- PMID:29044166 PMCID:PMC5647382 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-13644-1

Clin Path- PMID:28899979 DOI:10.1136/jclinpath-2017-204629