

Clinical Surgery NEWS

Annual Research Report 2017

Professor Stephen Wigmore



Last year was a year marked by a series of stellar publications and grants and there was inevitably a fear that this would be followed by a dip in terms of productivity and research income. By contrast although there was a small reduction in the number of publications from the department in 2016, the quality of the output increased and we saw the median impact factor of articles increase from 3.24 in 2015 to 4.3 in 2016 and the mean increase from 6.3 to 7.7. Looking at the marker of prestige used by many institutions namely the proportion of publications with an impact factor greater than 5, almost 40% of our publications were in this category. In a specialty where most of the journals are considered “trade” publications and of fairly low impact, this is a phenomenal achievement and reflects the aspiration of the department

to publish in higher ranked general science and medicine journals.

There have been many individual highlights in 2017 which is encouraging as these publications and grants will contribute to the annual statistics that will be reported at the end of next year.

We are fortunate in Edinburgh in having NHS colleagues that can compete at a high level academically and there were some great examples of their work in 2017. **John Casey** contributed to a paper in *Nature Medicine* on biliary reconstruction using stem cells with colleagues in Cambridge.

Jim Powell contributed to two excellent articles in *Transplantation*, providing guidelines for Hepatitis E and the use of organs from Hepatitis C positive donors.

John Forsythe contributed to articles in *BMJ Open and Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplantation*, and **Gabriel Oniscu** weighed in with multiple articles in various journals.

Welcome to the End of Year Edition 2017 of the Department of Clinical Surgery Newsletter

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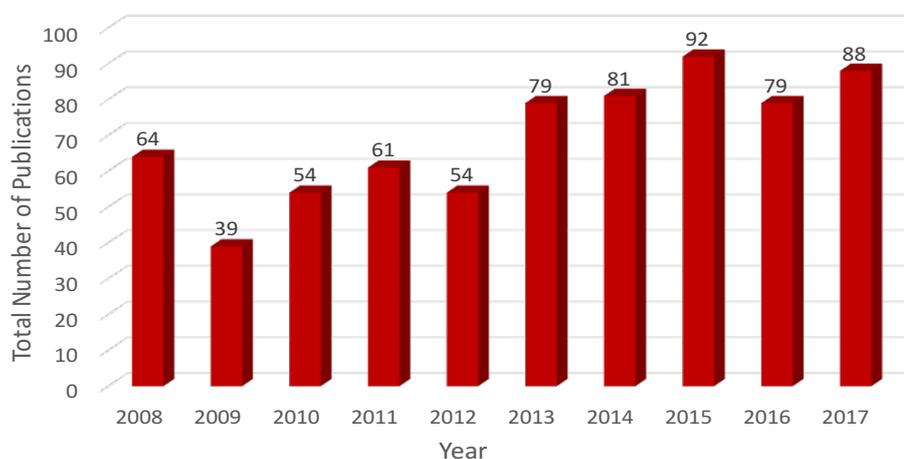
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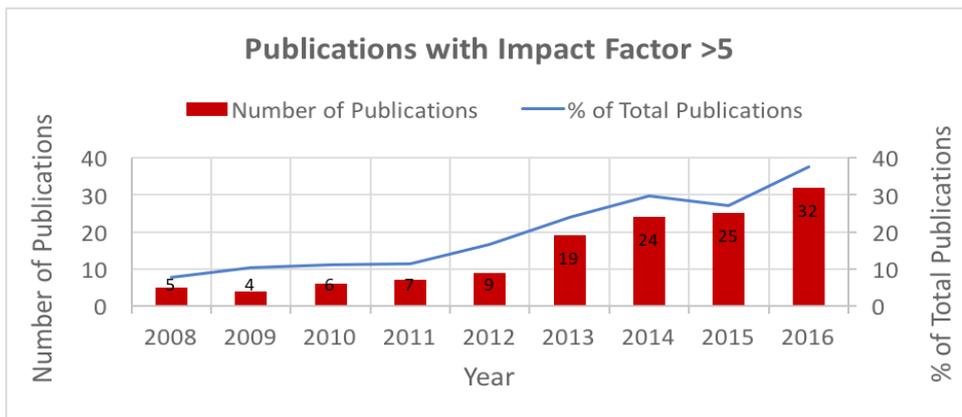


