



Megaphone Online

February 2022

the voice of Health Sciences' staff and students

Graduating students awarded prizes

In January after the last couple of graduations have been online, some 200 students were able to graduate in person from the Department. As we were unable to hold a reception after the ceremony, the prize winners were notified and received their prizes through the post. Congratulations to you all.

Megan Chafer - Departmental Annual Student Prize (UG)

Marlon Freeman - Departmental Annual Student Prize (PG)

Marion Robinson - Outstanding Taught Postgraduate Academic Achievement Prize: MSc International Humanitarian Affairs

Sarah Mear - Outstanding Taught Postgraduate Academic Achievement Prize: Master of Public Health

Laura Doherty - Outstanding Taught Postgraduate Academic Achievement Prize: MSc Applied Health Research

Anna Bryans - Outstanding Taught Postgraduate Academic Achievement Prize: PGCert Health Research & Statistics

Leigh Norman - Outstanding Taught Postgraduate Academic Achievement Prize: MSc Advanced Clinical Practice

Rebecca Miller-Hodges - Outstanding Taught Postgraduate Dissertation Prize

Bethany McLaine - James Begley Prize

Rebecca Reffold - Outstanding Practice Achievement Prize: BSc Nursing

Emily Johnson - Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize: BSc Nursing

Chelsea Fawcett - Outstanding Dissertation Prize: BSc Nursing

William Lanne - Outstanding Dissertation Prize: BSc Nursing

Natasha Tomblin - Outstanding Practice Achievement Prize: MNursing

Jessica Thompson - Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize: MNursing

Morgan Hopkins - Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize: MNursing

Jessica Thompson - Outstanding Dissertation Prize: MNursing

Kathryn Carter - Outstanding Practice Achievement Prize: Midwifery

Mollie Smith - Outstanding Academic Achievement Prize: Midwifery

Mollie Smith - Outstanding Dissertation Prize: Midwifery



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Graduation January 2022

Thanks to everyone who sent in their photos of graduation



Student News

Graduation January 2022



Student News

York Futures Scholarships

Thanks to the generous support of the University's alumni, the York Futures Scholarship programme is designed to enable all students to take full advantage of the many personal and professional development opportunities available to them

Work experience, study abroad, placements and extracurricular learning; activities that build your readiness to find, compete for and secure the career options you want are all eligible for support.

Apply for financial and practical support to suit your ambitions at the different stages of your time at York.

You will be able to apply for the next round of applications from 9am on Monday 21st March. The closing date is 5pm on 25th April 2022. Visit the [York Futures Scholarships webpage](#) for more information.

Postgraduate Chill and Chat session

The Graduate Student's Association's next Chill and Chat session will be held on Wednesday 9th March from 3 - 5pm Open to all postgraduate students from all departments the next Chill and Chat session is Wednesday 9th March from 3 - 5pm.

This event is open to all postgraduate students from all departments. They are offering a space to take a break, relax and get involved with craft activities. There is also a games console available and free tea, coffee, squash and biscuits.

This is a family friendly event, and partners and children can also attend. The GSA Advice and Welfare Team will be available to answer any queries that you may have and to meet their team.

Teaching News

Guest speaker

The MSc in International Humanitarian Affairs (MIHA) team were excited to invite Dr Vandana Shiva as their guest speaker on Friday the 4th of February to give a talk on the role of communities, women and indigenous knowledge systems within a humanitarian context. This was a vibrant discussion that brought together the MIHA cohort to reflect on colonialization and its impact on humanitarians today.

Dr Vandana Shiva, who is an Indian scholar, environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate, ecofeminist, and anti-globalisation author. In 1982 she founded an independent institute, the Research

Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in Dehra Dun which is dedicated to high quality and independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times.

In 1991 Dr Shiva founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seeds. Dr Shiva has contributed in fundamental ways to changing the practice and paradigms of agriculture and food. Time Magazine identified her as an environmental hero in 2003. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993 and the 2010 Sydney Peace Prize. She is a Founding Member of the World Future Council.



Jo Rose to Co-chair symposium

Dr Jo Rose Programme Leader for the MSc in International Humanitarian Affairs and Senior Lecturer in Humanitarian Response, has been invited by the Royal Academy of Engineering to co-chair their next international Frontiers Symposium event entitled “What is next for Engineering and the Global Challenges?”

Jo will be attending in London and the event will be blended online and in person. Visit the [website](#) for more information.



New research suggests newly bereaved parents need extended time with their children

New research has found that allowing newly bereaved parents to have extended time with their baby or child is highly valued and has lasting impacts.

The Early Days study - conducted by researchers at the University of York's Martin House Research Centre - is the first to explore in-depth parents' experiences of hospice bereavement care in the hours and days immediately after the loss of their baby or child.

Crucially, as part of this care, the child stays at a hospice, or at home, rather than being taken to a funeral director. This is made possible through the use of 'cooling facilities' (e.g. cooled 'bedrooms', portable 'cooling' cots, or blankets). All UK children's hospices offer these facilities to bereaved parents.

The study interviewed thirty bereaved mothers and fathers from around the UK.

It found that, whilst parents varied in how much time they spent with their child, all drew great comfort in the fact that they could visit their baby or child at any time and that they remained in a home-like environment, or could be with them at home.

One parent said: "It helped me considerably because I was able to go in and just be...to hold him, to be near to him, to speak to him, to caress him, to look at him. Because it just allowed us to let go, to say goodbye."

