

# Clinical Surgery NEWS

## Spring 2020

### Foreword from Professor Stephen Wigmore

As we are all acutely aware, the first quarter of 2020 has seen changes to every aspect of University and NHS life in ways we could not have possibly imagined at the beginning of the year. As a department involved in frontline healthcare provision, academic research, and student education these changes will have far reaching consequences for all of us.



Please continue to check the University's Covid-19 webpages for the latest advice which is updated on a daily basis (<http://edin.ac/covid-19>).

The University has currently halted recruitment to all clinical trials which will cause an inevitable delay to many of our studies and there will likely be consequences for grant provision as the funding landscapes changes in response to the Covid19 pandemic. However, at times of medical emergency research is needed more than ever to gather the evidence needed to accurately define the outbreak and develop new treatments.

Rapid response research across the University is already underway, including involving members of Clinical Surgery - Ewen Harrison's Surgical Informatics team is working with colleagues in the Usher Institute and around the country on the UK wide effort to define the clinical characteristics of Covid19 and provide live data reports being used by SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group) and NERVTAG (New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats) to inform government policy. Funders are also responding to the outbreak and are prioritising funding calls for Covid19 research (for further information see page 4 of this newsletter).

This quarter's edition of our regular newsletter will be a slimmed down version, reporting grants and papers achieved in the main before the sweeping changes brought in during March.

There is no doubt the months ahead will be challenging for all of us as we adapt to the realities of this worldwide pandemic. I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the Department of Clinical Surgery for all your efforts in the response whatever role you are playing.

*Welcome to the  
Spring 2020  
Edition of  
the Department of  
Clinical Surgery  
Newsletter*

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## Recent Grant Awards

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Aya Riad, Mr Steven Knight & Professor Ewen Harrison

*The Effect of Malnutrition on Early Outcomes after Cancer Surgery: An International Prospective Cohort Study*

RCS Intercalated Bachelor of Science Degree in Surgery Award 2020

£1500

2019-2020

Mr Tom Weiser

*Expansion of the Lifebox Clean Cut Surgical infection prevention programme in Ethiopia*

RCSEd Global Surgery Fund

£12,000

Mr Tom Weiser

*Device innovation of a novel surgical headlight for use in resource poor settings*

Innovation seed grant from the Department of Surgery at Stanford University

\$20,000

Dr Riinu Ots, Professor Ewen Harrison, Dr Catherine Shaw, Mr Stephen Knight & Mr Cameron Fairfield

*HealthyR Notebooks: Train the Trainer*

University of Edinburgh Global Impact Accelerator Fund

£9540.00

2019-2020

Mr Richard Macgregor, Mr Alistair Hayes and Mr Chris Deans

*Laparoscopic Para-oesophageal Hiatal*

*Hernia Repair: A Single Centre Cohort Study Investigating the Effect on Cardiorespiratory Function and Quality of Life*

£5240

RCSEd

2020-2021

Mr Tom Weiser

Fogarty Fellowship for Surgical Fellow Nichole Starr working in Ethiopia on surgical infection.

## News Round-Up

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Colorectal surgeons at the Western General have become the first users in Europe of the Versius robotic surgery system developed by Cambridge Medical Robotics. It is hoped the initiative, lead by Hugh Paterson, Doug Speake, and Danielle Collins, will become more widely used in abdominal surgery at both the Western General and Royal Infirmary sites in Edinburgh.

For the full story click [here](#)



Diana Wu successfully defended her PhD thesis, 'Development of a Novel Survival Benefit Model for Patients with End Stage Renal Failure' at the end of last year and was officially awarded her PhD in January 2020. Supervised by Mr Gabi Oniscu and Professor John Forsythe, Diana's project was part of the UK multicentre ATTOM (Access to Transplantation and Transplant Outcome Measures) study.