Anya Adair also produced a couple of articles in *HPB*. Contributions from the NHS Upper GI team were also notable with **Andrew de Beaux** making contributions to the literature on hernia surgery and **Simon Paterson-Brown** making a number of contributions including an article on 'Shotgun proteomics' with **Rob O'Neill**. **Graeme Couper**, **Chris Deans** and **Pete Lamb** all contributed to a number of articles. **Richard Skipworth** has taken over a number of projects formerly run by the late **Ken Fearon** and is developing his own research directions. Richard had a good year with a number of publications including articles in *PLoS Genetics* and *Genome Research*.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Number of publications	64	39	54	61	54	79	81	92	79
Minimum Impact Factor	0.39	0.57	0.44	0.21	0.29	1.12	0.94	0.29	0.31
Maximum Impact Factor	28.41	30.76	10.89	38.28	17.22	30.39	39.21	45.22	40.14
Median Impact Factor	2.64	3.5	3.07	3.05	2.50	3.07	3.51	3.24	4.3
Mean Impact Factor	3.77	3.92	3.37	3.73	3.67	4.48	6.81	6.31	7.66

Ken was halfway through a large number of projects at the time of his death and contributed to articles published in *JAMA Surgery*, *Scientific Reports*, *Annals of Oncology* and others. **Jim Ross** contributed to many of the articles with Richard Skipworth and **Ken Fearon**. It was nice to see some contributions from our colleagues in vascular surgery with **Rod Chalmers** and **Zahid Raza** publishing papers along with **Jenny Robson**, **Rachel Forsythe** and **Olivia McBride**.

NIHR for Global Surgery in collaboration with the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick. **Rowan Parks** also produced a number of good articles including one in *Gut*. **Lorna Marson** published an article in the top transplant journal the *American Journal of Transplantation* and two papers in *Transplantation*. **James Garden** contributed to a number of quality papers including one published in *Circulation* with the vascular team and a number based on the Tokyo Guideline outputs on various different aspects of HPB Surgery. Special mention for **Chris Johnston** whose excellent PhD work on a novel helminth-derived immunosuppressive moiety was published in *Nature Communications* along with **Steve Wigmore**. I was pleased that the department received credit for my long term collaboration with colleagues in Cambridge in a paper featured on the front cover of *Nature Medicine* in December this year.



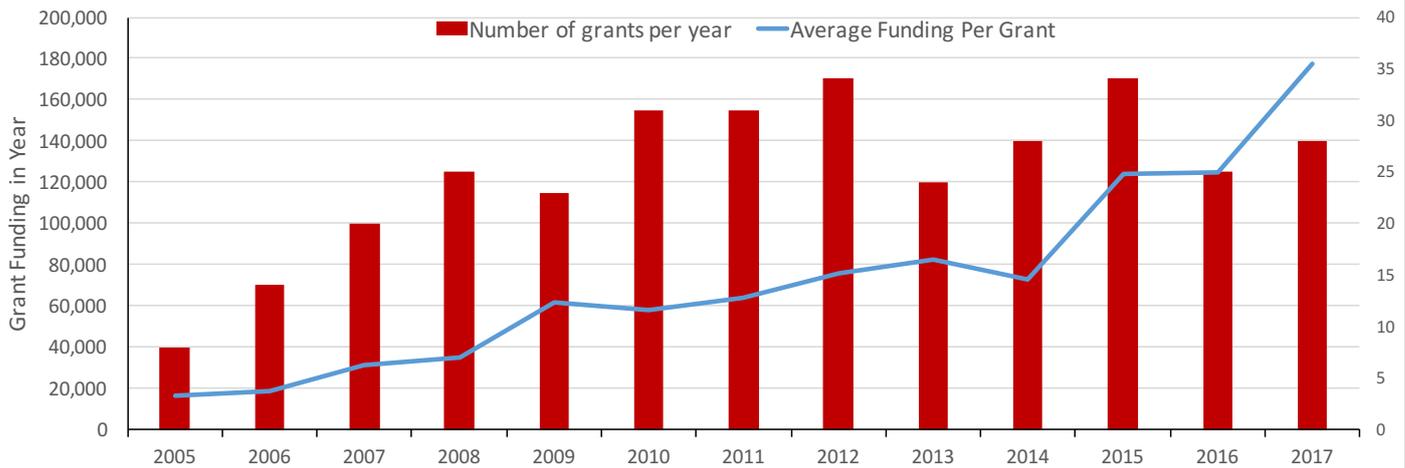
I have already mentioned the success of **Ewen Harrison** in his collaborative Global Surgery grant and the grant income of the department continues in pretty good health. **Lorna Marson** along with **Ewen Harrison** and **Steve Wigmore** were delighted to receive £750,000 from KRUK to fund the HOT-2 trial which will be a major piece