Parents believed that having unrushed time to say 'goodbye' and prepare themselves for their child's transfer to a funeral directors had softened their anguish: "It was like an airbag: it cushioned the blow". Another reflected: "It gave us time, knowing he's gone but you've still got longer, which was everything."

All those taking part in the study believed all bereaved parents should have the opportunity to use cooling facilities provided by children's hospices.

Importantly, the findings also indicate that using cooling facilities may have longer-term, positive impacts because it helps parents in the initial grieving process, including accepting the reality of their loss, processing their pain, and mentally preparing for the changes their loss would bring to their lives. The skills and expertise of hospice staff often enabled and supported this.

Mementos and memories made during the time also brought enduring comfort and benefit. As one parent put it: "We have something positive to reflect upon following something so harsh."

The study lead, Professor Bryony Beresford, said: "We know that the loss of a baby or child has significant and lasting impacts on parents. This study shows that what happens in the hours and days immediately afterwards can make a real difference to parents, both at the time and into the longer term."

Dr Julia Hackett, from the Department of Health Sciences, who also worked on the study, said: "Whilst children's hospices typically offer their cooling facilities to any bereaved family – regardless of where the child died, or the circumstance – we know that parents not already known to a hospice may not always be offered this opportunity.

"However, increasing access to children's hospices' cooling facilities has its challenges, including the increased resources this would require. This, in turn, raises questions about whether the costs of these facilities should continue to fall exclusively on the charitable sector."

BioDriveAFS Trial Update – Trial Logo Competition

Congratulations to Poppy Nordberg, a student at Beverley High School, for designing the winning BioDriveAFS trial logo.

Students at Beverley High School in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire were invited to take part in the logo competition, as part of the trial’s outreach activities. The winner received a £50 gift card, which was presented by their head teacher, Miss Japp.

BioDriveAFS, Biomarker Driven Antifungal Stewardship (AFS) in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, is a trial investigating the effectiveness of using biomarkers to diagnose and prompt treatment of invasive fungal infection, versus standard antifungal prophylaxis, in patients undergoing intensive chemotherapy for acute leukaemia.



Poppy (left in picture) being presented with her prize. Winning logo is show below.

Antifungal resistance is a growing concern worldwide, it is vital to find the best way to reduce antifungal use without increasing fungal infections. Blood tests can be used to detect fungal infections early, before they cause symptoms or harm to the patient.

This trial is led by Hull York Medical School (HYMS) academics Dr Gavin Barlow and Dr David Allsup, with co-applicants at York Trials Unit (Department of Health Sciences, University of York) in partnership with , Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and the University of Hull. The team have been awarded a £2.3m grant by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for this research.



The impact and importance of the research was mentioned in a [recent press release](#). This was also discussed in the October edition of Megaphone.

Help wanted for PhD study

Danielle Vardy writes “ I’m conducting an online survey exploring the experiences of the clinical management process for functional neurological disorder (FND).”

“This survey study aims to explore the experiences of patients, caregivers, and healthcare workers involved in the clinical management of functional neurological disorder (FND). The hope is to gather these experiences so we can learn how to improve healthcare services for FND patients.”

“If you are a patient, caregiver, or healthcare worker based in the UK and has experience of the diagnostic and treatment processes for functional neurological disorder (FND), please consider taking 15-20 minutes to complete the survey. The survey has been granted ethical approval from the University of York and is completely confidential.”

[Access the survey here.](#)

Staff News

Hello

We wish a very warm welcome to new members of staff who have joined the department recently, these include: Rachel McAllister, George Peat, Lois Armour, Lesley Sinclair, Emma Moatt, Katie Carlisle, Fiona Meddings, Olivia Durning

Goodbye

We also wish a very fond farewell to those who have left the department over the last few months, including: Clarissa Nolan, Lu Han, Caroline Ward, Sheeja Manchira Krishnan, Olamide Todowede, Papiya Mazumdar, Anne Readshaw, Mildred Ajebon, Megan Cook, Lucy Russell, Sarah Senker.

Baby news

Congratulations to:

Camila Maturana gave birth to a little girl - Olivia Sofia Hill-Maturana who was born on 16th January at 20:31, weighing 3.440 kg and

Laura Mandefield had her baby on Saturday 29th January, Georgia weighing in at 10lbs.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Helen Anderson who has been appointed to the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Advanced Practice Education Group. The ICN is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing more than 27 million nurses worldwide. The current focus of the group is to develop educational competencies for advanced nursing practice on behalf of the International Council of Nurses.

New Department of Health Sciences Book Club

Sophie Godfrey, Office Coordinator, Student & Academic Support Service writes: "On 18th February 2022, we held our first bimonthly staff Book Club meeting. This club is open to all, with any literature interests and will be held virtually initially with the hope to meet in person in future. Come and chat with colleagues about books, trivia and get to know each other. "

"There is a Slack channel to communicate on - #dohs-staff-book-club. Details of the chosen book and the second meeting will be on this channel. Our first meeting was a drop in to discuss initial ideas and choose the first book. However, this club is open to new people (regular or irregular) at any time. The next meeting is Wednesday 27th April 12noon via Zoom."

"I hope to see you there for future meet ups and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly."

If you would like to make a submission to future editions of Megaphone, please contact Jane Milsom (jane.milsom@york.ac.uk or tel 01904 321392).