## New Members of Staff

**Edinburgh Surgery Online has several new team members to support the delivery of the suite of eight online post-graduate education programmes**



### **Louise Buckley**

Louise has recently joined Edinburgh Surgery Online as the Academic E-Facilitator for the ChM Urology programme, and will be also be the module lead for the specialist academic project. She also supervises several postgraduate research students for the Dick Vet School and contributes to the teaching and assessment of the clinical animal behaviour students. Louise has a academic background in veterinary and animal welfare education and research, and was formerly based in the vet school here at the College, where she coordinated the online Clinical Animal Behaviour masters programme. She is extensively involved in supporting the veterinary profession to engage with evidence-

based medicine and nursing through her activities with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the British Veterinary Nursing Association. Louise is very keen to develop collaborative links with likeminded colleagues in the med school who would also be interested in doing so.



### **Susan Morrow**

Susan joined the department of Clinical Surgery as Academic e-Facilitator for the MSc in Surgical Sciences in March 2020.

Susan completed an undergraduate degree in Pharmacology (1990) and a PhD in Molecular Biology (1994) at the University of Edinburgh. After a 10 year career in clinical research management she took time out to train as a midwife, qualifying in 2009.

Since then she has worked as community midwife for NHS Lothian, a lecturer in the USA and more recently as a Programme Manager within the Usher Institute.

Also joining the Edinburgh Surgery Online team are Student Support Officers **Karen Muir** and **Ed Gamble** who will be supporting the MSc/ChM Ophthalmology, and Surgical Sciences programmes respectively. Full profiles for Karen and Ed will feature in the Summer edition of this newsletter.

## PURE Publication Deposits In Clinical Surgery

The Research Excellence Framework planned for 2021 has been delayed. The full announcement on the impact of Covid19 on the REF2021 is available [here](#)

However, publications should still continue to be deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance.

### PURE arrangements in Clinical Surgery

Susan Keggie and Murray Brittan are now handling publication deposits in PURE.

As soon as you receive notification of a manuscript being accepted for publication, please forward the acceptance email together with the finally accepted author version to our new PURE email address

### Pure.clinsurg@ed.ac.uk

All manuscripts must be deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance.

Any publications not deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance will not be eligible for the REF.

A full set of FAQs on PURE can be found in the July 2019 edition of this newsletter which can be accessed [here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

Changes to funding as a result of the Covid19 emergency is a rapidly changing area. Many funders are putting in place contingency plans for current projects and prioritising calls for Covid19 research.

The University Research Support Office has put together dedicated information relating funding in relation to Covid19 situation which can be accessed [here](#).

## Recent Publications

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## Future Events

### HealthyR May 2020



The HealthyR Notebooks course in May will be converted to an online course. There will be online lectures and live interactions with our tutors recreating our usual classroom format as closely as possible.

We are offering a discount for the online course to those already booked, or a full refund to those now unable to attend.

We have contacted all delegates regarding these arrangements, but if you require more information or have any questions, please contact Senior Data Manager, Dr Riinu Pius (riinu.pius@ed.ac.uk).

We will arrange further courses as soon as COVID19 situation permits.

To receive updates on all HealthyR courses, including notifications on future courses, join our mailing list by emailing Senior Data Manager, Dr Riinu Pius (riinu.pius@ed.ac.uk).

Further information can be found of the course website

[www.healthy.surgicalinformatics.org](http://www.healthy.surgicalinformatics.org)

## Save the Date for the 8<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the World Society of Emergency Medicine - October 2021



It is our great pleasure to announce that the Department of Clinical Surgery of the University of Edinburgh is hosting the 8th International Meeting of the World Society of Emergency Surgery (WSES), at the McEwan Hall, for the 28th of September to the 1st of October 2021. We look forward to welcoming emergency/trauma/general surgeons from around the world and the UK

### Items of News to Share?

If you have any items of news you would like to feature in this newsletter or events you'd like to promote please contact the Clinical Surgery Research Manager, **Dr Katie Shaw** (catherine.shaw@ed.ac.uk). The next edition will be published in July 2020.