of work over the next few years. There are various different ways of looking at income, but the income for the year (with grants averaged in value over the duration of the award) gives the department an annual research income of approximately £5 million. We average around 25- 30 active grants per annum with a mean value of each grant of around £180,000.

In the academic department **Damian Mole** contributed to a number of articles including one in *Nature Communications*. **Ewen Harrison** also contributed to a number of articles in various journals including one on 'the weekend effect' that was picked up very widely by international media and recently achieved the top @altmetrics score for 2017. **Ewen** was also awarded a £7 million grant by

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Number of Active Grants per year & Mean Annual Value per Grant



Again I think we should consider the department to be in excellent health in terms of research and this is important as we move forward to the next REF in 2021. In particular, the quality of the publications of the department is particularly pleasing and will stand

us in good stead for this assessment which should capture the 5 years preceding 2021. You should all take pride in these achievements and I apologise if I have inadvertently missed anyone out.

Congratulations & Recent Grant Awards

Christos Skouras has been awarded his Doctor of Medicine degree for his project entitled, '*Kynurenine Metabolism and Organ Dysfunction in Human Acute Pancreatitis*', supervised by Mr Damian Mole and Prof Rowan Parks

Rob O'Neill has been awarded the RCSEd GB Ong medal for the most outstanding performance in the FRCS exam 2017.

Ewen Harrison and co-authors were the number 1 @altmetrics article for 2017 for their BJS article, 'Effect of day of the week on short- and long-term mortality after emergency general surgery', *Br J Surg.* 2017;104(7):936-945

Wigmore, SJ. *Elucidating the molecular mechanisms and clinical consequences of skeletal muscle loss in cancer cachexia*

£23,000: 01/08/2017 - 31/07/2018

News Round Up

The newly created NIHR Unit on Global Surgery held its first international meeting in Johannesburg in November attended by over 70 International surgeons, researchers and policy makers. The Global Surgery Unit is a consortium between the Universities of Edinburgh, Birmingham and Warwick. Over the next 5 years the Unit will open 'hubs' around the world to conduct surgical research and drive capacity building and education in low and middle income countries. There will also be scholarship opportunities for students from hub countries to join the department's MSc Surgical Sciences degree.



The Edinburgh School of Surgery Day 2017

The annual School of Surgery day, showcasing the research of the department was held on December 1st in the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The early part of the afternoon was dedicated to scientific research presentations on a wide variety of topics given by Research Fellows. **Alastair Hayes**, who has recently completed his PhD with Damian Mole's group, described his work reducing systemic inflammation in an experimental model of acute pancreatitis by inactivating the enzyme, kynurenine-3-monooxygenase.

Olivia McBride, a vascular trainee, presented The MA³RS clinical trial using ultras-small superparamagnetic particles of iron oxide (USPIOs) during MRI imaging to indicate rupture or surgical repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms. **Michael Ramage**, who has recently completed his MD research, described the clinical relevance of CT-derived body composition variables, and **Victoria Banwell**, presented a study into 5 year outcomes of selective neoadjuvant radiotherapy for rectal cancer.

The first of two guest lectures this year was given by visiting Professor **Tom Weiser**, who gave a fascinating account of carrying out surgical research in a resource



Visiting Professor Tom Weiser

poor setting as part of his work with the Lifebox Foundation. In Prof Weiser's presentation entitled, *'Improving surgical safety in Ethiopia: what could possibly go wrong?'*, we heard not only about the medical challenges of improving surgical care in hospitals lacking even the most basic of facilities, but also of the unexpected political challenges of doing

such work in countries where there can be political and civil unrest.

Organisers of the School of Surgery were delighted to welcome for the first time colleagues from the Orthopaedic department to present their research with **Stuart Goudie** presenting an RCT on psychological factors affecting recovery from distal radius fracture

and **Sam MacKenzie** presenting a pre-clinical study investigating a novel bio-absorbable pin as a replacement for the Kirschner wire in the management of paediatric fractures.

The final guest lecture of the afternoon was delivered by visiting Professor, **Kjetil Søreide**. In addition to his HPB surgical practice and research into gastrointestinal cancers, Professor Søreide is currently an editor of the *British Journal of Surgery* and gave an enlightening and entertaining presentation on how to avoid the 7 deadly sins of scientific publishing in order to get your research published in a top journal.



Professor Kjetil Søreide delivers a guest lecture

Following the formal part of the day, the customary dinner with presentation of The Chiene Medal for basic science research and The Ian B Macleod Medal for clinical research was held in the Fellows Library at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Congratulations to **Alastair Hayes** who was awarded The Chiene Medal for his study entitle, *'Kynurenine-3-monooxygenase inactivation constrains systemic inflammation in experimental acute pancreatitis'*, and to



Professor James Garden presents the Chiene Medal to Alastair Hayes

Stuart Goudie who won The Ian B Macleod medal for his RCT entitled, *'The impact of psychological factors on recovery from distal radius fracture.'*

As ever, the School of Surgery Day allows us to reflect and celebrate the successes of the year before the Christmas break and to look forward to the challenges of 2018.

This years School of Surgery day was organised by **Susan Keggie**, **Professor James Garden** and **Miss Lorna Marson**, and supported by Chiesi.

Clinical Trials Update

**** Now OPEN for Recruitment****

The **ROMIO** Trial

A multicentre randomised controlled trial comparing minimally invasive versus open esophagectomy for esophageal cancer.

This trial is being run by the University of Bristol. NHS Lothian is now open as a trial site and recruitment has begun.

For more information please contact **Mr Peter Lamb** or **Mr Richard Skipworth**

New Trials

The **HOT-2** Trial

HOT-2 is a blinded randomized controlled investigation into the efficacy of heme arginate in improving primary graft function in deceased donor kidney transplantation. Ms Lorna Marson is the Chief Investigator and Edinburgh will be the lead centre for this multicentre trial

It is anticipated that Edinburgh will open as the first trial site and begin recruitment late in early 2018.

For more information about HOT-2 please contact Chief Investigator, **Ms Lorna Marson**.

On Going Trials

OCCAMS—Oesophageal Cancer Clinical and Molecular Stratification.

A Multicentre Study to Determine Predictive and Prognostic Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets for Oesophageal and Junctional Adenocarcinoma including Whole Genome Sequencing

This study, part of the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC2), has recently been refunded by CRUK for 5 years and is continuing recruitment. For more information please contact **Mr Rob O'Neil** or **Mr Richard Skipworth**

The **NeoAegis** Trial

A phase III, open-labelled RCT comparing the MAGIC neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemotherapy regimen with the CROSS neoadjuvant chemoradiation protocol in patients with cT2-3 N0-3 M0 adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus or junction. The primary objective is to evaluate 1, 2 and 3-year survival.

This trial is currently recruiting. For more information contact **Mr Richard Skipworth**.

TWIST—Tracking Wound Infection with Smart Phone Technology

A randomised controlled trial to investigate if a smartphone tool can shorten time to diagnosis of surgical site infections.

All patients (>16) undergoing abdominal surgery who own a smartphone are eligible to enter the study. Visually impaired patients are excluded.

Patients will be randomised to receive either standard post-operative care or standard post-operative care plus use of the smartphone tool.

Those in the smartphone group will receive a series of questions via text message and have the facility to upload a photograph of their surgical wound.

Primary outcome measure is time to diagnosis of an SSI and secondary outcome measures will consider use of A&E and GP services

RIE and WGH sites are both recruiting patients to this study.

For more information please contact Principle Investigator, **Mr Ewen Harrison**

Recruitment Complete

The **Balanced** Anaesthesia Study

An international multicentre RCT to assess whether 'deep' general anaesthesia is associated with altered perioperative outcome.

Recruitment for this study was completed in November 2017. RIE recruited 29 participants over 18 months. 12 month follow up will be completed over the next year.

For more information contact the Edinburgh principle investigator, **Dr Gary Morrison** or local research nurse **Alastair Lang** (0131 242 9453)

Recent Publications

Wakabayashi G, Iwashita Y, Hibi T, Takada T, Strasberg SM, Asbun HJ, Endo I, Umezawa A, Asai K, Suzuki K, Mori Y, Okamoto K, Pitt HA, Han HS, Hwang TL, Yoon YS, Yoon DS, Choi IS, Huang WS, Giménez ME, Garden OJ, Gouma DJ, Belli G, Dervenis C, Jagannath P, Chan ACW, Lau WY, Liu KH, Su CH, Misawa T, Nakamura M, Horiguchi A, Tagaya N, Fujioka S, Higuchi R, Shikata S, Noguchi Y, Ukai T, Yokoe M, Cherqui D, Honda G, Sugioka A, de Santibañes E, Supe AN, Tokumura H, Kimura T, Yoshida M, Mayumi T, Kitano S, Inomata M, Hirata K, Sumiyama Y, Inui K, Yamamoto M. **Tokyo Guidelines 2018 surgical management of acute cholecystitis: safe steps in laparoscopic cholecystectomy for acute cholecystitis (with videos).** *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci.* 2017 [Epub ahead of print]

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Future Conference Submission Deadlines

Conference	Date	Location	Abstract Submission
Society of Academic & Research Surgery	10 - 11th January 2018	Nottingham, UK	Closed
British Transplant Society (BTS)	14th - 16th March 2018	Brighton, UK	Closed
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (ASGBI)	9th - 11th May 2018	Liverpool	January 10th 2018
International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA)	3rd - 7th September 2018	Geneva, Switzerland	January 17th 2018
Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Congress	7th - 11th May 2018	Sydney, Australia	January 28th 2018
Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)	25th - 29th August 2018	Basel, Switzerland	February 6th 2018
Bethune Round Table	25th - 27th May 2018	Toronto, Canada	TBC
American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress	21st - 25th October 2018	Boston USA	Save the Date

Upcoming Events

NEW MSc Patient Safety and Human Clinical Factors will launch in Sept 2017

To register interest and receive updates about the new MSc, including application deadlines, please visit

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PatientSafe>

PURE Reminder

Have you had a manuscript accepted for publication recently?

In order to increase the accessibility of Edinburgh University research, all manuscripts must now 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 next ref.

What do you need to do?

The Clinical Surgery Research Manager, Dr Katie Shaw, will deposit manuscripts in PURE on your behalf.

More information about PURE can be viewed at:

www.ed.ac.uk/governance-strategic-planning/research/pure



HealthyR: R for healthcare data analysis

The next HealthyR course will run in Spring 2018. Places sell out quickly so if you would like to attend please register interest by emailing Data Manager, Dr Riinu Ots (R.Ots@ed.ac.uk), to be kept informed of bookings opening. Further information can be found on the course website

www.healthyr.surgicalinformatics.org

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 March 2018.